Who took the last box of lifesauce?

I did. Why?

OiOiOi! It to OiOi, Cat-4! C'mon! What's the biggie, Cat-2?

If you're hungry, why don't you plug into the victory sapphire?

The--

The victory sapphire?

N-no!

I-it is forbidden!

Aw, it's no big deal--

I do it all the time!

You what?!

You son of a OiOiOi, do you know what you've done?!

Pfft!

It only gives you arcane knowledge of space and time--OiOi, why are you such a wuss, Cat-2?
Well, Cat-I said we couldn't.

Ha! Cat-I wouldn't know inspiration if it bit him in the 1100!

Plus, he's a 01011er!

What...?

Grr! Cat-4, you... you...

Out of my way, you lousy 011010ers!

Victory sapphire do not enter. Rush

I'll show you who knows inspiration!

No! Cat-1, don't!!

Ha! Don't worry, Cat-2! It won't be a problem!

He'll be perfectly fine--as long as he's not...

Gasp! NOT WHAT?

In love.

In love?!! Yeah... and he's a robot, so no worries!

Yes worries, Cat-4!

Who among us, yes, even us robots, could resist--
Soon, at another time, in another place...

Oh... Where are we?

Ow! Ow! Ow! C'mon! Donk!

Way to go, Ø Æt-ass! You've marooned us!

Please, Cat-2! How was I to know?
I didn't even know I was in love with her!!

Cut the Ø1Ø!!

C'mon, Cat-1, she's the only woman on the ship!

Y-yeah, but we're all robots!

A-and Cat-4's been plugging into the Victory Sapphire for weeks!

But he's GAY!!

Hey...

Sigh...

Ø1Ø1.

Cat-2!

What?

Cat-2!

We've got a problem!

I know! Cat-1's out of power, and we're out of life-sauce!

That's not all...

Cat-3's gone!!

Gah! That's all we need!

C'mon, Cat-4, let's go in and get the Victory Sapphire...

That's where the answers lie... like it or not!

Good idea, Cat-2! With your technical know-how and my immunity to its flaws...

As soon as we get the sapphire...
"...we'll have Cat-3 back in no time!"

HMM?

WHERE AM I?

WHERE'S THE CATERPILLAR PRIME?

I...

I've got to find the others.

MAYBE THEY'RE THIS WAY.

It's gone!!

It was right here! At the very least, it should be in this room!

Cat-4 -- what happened when Cat-1 touched the sapphire?

What does that thing do?

I-I dunno! It's just an energy source!
I just touched it and I never needed to eat the life-sauce!

But if you weren't using the life-sauce, we should have tons of extra boxes.

Let's check Cat-1's quarters—he loves that stuff.

I bet he's got a stash.

Good idea!

So... here!

We can revive him and solve this mystery with... huh?

There's nothing there!

Ωιοιοιοιοιοιοι! We're back at square one!

Elsewhere...

Wow.

It's all life-sauce!
CAT-2, IF WE CAN'T FIND SOMETHING TO REVIVE CAT-1...

I KNOW. HIS INTERNAL BATTERY WILL RUN OUT AND IT'LL WIPE HIS MEMORY!

THEN WE'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT WHERE CAT-3 IS!!

OKAY, LISTEN--THERE'S A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT WE WON'T REVIVE HIM, SO WE NEED TO DO SOME DETECTIVE WORK!

OKAY--LIKE WHAT?

LIKE YOU COMING CLEAN ON WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT OILFOED SAPPHIRE!!

OW! OW!

Tell me!

ERG... IT'S JUST--IT PUTS YOUR MIND IN IDLE--OW!

MORE DETAIL!

OW! OW! A-AND LET'S SEE THE THINGS THAT YOU LIKE THE BEST!

You experience all of your favorite things--don't you get it?!

YOU ESPERIENCE ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS--DON'T YOU GET IT?!

OKAY.

SO IT SHOWS YOU YOUR FAVORITE THINGS--

LIFE-SAUCE CAT-3... UH... I THINK HE LIKED THAT CRYSTAL...

That's not enough. Let's go through his stuff.

WHAT ELSE DOES CAT-1 LIKE?

Gaspc
Meanwhile...

Eh? What's that?

I hear...

What the...

...little old lady who...

...little old lady who...

Find anything?

Not yet.

You?

Maybe.

Remember how he used to listen to yodeling records? Well, they're all gone, like everything else he loves.

I think we're on to something.

What do you mean?

Everything he loves is gone from here...

...and he lost all power right afterwards.

Okay...

I think his body has diverted all power to his mind so that he would keep everything in there...

So?

...alive.
ALIVE? INSIDE HIS MIND?

THAT'S RIGHT.

TOUCHING THE VICTORY SAPPHIRE WITH LOVE IN HIS HEART OVERPOWERED HIM, AND I BELIEVE, SUCKED ALL OF HIS MOST BELOVED THINGS INTO HIS MIND.

WOW.

BUT NOW OUR PROBLEMS ARE EVEN WORSE -- IF CAT-1'S BATTERY RUNS OUT, WE DON'T JUST LOSE HIS MEMORIES --

WE LOSE CAT-3!

1-1S THAT -- CAT-1'S GRAMOPHONE?

LEEETLE OLD LADYY -- LEEETLE OLD LADY HEE -- LEEETLE OLD LADY WHO...

...PLAYING YODELING?

AND WHAT'S THAT...

OH Ø11ø1 -- IT'S CAT-2...

...D-DEAD!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

OH NO...
Okay, with the sapphire and the life-sauce gone... we can't revive Cat-1.

We have to figure out away to contact Cat-3.

...but how? She's trapped in his mind!

I have a plan... will you help me do it?

Oh, but...

Of course... why?

I need you to do exactly as I say... without question!!

Sure, why?

I'm not kidding!

Oiooo!! I said okay!

Oh, Cat-2!

How can this have happened?

What?? No, I won't do it!!

You promised!

But this is in sanity!

Do it!

> Sigh <

Fine.

Turn around.
CLICK!
ON
OFF

OH, CAT-2...
YOU CAN'T
BE DEAD.

I-I... I'M
NOT.

GASP.
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

LISTEN,
CAT-3...
WE DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME...

WE'RE IN CAT-1'S
MIND-- WE'RE ALL THE
THINGS HE LOVES--
YOU, YODELING,
LIFE-SAUCE...

BUT HE DOESN'T
LOVE YOU,
CAT-2...

HE'D LOVE TO
SEE ME DEAD,
SO I HAD CAT-4
TURN ME OFF...

...AND HERE
I AM.  NOW,
CAT-1'S
BATTERIES.

THEY'RE GOING
to run out in
just a few minutes
and we'll
disappear with
everything else
in his head.

SO LISTEN
TO MY PLAN--
WE HAVE TO
COMBINE ALL
OF HIS LOVES
into ONE
BIG BURST TO
RELEASE US.
ARE YOU
READY?

Y-YES.

IN THE REAL
WORLD...  C'MON,
CAT-2...
Look, Cat-2, I don't know about this...

There's no time! You have to do it!!

All the things he loves...

A: And now I'm listening to yodeling...

Are you enjoying it??

One more thing and you're back!

I don't want to! It's ridiculous!

Do you want to be stuck here and be erased?

Do it!

Sigh...

Fine.

Touch butt!

Pa Zort!

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

The end.

24-hour comic

by Zim Jim

10/2007