

1

OBLIVITY

2

3

4 A scripted comedy series for radio

5

6 Words by Rob Stringer | Sounds by Joe Carr

7

8 **SEASON 2: EPISODE 1: MOTHERSHIP**

9

10

11 **COMMANDER MILDRED FALCONER (FEMALE)**

12 Battle-hardened and bewildered.

13

14 **FIRST LIEUTENANT JOY CHRISTY (FEMALE)**

15 A peppy, neurotic thrill-seeker

16

17 **OFFICER ALOYSIUS BURNEY (MALE)**

18 Prodigious, introverted and enigmatic.

19

20 **OFFICER HOWELL LOWELL (MALE)**

21 An impulsive wrecking-ball.

22

23 **ORPHEUS:**

24 A bug-riddled computer.

25

26 **VOICE OF SINISTER:**

27 A SINISTER VOICE

28

29 **DR. HESTER FALCONER: (FEMALE)**

30 Falconer's mother. Smart; warm; takes no shit.

31

32

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1 **COLD OPEN: SCENE ONE. A RADIO TRANSMISSION**
2
3
4 **VOICE OF SIN:** (D) (FOREBODING) Deadly red laser beams
5 streaking past your homes.
6
7 **FX:** **LASER BEAMS**
8
9 Unstoppable hydrogen tanks thundering through
10 your streets.
11
12 **FX:** **RUMBLING OF TANKS AND EXPLOSIONS ADDED TO LASER**
13 **BEAMS**
14
15 Thermo-nuclear jets booming above your
16 rooftops.
17
18 **FX:** **JETS SCREAM ABOVE THE NOISE**
19
20 (CHEERFULLY) What happier way to celebrate our
21 fiftieth anniversary of Martian colony
22 completion, than with these awe-inspiring
23 demonstrations of our military might?
24
25 **MUSIC:** **FX ENDS. ROUSING MILITARY MUSIC STARTS UP**
26
27 Join in the fun, with special events across all
28 civilian quarters!
29
30 Want something for the kids? Why not
31 hone their life skills at our laser-rifle
32 ranges with realistic Defector targets. That's
33 it Ethel; right in the face!
34
35 **FX:** **CHEERFUL LAUGHING, PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT**
36
37 The celebrations will culminate with the
38 premiere of a feature film depicting the first
39 Defector rebellions thirty years ago.
40
41 **FX:** **THE FOLLOWING IS BRIEF EXTRACT FROM FILM**
42
43 **MUSIC:** **CHEESY FILM SCORE**
44
45 **TIMMY:** (D) Daddy, why is mummy embarking on an
46 unauthorised flight to Earth? Doesn't she know
47 that planet was decommissioned, and that return
48 is prohibited due to its uninhabitable
49 atmosphere?

1
2 DADDY: (D) Because, Timmy, mummy is a traitor. Let her
3 inevitable demise be a lesson to you.
4 (CHEERFULLY) Now come and watch daddy plan a
5 drone strike!
6
7 SINISTER: Will Timmy follow in his mother's treasonous
8 footsteps? Or will he enjoy a rich and
9 rewarding career at one of our many
10 decontamination bays?
11
12 Find out in "*How I Learned to Enjoy a Rich and*
13 *Rewarding career at a Decontamination Bay*", to
14 be mandatorily viewed on a visual unit near
15 you.
16
17 **MUSIC: ENDS**
18
19 This programme of events is sponsored by *The*
20 *Daily Authority*: official media outlet of the
21 Syndicated Intelligence Network for
22 Interplanetary Science, Technology and
23 Exploratory Research.
24
25 Next: an exclusive report from our
26 correspondent on the frontline, 'White
27 Knuckles' Walter Nicholls.
28
29 **FX: BACKGROUND OF A BATTLEFIELD BASE. A CHOPPER?**
30
31 NICHOLLS: Solid ground made today/, as our troops-
32
33 FALCONER: /Off!
34
35 **FX: THE RADIO SWITCHES OFF. WE ARE IN:**
36
37
38 **COLD OPEN CONT. INT. THE ORGANISPHERE**
39
40 **A CALMING CONTRAST. A FOUNTAIN BUBBLES, AND**
41 **INSECTS HUM PAST.**
42
43 **FX: GENERAL GARDENING/PLANTING - TROWEL IN SOIL**
44
45 FALCONER: Sorry Christy. Too distracting. What now?
46
47 CHRISTY: Now it's out the pot, just tease out some of
48 the roots, and place it in here - gently!
49

1 FALCONER: Thanks for letting me help. After all my years
2 on bloody battlefields, it's nice to do
3 something... *nurturing*. Amazing to think that
4 even out here on Pluto there can be so much
5 *life*.
6
7 *Hope*, even.
8
9 What's this plant called?
10
11 CHRISTY: The Venus Deathspike Flesh-digester.
12
13 FALCONER: Oh.
14
15 CHRISTY: Don't worry, it only eats bugs. *Really* cool
16 plant. They tested the original species on
17 different moons and planets, where it developed
18 in really bizarre ways!
19
20 On Proteus, they developed a taste for cat-
21 food. While on Epimetheus they developed a
22 taste for cats.
23
24 FALCONER: Yuck.
25
26 CHRISTY: On Hyperion they went vegan.
27
28 [TRAUMATISED] It was carnage...
29
30 But the *really* interesting ones were on Janus.
31 Those ones -
32
33 FALCONER: *Ow!* Spiked by the Deathspike. Can't avoid
34 bloodshed after all.
35
36 CHRISTY: I have sticking plasters *somewhere*...
37
38 **FX: A FIRST AID KIT IS OPENED - RUMMAGED INSIDE**
39
40 CHRISTY: The horticultural resource facility sent me the
41 wrong stuff you see. I ordered three goldfish
42 but they sent me fifty-eight whelks instead.
43
44 Here we are! A blue plaster? Or stripy pink and
45 yellow with bouncing bunnies and balloons?
46
47 FALCONER: The boring ones will do just fine, thank you.
48

1 CHRISTY: Really? I prefer the jolly blue ones. Here;
2 finger.
3
4 **FX: PLASTER IS PEELED OFF ADHESIVE**
5
6 FALCONER: I meant to say - there were some voice messages
7 for you.
8
9 CHRISTY: I find balloons a bit unnerving.
10
11 FALCONER: Think they're from your Auntie Xi Win.
12
13 CHRISTY: They might *seem* fun and colourful, but if you
14 *really* look at them, they look sort of
15 tormented; desperate to escape.
16
17 FALCONER: I wondered if you might like to take some time
18 to go back to Mars and visit her? You could
19 take in some of those celebrations.
20
21 CHRISTY: Except they *can't*, cos they're always being
22 held down; trapped against their will..
23
24 FALCONER: Did you hear me?
25
26 CHRISTY: And you just *know* they'd be screaming - *if only*
27 *they had a mouth*.
28
29 **BEAT**
30
31 FALCONER: (CONCERNED - ABOUT TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK)
32 Christy -
33
34 **FX: A TRANCEIVER BLEEPS. WE CAN HEAR THE INDISTINCT**
35 **SOUND OF A SCUFFLE.**
36
37 LOWELL: (D) Commando!
38
39 FALCONER: My transceiver...
40
41 Officer Lowell?
42
43 LOWELL: (D) Commando you have to help!
44
45 FALCONER: What's the-
46
47 LOWELL: (D) Get that thing away from me!
48

1 **FX:** **LOWELL MOVES AWAY FROM THE TRANSCEIVER AT THE**
2 **OTHER END, AND CONTINUES TO YELL AND WHIMPER IN**
3 **THE BACKGROUND,**
4
5 **BURNEY PICKS THE TRANSCEIVER AT THE OTHER END UP**
6
7 BURNEY: (D) Falconer. We have a situation.
8
9 FALCONER: Officer Burney? What's happening?
10
11 BURNEY: (D) An unscheduled visitor is attempting to-
12
13 LOWELL: (D) NOT MY ARM!
14
15 FALCONER: Attempting to what?
16
17 CHRISTY: What's going on?
18
19 LOWELL: (D) Noooooo!
20
21 BURNEY: (D) I have to-
22
23 **FX:** **BURNEY DROPS THE TRANSCEIVER.**
24
25 FALCONER: Burney?
26
27 **PAUSE**
28
29 **FX:** **A FUZZ AS SOMEONE PICKS UP THE TRANSCEIVER**
30
31 HESTER: (D) Hello Milly.
32
33 FALCONER: Oh Hell.
34
35 CHRISTY: (INCREASING PANIC) Who is it? Is it a Defector?
36 Is there a Defector on the base? Oh flip it's a
37 Defector isn't it! And they've got a *balloon!*
38
39 FALCONER: Worse, I'm afraid.
40
41 Hello *mum.*
42
43
44
45
46 **MUSIC:** **OPENING THEME**
47
48
49

1 **SCENE TWO: INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE INFIRMARY**

2
3 **FX: FALCONER AND CHRISTY FOOTSTEPS**

4
5 CHRISTY: Wow! Dr. Hester Falconer! Battlefield medic!
6 Wilderness first aid pioneer!

7
8 I heard, this one time, she ran through laser
9 fire carrying a patient, shielding them with
10 her own body, was partially paralysed by a
11 piece of shrapnel, found a bunker where she
12 could deliver plasma - *without fully*
13 *functioning muscles* - was ambushed - managed to
14 incapacitate *nine* Defectors - *while still*
15 *delivering plasma* - and then *treated all nine*
16 Defectors in deference to the Hippocratic oath!

17
18 FALCONER: Ah - now that's a classic example of how
19 stories get embellished over time. Nine
20 Defectors indeed.

21
22 [BEGRUDGINGLY] There were actually ten... -
23 Look, perhaps you could curb the adoration this
24 time? My mother likes to keep things
25 *professional*.

26
27 CHRISTY: Oh! Yeppo. Course.

28
29 **FX: DOOR SWISHES OPEN, AND WE ARE IN..**

30
31
32 **SCENE TWO CONT. INT. INFIRMARY**

33
34 **FX: AMBIENCE (MR SPARKY FIZZLES DURING SCENE)**

35
36 HESTER: (WARM) Milly!

37
38 FALCONER: (FLAT) Mum.

39
40 CHRISTY: YOU'RE INCREDIBLE!!!

41
42 HESTER: You must be Joy. From what Milly's told me
43 about you, I'm quite the fan!

44
45 CHRISTY: [SQUEALS]

46
47 FALCONER: What the hell was happening in here?

48

1 HESTER: A quick medical; I gave your lovely cyborg a
2 *minor* booster injection. He was a little
3 reluctant, weren't you?
4
5 LOWELL: [MOUTH FULL] Yep. But now we get a flapjack as
6 a reward.
7
8 [SWALLOWS] It's weird though. Although I feel
9 quite rewarded, I don't feel *completely*
10 rewarded.
11
12 FALCONER: One is enough, Officer.
13
14 LOWELL: What if she boosts me again? Look I've got
15 loads of places left for boosterin'! There's
16 room for more holes in Lowell!
17
18 HESTER: I've been learning about life at the edge of
19 the Sys'. The chaps were telling me about the-
20 what was it Burney?
21
22 BURNEY: Shuttle UM312, Dr. Falconer. Better known as
23 the *Umbra*.
24
25 FALCONER: The what?
26
27 BURNEY: The *Umbra*: the first exploratory craft to bring
28 a human to Pluto. Incorporating the latest in
29 aerospace advances, its successful launch was a
30 triumph of its time.
31
32 The wreckage is still out in the Vucub-Came
33 Macula.
34
35 FALCONER: You never told *me* about that.
36
37 BURNEY: I did, some time ago. You nodded your head
38 repeatedly as I spoke, indicating your
39 engagement and interest in the narrative. Just
40 as you are doing now.
41
42 **BEAT**
43
44 FALCONER: Sorry, did you say something?
45
46 BURNEY: (UNFLUSTERED) The *Umbra*. It's-
47
48 FALCONER: Wait; you said 'Dr. Falconer'.
49

1 HESTER: Yes, it's awfully formal.
2
3 FALCONER: He calls me *Falconer*; you call me *Falconer*.
4
5 BURNEY: The honorific of *Doctor* commands a certain
6 *deference*.
7
8 FALCONER: But *Commander* doesn't?
9
10 BURNEY: It really was an excellent flapjack.
11
12 FALCONER: What are you doing here, mum?
13
14 HESTER: I told you. Medical checks. I left you a
15 message.
16
17 FALCONER: I don't *think*-
18
19 CHRISTY: I... might have accidentally deleted it, when I
20 was deleting... a few others..
21
22 HESTER: I take it I'll be sleeping here in the
23 infirmary? The chaps here helped carry my
24 luggage, medical supplies and, critically-
25
26 **FX: ACCORDION SQUEEZED PAINFULLY**
27
28 In case you fancied a few improvised sea
29 shanties later on!
30
31 FALCONER: [TO SELF] *Not the squeezebox of doom...*
32
33 HESTER: So all that's missing now is my big squishy
34 hug!
35
36 FALCONER: Mum, you know I'm not a hugger- / (MUFFLED)
37 Ughh..
38
39 ORPHEUS: (SPEAKING INCREDIBLY SLOWLY) Thhhhe shiiiiii-
40
41 FALCONER: Orpheus: repeat at normal speed.
42
43 ORPHEUS: The shipments have passed their quarantine
44 period.
45
46 FALCONER: Orpheus. Our computer. Gets muddled at times.
47
48 HESTER: I'd be muddled too if I was battered by
49 meteorites all day.

1
2 You're doing very well, Orpheus!
3
4 ORPHEUS: Thank you. *Dr.* Falconer.
5
6 FALCONER: Et tu, Orpheus?
7
8 BURNEY: Shall we?
9
10 **FX:** **DOOR SWISHES OPEN**
11
12 FALCONER: The deliveries are fancy new equipment for
13 Burney. We're all going to move it to his lab,
14 so why don't you stay here and rest?
15
16 HESTER: Not so fast, Milly. You need a medical too. I'm
17 sure Joy could oversee the team for a bit?
18
19 FALCONER: No, I think-
20
21 CHRISTY: Oh absolutely! Yeppo!
22
23 FALCONER: But-
24
25 HESTER: There we are then! OK Milly - on the bed.
26
27 This won't hurt a bit.
28
29
30 **MUSIC:** **INTERLUDE**
31
32
33
34 **SCENE THREE: INT. BURNEYS LAB**
35
36 **FX:** **THE AMBIENCE OF THE LAB AS USUAL.**
37
38 LOWELL: (PUFFING A LITTLE) Number twenty-six is
39 yellowy-brown, and *that* makes you only ever
40 tell the truth. And twenty-seven is the secret
41 super belch. But it's not been revealed what
42 that one is, cos I haven't worked it out yet.
43 Where's this one go?
44
45 BURNEY: Floor. There.
46
47 LOWELL: [GRUNTS]
48
49 **FX:** **HEAVY BOX PLACED DOWN**

1
2 CHRISTY: I'm sure the first and twenty-sixth types were
3 the same colour..
4
5 This one?
6
7 BURNEY: Next to the other.
8
9 CHRISTY: [GRUNTS]
10
11 **FX: HEAVY BOX PLACED DOWN**
12
13 LOWELL: One was brownly-yellow; the other was yellowy-
14 brown.
15
16 What do you reckon, Burney?
17
18 BURNEY: Hmm?
19
20 LOWELL: Weren't you listening? My new superhero! The
21 Bionic Belch! Part *man*; Part *machine*..
22
23 ..Another part man; Another part machine;
24 Another part I haven't decided yet but probably
25 machine-
26
27 CHRISTY: *Don't make him start again.*
28
29 LOWELL: The Bionic Belch has twenty-seven different
30 belches that you can tell what they are by
31 their different colours. So: brownly-yellow
32 makes you feel a bit spewy, like you've smelt a
33 gone-off yoghurt; brownly-green makes you
34 actually spew, like you've eaten a gone-off
35 yoghurt. Brownly-yellow-green makes you sleepy,
36 like you've been awake all night spewin' up a
37 gone-off yoghurt-
38
39 BURNEY: I assume that's all the boxes now?
40
41 LOWELL: Yep. I TOLD you I could carry those massive
42 heavy ones all to your lab in under ten
43 minutes!
44
45 **FX: A BOX BEING OPENED - PERHAPS CUT WITH KNIFE?**
46
47 BURNEY: You certainly proved me wrong.
48

1 LOWELL: (TO HIMSELF) Wonder if Dr. Falconer knows
2 anythin' about hernias...
3
4 CHRISTY: What's the hurry anyway, Burney?
5
6 BURNEY: No hurry.
7
8 CHRISTY: There is. All the time we've been carrying this
9 stuff, you've been doing a strange huffy thing.
10
11 BURNEY: A 'huffy' thing?
12
13 CHRISTY: Yeppo. Like 'Hhhh'.
14
15 LOWELL: Nah it was more like 'Hhhhhh'.
16
17 CHRISTY: No... There was a sort of slow start to it, then
18 it got more intense - like Hhhhhh.
19
20 LOWELL: Hhhhh!
21
22 CHRISTY: Hhhhhng!
23
24 LOW/CHR: (THEY BOTH TRY DIFFERENT VARIATIONS OF
25 'HHHNNNG' FOR A FEW SECONDS BEFORE-)
26
27 BURNEY: Hhhhhng.
28
29 CHRISTY: That was it!
30
31 BURNEY: I am merely eager to begin.
32
33 CHRISTY: There's LOADS of stuff here.
34
35 BURNEY: My grant afforded me a wide range of bespoke
36 apparatus.
37
38 CHRISTY: What's that?
39
40 BURNEY: Ah, that is my new dictation device, so that I
41 can record my findings. Please don't touch-
42
43 LOWELL: Look at *this* weird little thing! It's got a
44 hole, with a long sharp bit inside, and a weird
45 opening all down the side!
46
47 BURNEY: It's a pencil sharpener.
48
49 LOWELL: (AWED) Truly the future is here.

1
2 CHRISTY: This box is all locked up
3
4 BURNEY: Ah, yes. It needs secure tungsten casing,
5 because -
6
7 **PAUSE**
8
9 CHRISTY: Because what?
10
11 BURNEY: Nothing.
12
13 CHRISTY: *Burney...?*
14
15 BURNEY: As you know, I plan to study anomalous
16 phenomena.
17
18 CHRISTY: Anomalous phenomena.
19
20 BURNEY: Yes.
21
22 LOWELL: Agroggilous benodifa.
23
24 BURNEY: No. One of my aims is to better understand
25 quantum fields. *Some* of the equipment is...
26 sensitive.
27
28 CHRISTY: Sensitive *how*?
29
30 BURNEY: It could tear an infinite hole in the fabric of
31 time and space.
32
33 CHRISTY: *An infinite hole? Time and space? That's awful!*
34
35 BURNEY: Yes.
36
37 I would have to wait up to *six weeks* for
38 replacements.
39
40 LOWELL: Nuh uh. I'm out. Turns out there are already
41 enough holes in Lowell.
42
43 CHRISTY: Yeah, I don't want anything to do with this.
44
45 BURNEY: As I expected.
46
47 **BEAT**
48
49 CHRISTY: What?

1
2 BURNEY: Feel free to leave.
3
4 CHRISTY: What do you mean 'as I expected'?
5
6 BURNEY: Only that I expected - for instance - that
7 Lowell would not have the expertise to assemble
8 such complex machinery.
9
10 LOWELL: Ah - no - I know what you're doing. That
11 backwards-brain trick doesn't work on me.
12
13 BURNEY: *I know.*
14
15 **PAUSE**
16
17 LOWELL: You don't know anything! Gimme them tools!
18
19 **FX: CLATTERING OF TOOLS AS LOWELL SETS TO WORK**
20
21 CHRISTY: You might be able to manipulate Lowell, but I'm
22 staying *well* clear.
23
24 BURNEY: Of course. Although it's a shame.
25
26 **BEAT**
27
28 CHRISTY: Not that I care, but what's a shame?
29
30 BURNEY: Only that it's your first time officially
31 overseeing an operation, and rather than rising
32 to the challenge, you're backing out.
33
34 CHRISTY: Yes. It's *dangerous*.
35
36 BURNEY: I expect Falconer will give you an easier job
37 next time.
38
39 CHRISTY: Honestly it's not going to work.
40
41 BURNEY: I cannot outfox you. You are free to leave.
42 Besides, I expect you're keen to respond to all
43 those mysterious voice messages that were left
44 from-
45
46 CHRISTY: Right; where do we start?
47

1 BURNEY: Excellent. You shall not regret this. After
2 all, you are participating in some of the most
3 ground-breaking work in human history.
4
5 The very first *fully-controlled quantum field*
6 will be within our grasp this very day.
7
8 **FX: A PENCIL IS SHARPENED AS BURNEY TALKS**
9
10 An unprecedented exploration of the - very
11 essence of our - universe! The secrets of
12 existence will be - discovered right here - in
13 my - lab, and - Lowell would you stop that!
14
15 LOWELL: Pencil sharpener made pencil *sharp*.
16
17 BURNEY: *Hhhhng*.
18
19
20 **SCENE FOUR: INT. INFIRMARY**
21
22 **HESTER AND FALCONER TALK GENTLY IN CLOSE**
23 **PROXIMITY TO BEGIN WITH (HESTER IS I.E. SHINING**
24 **LIGHT IN FALCONER'S EYES, CHECKING HEART RATE**
25 **ETC.)**
26
27 HESTER: Pupillary response to light - normal.
28
29 **FX: REPLACED TORCH ON METAL TRAY. PICKS UP TONGUE**
30 **DEPRESSOR**
31
32 HESTER: Open wide; say 'ahh'
33
34 FALCONER: (SLIGHTLY CONSTRICTED BY TONGUE DEPRESSOR)
35 'Aaaagh'
36
37 HESTER: Taking Omega 3 and vitamin D?
38
39 FALCONER: (GETTING FED UP OF QUESTIONS) *Eth*.
40
41 HESTER: Sleep hygiene? You're syncing your circadian
42 rhythms with Martian time?
43
44 FALCONER: *Eth*.
45
46 HESTER: Are you experiencing any of the following: loss
47 of appetite; loss of interest in pursuits you
48 have previously enjoyed; loss of sexual desire-
49

1 FALCONER: Ung! (Mum!)
2
3 HESTER: Asking as your doctor.
4
5 FALCONER: 'Oh' (No.)
6
7 HESTER: Tonsils are... Oh dear.
8
9 FALCONER: Oa? (What?)
10
11 **BEAT**
12
13 Oas ong iv i ongils? (What's wrong with my
14 tonsils?)
15
16 HESTER: Hmm?
17
18 FALCONER: [EXTRICATES SELF FROM TONGUE DEPRESSOR] What's
19 wrong with my tonsils?
20
21 HESTER: Oh - nothing. But your hair - it's so dry, and
22 limp. You get that from me I'm afraid.
23
24 How are your stress levels?
25
26 FALCONER: *Peaking...*
27
28 HESTER: Exercise?
29
30 FALCONER: Planning to. Found a running machine in
31 storage. Just working out where to put it.
32
33 HESTER: Simulation room? Pop up a nice countryside
34 setting?
35
36 FALCONER: Our simulation room has two programmes: a
37 holographic battleship bridge for Christy's
38 training; and a ski resort for recreational
39 use. Because apparently what people who work in
40 a frozen, hostile environment want, is to head
41 out into a *whole other* frozen, hostile
42 environment and throw themselves down a
43 mountain - only to be overtaken by a nonchalant
44 three-year old.
45
46 **PAUSE**
47
48 HESTER: And are you *happy*, Milly?
49

1 FALCONER: What?
2
3 HESTER: Asking as your mother.
4
5 **PAUSE**
6
7 FALCONER: Who actually describes themselves as *happy*?
8
9 HESTER: *I'm happy.*
10
11 FALCONER: Sociopaths. That's who.
12
13 HESTER: You're cynical, Milly. You get *that* from *him*.
14
15 FALCONER: Are we done?
16
17 HESTER: Heart rate's higher than I'd like. But you
18 pass. Lollipop.
19
20 FALCONER: No.
21
22 HESTER: No I meant: pass me a lollipop.
23
24 **FX: TAKES OFF RUBBER GLOVE? PUTS IMPLEMENTS DOWN?**
25 **UNWRAPS LOLLIPOP**
26
27 **THE INTIMACY OF THE CONVERSATION IS LOST. THEY**
28 **ARE TALKING ACROSS A ROOM.**
29
30 HESTER: [SUCKING ON LOLLIPOP SPORADICALLY THROUGHOUT
31 FOLLOWING CONVERSATION] I could arrange for a
32 new eye if you like. The new models have it
33 all: thermal imagery, night vision-
34
35 FALCONER: One base cyborg is enough, thank you.
36
37 HESTER: Piffle. I have a titanium hip. Am I a cyborg?
38
39 FALCONER: No. You'd need to be part human for that.
40
41 MILLY: [THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT] *Thank you...*
42
43 FALCONER: In any case it's too late - I've already re-
44 learnt how to shoot straight.
45
46 HESTER: What do you need to shoot out here?
47
48 FALCONER: Interfering mothers. I'm used to the eyepatch
49 now, OK? It's *part* of me.

1
2 HESTER: How's that, dear?
3
4 FALCONER: It's a reminder. Of what I sacrificed.
5
6 HESTER: Ah.
7
8 FALCONER: What do you mean, 'ah' ?
9
10 HESTER: You're being a bit martyr-y.
11
12 FALCONER: Martyr-y?
13
14 HESTER: Exactly. And I don't see you as the charismatic
15 revolutionary type.
16
17 FALCONER: Why *did* you come here?
18
19 HESTER: I wanted to see my little girl.
20
21 FALCONER: I'm afraid she grew up.
22
23 HESTER: That's a cheerful sticking plaster. Kangaroos
24 are they?
25
26 FALCONER: Bunnies actually and- stop it!
27
28 BEAT
29
30 HESTER: I got your letter.
31
32 FALCONER: What letter?
33
34 **FX: UNCRUMPLING OF PAPER**
35
36 HESTER: "Dear mum, I hope you are well, I am fine."
37
38 I mean if *that's* not a cry for help-
39
40 FALCONER: That- that was an exercise - for the team! We
41 wrote personal letters and *deleted* them. You
42 weren't meant to get that!
43
44 HESTER: I got that impression.
45
46 FALCONER: Why do I suspect Lowell had something to do
47 with this?
48

1 HESTER: Anyway, I found out you hadn't had your routine
2 health check yet, so thought I'd kill two
3 birds.
4
5 FALCONER: Stunning metaphor, *Doctor*.
6
7 HESTER: Three birds actually. I'm retiring, Milly.
8
9 FALCONER: What?
10
11 HESTER: Well, it's *time* isn't it. We've booked a cruise
12 ship - me and the shanty group girls. We're
13 taking a month - drop by a few moons, see some
14 sights... (ALMOST HIDING IT) put your room up for
15 rent..
16
17 FALCONER: (OUTRAGED) *My* room?
18
19 HESTER: It's not like you ever use it. I brought some
20 of your things.
21
22 FALCONER: What things?
23
24 HESTER: Plenty of time for that. For now... I hear the
25 moon of Europa has a ski resort.
26
27 [SUCKS ON LOLLIPOP AGAIN] If *only* there was
28 somewhere I could get some practice in..
29
30 **BEAT**
31
32 (CHIRPILY) Oh don't look like that. Sociopath,
33 remember?
34
35
36 **SCENE FIVE: INT. BURNEY'S LAB**
37
38 **FX: CLICK OF DICTATION DEVICE**
39
40 BURNEY: Burney's log: Construction of the machine will
41 now commence, as I verbalise my written
42 instructions *to the letter*.
43
44 LOWELL: We don't need boring instructions. The best way
45 to build somethin' is to just go for it, and
46 see what bits don't break.
47
48 BURNEY: I see. And do you have experience in building a
49 quantum field stabiliser?

1
2 LOWELL: Does a bear go pee-pee in the woods?
3
4 BURNEY: Yes. But do you have experience in building a
5 quantum field stabiliser?
6
7 LOWELL: No.
8
9 Really interestin' about the bear though.
10
11 BURNEY: (FIRMLY REITERATING) *To. The. Letter.*
12
13 CHRISTY: I agree. In fact, I propose we take a day to
14 properly study the diagrams.
15
16 Oh! We could build a prototype! And then-
17
18 BURNEY: Ah - I would in fact recommend a *slightly*
19 lighter-touch approach - perhaps simply
20 enacting on my verbal instructions step-by-
21 step.
22
23 CHRISTY: I don't know, that seems a bit cavalier..
24
25 BURNEY: Lowell: you build the tube rotation motor;
26 Christy: you start with the magnetometer.
27
28 **FX: THE TEAM GET TO WORK. SOUNDS OF TAPPING,**
29 **DRILLS, CREAKS ETC**
30
31 CHRISTY: So what are these 'anomalous phenomena'
32 exactly?
33
34 LOWELL: Adogifous Robobu-
35
36 BURNEY: Shh. That's what I intend to discover.
37
38 (BURNEY WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY AGITATED WITH
39 EACH OF CHRISTY'S SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS)
40
41 CHRISTY: Yeah but, what *types* of stuff are you studying?
42
43 BURNEY: Space-based events.
44
45 CHRISTY: But stuff we already know a bit about?
46
47 BURNEY: Some may be known to scientific theory, yes.
48
49 CHRISTY: Some?

1
2 BURNEY: I hope the majority will not yet have been
3 discovered.
4
5 CHRISTY: Will they be scary?
6
7 BURNEY: Some may present a degree of threat.
8
9 CHRISTY: I'm still not sure I get it.
10
11 BURNEY: (VERY ANNOYED NOW) It's very simple. I will be
12 studying nominally common but normally
13 anonymous possibly ominous astronomical
14 anomalous phenomena!
15
16 Why is that so hard to comprehend?
17
18 CHRISTY: [SAUCER OF MILK FOR BURNEY'S TABLE] *Al-riiight!*
19
20 **BEAT**
21
22 You could've just *said* that.
23
24 BURNEY: *Hhhnnng.*
25
26 LOWELL: S'that noise again!
27
28 **FX: TOOL PUT DOWN FIRMLY**
29
30 CHRISTY: Right. I'm not coiling another dipole until you
31 tell us what's going on.
32
33 BURNEY: [SIGHS] If you must know, I must complete this
34 project before a certain... *deadline.*
35
36 CHRISTY: Oh. A deadline set by the Syndicated
37 Intelligence Network for Interplanetary-
38
39 BURNEY: No.
40
41 LOWELL: The Commando?
42
43 BURNEY: No... *Burney.*
44
45 CHRISTY: Oh! A self-imposed deadline! I give myself
46 deadlines every day. They make me feel way less
47 stressed.
48

1 Tomorrow for instance: Brush teeth by 6.32am;
2 shower by 6.36am; get dressed by 6.39am.
3 Breakfast by 6.45am.
4
5 [NOT RELAXED] See? Don't you feel more relaxed
6 already?
7
8 Enter Organisphere by 6.52am. Consult schedule
9 by 6.53am- Is it me or is the room spinning?
10
11 BURNEY: Not Burney as in *myself*.
12
13 LOWELL: Ohhh - *Mrs* Burney!
14
15 BURNEY: My scientific associate, sole intellectual
16 peer, and - yes, more recently - spouse.
17
18 CHRISTY: I see! *She's* helping you to challenge yourself,
19 and you want her to be proud of you! That's
20 sweet!
21
22 BURNEY: I wouldn't put it *exactly* like th-
23
24 LOWELL: Haha! [SINGS] Burney loves his wiiiiife! Burney
25 loves his wiiiiife! [CONTINUES TO END OF SCENE]
26
27 BURNEY: I - I do not! Our legal union was undertaken
28 for professional convenience only!
29
30 CHRISTY: Oh hang on, now I've got the whelks to think
31 about. Maybe if I brush teeth by 6.31am. Then
32 shower by 6.33am; get dressed by 6.36am./
33 Breakfast by 6.42am. Enter Organisphere by
34 6.49am, then I could allocate five minutes to
35 the whelks. But is five minutes enough? What if
36 I... [RAMBLES ON TIL END OF SCENE]
37
38 BURNEY: /Burney's log: It is time to implement the
39 contingency plan.
40
41
42 **SCENE SIX: INT. SIMULATION ROOM/EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAIN**
43
44 **FX: THE SWISH AND SWOOSH OF TWO FALCONERS SKIING**
45
46 HESTER: Woohoo! Isn't this a hoot!
47
48 FALCONER: *Hell! Hell! Hell!*
49

1 HESTER: Watch the tree!
2
3 FALCONER: *Aaagh!*
4
5 HESTER: I thought you'd relearnt your depth perception!
6
7 FALCONER: For taking aim, yes! Not for when a simulated
8 ski resort is flying straight at me!
9
10 HESTER: I'll call out directions! Fallen skier ahead -
11 go left!
12
13 **FX:** **SWOOSH**
14
15 FALCONER: Why now, mum? Why must you cruise the Sys'
16 now?!
17
18 HESTER: The time just feels... *right*. Left!
19
20 **FX:** **SWOOSH**
21
22 FALCONER: *Aaaagh!*
23
24 HESTER: And if I really want to do this - well there's
25 only so many years *left*. Right!
26
27 **FX:** **SWOOSH**
28
29 FALCONER: *Aaagh!*
30
31 HESTER: It wasn't an easy decision. You know what it's
32 like: you intend to do something, then you
33 start seeing all these reasons *not* to do it
34 popping up left, right and centre, right? Left!
35
36 **FX:** **SWOOSH**
37
38 FALCONER: You're doing this on purpose!
39
40 HESTER: So I told myself: if not now, when? And if I'm
41 honest, you inspired me!
42
43 FALCONER: Me?
44
45 HESTER: Taking time off, like you're doing here!
46
47 FALCONER: This isn't a sabbatical, it's a *sentence*.
48
49 HESTER: It *will* be if *that's* how you choose to see it!

1
2 FALCONER: What's that supposed to mean?!

3
4 HESTER: You're your own worst enemy, Milly!

5
6 FALCONER: No; *my* worst enemies are on Mars trying to
7 decimate my troops!

8
9 HESTER: It's like you *try* to make things hard for
10 yourself! You create these *challenges*! And you
11 know what I think? I think it's because a
12 little part of you *likes* it. I only wish I knew
13 why!

14
15 FALCONER: Create..? Not all of us can swan around saving
16 lives you know! Some of have the *hard* jobs -
17 the ones people don't like to talk about!

18
19 HESTER: We never forced you into service you know! We'd
20 have been happy whatever you did!

21
22 Sometimes I wonder if you did it to impress
23 him!

24
25 FALCONER: I did *nothing* to impress him!

26
27 HESTER: [KINDLY] Now that's not true!

28
29 FALCONER: I mean *intentionally*!

30
31 HESTER: I don't like this implication that your father
32 and I were somehow *unfair* to you!

33
34 FALCONER: Can we change the subject please, before we
35 *completely* fail the Bechdel test!

36
37 What? I read!

38
39 Anyway, we were talking about your trip. It
40 just feels so *impulsive*!

41
42 HESTER: I know! But sometimes we need to run before we
43 can - jump.

44
45 FALCONER: You mean walk?!

46
47 HESTER: No, I mean *jump*!

48

1 **FX:** **SWOOSH. A LONG MOMENT OF SILENCE IN THE**
2 **SWISHING AS THEY WHOOSH THROUGH THE AIR, WITH**
3 **JUST THE SOUND OF:**
4
5 FALCONER: Agggggghhh!
6
7 **FX:** **THEY LAND FIRMLY WITH A THUMP**
8
9 FALCONER: Oof!
10
11 HESTER: Aaaaand *swoosh* to a stop.
12
13 **FX:** **HESTER SWOOSHES TO A STOP. FALCONER'S SWOOSHING**
14 **CONTINUES INTO DISTANCE.**
15
16 FALCONER: *Hell Hell Hell...!*
17
18 HESTER: Or just keep going - that's OK too..
19
20
21 **SCENE SEVEN: INT. BURNEY'S LAB**
22
23 **FX:** **TOOLS ARE GO AGAIN**
24
25 BURNEY: Burney's log: After a modest setback, I am now
26 making good progress.
27
28 CHRISTY: Oh *you* are, are *you*?
29
30 **BEAT**
31
32 BURNEY: Yes.
33
34 LOWELL: Imagine if this stuff *did* explode and weird
35 stuff happened and I actually *became* the Bionic
36 Belch!
37
38 BURNEY: Just imagine!
39 LOWELL: Yeah!
40
41 BURNEY: In other words 'Do not talk'.
42
43 LOWELL: What superpower would you have if you could
44 have any?
45
46 BURNEY: I have not the time for pointless postulation.
47
48 LOWELL: With a super power you could.
49

1 CHRISTY: He's right; you could stop time!
2
3 BURNEY: I would prefer to stop *sound*.
4
5 LOWELL: My power would be bionic belching.
6
7 CHRISTY: But you're a cyborg. You're already really
8 strong, *and* you can fire lasers from your eyes,
9 *and* withstand the vacuum of space - but you
10 also want magical belches?
11
12 LOWELL: The belching's important.
13
14 CHRISTY: Makes you think; could anyone ever really be
15 content with the powers they have, or would
16 they always want more?
17
18 **BEAT**
19
20 LOWELL: Your power would be ruining games.
21
22 CHRISTY: Ugh, fine. I want to fly.
23
24 BURNEY: How would you propel yourself?
25
26 CHRISTY: I'd just - *go*.
27
28 BURNEY: No jets, or rotors? Physically impossible.
29
30 CHRISTY: OK... Invisibility!
31
32 LOWELL: Only pervs want invisibility.
33
34 CHRISTY: Mind-reading?
35
36 LOWELL: Only pervs want to read minds
37
38 CHRISTY: Shapeshifting! So I could pretend to be anyone
39 I want.
40
41 **BEAT**
42
43 LOWELL: I can't see any problem with that.
44
45 BURNEY: What a delightful diversion. Now; back to work?
46
47 CHRISTY: I *am* working. I've been pressing these buttons
48 down, just like you said to do, for twenty
49 minutes now.

1
2 BURNEY: I said no such thing.
3
4 CHRISTY: You did! You said "Press the buttons down until
5 they click and switch the indicator light off."
6
7 BURNEY: No, I said "Press the buttons down until they
8 click, and switch the indicator light off."
9
10 CHRISTY: That's what I said! They clicked twenty minutes
11 ago, but the indicator light is still on.
12
13 BURNEY: Ah, I see your misunderstanding. You failed to
14 detect the Oxford comma in my verbal
15 instructions. "Hold the buttons down until they
16 click, Oxford comma, and switch the indicator
17 light off."
18
19 CHRISTY: You mean to say... I've been pressing these
20 things down for twenty minutes for no reason?
21
22 BURNEY: There was a reason.
23
24 CHRISTY: Really?
25
26 BURNEY: The reason was: you did not detect the Oxford
27 comma in my verbal instructions.
28
29 CHRISTY: Bu - I've never even *heard* of a flipping Oxford
30 comma!
31
32 BURNEY: You should learn it. It's helpful for
33 clarifying ambiguous language.
34
35 CHRISTY: Ugh! You want to know my super power? It would
36 be going back in time and not getting involved
37 with any of your stupid projects!
38
39 LOWELL: Only perverts want to go back in time and not get
40 involved with-
41
42 CHRISTY: Shut up! Both of you just shut up! Why do you
43 always have to be like this? Do you know what
44 it's like trying to get *anything* done with you
45 two telling me I'm doing things wrong all the
46 time! Well I've had enough! As official
47 overseer of this project, I quit! I really
48 don't get why *any* of this stuff is so flipping

1 important, but if you want to do it, you can
2 both go and do it *without* my parents!
3
4 **PAUSE**
5
6 BURNEY: What?
7
8 CHRISTY: What?
9
10 BURNEY: You said: "You can both go and do it without my
11 parents."
12
13 CHRISTY: I said 'help'. Without my 'help'.
14
15 LOWELL: I heard what Bumface heard.
16
17 BURNEY: It was quite the Freudian slip.
18
19 LOWELL: What's a Freudian sex?
20
21 CHRISTY: Well, whatever I said, I'm done. And I don't
22 even care if you miss your deadline.
23
24 BURNEY: Ah, but we already *hit* the deadline.
25
26 CHRISTY: What?
27
28 BURNEY: I have just this minute completed the quantum
29 field stabiliser.
30
31 CHRISTY: But what about the-
32
33 BURNEY: The device you were working on was an extra
34 item. Completely surplus to requirements.
35
36 CHRISTY: *What?*
37
38 BURNEY: I quickly realised the task would be completed
39 more quickly with fewer individuals involved.
40
41 LOWELL: Haha! Burney gave you a fake job!
42
43 BURNEY: Thank you Lowell, you may stop sorting the
44 bubble wrap into 'order of poppability' now.
45
46 LOWELL: The ones at this end are SO poppable. This end
47 - not so much.
48
49 CHRISTY: So... What happens now?

1
2 BURNEY: Now: we switch it *on*.
3
4
5 **SCENE EIGHT: INT. SIMULATION ROOM. INT. A BUSY ALPINE BAR.**
6
7 **MUSIC:** **CHEESY SONG PLAYS ON LOOP. ('HOLDIN' ON TO THE**
8 **EDGE OF THE SYS' BY TOM ASHTON)**
9
10 **FX:** **DOOR SWISHES OPEN AND CLOSED**
11
12 FALCONER: Found it.
13
14 HESTER: Good. Now come sit with me.
15
16 FALCONER: Do I really have to sort through this stuff
17 here?
18
19 HESTER: Nothing like a good hologrammatic après ski!
20
21 FALCONER: It's awful. Why did they have to make the
22 holograms so young and... *fit*.
23
24 HESTER: You mustn't be so self-conscious about your
25 hair, Milly.
26
27 FALCONER: What?
28
29 HESTER: The cold weather makes mine go dull and limp
30 too. No escaping our genes, I'm afraid.
31
32 Ooh - don't look now, but - Red woollen scarf
33 and lovely big arms - four o'clock. They're
34 giving you the eye.
35
36 FALCONER: They're not real! They cycle through the same
37 movements every three minutes. Just like this
38 dreadful music. I *hate* Europa-pop.
39
40 Orpheus: volume down!
41
42 ORPHEUS: Decreeeeeeaaaaaasss-
43
44 FALCONER: *Ugh* - Speed up.
45
46 **MUSIC:** **TEMPO OF SONG SPEEDS UP**
47
48 FALCONER: No *you* speed up, not the song!
49

1 ORPHEUS: [FAST] Speeding up.
2
3 FALCONER: No. You stay at normal speed.
4
5 ORPHEUS: Normal speed.
6
7 FALCONER: Now. Volume down.
8
9 ORPHEUS: (WHISPERS) *Decreasing volume.*
10
11 FALCONER: No not *your* volume!
12
13 HESTER: Be a dear, Orpheus and turn the music down
14 would you?
15
16 ORPHEUS: Of course, *Doctor* Falconer.
17
18 **MUSIC: VOLUME DECREASES**
19
20 FALCONER: *Really?*
21
22 HESTER: This is exciting isn't it? Reminds me of where
23 I met your father.
24
25 FALCONER: [NOT REALLY INTERESTED] In a fictional alpine
26 lodge?
27
28 BHESTER: Military canteen. But it was a party. And he
29 had *all* the moves. He was quite the dancer,
30 before the job got to him.
31
32 FALCONER: [SNEERING] '*Got to him*'?
33
34 HESTER: Milly-
35
36 FALCONER: Let's just sort through this box.
37
38 **FX: OPENS BOX**
39
40 FALCONER: Diary - unused; Mess tin - unwashed; the toy
41 lion I made of cutlery and cloth - *unhinged*;
42 mouldy Horlicks tablets; mouldy chocolate-
43
44 **BEAT**
45
46 HESTER: What's that? Ah, it's that piece of your dad's
47 sea coral. You taped it back together,
48 remember?
49

1 FALCONER: Yes. I remember.
2
3 HESTER: You can't blame yourself. You just liked
4 playing with it.
5
6 FaLCONER: I *remember*.
7
8 HESTER: He had a bit of a temper, but he was all bark.
9
10 FALCONER: I *said* I don't want to talk about him!
11
12 HESTER: Well it's time you said something, Milly! How
13 am I meant to know what you want to talk about
14 when you never want to talk?
15
16 FALCONER: You want me to say something? Get rid of it.
17 All of it. All of this *crap*. It's nothing! It's
18 from a life that wasn't real! A life that *he*
19 forced us to have.
20
21 FALCONER: Now come on-
22
23 FLACONE: I said get it out of my sight!
24
25 HESTER: There's no need to get shouty, Milly-
26
27 FALCONER: Yes there is! You spent your *life* with that
28 man! You stayed with him when it was *clear*
29 neither of you loved each other anymore!
30
31 Even when he became what he became - the
32 'honourable Major General who interrogated and
33 captured so many Defectors'! Who became
34 paranoid and vile when he could no longer
35 separate himself from his work! You still
36 *stayed* with him!
37
38 So yes, I'm angry! I'm angry because you should
39 be angry. You should be furious! But instead
40 you're here going on about how he had 'all the
41 bloody right moves'!
42
43 Why aren't you hurting, mum? Why aren't you
44 *hurting*?
45
46 HESTER: [GENUINE ANGER] Because I refuse to waste my
47 bloody time!
48
49 **PAUSE**

1
2 You think you were the only one with hard
3 decisions? Yes, you had to decide who should
4 die. *I* had to decide who could *live*.
5
6 What's a critically-injured civilian against a
7 treatable senior officer? What's the child of a
8 Defector who I'd never met, caught up in
9 collateral damage and on the cusp of death,
10 against the broken-wristed comrade on my own
11 team who I knew and hated?
12
13 Every day I've had to weigh up the greater good
14 against all my instincts of what was fair.
15
16 And even if I *have* helped the right people,
17 it's never enough, Milly. It's never. Enough.
18
19 You can only try and save the people for whom
20 it isn't too late.
21
22 And I thought maybe it wasn't too late for you.
23
24 **FX/MUSIC: A FLICKER IN THE MUSIC AND AMBIENCE, THEN IT**
25 **CUTS ABRUPTLY TO SILENCE.**
26
27 HESTER: What was that?
28
29 FALCONER: The simulation crashed. Some kind of power
30 surge? I'd better see what they're doing in
31 that lab.
32
33 HESTER: I'm coming too.
34
35 FALCONER: [IRRITABLY] I don't imagine I can stop you.
36
37
38 **SCENE NINE: BURNEY'S LAB**
39
40 **FX: DOOR SWISHES OPEN. THERE'S THE SOUND OF**
41 **SOMETHING... HUMMING? A QUIET BUZZING? SOMETHING**
42 **TO DISTINGUISH THE QUANTUM FIELD FROM THE BLACK**
43 **HOLE OF LLAMA DAY!**
44
45 CHRSTITY: Commander! Thank goodness you're here. We're
46 having a little, um..
47
48 FALCONER: What the hell is - what *is* that?
49

1 BURNEY: *This* is a quantum field stabiliser.
2
3 FALCONER: No, *that* thing?
4
5 BURNEY: *That* is a quantum field.
6
7 FALCONER: Stable?
8
9 BURNEY: Not in the slightest.
10
11 HESTER: It's amazing! It's like the air's rippling in a
12 kind of *lens*... So many shimmering colours that
13 somehow aren't there at all. It's like my
14 brain's trying to piece together what it *should*
15 look like, but when I look at it, it's gone.
16
17 FALCONER: Don't get too close, mum.
18
19 **FX:** **A SERIES OF 'VWOOPS' AS TENTACLES ZIP OUT AND**
20 **IN FROM THE FIELD**
21
22 CHRISTY: Oh flip! Now it's zapping out *tentacles*! One of
23 them nearly touched me!
24
25 LOWELL: Always the same with build-it-yerself stuff.
26 And there's always spare bits left over too.
27
28 CHRISTY: What?
29
30 BURNEY: *No there isn't*...
31
32 LOWELL: Yeah there is. See? All these bits in my pocket
33 here.
34
35 FALCONER: Bloody hell.
36
37 BURNEY: *Lowell*...
38
39 LOWELL: Don't blame me! You made it yerself remember!
40
41 BURNEY: That's- [SUDDEN GENUINE CONCERN]...correct. How
42 could I be so *careless*?
43
44 FALCONER: Can you shut it down?
45
46 BURNEY: I must examine my instructions...
47
48 HESTER: Well *I* think it's very impressive.
49

1 FALCONER: That's not helpful.
2
3 HESTER: Just trying to be encouraging.
4
5 FALCONER: You've done enough, so please just either keep
6 quiet, or bloody go aw-
7
8 **FX: VWOOP**
9
10 FALCONER: -way... Mum?
11
12 LOWELL: Whoa!
13
14 CHRISTY: What happened?
15
16 LOWELL: She was grabbed by a testicle!
17
18 FALCONER: Where did she go?
19
20 CHRISTY: I can see her! There! In the middle of the
21 field!
22
23 FALCONER: Mum!! Why can't she hear me?
24
25 BURNEY: Hmm. While being right in front of us, she is
26 simultaneously an infinite distance away, while
27 also being nowhere at all.
28
29 *Quantum.*
30
31 FALCONER: How do we get her out?
32
33 BURNEY: I do not think we can. Unless...
34
35 FALCONER: Unless someone goes in to get her.
36
37 **BEAT**
38
39 Any volunteers?
40
41 Nope, thought not. OK. Those long cable ties
42 from your boxes - tie one round me and tie it
43 off on the machine.
44
45 **FX: CABLE TIES ARE WRAPPED AROUND FALCONER AS THEY**
46 **SPEAK**
47
48 BURNEY: You will need to act fast. As the field becomes
49 more unstable, it could create a quantum

1 disturbance that is somewhat more permanent
2 and... limitless. I can shut the field down
3 before that happens, but...
4
5 FALCONER: I get it. We'd be lost in there forever.
6
7 CHRISTY: Are you *sure* this is a good idea, Commander?
8
9 FALCONER: When did I say it was?
10
11 LOWELL: OK, you're all tied up here!
12
13 FALCONER: Just before I do this, what are the chances of
14 it going badly?
15
16 BURNEY: Ninety-nine percent.
17
18 FALCONER: Of course.
19
20 LOWELL: Whoa, let's not panic! Burney. What are the
21 chances of it going *goodly*?
22
23 FALCONER: Oh for heaven's sake!
24
25 BURNEY: Actually the answer is also ninety-nine
26 percent.
27
28 *Quantum.*
29
30 FALCONER: So this is probably going to be fine, but also
31 not?
32
33 BURNEY: Now you're getting it.
34
35 FALCONER: OK. Here goes nothing.
36
37 BURNEY: And also everything.
38
39 *Quantum.*
40
41 FALCONER: Wish me l-.
42
43 **FX: AN ABSORBTION NOISE**
44
45 **WHILE IN THE FIELD THERE IS SILENCE OR**
46 **SOMETHING SOOTHING. THERE'S AN EFFECT ON THEIR**
47 **VOICES. PERHAPS PHASER? OR A KIND OF ECHO THAT**
48 **PRECEDES EACH SENTENCE... IF YOU GET WHAT I**
49 **MEAN..!**

1
2 FALCONER: Mum! Can you hear me?
3
4 HESTER: Hello Milly!
5
6 FALCONER: You're inside the quantum field, mum!
7
8 HESTER: Well I did want to try new things, dear!
9
10 FALCONER: Can you reach me?!
11
12 HESTER: Not quite, dear. I'm trying.
13
14 FALCONER: This is... I don't understand... I'm reaching my
15 hand out! It's extending as if for miles, but
16 at the same time it's still right here.
17
18 HESTER: It's like there's a chasm between us, dear!
19
20 FALCONER: Yes, I know.
21
22 HESTER: If only we could bridge this chasm!
23
24 FALCONER: [ANNOYED] Yes, I get the bloody metaphor!
25
26 I need try something else! Don't go anywhere!
27
28 HESTER: Wasn't planning to, dear!
29
30 **FX: FALCONER STEPS OUT THE FIELD - BACK TO THE**
31 **NOISE OF THE LAB**
32
33 CHRSTITY: Did you find her?
34
35 FALCONER: I'm close but not close enough. I need
36 something to reach to her - something she can
37 hold on to.
38
39 CHRISTY: Like rope?
40
41 BURNEY: Due to the dimensional flux within the field,
42 rope may be proportionally wrong. To Dr.
43 Falconer, rope could be thousands of feet wide,
44 and impossible to grip.
45
46 FALCONER: There must be something... Think... *think*.
47
48 BURNEY: We have but seconds remaining...
49

1 FALCONER: What about something *thin*?
2
3 CHRISTY: Something like thread? Or
4
5 FALCONER: Hair. A strand of hair.
6
7 BURNEY: That may work.
8
9 LOWELL: I can help with that!
10
11 FALCONER: Close up your dressing gown, Lowell. I've got
12 this. (SMALL GRUNT AS SHE PLUCKS A HAIR OUT)
13
14 **FX: RETURNS TO THE VOID - SILENCE AGAIN**
15
16 FALCONER: Mum! I'm in here with you again! Can you hold
17 onto this?
18
19 HESTER: I'm trying... I
20
21 Oh no...
22
23 FALCONER: What?!
24
25 HESTER: We really must do something about your split
26 ends! Got it!
27
28 FALCONER: I'm pulling you towards me! Ready?
29
30 HESTER: Ready!
31
32 FALCONER: [GRUNTS WITH EXERTION]
33
34 HESTER: [MUCH CLOSER] Milly! Well done!
35
36 FALCONER: Now take hold of the cable tie around me, and
37 follow it out. Quickly - we don't have much
38 time.
39
40 HESTER: I can see the others! OK, let's get out of
41 here.
42
43 **PAUSE**
44
45 Milly?
46
47 Are you coming?
48
49 **PAUSE**

1
2 FALCONER: It's so quiet in here.
3
4 So peaceful.
5
6 **PAUSE**
7
8 HESTER: Milly dear.
9
10 **PAUSE**
11
12 Take my hand.
13
14 **PAUSE**
15
16 FALCONER: OK mum.
17
18 **MUSIC: INCIDENTAL**
19
20
21
22
23 **SCENE TEN: INT. INFIRMARY**
24
25
26 HESTER: Your heart rate's still up - but otherwise,
27 we're both in good shape.
28
29 FALCONER: I'll sleep easier when they've dismantled that
30 thing.
31
32 HESTER: And how are we?
33
34 FALCONER: I'm sorry mum. I may not like talking about
35 *him*, but that doesn't mean I don't want *you*
36 back in my life. I hope you still want me in
37 yours.
38
39 HESTER: Came here, didn't I?
40
41 **PAUSE**
42
43 FALCONER: You said it 'might not be too late' for me.
44 What did you mean?
45
46 HESTER: There's a darkness in you, Milly. I'm not sure
47 which one of us you got that from. I learned to
48 live with it. He never did.
49

1 FALCONER: How do you learn?
2
3 HESTER: You need to decide what's worth saving.
4
5 **PAUSE**
6
7 Now bloody hug me.
8
9 FALCONER: I'm not really a hugger.
10
11 HESTER: I know.
12
13 **BEAT AS THEY HUG**
14
15 FALCONER: [MUFFLED] Honestly, I hate this.
16
17 HESTER: [MUFFLED] I know.
18
19 **FX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES**
20
21 FALCONER: Lowell, Christy - all done?
22
23 CHRISTY: Yeppo! Burney's taking a moment. He's in
24 mourning.
25
26 FALCONER: What for?
27
28 CHRISTY: His reputation apparently. His first ever
29 mistake.
30
31 Oh! Lowell, I think I figured out my superhero
32 power!
33
34 LOWELL: Yeah?
35
36 CHRISTY: Yeah. Mine would be that I'd be able to bring
37 people to me, wherever they were.
38
39 I'd only have to think about them, and they
40 would be right there next to me, whenever I
41 needed them.
42
43 **BEAT**
44
45 LOWELL: Only pervs would want that power.
46
47 CHRISTY: Ugh.
48

1 LOWELL: I mean, what if the other person was havin' a
2 pee-pee, in the woods, like a bear. Oh! Or a
3 poopoo, in the woods, like a bear! Do bears go
4 poo-poops in the woods? I'm guessin' so if they
5 go pee-pee...
6
7 **LOWELL'S RAMBLING FADES OUT AS WE CLOSE IN ON**
8
9 CHRISTY: Commander, do you have a moment?
10
11 FALCONER: What's up?
12
13 CHRISTY: Those messages from Auntie Xi Win. A little
14 while ago she called to say she had found my
15 parents. Now she's insisting that I go back
16 and-
17
18 FALCONER: I know.
19
20 CHRISTY: You do?
21
22 FALCONER: I might have accidentally heard one or two of
23 the messages. But you shouldn't feel pressured
24 into anything you don't want to-
25
26 CHRISTY: No - I want to go. I just don't know if I...
27
28 **PAUSE**
29
30 FALCONER: Oh; blast. You just reminded me. I
31 coincidentally need to go back to Mars soon for
32 - classified official reasons. Would you mind
33 me cramping your style?
34
35 CHRISTY: Oh... No! Not at all.
36
37 FALCONER: Kind of you, Christy. We'll take the CrewPod
38 together.
39
40 **FX:** **CONVERSATION OPENS OUT**
41
42 LOWELL: See? Sharp! I'm gonna make a load more pencils
43 sharp too. Mostly greeny-browny-yellow ones,
44 cos I've idea'd about something I wanna *draw*.
45
46 HESTER: That's *wonderful*, Lowell..!
47
48 LOWELL: You see, it all started when I was eating a
49 gone-off yoghurt which made me all spewy-

1
2 FALCONER: Shut up and have a flapjack, Lowell.
3
4 LOWELL: Yesssss! I'm gonna save it to eat in front of
5 Bumface!
6
7 HESTER: I don't know why you and he argue so much. I
8 think you make a good team.
9
10 LOWELL: Team? Pfft. Ha! *Team...*
11
12 Maybe I'll... save... half the flapjack.
13
14 HESTER: Well I think it's time we had some fun. Don't
15 you?
16
17 **FX: PAINED ACCORDION NOISE**
18
19 CHR/LOW: Ace!/Awesome
20
21 FALCONER: Think I'll sit this one out.
22
23 HESTER: This is a new one I heard recently. It goes
24 something like:
25
26 **FX: MORE PAINED ACCORDION NOISE**
27
28 HESTER: [SINGS] " *Holding on to the edge of the sys,
29 have you ever seen a disco go round like this...*"
30
31 **FX: DOOR SWISHES CLOSED BEHIND FALCONER**
32
33 **FX: FALCONER'S FOOTSTEPS IN CORRIDOR**
34
35 **FX: A FAINT CLATTER SOMEWHERE DOWN THE CORRIDOR.**
36
37 FALCONER: He - hello?
38
39 Who's down there?
40
41 Burney, is that you?
42
43 **PAUSE**
44
45 Pull yourself together, Falconer. Just the base
46 settling.
47
48 Now. I think some well-deserved time alone is
49 called for. Because if there's someone I can

1 spend time with who *doesn't* have high
2 expectations of me..
3
4 It's a hologram with a red woollen scarf and
5 *lovely* big arms..
6
7 **FX:** **FALCONER'S FOOTSTEPS START UP AGAIN, AND FADE**
8 **AWAY.**
9
10 **THE SOUND OF DISTORTED BREATHING (BREATHING**
11 **FROM WITHIN A SPACE SUIT) IN THE CORRIDOR**
12 **STARTS FAINTLY, AND INCREASES IN VOLUME, LOUDER**
13 **AND LOUDER... UNTIL...**
14
15 **MUSIC:** **END THEME**
16
17
18 **CREDITS TO BE READ OUT BY DR. HESTER FALCONER**