

Gusto!

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**INT. KITCHEN- DAY**

This takes place in a world that's juuuuuust barely not like our own.

A MOM (late 30s) twists half of a fruit around the reamer of a juicer.

The fruit is not an orange, but it's like an orange. The "like an orange" fruit has a peel with a blue to purple gradient, and an interior pulp that is matte pinkish, like an earthy Pepto Bismol. HEX #ae5e67.

She works at the island of a modern kitchen as a young BOY (10) sits on a stool nearby playing with a toy truck.

A roll of paper towels stands prominently on the island counter.

The brand name "GUSTO."

The scene is bright, picturesque, and sterile. The aesthetic is modern 2020's American TV commercial. Nothing unpleasant about the scene whatsoever.

The mom pours the juice in a glass and places it in front of the child.

MOM

No toys on the counter, sweetie.

The DAD (late 30s) enters from the garage carrying a box.

DAD

Garage is all clean.

MOM

Thanks for doing that, dear.

DAD

You'll never guess, I found one of my old portals in this box of junk.

He lifts out what looks like a vinyl record sleeve- then pulls out the contents to reveal a glimmering white hexagon.

MOM

From high school?

DAD

Yeah.

The young boy in the background pulls his toy truck backward, revving it up.

MOM

Oh my god, I loved those. Where do  
it go?

DAD

Who's to say anymore.

The lights in the house dim with an electric surge then  
immediately return to normal.

The boy lets go of his toy.

It zooms forward and hits the glass of juice.

In SLOWMO the juice topples.

MOM

NoooOoo!

DAD

NoooOoo!

CUT TO:

A hand shoots into frame holding a "GUSTO" paper towel roll.

VO

Quick! Get after your gaffes and  
grab Gusto!

CUT TO:

From above we see the spill in slow motion travel across the  
counter.

VO

Gusto cleans up messes quicker.

The mother's hand enters the frame with a paper towel and moves  
to clean the mess BUT THEN...

... half way through the wipe the electricity in the room  
surges again and a cosmic stream of TWINKLING LIGHT appears.

The TWINKLING LIGHT wraps its way around the Mother's arm and  
STOPS her from cleaning the spill.

The juice keeps moving.

CUT TO:

MOM

Uhm, honey. Something is  
happening.

VO

Each sheet of Gusto is three times  
more absorbent...

MOM  
 (panicked)  
 Honey, I can't move. My hand it's  
 stuck. IT'S STUCK.

The dad drops the portal to the counter and moves to help her  
 BUT a new beam of light swarms itself around him stopping him  
 in his tracks.

DAD  
 AHH!! Honey!!

VO  
 ... three times more absorbent  
 than the next leading competitor.

DAD  
 (to VO)  
 Let go of my wife! What is  
 happening?! Help! Help!!!!

The son cries giant crocodile tears. Terrified.

SON  
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. No toys on  
 the counter. I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

From above, the spill travels toward the portal on the counter,  
 inching closer.

CUT TO:

The roll of Gusto drops to the counter.

The family struggles in the background.

VO  
 Gusto.

The tagline text fly's in next to the roll as she says...

VO (CONT'D)  
 The Gaffe Grabber.

The tagline reverberates and mixes with the screams of the  
 family.

The camera pushes in on the spill as it reaches the edge of the  
 portal.

It makes contact.

A light pulses through the portal and it turns black.

The JUICE pools higher and crests the edge of the portal UNTIL it pours down... into outer space.

**EXT. OUTER SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

From here forward we are in animation.

The JUICE floats through space... peacefully stretching and congealing in zero gravity...

until...

WOOSH!

A COMET shoots into frame and smashes into the JUICE.

The JUICE melds with the icy sludge of the COMET giving it a light PINK hue.

The COMET hurdles through space. Deeper and deeper into the unknown.

It passes through celestial body after celestial body. We see how big, diverse, and gorgeous the cosmos is.

THEN, from the perspective of the COMET we see an earth like planet approach.

The COMET hits the atmosphere of the planet and gets pulled into the rotation of its gravity.

**EXT. PLANET - CONTINUOUS**

From the planet, we see the COMET break through the atmosphere. It's pink fiery tail, long and beautiful.

We switch to above the COMET as it careens closer to the surface.

The COMET crashes into the planet, creating a miles long scar.

The initial impact hits land, but as the comet propels forward it enters the ocean.

A giant tsunami expands from the comet.

The camera is pushed with the tsunami, under the water we speed with the current.

**INT. OCEAN - CONTINUOUS**

In the blue of the water we zoom in microscopically and see a small pink cell being pushed with the current.

It duplicates, and duplicates, and duplicates.

As the cells get swept along in the stream we zoom in and out. With each zoom the mass of cells evolves into new forms until it becomes a cute little swimming orb creature.

The current slows to a stop. Our Orb creatures floats.

The orb has eyes and a mouth, the beginning of appendages, and, very importantly, it has a cute little butt.

The settled water rapidly starts to soak into the mantle of the planet.

Our Orb, realizes what is happening and freaks out. They swim toward the surface to avoid the ground below.

Then they swim toward the ground to avoid the surface above.

Shit.

Nowhere to go.

Orb gives up.

The water disappears around them and they are left sitting on a barren rocky planet.

ORB

Help.

The Orb can speak, but not English. They make a cute noise, so whenever there is dialogue it will be subtitled.

We sit with orb a while.

The sun sets and night arrives.

ORB

Help.

Orb cries.

Orb lays back on the ground. Helpless.

Orb looks up at the sky.

The stars sit above them, plainly.

Then, the familiar *TWINKLE* appears around 7 of those plain stars, highlighting an arrow pointing in a direction.

The Orb reacts and sits up.

Orb looks up again.

The *TWINKLE* is now gone, but the stars in the arrow are now more prominent and plain as day.

Orb stands and orients themselves in the direction of the arrow.

They look up again to confirm, then head in that direction.

**EXT. PLANET- CONTINUOUS**

The orb walks.

And walks.

And walks.

As they walk, we pass from night to day to night to day, etc.

The biomes and weather shift with each day passing.

**EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS**

As Orb walks through a vast great plain they hear a noise and turn to their right.

Out in the distance is another Orb.

Orb raises its appendage and waves.

ORB

Hi.

ORB 2

What it do?

ORB

Huh?

ORB 2

Hi.

ORB

Oh. Did you come from the wet?

ORB 2

What?

ORB  
Did you come from the wet?

ORB 2  
As far as I know.

ORB  
Groovy dude. Uhm, so where are you  
going?

Orb 2 points up to the sky.

ORB  
Same.

ORB 2  
Where are you going?

ORB  
(confused)  
I'm following the sta-

ORB 2  
No, no, other dude.

Orb 2 points beyond Orb. Orb turns their head and we see a  
third Orb out in the distance.

ORB 3  
What it do?

ORB  
Hey.

ORB 3  
Following the stars.

ORB 2  
Seems like the thing.

ORB  
Seems like the thing.

They all walk. We pass from night to day to night to day, etc.

The biomes and weather shift with each passing day.

Orb friends enter a desert landscape. It's dusk.

They reach the top of a dune and look out at the horizon.



A sea of dunes lay before them, but at the horizon's edge we see the sparkle illuminates the star arrow. The arrow points down, directly to one specific dune.

ORB 2  
Is it pointing to that dune or am  
I losing my every lovin' mind?

ORB 3  
Here, let me do that thing I can  
do with my eyes.

Orb 3's eye's start to telescope out, like a chameleon.

ORB  
Can you do that?

ORB 2  
No.

ORB  
Does it help?

ORB 3  
Oh yeah.

We see through Orb 3's eyes as they zoom in on the dune.  
On the dune is a glimmering white hexagon.

ORB 3  
There's a hexagon.

ORB  
Should we go to it?

ORB 2  
Seems like the thing.

Orb 3 tilts their head down toward the dirt below them. Eye still telescoped, they focus. Like a microscope we see cells, protozoa, bacteria, and other teeny floaty creatures.

We cut to profile and we see Orbs 1 & 2 looking out at the sparkle.

ORB  
I want to thank them.

Orb 3 retracts their eyes.

ORB 3  
Me too.

Orb 2 begins to dance. The other two look and then dance too. They vibrate and bounce. They shake their appendages and wiggle their butts.

This crescendos into them all bouncing in turn, until Orb 2 bounces forward.

Orb 2 lands on the slope of the dune and rolls down. Then, like a halfpipe, Orb 2 is launched up the other side of the dune and high into the air.

The other two Orbs follow.

We see in an extreme wide the orbs fly back and forth and up and down as they travel across the dunes toward the hexagon and the arrow.

**EXT. DESERT SQUARE - LATER**

The Orbs land at the HEXAGON.

It's white and kind of domed.

ORB  
It's a hexagon.

ORB 2  
I do not know what a hexagon is.

ORB 3  
It's this.

ORB 2  
Ok.

Orb sticks its leg appendage out and taps on the HEXAGON like checking to see if the ice on a frozen lake is safe.

ORB 2  
Can you stand on hexagon?

ORB  
I don't know.

ORB 3  
Should you?

Orb steps onto the HEXAGON.

It seems fine...

Then CRACK.

Orb falls.

HEXAGON was a skylight.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

In slow motion:

We realize that Orb is falling into the kitchen from the opening scene.

It's a time capsule. The family is gone, but nothing has changed. Everything from the opening scene sits dusty on the counter.

Time returns to full speed.

Orb crashes onto the island counter then immediately BOUNCES, ping-ponging around the kitchen, sending items flying in all directions.

Until, SMACK.

Orb has landed face first on the portal and is stuck halfway through.

Orb kicks their leg appendages.

Orb 2 + 3 look down.

ORB 2  
Are you ok?

ORB 3  
What are you doing?

They hear muffled screams for help.

The legs seem to lose power and lessen their frantic kicking.

Orb 2 and 3's eyes grow wide in terror and they jump down to help their friend.

These two now ping pong around the kitchen until BAM!

They smash into Orb and en mass roll to the other end of the kitchen island.

The three sit there, Orb posed in the middle, half way through a portal as the other two regain their bearings. A roll of paper towels sit at their feet.

2 & 3 move.

ORB 2  
Grab there.

From each side, they grab the portal by the lip and lift. They shake it up and down. Orb doesn't budge.

2 moves and grabs Orb's feet. 3 grabs around the backside of the portal. They pull and pull and pull. Nothing. No budge.

They let go in exhaustion.

Orb lays horizontally across the island. 2 at the feet and 3 where the head should be.

ORB 3  
What do we do?

Orb 2 looks at Orb lying there, prostrate.

Orb moves its leg, just slightly. They're still alive.

Then, right on the crotch area of Orb a TWINKLE of lights appears.

Orb 2 stares at it, entranced. Then they lift their leg up and kick the TWINKLE.

This pushes Orb all the way through the portal.

The portal spins like a flicked quarter, then flattens on the kitchen island counter.

Orb 2 realizes what it has done.

ORB 3  
What did you do?

ORB 2  
I've made a gaffe.

Orb 2 and 3 peer into the portal and we see Orb floating away into the vastness of space.

Orb coughs, but then begins to breathe normally. Orb is alive.

ORB 3  
WHAT IS HAPPENING!?

ORB  
I think I'm in the black.

Orb flutters their arms and legs like they're swimming, but no traction.

ORB 2  
Hold on, we'll get you back.

Orb 2 grabs the paper towels.

They stick their hand appendages into each end of the roll and spools out the paper towels.

It floats out through space in a long ribbon.

Closer, and closer to Orb.

We see the roll come to its last sheet.

Orb reaches out its appendage and grabs.

GOT IT!

But then.

Ripppppp.

Somewhere in the middle of the unspooled roll the perforation breaks.

ORB 2  
No!

A long ribbony stretch of paper towel floats around Orb.

ORB 3  
(to Orb 2)  
What now?

ORB 2  
I don't know.

ORB 3  
(yelling to Orb)  
What now?

ORB  
I don't know.  
(beat)  
It doesn't seem bad.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Orb 3 starts to cry.

Orb 2 pulls in its end of the paper towels, then rips off a sheet.

Orb 2 uses the paper towel and wipes the tear off of Orb 3's face.

ORB

Hey!

2 and 3 turn toward the portal.

**EXT. OUTER SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

ORB (Cont'd)

There's some stuff out here.

Orb has floated into a spattering of pink JUICE, peacefully stretching and congealing in zero gravity...

The juice starts to hit the paper towels and be absorbed.

ORB 3

What is it?

ORB

I don't know.

Orb takes a piece of the paper towel and blots some of the liquid.

The camera cuts in close and we see the absorbent power of the power paper towels.

ORB (cont'd)

Guys, I think it's us.

As this happens, Orb start to fade away. Visually it looks like paper towel absorption in reverse.

ORB (cont'd)

Do you guys want to get absorbed?

We cut to see Orb 2 & 3 looking through the portal.

ORB 3

What does it feel like?

ORB

Absorbent. Nice.

ORB 2

Okay.

ORB 3

Nice sounds nice.

At this, Orb wipes at the floating liquid.

The Orbs fade away.

We see the PAPER TOWELS, now pink, dancing in the nothingness of space.

WOOSH!

A COMET shoots into frame and smashes into the paper towels, taking them away into the far reaches of space.

The camera whips with the comet and we watch till it's out of sight.

The camera then pans back to reveal a real life hand holding a roll of "Gusto".

VO

Gusto!

(beat)

The gaffe grabber!

A TWINKLE punctuates the "!".

END.