

The One With John F. Kennedy and a Bottle of Laundry Detergent

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Characters: John F. Kennedy, The Deter-Gent, Secretary Jane Davis

SCENE IN. John F. Kennedy and Secretary Davis are in a Zoom conference together. The scene opens as John F. Kennedy is rehearsing a speech to the American people.

JFK

...and we choose to go to the moon, not because it is easy, but because it is hard.

SECRETARY

Excellent speech, Mr. President, sir. I'm sure the public will like it.

JFK

Thank you, Madame Secretary. I sure am glad the United States constitution allows the president to immediately assume office if he comes back to life.

SECRETARY

I sure am glad as well, sir. And might I add, your head is looking as unexploded as ever.

JFK

Why thank you, madame secretary. Now tell me, what have I missed in the past 60 years? I imagine America has made some great achievements since then.

SECRETARY

Well for starters, Mr. President, we landed on the moon in 1969.

JFK

We have? You could have led with that! That's great news! I imagine we've been back and forth to the moon several times since then? Maybe set up a colony?

SECRETARY

No sir, we've actually never been back.

JFK

We've never been back?

SECRETARY

Well sir, we've been a little confused by your speech

JFK

How so?

SECRETARY

Well, 'we choose to do it not because it's easy, but because it's hard' applies to a lot of things, sir. Many things are hard. Killing all humanity is hard. Appointing a bottle of laundry detergent to be the head of NASA is hard. But that doesn't mean we should do it!

JFK

Wait, has all of humanity been killed off?

SECRETARY

No, sir, but...

DETERGENT joins the zoom call.

He's literally a bottle of
detergent whose voice actor
is off camera.

DETERGENT

Good evening, Mr. President.

JFK

Uhhh...

DETERGENT

I'm sorry, am I muted?

JFK

Uhhh...

DETERGENT

Let me see...

DETERGENT raises the volume,
even though he doesn't have
hands

HOW ABOUT NOW?

JFK

Madame Secretary, what is happening?

SECRETARY

This is the head of NASA, sir. And Mr. Deter-gent, we hear you
loud and clear

DETERGENT

(Normal volume)

Thank you sir. Now, we best get well acquainted, as...

JFK

No.

DETERGENT

What?

JFK

I will not be working with a bottle of soap.

SECRETARY

Bottle of soap? Sir, I understand you're from the 60's, but that's just not something you can say anymore.

JFK

I'm sorry, I just... it's not something I've ever seen before. It just... boggles my brain... almost like I'm on the streets of Dallas again.

SECRETARY

Well yes, I understand it's sort of a bizarre thing for you, but times have changed. Humans and bottles of laundry detergent live in harmony now.

JFK

I... Madame Secretary, this isn't a prank, right? Lyndon has been known to pull some pranks on me.

SECRETARY

No, sir. Mr. Deter-gent here is the head of NASA.

JFK

Deter-Gent? I refuse to believe this.

DETERGENT

It's a family name, sir.

JFK

How does... you know what, never mind. It is an honor to meet you, Mr. Deter-gent. May you brief me on the state of NASA?

DETERGENT

Yes, sir. We're currently in the process of attempting to form a colony on Mars, and we were wondering if we could get some additional funding.

JFK

Mars, you say?

DETERGENT

Yes, Mars. The 4th planet from the sun.

JFK

Traveling to Mars? This seems like an incredible feat, I am all for it! That is something that sounds like we could do, not because it's easy, but because it is hard! You're really speaking my language, Mr. Deter-Gent, was it?

DETERGENT

Yes indeed. Thank you sir.

JFK

We will absolutely send NASA as much funding as they need. Anything to defeat the Soviet Union.

DETERGENT

Well do I have good news for you, sir. The soviet union dissolved in 1991.

JFK

It did? Well that is excellent news! I could kiss you right now!

DETERGENT

Well sir, this is very forward. But might I say you're looking rather clean yourself. Something I look for in a man, you know, as a bottle of laundry detergent.

JFK

And I would say the same to you, Mr. Deter-gent. I know this is very soon, but Jackie passed away years ago. Will you be... deter-mine?

DETERGENT

Of course... Mr. President. I'm a bottle of laundry detergent just so you could make that pun.

[New scene. Madame secretary is
in a zoom class. The voice
of the laundry detergent
character is the professor]

PROFESSOR DEETER-GENT

Miss Davis? Miss Davis wake up. You've almost missed my entire lecture on the history of John F. Kennedy.

SECRETARY

Sorry, professor deeter-gent. I don't know what got into me.

PROFESSOR

Happens to the best of us. Now anyway, here's why John F. Kennedy was the sexiest president...

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