

= Spoo =

Spoo is a fictional food product that served as a running joke within the Babylon 5 science fiction television series . In the series ' fictional universe , spoo is made from worm @-@ like creatures of the same name and is generally regarded as the most delicious food in the galaxy ; the creature itself , however , is regarded with contempt by most species . Despite appearing only in a few episodes , spoo was embraced by fans and became part of the series ' extended mythology .

= = Origins = =

Use of the word " spoo " to denote a food item predates Babylon 5 , which began airing in 1993 . The show 's creator J. Michael Straczynski was a writer for the 1985 cartoon series She @-@ Ra Princess of Power . After a Babylon 5 fan recalled a possible spoo reference from that show , Straczynski replied , " Yeah , I slipped some spoo in there once . A couple of real cute ( as in wanna drop a truck on them cute ) elf @-@ types offer Skeletor a bowl of Spoo . " In a 1995 interview , Straczynski referred to that scene as his favorite of the show .

Spoo appeared in the first episode of Babylon 5 , where it was briefly mentioned by the Narn Ambassador , G 'Kar . Straczynski , who wrote the episode in question , was asked about spoo by fans on various internet message boards on which he frequently participated . At first , Straczynski 's responses were terse : " Spoo is . " In another early post , he explained how he created the word : " Spoo is Oops spelled backward . " He eventually noted that the taste of spoo is that of " Meat Jello . Served chilled . "

After years of speculation from Babylon 5 fans , Straczynski finally offered an extensive explanation of the origins and nature of spoo . He said spoo are tiny , pasty , mealworm @-@ like creatures that travel slowly in herds . Their main behavior is sighing , which " can reportedly induce unparalleled bouts of depression " in other creatures . They are raised on ranches and harvested through " whacking " . Spoo are regarded with contempt by most species in Babylon 5 ; they " are the only creatures of which the Interstellar Animal Rights Protection League says , simply , ' Kill ' em . ' " Despite this , they are " generally considered the most delicious food in all of known space " .

This near @-@ universal delight in the taste of spoo apparently doesn 't include human tastes . In the episode " A View from the Gallery " , neither of the two maintenance men , Mack and Bo , find spoo to their liking , despite the high price of the delicacy .

= = Appearances = =

The Babylon 5 episodes in which spoo appears or is mentioned are " Midnight on the Firing Line " , " The Geometry of Shadows " , " Point of No Return " , " And the Rock Cried Out , No Hiding Place " , " A View from the Gallery " , " A Tragedy of Telepaths " , and " Meditations on the Abyss " . Spoo also appears in the " Over There " segment of the Lost Tales episode " Voices in the Dark " , where President Sheridan at one point jokes that the product is " Spoo : The other gray meat " .

Although mostly relegated to a background role , spoo was a key plot point in the season 5 episode " A Tragedy of Telepaths " . The fact that Narn prefer fresh spoo while the Centauri prefer it aged was the clue that G 'Kar used to figure out that there was another Narn in the Centauri Royal Palace . Spoo is referenced in the Straczynski @-@ authored open gaming licensed Babylon 5 : The Roleplaying Game .

= = Real @-@ world references = =

In 1998 , Boxtree UK published a Babylon 5 cookbook , officially licensed from Warner Bros. Presented as if written around the year 2260 , the time when most of the Babylon 5 series takes place , the book contains many recipes for the various foods mentioned and seen throughout the series . Included are recipes for Narn @-@ style spoo and Centauri @-@ style spoo , both using currently available ingredients , with sea scallops taking the place of spoo . Straczynski claims that

while dining in a restaurant prior to the 1996 Hugo award ceremony , " a fan had the waiter bring over a tray of food , christened spoo " .

Spoo is spoofed in the first episode of the South Park parody Babylon Park , Spoohunter .

In 2008 , rap @-@ filk artist Luke Ski recorded and released a parody of the Beastie Boys song " No Sleep till Brooklyn " called " No Sleep Till Babylon " , which references spoo . A stanza attributed to the Babylon 5 character Londo Mollari contains the lyrics : " Spoo . All I really want is Spoo . And in the morning it 's Spoo . Cause in the evening it 's Spoo . I like the way that it tastes . It 's blue meatballs in greyish paste ... "