

Fun Facts about the Alien Invasion

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CORPORAL: *(on walkie talkie)* HQ, come in, HQ. HQ, do you copy? ... nothing, Major.

MAJOR: Keep checking every 15 minutes, Corporal, but we have to operate under the assumption that HQ and everyone in it have been destroyed.

CORPORAL: Yes, sir!

MAJOR: I just want you to know that if we don't survive the Zalarite invasion, I'm proud to be making our final stand with the best soldier and the best research scientist humanity has to offer.

CORPORAL: We're not finished yet, sir. We're still waiting on reinforcements from Moon Base Alpha.

PROFESSOR: Speaking of moons... Fun fact – did you know that the Zalarite home world has seven moons, the smallest of which is roughly the size of Rhode Island?

MAJOR: *(somber, but polite)* Oh really, well, that's interesting...

CORPORAL: *(trying to change the subject back to the matter at hand)* If there are enough troops left on Moon Base Alpha, we should be able to create a defensive perimeter around the capital.

PROFESSOR: Fun fact – did you know that out of 73 known military campaigns in different star systems, the Zalarites have never once been defeated and have completely obliterated the native civilizations in a matter of a few weeks?

MAJOR: *(still somber, but starting to get a little irritated)* It just means we have our work cut out for us.

CORPORAL: If we can just access the ground to air laser cannon defense system in the capital, we should be able to deter Zalarite vessels from entering Earth's atmosphere.

PROFESSOR: Fun fact – did you know that Zalarite warships are impervious to laser canon fire and can even deflect lasers back to the source, vaporizing the laser canon and everything else within a six-block radius?

MAJOR: *(irritated, but still trying to be somewhat polite)* Look, Professor, we appreciate everything you've done for humanity, but your fun facts are really not helping us right now.

CORPORAL: HQ, come in, HQ. Major, I've got something! *(putting ear up to walkie talkie speaker)* HQ, I can barely read you. Please repeat! *(he listens closely to the walkie talkie for a few moments)* Major, HQ reports that Zalarites have landed outside of the capital and are preparing for a ground assault.

PROFESSOR: Fun fact – did you know that during ground assaults Zalarites typically eviscerate their victims while they are still alive and leave them to die a slow, lingering, painful death?

MAJOR: *(completely losing it)* HOW IS THAT A FUN FACT?!! WHAT YOU COULD YOU POSSIBLY FIND FUN ABOUT THAT FACT?!!

PROFESSOR: Well, maybe "fun" is not exactly the right word for it.

MAJOR: OF COURSE, IT ISN'T! IT'S NOT THE RIGHT WORD AT ALL! NOW JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT UNLESS WE ASK YOU TO TALK!

(The PROFESSOR looks down, feeling sad and dispirited)

CORPORAL: Major, I've just received word that the battalion from Moon Base Alpha is launching a counteroffensive. They want us to rendezvous 15 miles south of the capital in one hour.

MAJOR: Is the hovercraft operational?

CORPORAL: Yes sir, an emergency maintenance team did repair work on the engine yesterday. It's not in perfect shape, but it should be able to get us there in time.

MAJOR: Good! Now, if only we could find some weakness in the Zalarite defenses.

PROFESSOR: *(suddenly perking up)* Fun fact: Did you know... *(the MAJOR gives him a deadly glare, causing him to slowly stutter and trail off)* that common H₂O ... is.... extremely... toxic... to Zalarite..... physiology?

(uncomfortable silence)

MAJOR: *(exploding)* I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE "FUN FACTS," PROFESSOR! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, PROFESSOR! IF I HEAR ONE MORE "FUN FACT" FROM YOU, YOU WON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR THE ZALARITES TO EVISCERATE YOU, BECAUSE I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR THEM. IF YOU EVEN START TO GIVE US ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR FUN FACTS....

CORPORAL: Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Did you say H₂O?

PROFESSOR: *(whimpering)* Yes.

CORPORAL: You mean to tell me that plain old water is deadly to the Zalarites?

PROFESSOR: Uh... yes.

CORPORAL: Well, why didn't you give us that fun fact before! That's really important and relevant information, don't you think?!

PROFESSOR: Well, uh yes. It just didn't seem quite as "fun" as the other facts, so I didn't think to bring it up before.

MAJOR: Give me that walkie talkie, Corporal. *(takes walkie talkie and speaks into it)* Alpha Battalion, listen up! Toss your laser rifles to the side and grab up your fire hoses and Super Soakers. We've got an alien infestation to clean up!

PROFESSOR: Fun fact – you just ended your sentence with the word "up"... did you know "up" is a preposition, and that ending your sentence with a preposition is technically improper grammar?

MAJOR: PROFESSOR, SHUT UP, JUST SHUT UP!!

PROFESSOR: Major! You just ended your sentence with the word "up" again!

MAJOR: AAAAAAH! LET ME AT HIM! I'LL KILL HIM.

(The MAJOR tries to lunge at the PROFESSOR, but the CORPORAL holds him back)

CORPORAL: No, sir! You can't kill him! We need trained scientists to help rebuild our civilization!

MAJOR: FUN FACT - I'M TRAINED IN LETHAL COMBAT AND I KNOW A HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN WAYS TO END A HUMAN LIFE!!

PROFESSOR: Fun fact... I can run faster than you would think. *(PROFESSOR bolts offstage as fast as he can)*

MAJOR: GET BACK HERE, YOU SCRAWNY WEAKLING!

(MAJOR runs offstage after him and CORPORAL chases behind)

THE END