

“INVADER ZIM ISSUE #24”

OPEN, EXTERIOR SPACE.

Zim narrates, as we descend to the surface of planet Cyberflox.

NARRATOR ZIM

Cyberflox. The most dangerous black market in the galaxy.
Not as dangerous as me! **Zim!** But a market of very bad things!
At reasonable prices! Also, the secret home of a being name...
Virooz!

RUBE

Virooz?

ORIN

Virooz?

SCHUYLER

Shnrrzrrz?

Flashback to Zim's lab. Gir watches Zim angrily bash his head on a console.

NARRATOR ZIM

Virooz had left me coordinates in a secret message from a
virus he planted in Gir's head. **Which Gir deleted!**

Gir jumps on Zim's console and delete the coordinates.

GIR

Blank now!

NARRATOR ZIM

Then I remembered we have an "undo" button.

ZIM'S COMPUTER

You know we have an “undo” button.

ZIM

I knew that!

NARRATOR ZIM

Virooz wanted me-Zim!-to find him on Cyberflox. But I would **turn the tables!** This was personal. Virooz had infected Gir! And I had to spend a **whole afternoon** fixing him!

As Zim flies off into space, we see Dib still talking to Zim's robot parents.

ROBOT MOM

Zim's not here, sweetie.

DIB

He's right there!

ROBOT MOM

That's not here.

Zim, Gir and Minimoose approach planet Cyberflox.

NARRATOR ZIM

And so I went! To the most dangerous black market in the galaxy. Now under new management. But I cared not!

ZIM

Under new management? Zim cares not!

GIR

Fitzoooooooooooo!

NARRATOR ZIM

Of course Virooz was setting a trap. **But Zim would trap Virooz first!**

Some mobsters approach an information booth.

TATM

Can you direct me to the nearest dark alley?

HECTRR

Klarga's Dark Alley & Candles, between The Frozen Organ Hut and Forever Lasers.

KLARGA

Welcome to Klarga's Dark Alley and Candles. All autumn scents are ten percent off.

The mobsters meet up with a group of cons.

TATM

Do you have the stuff?

DRAV

I have the stuff. Do you have the goods?

NIX

I have the goods. Do you have the Zoxogoogox?

TATM

I have the Zoxogoogox. Good thing we have a dark alley where no one can see us make this deal.

ZIM

Janitor! Coming through! Just a humble janitor. Here to janit this alley here.

Janit... Janit... Janit...

Oh, and by the way, do any of you know where I could find a being named Virooz??

TATM, NIX AND DRAV

Virooz?!

ZIM

Um... yeah?

TATM

Nobody asks about Virooz!

NIX

Virooz asks about **you!**

DRAV

And nobody knows why he asks, either! Understand?

ZIM

No.

DRAV

Virooz is everywhere, but nobody sees him. When Virooz talks, everyone listens, but they never know where his voice is coming from. Understand?

ZIM

Still no.

NIX

Anyone looking for Virooz must be looking for trouble!

TATM

I heard Virooz ordered Bloodmonkey's Blood Bar to become Bloodmonkey's Smoothie Bar... and they did!

NIX

Who told you that? Virooz?

TATM

Who wants to know? Did Virooz tell you to ask him that?

DRAV

Why I oughtta blast you for asking!

ZIM

Well, I can see you people have your own problems, so I'll be going now.

KLARGA

Thank you for visiting Klarga's Dark Alley and Candles.

NARRATOR ZIM

Another piece of the puzzle! But a piece shaped like half a Shloob's head looking up its own Shloobnose. So I returned to my base of operations to see how it fit. It was a small space I rented by putting the landlord in a box and not letting him out.

KNOX

Hey! Let me out!

GIR

Weee!!

NARRATOR ZIM

I wanted to find where Virooz was. But Virooz was everywhere yet nobody ever saw him. **Wait a connection?** No. A noodle.

ZIM

Gir! Why is there a noodle on my screen?

Gir's mouth is full of noodles.

GIR

Ir drnn knrrr.

ZIM

Whatever. We're going to go check the Bloodsmoothie place that suit-lizard mentioned! Minimoose, empty yourself!

MINIMOOSE

Myeh.

Gabo Amoebo's Crime Lair & Creperie

GABO AMOEBO

My family started with nothing. Not even arms! We were amoebas! And we built this business into one of the meanest crime families on Cyberflox.

So you're telling me you got all shot up by a janitor?

DRAV

No. We shot each other because of a janitor. There's a difference. He says he was looking for Virooz!

Gabo Amoebo slaps Drav

GABO AMOEBO

Looking for Virooz?! Everyone in this town is too terrified of Virooz to look for Virooz! So why is a janitor looking for Virooz?!

DRAV

He wants to janit for him?

He slaps Drav again

GABO AMOEBO

Or he's a crime boss trying to muscle in on our territory.

DRAV

Hey, what is our territory? Do we have a map, or-?

Drav is slapped once again.

GABO AMOEBO

Just find him and "explain" things to him. **With violence!** Not words, okay?

Drav is slapped a final time before we check in with Zim.

LEVIYE

Welcome to Bloodmonkey's Smoothie Bar, formerly Bloodmonkey's Blood Bar. Are you here to murder anyone?

ZIM

Oh no. I am simply here to do what janitors do.

LEVIYE

Look bored and make people feel awkward?

Zim walks up to the counter, the vendor glares at him.

GIR

Psst! Get me a smoothie!

ZIM

No smoothies, Gir! Sorry. My stomach gets very annoying. Sayyyy... Do you know anything about Virooz?

ZAVYR

Virooz?

SYLAS

Who said Virooz?

MAECK

Etc.

ZIM

Maybe I should go outside and let you sort this out by yourselves.

JARETH

Distorted speech

ZIM

I don't understand what you're saying.

JARETH

Distorted speech

ZIM

Nope. No idea.

JARETH

Angry distorted speech

ZIM

Do you speak anything except "stupid"?

ZAVYR

If nobody's going to start blasting, I will!!

Zim sneaks out the venation system as the bar goes up in a hail of laser fire!

ZIM

Zim has learned much!

GIR

No, you haven't.

The muffled alien from before exits the vent, accidentally tripping Zim.

JARETH

Oh hey, how's it going?

ZIM

You? You wanted to blast me!

JARETH

What? **No!** Oh, I always forget I have the gas mask on. Want a free Cherry Hunk from Horgo's Bullets 'N' Cherry Hunks?

ZIM

No! I want to know about Virooz! **Tell me everything you know!**

JARETH

Listen closely to my tale...! This place was once a Blood Bar. Then 'round about the time the planet got bought out by Fitzoo-Menga, they got a message that Virooz said they should start selling smoothies. So they did.

ZIM

Fitzoooo-Mengaaa?

That's it? Really?

JARETH

Yeah.

ZIM

Gir! Throw him through the window.

GIR

Yeee-haw!

ZIM

<sigh> **More investigating!**

Organs & Things.

ZIM

Hey do you know about Virooz...?

TRYST

Virooz?

TEAG

Virooz?!

ANEDRE

Virooooooz?!?!

Deathsweaters.

ZIM

Hey about that Virooz...?

MAEV

Virooz??

ZAERA

Virooz?!

TIYANA

My sweater is armed!!

Bombs 'N' Glass 'B' Us

ZIM

Excuse me...

ELEX

Yes? Is there anything you'd like to ask about?

Zim looks around at the bombs and pointy glass objects.

ZIM

Er... No.

Zim nervously leaves the store.

GIR

Virooooooooooz!

The store explodes!

GIR

Heeheeheeheeeeeeeeeee!

Meanwhile at Gabo Amoebo's Crime Lair & Creperie

GABO AMOEBO

I've called this meeting of all the crime bosses in the area to discuss this mysterious "janitor."

KOHREN

I'm not a crime boss, I manage The Cookie Bunker.

GABO AMOEBO

You can go.

KOHREN

We offer ten percent off all cookies for crime bosses!

GABO AMOEBO

Get out!

This so-called "janitor" has been turning all the mobsters in this mall against each other.

TATM

Or... is it possible we're all just a bunch of trigger-happy hot-heads?

Gabo Amoebo blasts Tatm.

GABO AMOEBO

I don't want facts! I want solutions! **Get that janitor!**

Back in Zim's base of operations

NARRATOR ZIM

It was a mystery. All arrows led from Virooz, but none led to Virooz.

Was that the key? **I needed more information!**

KNOX

Can I please get out now?

ZIM

Come, Gir! Minimoose! **I need more information!**

Zim heads to the information booth from earlier

ZIM

I shall ask the drone in this **information booth!**

Say, hooded info drone...

MYSTERIOUS HOODED FIGURE (GABO AMOEBO)

If you want some answers about Virooz, follow me!

ZIM

That was easy.

Hey, I remember this dark alley. It's a good dark alley.

And now, hooded stranger... who is Virooz?

Gaqbo Amoeba struggles out of his disguise.

GABO AMOEBO

Eergh. Ggrnt. Nrrg.

You'll never find out! And you'll never janit in Cyberflox again!

Zim suddenly finds himself surrounded.

ZIM

Ha, bloated amoeba man who should really wear pants! What if I told you... **I have solved the mystery of Virooz!** And Virooz is... **That guy!**

GARY

Huh?

GABO AMOEBO

No, that's Gary. He works in frozen yogurt.

DAMIRON

Yeah.

XZAV

Not him.

AVAE

Too sad.

ZIM

I mean... **That guy!**

XZAV

Nope.

AVAE

Not him.

GABO AMOEBO

That's Bill.

ZIM

Him?

XZAV

No.

ZIM

The ugly one?

DAMIRON

Um... no.

ZIM

How about that rat?

AVAE

Really, no.

ZIM

Wait! I have it! Virooz is... Fitzoo-Menga!

GABO AMOEBO

Huh?

AVAE

Who?

XZAV

Whaaaa?

ZIM

It should be obvious, even to a crime-moron like you! Virooz controls everything! Like Fitzoo-Menga controls this mall! Virooz is everywhere, yet nobody sees him! Like Fitzoo-Menga! Right! Huh?

GABO AMOEBO

Ha! That's a good theory! But we're going to blast you anyway.

Suddenly, a giant spaceship uses its tractor beam to abduct Zim!

ZIM

Huhhhh?

Zim is hurtled onto a couch. Virooz faces away from Zim.

VIROOZ

Welcome, Zim.

ZIM

Virooz, I presume! Why have you brought this humble janitor to-

VIROOZ

You're not a janitor and you didn't fool anyone with that stupid disguise, Zim!

ZIM

Fine! I am indeed Zim. Just as you, "Virooz," are Fitzoo-Menga!

I'm right about that, right?

VIROOZ

Yep.

ZIM

JUST WHAT IS YOUR GAME VIROOZ?!

Virooz turns to face Zim, his grotesque appearance catches him off guard.

VIROOZ

My game... is to make you stop sucking!

ZIM

Whhaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat?!

Later, Dib finds Gir and Minimoose hanging out with a rat on Cyberflox.

DIB

Hey! Is Zim here?

GIR

Just missed him.

DIB

Awww, man! I'm going home!

To be continued....