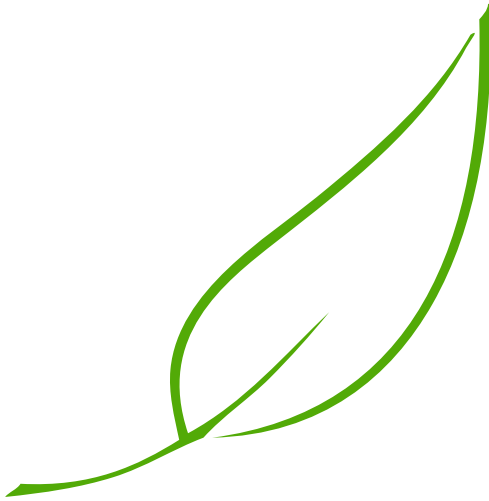


XENO EVIL

by Ken Bradbury



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[The scene is a clearing, somewhere in a large park in the middle of an American city. A shining silver object has just landed in a clump of dandelions. The vehicle contains two alien creatures. They come from the planet Xeno where there are no female and male distinctions, therefore, Lork and Rada are of either sex. The script refers to them as females]

Lork: *(walking stiffly out of the enclosure and looking around the area)* It looks safe, Rada. Come on out.

Rada: *(her back still turned)* Are you sure?

Lork: Seems to be a large, grassy area. Perhaps we'll find them here.

Rada: *(the less brave of the two, walking carefully into the area with the same stiff walk)*

Lork: It resembles a park of some sort. Perfect.

Rada: I do not like this, Lork. It seems dangerous. What if the inhabitants of this planet are not friendly? What if they try to harm us?

Lork: The reports from our planet say that Earth is a peace-loving planet, Rada. Strange, and sometimes confused, but generally gentle beings.

Rada: I'm still frightened, Lork. This is my first mission.

Lork: All we are to do is observe, Rada. Just observe. We don't even have to talk to them. Do you have your transponder apparatus?

Rada: *(holding up an imaginary cup-shaped object)* Right here. But I'm afraid to use it.

Lork: You've been trained in this, Rada. Please be professional about this. You simply sneak up behind a humanoid, put the transponder on its head, and you will assume its personality while I observe.

Rada: But it sounds so dangerous.

Lork: Not for you. You simply become that earthling. I'm the one who must make contact with them ... or rather, you.

Rada: But what if the humanoid objects to the transponder?

Lork: The humanoid will become momentarily unconscious while we probe his personality. When you remove the transponder, they will have no knowledge of what happened. Look! There's one now! Go on! Just walk up behind it and put the transponder on its head.

Rada: I'm frightened.

Lork: Come on, Rada. The future of planetary research depends on you. Just slip it onto the head and you will assume its personality.

Rada: *(makes a whining, frightened sound as she creeps up on the victim)*

Lork: Courage, Rada ... courage.

Rada: *(gently places the imaginary transponder on the Earthling's head ... the moment it touches the head, Rada's whole demeanor changes and Rada becomes a gum-chewing, hyperactive teenager)* Like Wow! I mean, like what a kick, dude!

Lork: Can you hear me?

Rada: Hear? Cool! Like, what an awesome set of headphones ... I was just sayin' to my old man the other day, "Like if I just had a set of headphones for like walkin' the park, Dad!" And he was like, "Well, you don't need 'em," and I was like, "But I gotta have 'em, Dad," and he was like "Well, we'll see," and I was like, "Whadaya mean, 'We'll see?... and he was like ... *(suddenly notices Lork's strange appearance)* ... Like ... Wow! Awesome outfit! You goin' to a concert?

Lork: I am from ... uh ... California.

Rada: Oh. Cool. Surfin' threads, huh? I mean, I saw you and I was like, "What an awesome get up!"... Like I've never seen clothes like that ... even in the Land's End catalog. So I was like ... *(suddenly Lork reaches over and pulls the transponder from Rada's head)* *(Rada is dazed, shaking and tries to get her bearings)*

Lork: You see? That was easy.

Rada: Are they all going to be this ... this ... strange? My energy levels are diminishing.

Lork: That's what we're here to see. But Rada, wasn't it obvious that earthlings are a friendly people? The young girl liked everything! "I was like ... He was like ... We were like ..."

Rada: She did seem to like a great many things.

Lork: You watch, Rada. This will mean a promotion for both of us once we send our data back to the planet Xeno. No more scrubbing space dust off Mars orbiters. This could be the break we need. *(seeing someone else)* Look. There's another specimen. Go ahead.

Rada: *(another small groan of fear)*

Lork: Courage, Rada. Xeno is depending on you.

Rada: *(sneaks up behind another earthling and slaps on the transponder)*

(suddenly, a beatific smile comes over Rada's face and she makes several gently mysterious gestures then turns to Lork) Greetings in the name of the Great Lama Dama Doo! Eternal peace and blessing upon you and your posterior! *(extending an imaginary flower)* Would you please buy a flower?

Lork: Uh ... I ... I'm not sure.

Rada: Here. Take it! Take it in the lovely and grace-giving name of the Great and Eternal Lama Dama Doo. *(Lork takes the flower)* We sell these flowers to fill the world with the fragrance of the Lama Dama...

Lork: But I didn't want to buy...

Rada: What's a ten dollar donation for such a beautiful flower? And besides, you have taken it, it is yours, it has become a part of you, it speaks your name! Listen to it! It shouts your very being to a sick and dying world! Can you hear it? *(Rada leans close to the imaginary flower Lork is holding)* Yes! Your flower speaks! *(imitating the flower)* "I am part of you! You and I have become one! And you can live in my eternal beauty for just a ten dollar donation to the Lama Dama!"

Lork: But why does the Lama Dama need money?

Rada: Ah! A question of wisdom! You are truly blessed! That Lama Dama Doo needs your small donation to finish the payments on his duplex in the Caribbean!

Lork: Duplex?

Rada: The great Lama Dama Duplex! The seat of all wisdom! Now ... for the ten dollars?

Lork: Uh ... no.

Rada: This will make your flower very unhappy.



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