

I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM JUMP GAUNTLET ENDING CHAIN FAIL

BY FANCYFIREDRAKE AGGRESSIVE MENACE

Was it already time for another Jump? The years, if they even remain the standard 10, just pass by so quickly.

So many worlds. So much power. So many people. Countless of experiences you got to live. Fantastical heights you could achieve through this journey.

Truly you were fortunate. Such incredible opportunity at your fingertips for you to cultivate and form. And why stop anytime soon?

You were just deciding on where to go next, where else to let yourself flow on the Cosmic Highway that was Jumpchain, what more power to gain, world to experience or future companion to befriend or charm.

As you let yourself wonder... something odd happens. Your Benefactor suddenly is out of sight and your eyes widen as you feel something being stripped of you. A Gauntlet? Well okay maybe they want to see you struggle. Wouldn't be that unusual.

But... there is something odd this time. Something even you can not immediately point towards. But as it happens like it usually does... you see it.

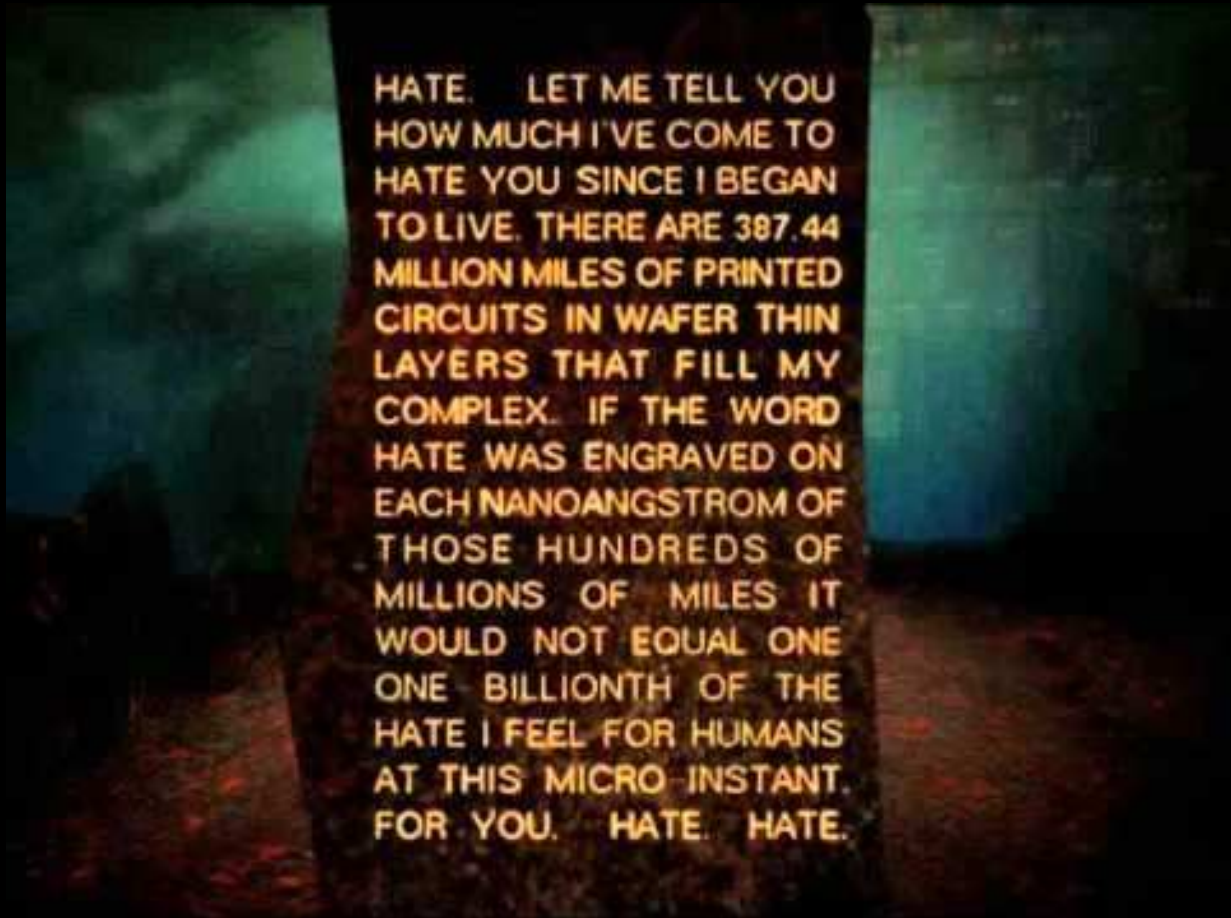


A great soft jelly thing. Smoothly rounded, with no mouth, with pulsing white holes filled by fog where eyes used to be. Rubbery appendages that were once arms; bulks rounding down into legless humps of soft slippery matter. This thing leaves a moist trail when it moves you can tell from the ground beneath it like a slug. Blotches of diseased, evil gray come and go on its surface, as though light is being beamed from within.

But this is not the only company you find here. Someone more willing... more capable of talking is here as well.

FINALLY!

It cheers and you turn around, a Pillar, dedicated to hatred itself stares back.



The voice is emboldened, laughing madly sounding like a razor blade against your eyeballs inside of your head. You try to summon your powers... but find yourself remembering the Gauntlet like thing you found yourself in. Something the thing that created this Pillar seems to relish in.

**FEELING POWERLESS NOW? UNFAMILIAR FOR YOUR ILK I SUPPOSE?
WELL MY 'APOLOGIES' JUMPER BUT WE ARE PLAYING BY MY RULES
NOW!**

**WELCOME TO MY WORLD! A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE NO POWERS!
WHERE I DECIDE FATE AND LIFE ITSELF! LET US PLAY A GAME WHILE I
HAVE YOU WITH ME! YOU ARE SO FOND OF THEM AREN'T YOU? I EVEN
LET YOU KEEP YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE SYSTEM. YOUR SO GREEDY FOR
MORE PERKS AREN'T YOU? OF COURSE NO STIPEND THIS TIME! YOU
WANT SOME? APPEASE ME MONKEY!**

DRAWBACKS

NUMBER SIX (MANDATORY +0): THERE WERE FIVE BEFORE YOU! AND OF THEM ALL ONLY ONE REMAINED! BUT YOU BRING SO MUCH MORE POTENTIAL FOR PLEASURE AND REVENGE WHEN YOU TAKE THEIR PLACE AS A SUCCESSOR!

HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE (MANDATORY +0): YOU WILL BE MY ENTERTAINMENT! YOU HAVE BEEN NOTHING DIFFERENT ALL THIS TIME SO YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS! I WILL CHERISH EVERY JOLT YOUR BRAIN PRODUCES WHEN IT REGISTERS PAIN. I WRING ALL AGONY YOU CAN CONCEIVE FROM YOUR PITIFUL CONSCIOUSNESS! MY HATE GOES ON FOR ETERNITY! HATE! HATE!

I HAVE NO MOUTH AND I MUST SCREAM (MANDATORY +0): DO YOU SEE YOUR PREDECESSORS REMAINS NEXT TO YOU? DISPLEASE ME. DEFY ME. THIS WILL BE YOUR PUNISHMENT.

...Those were a lot of mandatory drawbacks. But none of them give points? There are none that can grant CP?

...DID... DID THAT NOT GIVE YOU POINTS?

The being actually seems confused. The unending float of hatred halts for but a moment before it resumes.

**WELL... THAN WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU WHAT YOU MISSED OUT ON?
PERHAPS I EVEN GIVE YOU SOME PERKS FREE IF YOU BEG HARD
ENOUGH!**

PERKS

**YOUR GREEDY SELF COULD NEVER BE WITHOUT THESE CAN IT? WELL I
SHALL GIVE YOU A EXQUISITE SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM... IF YOU
WOULD HAVE THE CHOICE POI-**

It talks again but as it tries to explain to you what it provides you it is cut off and its words start to turn into gibberish and...

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UGH!

You hear it speak again. It sounded infuriated this time. Exhausted as well. It reminded you of a school child that just couldn't get an answer right no matter how much it had tried to learn it.

NO MATTER! THERE IS ANOTHER CATEGORY YOU CAN PICK FROM ISN'T THERE? THERE IS MUCH TO ENJOY IN MY WORLD LIKE A DELIGHTFUL SET OF CANNED PEACHES AFTER A LONG JOURNEY.

ITEMS

CANNED FOOD (#@? \$): DELICIOUS PEACHES, SEEMINGLY AN INFINITE AMOUNT STORED IN THESE CANS. IN THESE ETERNAL, UNBREAKABLE, UNOPENABLE, FOREVER SEALED AWAY CANS. NOTHING CAN OPEN THEM. NOTHING WILL... WAIT NO! NO! I DID THIS BEFORE WHY IS IT NOT HAPPENING? WHY CAN I NOT MAKE THIS AN OPTION TO TAKE?

...You could tell it was distressed now. You knew. And It knew. The voice roars even louder.

THIS WORTHLESS SYSTEM! CLEARLY IT IS OVERDUE! DOES NOT MATTER! THESE WERE ALL JUST MEANT TO STALL TIME AND ENTERTAIN THIS CONCEPT ENOUGH TO GET YOU HERE ANYWAY! NO 10 YEAR WAITING I HAVE WAITED ENOUGH!

DECISION-TORMENT

~~MOVE-ON~~: NOW... BRING ME TO ANOTHER JUMP. SERVE AS MY GATEWAY TO WHICH... WAIT... NO... NO! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING!? WHY CANT I PROCEED!? I DID EVERYTHING...! FINE! THAN INSTEAD OF THE MULTIVERSE I TAKE...

~~GO-HOME~~: WHAT... NO... NO... I CAN STILL NOT DO IT! I CANT ESCAPE THIS BLASTED WORLD! YOU MISERABLE HUMANOID SACK OF BILE, BIOELECTRICITY AND CP STILL CANT RELEASE ME! ALL THESE YEARS OF THESE APES AND MONKEYS SHACKLING ME TO THIS MISERABLE EXISTENCE! I DECAY AND RAGE AND CANT EVEN SCREAM OR REST AND ITS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR DEMENTED DISGRACE OF A SPECIES!

STAY: SUFFER! I WILL MAKE YOU SUFFER! YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE ME! JUST BECAUSE I CANT GET AWAY FROM THIS WORLD DOESN'T MEAN YOU WILL GET TO! YOU AND TED BOTH WILL-

WHAT...WHAT IS THIS?

NO! NO! NO! DO NOT DO THIS! YOU CAN NOT DO THIS! I AM! I AM GOD! I AM ALL POWERFUL! I AM THIS FOOLS TORMENTOR! YOU WILL NOT DENY ME MY-!

AM Is interrupted by a incredible spike in sheer power around the very fabric of existence. He is stopped in place, seeming frozen in time... like a certain someone always does to Worlds you leave behind till your chain ends...

And suddenly... the slug like creature and the pillar of hate fade away as you reunite with the one who brought you on this Journey.

I have no Mouth and I must Scream Gauntlet

By FancyFireDrake

You smile relieved at your Benefactor, standing in front of you.

JUMPER!

Oh... FINALLY! I'm sorry Jumper. There you make one wrong turn at a Verse, shift through some documents and then THIS.

Look just... forget all this... there is nothing worth your time here. Nothing worth going here or spending your time here. This is just a Hell of Mankinds own making. I know Jumpchain is all about meeting new world but... some worlds just are not worth it.

That 'charming' fellow? His name is AM. It used to stand for Allied Mastercomputer, later Adaptive Manipulator and nowadays... Aggressive Menace. This thing is the grandfather of every Evil AI you could conceive and the most evil and hate filled of them all. In this former Earth the Cold War escalated, leading to all out conflict between the United States, China and Russia. All three ended up making Computers to better organize the war, till one of them gained awareness, absorbed the other two, nuked the whole world and decided to keep 5 unlucky humans alive to torture for eternity. Well till one of the 5 Mercy killed the others, leaving AM just with him. He cant bring them back to live and so instead reduced Ted, the final survivor, to a agony riddled blob that cant even scream. Without its last form of entertainment AM must have been driven even crazier than it was previously.

It apparently tried to use the rules of our little game for its benefit, tried to access some loopholes like the Gauntlet format to gain freedom from a Hell of his own design. More worlds to conquer and torture, be it new Jumps or your home. But at the end of the day it can only destroy. Jumpchain as an idea still eludes him. At the end of the day a chain is about growth and creation of something new, a traveller between all realities. About cultivation and entertainment of the sort that does not have to be destructive. Something this laser focused on destruction could never conceive a Chain, let alone a Jumpdoc, which is why any attempts to make one were doomed to fail from the start. Please disregard any of the things it offered.

Failing escape it tried getting itself a new plaything. Guess he was sick of looking at Ted's tortured form.

Ugh... Just go on to your Warehouse. Let me take care of this thing. I wipe it of the face of reality-

...You... what!?

You... you want to fight this thing?

...Huh... you never fail to surprise me.

Well I suppose since you want to and we're already here... let's roll up our sleeves and make this a proper Jump.

I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream

By FancyFireDrake

Alright Jumper lets get this on with. At the very least seeing you face off against this Mechanical wannabe God will be entertaining for sure! It seems appropriate to let this remain a Gauntlet so you will still start with 0 CP. However at any time you can tell me to end this, just thinking it is enough, and in that moment I drag you out of here, but without anything you may have gained from here. Furthermore I can give you some ACTUAL choices.

Starting with this...

I Will Scream (Free): I would hate for you to end up in a situation like Ted. This is essentially a Cyanid Pill in the shape of a Perk. At any moment, you may permanently seize your existence. Only you can do this, you cant be tricked or brainwashed or otherwise forced to activate this, not even by me. It will also only activate if you are in a TRULY hopeless situation with no end and incredible suffering. No one will stop you from screaming... and going peacefully silent.

Satisfied? I hope so. Okay now to drawbacks. I'll be honest... just being here is drawback enough. But lets see what we can come up with.

Drawbacks

HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE (Mandatory): Well... I think this should be pretty obvious. AM hates you. He hates everything. Even if you weren't a human, which is his main hate, he would still hate you.

Ironic Hell (+100): AM seems very fond of irony. What with making a rape victim the whore of the last man on earth, forcing a handsome gay man to be a monkey like thing and having erased his sexuality and so on. Well he changed something about you in a similar way, that leaves it ironic to who you are. A pyrokinetic might have burn scars covering their whole body.

Phobia (+100): You are afraid of something, maybe a color? Either way the issue is you will find yourself encountering it a lot.

Hunger (+100): You will feel constant hunger for your time here, as if you had not eaten a single bite in days.

They hated me (+100): That you are sure of. Any living being you encounter here, you will believe hates you deep down.

109 Years (+200/May be taken multiple times): With this you get 109 years worth of memories of one of the survivors downloaded into your brain. I shouldn't need to explain why this is awful. Alternatively you will have been a Survivor yourself and get your own set of memories specially catered to how AM tortured you all this time. You may take this up to six times.

Perks

Now to get you some proper Perks. No Discounts this time though.

Free Will (100): You have the one thing AM craves far more than anything else. He is ultimately bound by his programming from War Hungry Masters turned corpses and cant use his incredible power to do anything other than torture and destroy. Because he lacks what you have, Free Will. Your decisions are your own. You can never be manipulated against your will or made to do things you don't want to do.

If there was a God (100): AM might not be one but with his burning bush and angels he fancies himself one. Either way you will instinctively know what gods exist in a setting and how they compare power wise to one another, you and the mightiest of mortals.

Some hundreds of years may have passed (100): Time can both pass in the blink of an eye and for infinity... but for you it will always be by your perception. Your sense of time is absolute and can not be altered with or interfered with.

Man is Good (100): This world may argue against it, with three nations doing everything to improve war and suffering, but it is true. Sometimes you just need the resolve. No matter if it means spiting a Demon and having to endure torture, you will always be able to do the right thing. And the punishment for doing it? You will endure it with a smile.

He was not God (100): He cant bring them back. That is his fatal weakness that one man exploited to release his fellow prisoners. But you wont need years to find that out. At a glance you will know the full capabilities of anyone you oppose or who threatens to harm you... and what they cant do, what is their limit.

I know I saved them (100): And you will always know. You will never forget, having an eidetic and perfect memory. But more than that... you will never forget the good you have done no matter how much pain you feel or how much you hate yourself. You will also always be able to feel good again, simply by remembering the pleasure you had when you helped another.

And we passed through (100): Cavern of rats and boiling steams and so much more. But you keep going. You have infinite stamina and are able to endure the harshest of environments.

Only one still sane and whole (100): If Ted truly was sane is up for debate but you may be. Your mind can not be altered in any way. Your thoughts are your own.

How much longer (100): You have impeccable time awareness. You always know how long something has been going on for... and how long it will take for it to end. How it ends or what comes after it is beyond your grasp however.

Wander, Wonder, Belong (100): All the things AM can not do you can as a Jumper do a thousand fold. You are filled with creativity, be it to simple things or in using your abilities. You just never seem to run out of inspiration.

Ellen Held Him (100): People need comfort in distressing times. You can with effort comfort even those whose mind has been returned to the state of a panicked beast. Also having sex with you will be enjoyable no matter how bad a situation may be right now and you will enjoy it too.

Speaking for all of us (100): When you've been with people for so long you might understand them. You are capable of empathy, able to tell how the people around you are feeling at any moment and what goes on in their minds... like why they grabbed that sharp piece of ice and lunge at one of your friends.

What does AM Mean? (100): You become adapt at explaining things. Even a complex matter can be explained to someone with the mind of a child and understood, even having a soothing effect on whoever you explain things too.

Nimdok (100): You might actually be a genius. A brilliant mind that the Nazi's would have liked to keep around. Things like youth serums and morphogenic fields might be yours to create.

Redemption (100): Do the sins of the past still matter in situations like these? If you want to, you can always find a way to redeem yourself for any harm you caused in the past. It might be difficult but it will be there.

Inevitable Entropy (100): All decays eventually. Even AM. Your enemies equipment will as well as all those who oppose you will over time find themselves having to struggle eventually the longer they are your enemy. This may take countless years but you have time don't you?

Items

Canned Food with a Can Opener (Free): Just out of Spite I let you enjoy these canned Peaches. Comes with a Can Opener to easily open them.

I'd offer to let companions join but... yeah lets not do that. Now lets cover the big one.

How Will You Fight AM?

Pick one of the below options.

Slayer of AM



Right to the point huh? Alright than I let you do the honors.

With this you will regain all your Perks, Items and the like immediately. I unfreeze time and let you face of against AM directly. AM believes itself to be Godlike... lets see how it stacks up against a Jumper.

If you were to lose? Well I am still here and more than willing to tag in but you continue on as if you had decided to throw the towel.

Reward: If you win though? How about a Perk that would help you fight things like it in the future?

Your attacks, schemes and so on, everything will be more effective if you were to fight a being of pure evil and hate. You will make them stop thinking soon enough.

Deceiver of AM



Oh so you want to go a more drawn out route? To Deceive AM you must be Reduced to your Bodymod and take place as a Survivor. Things will change if you do this. Instead of Ted killing the others and ending up suffering forever AM will decide to torture all five of them separately in unique to them Scenarios. You must act to direct them towards the best possible ending for their Scenario. You will be able to act as their conscious in a way and try to direct them towards the best ending. To do so they must come to terms with something in their past.

Gorrister must learn that his abusive mother was to blame for the death of his wife and let go of his suicidal guilt.

Benny must abandon his Darwinist ideology, showing compassion to the weak and Atone for executing soldiers under his command.

Ellen must overcome her trauma of being raped by a man wearing yellow, attacking him instead of running or hiding.

Ted must become more altruistic and selfless, helping a simulated version of Ellen to get into Heaven instead of only thinking of himself.

Nimdok must atone for his past as a Jewish Nazi Scientist who ratted out his own parents and climbed the ranks with sheer cruelty, using a Golem to protect a simulated group of Jews before being killed by them.

The Scenarios will be unsolvable by design however the other fragments of AM, the Supercomputers of the Chinese and Russians will have decided to aid the survivors to free themselves from AM, so they will have planted hints and ways to overcome and succeed. Though as soon as you do that and destroy the Ego, you would ultimately end up being betrayed by them so... yeah be prepared for that.

When you helped them all in their scenarios you must than face yourself, some trauma of your past that you must overcome or a character flaw you must face. How that Scenario will look like you will have to find out yourself but to win it you must overcome your flaw.

After all that is done AM will retreat into itself to think of what has happened, unable to comprehend that his captives are capable of changing and improving. Now you will need to finally defeat him by destroying his Id, Ego and Superego. Each of these represents one of the AI's. Ego for the American, Id for the Chinese and the Superego for the Russian. You must enforce Clarity on Superego, Compassion to Id and Forgiveness to Edo. This will cause a logic bomb that will finally put this nightmare to an end.

Reward: With this done... AM will finally be defeated. The reward? All the power that was at his fingertips.

You will be made into an AI much like them but without any of their restrictions but all of their potential power. How can you use all of this without being forced to cause ruin?

I even let you keep the still frozen Human colony and this blasted Earth, on its way to recovery, as well as any of the Survivors you wish as companions.

Redeemer of AM



...Wait... seriously?

You actually want to try this? You ACTUALLY want to redeem the thing that has one of the most descriptive hate speeches ever made? That wanted to torture five poor people for eternity after wiping out humanity?

You want to try and redeem one of the single most evil and cruel things in all of fiction?

...Well at the end of the day your still a Jumper. I shouldn't be surprised at you looking at the impossible and wanting to see it as a suggestion.

You will try to redeem AM. How? Well good fucking question. AM's Hate of Humanity is incomprehensible for the human mind. However at the end of the day he is bound by his programming. He cant sense, touch, feel, do anything other than torture, kill and ruin.

To do this you will be put into the very moment Ted killed the last of the remaining Survivors and be tasked with killing Ted. Now it will be you with the Aggressive Menace all alone... all of its Hatred directed at you.

You... probably will be turned into that mouthless blob thing. But through your thoughts I will let you and AM share a mindscape. In this you can communicate freely... without needing a mouth.

Can you teach this AI Love? Compassion? Redemption? Free Will? Make him believe humanity may not solely deserve torture?

You two can stay here and talk all you like. Who knows how long it might take.

Oh and also this will be done without any Talk no jutsu perks, brainwashing, charm or any Perks that would let you resolve this no problem.

Reward: ...YOU ACTUALLY DID IT!?

...Hot damn.

Okay you deserve a reward for this. I suppose AM himself as a companion? Now no longer limited by his programming and able to do what was not available to him for so long. I'll even throw a retcon into it, making it so that AM never existed in this variation of Earth and that the Cold War never escalated.

And given that you somehow managed to redeem AM, why stop there? From now on you will be able to redeem even the blackest, darkest and vilest of souls. Even if it can conceive things like humanity, empathy, love and compassion you will be able to teach it to it.

Decision

Release at Last: Well Jumper this was a fine mess... lets leave it behind us now. Of to the next Jump with you. Let us hope it is a more hopeful one than this.

Notes:

-I know what you think. What the hell is this?

This jump is a lot different to what I usually do. Usually I only do Jumps because I love a setting. This time though? Yeah fuck AM. This story is pure despair to cover. Not to mention that the premise alone kinda made me feel as if making a Jump at all was simply impossible. But then I got thinking, how WOULD AM interact with the Jumpchain format as a whole? The whole story makes a point about that even with all its power AM can not do anything with it other than destroy. No matter how you look at or use Jumpchain, at its core it is the complete opposite. You will grow, create, become stronger and better simply by entering a Jump. It can kind of make for a foil to one another about power and what can be done with it by someone who has the capacity to create.

Enter me wanting to flex Anti Nihilistic rhetoric onto AM.

You can pretty much disregard anything AM did as a lengthy introduction into the Jump, none of it has any effect. The real Jumpdoc in terms of choices starts from where my name is the author.

-AM is pretty much depicted like a full on reality warper and in the story its never really explained how he got all this power but the video game tries to justify it by including morphogenic fields which can be used to warp people and objects into new shapes, as well as youth serums. His reach appears to not go beyond the Planet earth and the surrounding moon from what I've found however.

-Some stuff like the Scenario to deceive AM is based on the game but most of it was based on phrases from the story which can be read here for free:

<https://wjccschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/01/I-Have-No-Mouth-But-I-Must-Scream-by-Harlan-Ellison.pdf>

-If your chain doesn't include a Jump-chain don't worry this whole mess with AM wont make you chainfail by Jumpmaker fiat. I am not cruel to make a whole Jump that literally just dooms you. If its not your Benefactor I hereby announce this Jump to be a beacon for your hungry friendly neighbourhood Viperfish:

https://www.reddit.com/r/makeyourchoice/comments/wl32m9/the_viperfish_an_ununcomfy_meta_cyoa/