

(327)671-5665

DENNIS

OM
GM

"Martian Child"

LEFKOWITZ (cont'd)
You seem to suffer from a syndrome
many adopting parents experience...

DAVID
Shock?

LEFKOWITZ
You're so eager to be your child's
friend, you forget to be a parent.

DAVID
But I...

LEFKOWITZ
And Dennis needs a parent. He's
still caught up in this Martian
business. I understand he was
expelled from school.

DAVID
Expelled? "Expelled" is a harsh
word. I think there was a
consensus he would do better
somewhere else...

LEFKOWITZ
Mr. Gordon, I'm moving your case up
for review. You'll be notified by
mail. We'll see where we are.

David is too stunned to offer any meaningful resistance. On
his way out, Lefkowitz adds...

LEFKOWITZ (cont'd)
Someone should clean up that mess.

119 INT. DENNIS'S BEDROOM - SHORTLY AFTER

David enters. Dennis is nowhere to be seen. David kneels at
the closet to sift through Dennis's stolen booty. He gently
picks up the photos of Mary and stares at them.

START

120 EXT. GARDEN - SHORTLY AFTER

Dennis puts a slug (he's never seen one before) in a plastic
baggie. David walks into the garden.

DAVID
What's in the bag?

DENNIS
A slow-moving friend.

1 of 3

DENNIS
83.

DAVID
"A slow-moving friend." Nice.
Dennis, we've never really spoken
about your "mission" have we?

DENNIS
No.

DAVID
Could you explain it to me?

DENNIS
(happy)
We are here on Earth...

DAVID
...actually, from the beginning.

DENNIS
I was made on Mars as a tadpole
then I was brought to Earth on a
transporter and put in my Mommy's
tummy. She didn't know and then I
was borned.

DAVID
And why did the Martians, your
people, send you here?

DENNIS
To learn humanbeingness.

DAVID
And how do you do that?

DENNIS
Collect stuff. And join a family.

DAVID
That's it?

DENNIS
Yes. And then wait for the signal.

DAVID
Okay. Well, while you're waiting,
a very important thing in
humanbeingness is... no taking
things from other people that don't
belong to you.

David lays out the pictures of Mary. Dennis stiffens.

"Martian Child"

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DENNIS
84.

"Martian Child"

DAVID (cont'd)
These pictures are mine. They're very important to me. Please tell me why you took them.

Dennis moves to run away from David, but David catches him and holds him.

DAVID (cont'd)
I need to understand you. Tell me.

DENNIS
Because you love her so much!

David lets go of Dennis, moved.

DAVID
(to himself)
Jesus.
(to Dennis)
It's true, I miss her a lot. But that doesn't change how I feel about you. We're a team. We broke plates together.

DENNIS
(hopeful)
Should we break more?

David runs his hand through Dennis's hair.

DAVID
No, we have to save a few for Lucky Charms.
(getting serious)

STOP

~~Look, Mr. Belkowitz, I'm not sure it's such a good idea for you to live here. So we need to keep him happy, okay?~~

Dennis nods.

DAVID (cont'd)
When you're here, at home, it's safe to be... from Mars, buuuuuut, when you're out there, with Earthlings, we have to kind of go by Earth rules, okay?

DENNIS
Oh-huh.