

Jim Henson
THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

SKYBORN

SERIES OVERVIEW

by

JAVIER GRILLO-MARXUACH



HOW MUCH HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS?

HOW MUCH HAVE YOU ADAPTED TO WHAT YOU NEVER IMAGINED PLAUSIBLE?

In no time, our lives have changed irrevocably. Much of it has been absurd: nationwide social isolation, surgical masks for sale on freeway exits, the President suggesting we inject bleach in our lungs, Thai cities overrun by wild monkeys because there are no tourists and the streets are empty (yes, true story).

If our current crisis has taught us anything, it is that put in extraordinary circumstances, ordinary people will not only adapt, they will find weird work-arounds, engage their ingenuity, embrace the oddness, and perhaps even bloom into something different... maybe better.

Not unlike our lives, *Skyborn* is a comedic adventure in which stakes are deadly and real.

The characters are ordinary people. They react like we might when faced with the impossible.

It just so happens that the *Skyborn* idea of "impossible" is monastic fish from outer space, capitalist lizards with Napoleon complexes, a propulsion system that may or may not be a pan-dimensional deity, and purple robots with **really** good manners.

As a tonal cousin to *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Thor: Ragnarok* and the *Jumanji* reboot, *Skyborn* is weird. *Skyborn* is absurd. *Skyborn* is a "starship show" about six people transported to a galaxy where **everyone else comes from Jim Henson's Creature Shop**.

But the characters in *Skyborn* will always look at all of this through our infinitely adaptable, infinitely flawed, infinitely idiosyncratic human perspective.

Skyborn is about ordinary people facing the most bizarre tests of character possible, and how they come out on the other end of the experience completely different, yet completely true to the selves they left behind.

CHARACTER ARCS

The adventure that is Skyborn will lead the **SKYBORN SIX** to find greater purpose: to truly consider who they are, what made them that way, and become the best version of that self.

First and foremost, one of our characters **is a living god**. None of them know which. At different times, each of them will seem the likeliest. This will inform endless speculation - as well as jealousies and tenuous alliances - between our crew. Some will want it, some will dread it, one will live it - and it will never stop being a subject of drama between the Six.

Among those who don't want to be Skyborn, there's **PHIL**. He only wants to return to his family: but the way back to them will require that he become **a warrior and killer of his enemies**. His is the arc from cosplayer to the real thing: with the physical and emotional scars to show for it.

Over seasons, Phil will carefully keep track of his family milestones, every missed birthday, anniversary, and graduation. He will never lose faith, even as he comes to the crushing realization that, whether he wins or not, he will miss out on the childhoods he has so jealously protected.

In apropos of childhoods, **MI-NA** will not only find herself abducted by fish monks from another galaxy, but also pregnant.

Now, Skyborn isn't going to be the kind of show where the "inconvenient offspring" suddenly ages up by sci-fi conceit... Mi-Na and friends will be **raising a child**, and the experience will be a catalyst for the team's unity and shared purpose.

In the ordeal of pregnancy, in getting everyone to aid her with a physical state few of them understand (only Phil is a parent: what do Travis and Sasha know about hyperemesis, mucus plugs and the let down?) - Mi-Na will find her voice and authority.

Childbirth will make a lioness of Mi-Na: she will not only learn to speak up for her child, but for all others who cannot.

Over the course of the war against Megacosm, Mi-Na will become de-facto captain of Chiru - and, later on, **leader of the resistance against the Megacosm**... and, after that, President of the galaxy-wide alliance that rises after their defeat.

Mi-Na's child will profoundly change **TRAVIS**. Freed from the constraints of his life on Earth, he will discover that his calling is to care and nurture.

Travis will become Mi-Na's loyal partner and primary caretaker of the child. Their love will strengthen and complete them. Travis will become a moral beacon not just to the child, but to Mi-Na as she rises to lead the fight against the Megacosm.

But not everybody will buy into the fight; **SASHA FURY'S** anti-authoritarian streak will lead her to start a counter-resistance defying both the Megacosm and Asho-Kochi. But when the movement betrays her, she will see that her rebellious tendencies have created a monster. Sasha will return to the Six worse for the wear, but also wiser - along with a **non-binary alien** who will become her companion - but not before her followers become a violent threat: one she will have to figure out how to stop.

Youngest of the Six and still figuring himself out, **SEBASTIAN** - who doesn't believe he could ever be Skyborn - will promptly fall in love with Sasha, and have his heart promptly broken. In his heartbreak, Sebastian will fall prey to a dark mentor who will encourage him to make his fortune by any means.

Ultimately, Sebastian will reject this mentor by studying the ancient Asho-Kochi texts. For a while, it will seem as if Sebastian is a shoe-in for Skyborn: even more so when he is gifted with god-like powers by the same pan-dimensional race that birthed Ryklos. Through this gift, Sebastian will even be able to open a **psychic portal to Earth** - showing the Six what has happened in their absence. But Sebastian will show his true self when he gives the power back, opting instead to walk the universe spreading a message of humility.

Sebastian's dark mentor is **DOROTHY**. She represents a human virtue that requires no subtlety... **survival**. Dorothy is profoundly damaged and mercenary: abandoned as a child and abused by every one she ever loved and trusted. However, the more time she spends with the Six, the more her conscience evolves to challenge her selfishness.

Eventually, Dorothy will have to choose between the fortune and leisure she always wanted and a place in the resistance where she can use her gifts of cunning, deception, and strategic thinking to command armies to destroy the Megacosm.



THE CHIRU

In the end, this small-time grifter will become a military general: the Dwight Eisenhower of the Shroud!

And yet, none of this character development answers the burning question... **which of them is the reincarnation of The Skyborn?**

THEY ARE ALL THE SKYBORN

The Original Skyborn didn't pick The One, but rather split her soul among seven people - each representing a human virtue needed by the Skyborn.

Though **MARCUS MANN** dies, his spirit is discovered wandering the halls of Chiru... and is eventually put inside the Asho-Kochi version of a canopic jar to await Chiru's arrival at Ada-Shim. So, as the Asho-Kochi say "death is seldom the end of being."

In addition to our ensemble, there will be other humans in the series... using flashbacks, Skyborn will show the lives of the Six before their abduction... and, in episode two, we will drop a bomb... the Skyborn Six are not the only humans in the Shroud:

THE OTHER HUMAN IN THE GALAXY IS AN EXECUTIVE OF THE MEGACOSM

Her name is **KRYA**. She was abducted from Earth at age six by explorers who returned to the Shroud and sold her as a pet to a resident of a planet that was later conquered by the Megacosm.

Krya worked her way from a sweatshop into management - her uniqueness making her interesting to the Megacosm. Through Krya, **KOBA** has come to believe that humans are the only creatures who could compete with the Megacosm... by **assigning Krya to hunt down the Skyborn Six**, Koba - a horrible, withholding, and manipulative father figure - will use Krya to not only capture the Earthlings, but find the way to Earth.

This betrayal will fuel Krya's eventual conversion: her story is all about getting in touch with lost humanity, which is what the Skyborn Six represent both literally and figuratively.



KOBA

THE SERIES

All the character stories above take place against the backdrop of galactic war and upheaval: a saga told over several seasons.

In the pilot, Chiru is damaged. The Six will search for a trading post, and discover Mi-Na's pregnancy because the one alien who will trade with humans will want her child in payment.

After a number of self-contained adventures - and run-ins with the Megacosm - the long-term story will continue as Ryklos finally takes the Six to Ada-Shim, ending the first season.

In the second season, the Six will go through a byzantine series of rituals to prepare for their communion with the Living Sea of Galondo... and Dorothy and Sebastian, who have come to believe that they are better off scamming their way through the galaxy, hatch a plan to rob the monks and escape.

During this arc, Skyborn will flash back to the life and death of the **ORIGINAL SKYBORN**... but the saga continues as Krya leads a brutal attack that sees the Asho-Kochi slaughtered, Ada-Shim obliterated, and **Phil taken hostage**.

The rest escape. A mortally wounded Master Akla tells them that the Asho-Kochi sent a group of monks to an asteroid whose location has been the most jealously guarded secret of their sect. These monks could discern the identity of the Skyborn... but Akla **dies before he can tell us where they are!**

The Six now have a choice... rescue Phil, find the missing monks, and uncover the identity of the savior once and for all, or scatter and hope to eke out a life avoiding the Megacosm.



MASTER AKLA

As the series reaches its climax, the five recruit a motley alien army and mount a series of daring operations to find Krya and rescue Phil. These stories will be about building a team and gathering resources to hit the Megacosm - stealing treasure to pay our allies, acquiring technology, making tenuous alliances with strange cultures and bizarre creatures...

At the same time, Krya's torture of Phil will have the effect of getting her to appreciate her own humanity. When Krya discovers that Koba intends to use Phil's memories to find Earth (using a process that would kill him), she must make a choice: betray Koba or turn her back on her humanity.

The end of the series will bring about the complication that will set up our final arc: the missing Asho-Kochi monks aren't in the Shroud of Kastafron... **they are hidden in the Milky Way!**

With the Megacosm in pursuit, and the fate of both the Shroud and the Milky Way hanging in the balance, the final battle will be fought...

OVER THE SKIES OF PLANET EARTH

SKYBORN