

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Orion walks through the empty desert, up a slight hill, sees a FEMALE GUEST below in only a bra. Her hands cover crotch.

Android Arch 209, wearing an alien outfit and devious grin, turns toward Orion, holding a pair of panties.

ARCH

I'm so glad you're here, sir, so you can settle this.

Orion freezes in surprise and terror. He turns away from Arch and looks at Female Guest. She gapes, then gives him a shy smile. Orion recovers his wits.

ORION

Let the guest talk first.

FEMALE GUEST

Tell him to give me back my panties!

ARCH

So you wish to end your story.

FEMALE GUEST

I don't! I didn't say that. I just want my panties back.

ARCH

I'm sorry, but the strip search is not completed. You could still be smuggling the death serum onto the planet Zelforp.

ORION

Give her the panties, Arch.

Arch stands firm, wearing a defiant smile.

INT. BOHEMIAN CAFE - DAY

Socrates, Sierra continue conversation at table among Fans.

SOCRATES

Forget the meaning of life. That's just basic drives and the purpose we all define for ourselves. Let's talk about the nature of life. What makes us human? Take my new friend Arch here...

Indicates android Arch, casual wear, on his other side.

SOCRATES

You modeled his brain after ours. Is he an individual? Does he have a unique consciousness with its own perspectives and desires? If so, he deserves the same rights as we.

SIERRA

There are two thousand identical models of each droid on the S.E. One. Each one is a separate consciousness, but put in a particular situation they'll all behave in exactly the same way.

SOCRATES

Maybe at first. But exposed to different experiences over time, they're bound to become individuals with their own unique responses.

Sierra raises a finger to her ear, listens. Socrates smiles.

SIERRA

You're joking, right?... Which one?... Arch. You can't be serious... Just give me a minute.

Socrates grins, touches his finger to her ear.

INTERCUT - INT. DESERT - DAY/EXT. BOHEMIAN CAFE - DAY

Orion holds Arch by the arm, holds the finger of his other hand to his own ear. Arch grins at impatient Female Guest, now in bra and panties.

ORION

Thank you for your interest, Mr. Salvatore. We've got it all under control... Yes. Arch Two-O-Nine.

Socrates grins at abashed Sierra, each with finger to ear.

SOCRATES

He wouldn't give them back? That's fantastic!

(to Arch at table)

Arch. Say you're conducting a strip search on a Guest. The woman wants her

panties back. What do you do?

ARCH

Give them back, sir. She's a guest.

SOCRATES

(to Orion, Sierra)

A piece of advice, you two. Better start honoring your droids' civil rights. They just might qualify for them.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Orion releases Arch. Female Guest's eyes flash in excitement.

FEMALE GUEST

You know, if the droid's broken, maybe you could fill in for him.

ANNOUNCER (FILTERED)

One minute to Belinda Fawn's performance.

ORION

Look. He's not broken. He's all yours. Or hold on a second.

(gloved left hand to Arch)

Present interface.

Arch hesitates. Orion insists. They grip hands. Gloves glow with info transfer. A bra lands on Arch's head. Arch grins, pursues Guest. Orion shakes his head and sprints over the hill.