

STGZ302

03/06 - 03/12

ORION DOESN T EXIST

ORION ISN'T REAL. IT'S A TOTALLY MADE UP SHAPE THAT DOESN'T OBJECTIVELY EXIST AT ALL – IT MIGHT SOUND CRAZY, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY TRUE... AND IT'S NOT JUST ORION – HI STAR-FRIENDS, I'M TRACE – LEMME SHOW YOU

HIT THE DARKNESS AROUND 9PM AND LOOK SOUTHWEST. THERE, YOU'LL SEE ORION'S SUPER-SPARKLY BELT STARS – ALNITAK, ALNILAM, AND MINTAKA – HIS SHOULDERS BETELGEUSE AND BELLATRIX, AND HIS ANKLES SAIPH AND RIGEL.

THE THING IS :: HANG ON LEMME JUMP UP HERE ::

IF WE LEAVE EARTH AND TRAVEL FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT WE CAN COME AROUND TO THE SIDE OF HIS EIGHT MAIN STARS. THE SHAPE IS ALL CHANGED! EVEN HIS BELT STARS ARE SPREAD OUT.

THIS IS BECAUSE THE STARS ARE ALL DIFFERENT DISTANCES AWAY. BETELGEUSE IS 624 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, WHILE BELLATRIX IS ONLY 243!

ORION ISN'T REALLY THERE AT ALL; OVER HERE IT'S A WHOLE NEW CONSTELLATION! BUT JUST BECAUSE IT'S AN ILLUSION DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T GORGEOUS.

KEEP LOOKING UP!