

Reptile Day – a science-fiction comedy feature by Tom Hickmore

On the unfashionable side of town Colin runs a specialist pet shop, Reptilopia. Trouble is Colin hates reptiles. Ever since his father was eaten by a crocodile and he was forced into the family business to keep his embittered old mother in gin.

One fine day, local tycoon Mr Skink comes into the shop accompanied by his two heavies. He's impressed by Colin's specialist knowledge and attracted by his sunburned and peeling skin. He invites Colin for a ride in his limo. Seeking any excuse to get out of the shop, Colin accepts. Is this a gay pickup attempt? After a series of misunderstandings, Skink declares that Colin's years of hiding are at an end – he can now reveal his true nature amongst friends. At this, Skink transforms into a giant reptile. Colin screams and runs, chased by Skink's heavies. They take him to the top of a high building and throw him off, but by sheer fluke Colin lands in the back of a lorry full of soft toys.

Next day Colin returns to Reptilopia where police are questioning his mother. He accuses Skink of trying to kill him, but the police just laugh. Suspicious, Colin makes a run for it. The cops chase him and soon Skink's heavies have joined in. Colin finds himself inside the Dragon Club. As he pushes his way through the crowd, on stage a woman does a reptile-themed strip tease – ripping away layers of skin. She leaves the stage and a knife throwing act comes on. Colin's only escape route is across the stage. One of the heavies grabs his ankle, Colin trips knocking the knife thrower and sending a knife into the heart of a policeman. Now Colin is wanted for murder.

In front of the club Colin finds a Limo. He leaps into the front seat and miraculously the keys are in the ignition. As he pulls away he hears a scream. It's the stripper, Tina Tassels, she's putting on her makeup in the back seat. He drives away with Tina shouting in his ear and the heavies in hot pursuit, shooting at him. Leaping over a bridge just as it is opening they make their getaway.

Colin drives into a forest and parks the Limo off the road. Tina makes a fuss – she wants out. Colin says she can go whenever she likes. She says she can't – her feet are too sore from dancing. Colin rubs them. Tina complains about the superficial and sinister world of the Dragon Club and starts to groan. The foot rub is all too much for her – and she comes to a tearful orgasm.

They speak intimately. Colin says he used to be sure about his life, but now he's sure of nothing. Tina says her life also used to be simple, and she'd love it to be so again. They bond when they discover that both their parents were eaten by crocodiles. They fall asleep in each other's arms.

A buzz – Tina presses a button and Skink appears on a video phone screen. She tells him where they are. Skink says he'll be there very soon. Colin stirs and she presses a button turning the screen into a TV. A news item announces that Skink will be opening a new dam later that day. Then – “Coming soon – David Bike, genius or madman?” David Bike, a mystic with beard and robes speaks to camera “It seems incredible I know, but the world is run by giant...” Tina switches off.

Tina's mood flips. She asks Colin to beat her. He thinks she's crazy, but by shouting, persuading, insulting and lashing out she finally gets her way. He turns on her and she gets a black eye. Now she tells him he's crazy for hitting her and kicks him out of the car. He's trying to make sense of this when Skink and his heavies pull up. He runs into the bushes. Tina bursts into tears and tells Skink that Colin beat her up.

Colin flees through the forest. He finds an island in the middle of a swamp to rest up and falls asleep against a tree. A crocodile creeps out of the swamp and into his lap. Dreaming of Tina, Colin strokes the beast, mumbling her name. He wakes and screams and has to wrestle the beast for his life.

Next morning Colin arrives at the opening of the dam and watches from the shadows as Skink gives a speech. Colin overhears some local kids saying that the dam isn't all it appears. He steals some scuba gear and dives down beside the dam. At the base of the dam he finds a hatch. He swims inside and emerges in a Jacuzzi. Stepping out of the Jacuzzi Colin tiptoes into what seems to be a health spa. From the next room he hears grunting – a man with a reptilian head is humping an inflatable alligator. "Ooh baby, bite me!" he cries, and Colin tiptoes behind him and out of the room.

Colin is now in a vast underground complex. He wanders through endless corridors and sees ghastly genetic experiments. He ducks to avoid being spotted by a lab technician and without noticing what he's done, knocks over a bottle of acid.

Colin is captured and knocked unconscious. He comes to as a reptilian gives him an injection and leaves. Colin is in a big comfy chair in a cool bachelor pad. An aging mod lectures him about his lovely collection of tropical fish and his relaxing new age music. He's like a boorish host at a party that you can't escape. Colin tries to engage him in conversation, but the Man doesn't want to hear. The Man presses a button on a remote control and restraints pop out – locking Colin into the chair. He takes a ball gag from a tea trolley arrayed with S&M toys and puts it on Colin, demanding Colin tell him about his mission. Colin squeaks and squirms. Now the Man's personality flips and his voice and manner become that of a little girl. He's good cop and bad cop in one incarnation!

Back in the lab, the acid has eaten through the base of a small shelf unit, causing a jar of pencils to slide along and fall off. These hit a book, which hits another book, which hits another book, which falls and hits a ruler, which flips an eraser into the air, which knocks a beaker, which tips into some electrical equipment, which bursts into flames.

As the Man applies nipple clamps to Colin the fire alarm sounds and a panicking crowd can be heard evacuating the complex. The Man ignores these, so dedicated is he to his job. Eventually, he opens the door to be engulfed by a ball of flame. Colin manages to escape and swims through flooded corridors and back through the Jacuzzi.

Colin is washed up on the shore of a wide river in the middle of a city. Now clad in rags he spots Tina going into an embassy reception. He charms the host, saying he is a fashion designer and his scruffy appearance is the latest style. Enthusiastic, she introduces him to Skink, who has Tina on his arm. While Colin and Skink do verbal battle, Skink's heavies are stealing a valuable emerald from the hostess. Colin makes a scene, insisting that Tina loves him. As the heavies close in, Colin cries out to the guests for help but they just laugh – oh these whacky fashion designers. Colin is silenced and bundled outside. As they emerge a black-clad Ninja swings down and whisks Colin away. They fly between the skyscrapers, and land at the entrance to a cave. Colin creeps inside. There stands anti-reptilian guru David Bike, clad in flowing robes in the middle of a chi kung movement.

In an intense and psychic meeting Colin learns that the reptilians came here years ago and, able to project a human image, they soon reached positions of power. Using genetic engineering they spread their alien DNA into the human population, where it lies dormant. When it's activated they will have total domination of the planet. Meanwhile, David Bike and his anti-reptilian brotherhood have engineered humans with certain reptilian characteristics to infiltrate the aliens. Tina is one of these and Colin has now put her life in danger. But, there's more, Bike declares Colin the anti-reptilian messiah! With a new destiny, Colin knows he must do something to save Tina and her mission.

Colin parachutes into an arctic destination with some commandos in polar bear suits. The location chosen because the reptilians will be slowed by the cold. He finds himself in an undifferentiated field of whiteness. A crack opens in the white – it's a car window. From inside, Skink warns him that they have the heating on full and several guns trained on him. Colin offers to trade a complete list of Bike's agents for Tina. Tina leaps out of the car flailing her arms and shouting. Colin draws a sword and cuts off her leg. The heavies jump out of the car and give chase, but soon the cold slows them, it's like slow motion.

Night – two Ninjas lower Colin through a hospital skylight to Tina's bedside. She understands that he had to do it so that her cover would not be blown and as they speak, like a lizard's tale, her leg grows back before their eyes. Tina tells Colin a sad story – how her father was eaten not by a crocodile, but by a reptilian alien. How, as the oldest child, she had to help her mother to raise her siblings. And how David Bike became her father figure. He trained her and paid for the extensive genetic re-sequencing that would enable her to pass for a reptilian. Her mission is to revenge her father's death and she will not rest till she has succeeded. They pledge to fight side by side to the end. Colin is winched back up and sees Skink arrive in the room and offer Tina some of her favourite snacks – a jar of cockroaches.

Back at Bike's grotto, Colin's emotions get the better of him. He decides to storm Skink's HQ and run off with Tina. It's against everything Bike has planned, but as Colin is the Chosen One, Bike sends him off with the Ninja at his side. But the rescue fails and the Ninja are killed and Colin captured. Skink now ties Tina to a bench and challenges Colin not to press the button that will stop the circular saw before it slices her in two. This will show what side he's really on. Colin, of course, cannot let her die.

Skink takes Colin and Tina into the cabin of a huge airship and straps them to an evil-looking contraption. The couple face each other with the stolen emerald mounted atop the device. The Zeppelin rises and Skink gives an illustrated lecture about his evil plan. By putting genetically altered sperm onto ladies' lavatory seats around the world, they have fathered thousands of "sleeping" reptilians. The sexual energy between Colin and Tina will be drained, focussed through the emerald and beamed across the world to transform the sleepers into reptiles. Skink flicks a switch and soon things are floating around the room and Colin and Tina screaming in what seems a never-ending orgasm as they stare into each other's eyes and proclaim their love. The emerald shines bright and across the world people transform into reptiles and eat people. But the orgasm goes on and on and Skink can't stop them. The transformed reptilians' heads explode. And, roaring defiantly, Skink's ugly reptile head bursts spattering the cabin.

The Zeppelin careers out of control and bursts into flames. Colin and Tina manage to break free, but how can they escape? Tina rips off her shirt revealing a fine set of nipple tassels. She twirls her genetically enhanced breasts, blasting the cabin with a fierce wind. Colin holds tight and they fly away as the airship bursts into a ball of orange flame.