

Invasion

By [Giulio Zambon](#)

The Krylors were already travelling between the stars when Homo erectus chased mammoths across the plateaus of Eastern Africa. They stumbled upon Earth just about when Christopher Columbus sailed for the first time to the Americas.



Hidden in the shade of a Moon crater, the Krylors witnessed the violence of the Conquistadors and the blood baths of the two world wars.

No other race they had encountered had ever evolved so quickly and showed such a savagery. When two nuclear bombs exploded on Japan, the Krylors realised that they had no time to waste. They had to control human aggressiveness before it spilled into space.

While the Krylors were deliberating, humans landed on the Moon, tested 15,000 nuclear bombs, and built a space station.

The captain of the Krylor ship, Trzxtptl, finally decided to contact the President of the United States. If that country could be brought to heel, the others would follow.

Trzxtptl's message was short and to the point: "Stop your space program and destroy all your nuclear weapons, or we will annihilate your planet."

The President bit hard inside his upper lip. "We should meet in person," he replied to the alien. "This is how we reach agreements here on Earth."

A few hours later, the Krylor shuttle quietly landed on the front lawn of the Whitehouse. There was a collective gasp when a ramp opened on the side of the shuttle and a perfect copy of the President stepped onto the grass. Overcoming his surprise, the President himself walked the alien to the oval office, where he and his guest sat facing each other on two high-backed chairs.

Trzxtptl plainly restated its request to disarm.

The President argued, but could not change the alien's position. Since he was running out of options, he tried a different angle. "If we want to build trust between us," he said, "why don't you start by showing yourself as you really are?"

After a brief pause, of not more than ten minutes, Trzxtptl agree with a simple, "OK."

A few seconds later, the President saw the alien become increasingly evanescent until it had vanished. He had expected to be confronted with a slimy monster full of tentacles and bead eyes. The President leaned forward, baffled. He saw a half-an-inch long insect sitting in the middle of the seat.

His surprise lasted a fraction of a second. With a quick movement, without reflecting on it, the President stretched out and swatted Trzxtptl with his open hand.

\*\*\*

The sudden killing of their captain sent the crew of the Krylor star-ship into disarray. They knew they had to react, but were not used to making their own decisions. They were still discussing it in their conference chamber when the humans blitzed them out of existence with one of the weapons they had copied from Trzxtptl's shuttle.



Rate this story:

( Average: 3.80 out of 5 )