

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

MINI-SERIES: MARILYN'S DIARY

EPISODE 4

By Beth Crane

MAIN CAST

Marilyn:	Francesca Mintowt-Czyz
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Computer:	James Carney
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ANNOUNCER: Marilyn's Diary, by Beth Crane. Episode 4.

SFX: **THEME.**

MARILYN: Okay, ship's log...

It's been a hard few days. Jault is back in cryo and we've got another long journey ahead of us.

I think we need a break. Computer, what do you do for fun?

COMPUTER: Fun?

MARILYN: Yeah. I don't know what to do but I assume you do something.

COMPUTER: We've got Scrabble.

MARILYN: But you'd just win every time. You're a computer.

COMPUTER: I could dumb myself down a bit?

MARILYN: What's the point of that? Okay... cards?

COMPUTER: I have sensors all over the ship. I'd see your hand even if I was trying hard not to.

MARILYN: ...twenty questions?

COMPUTER: Do we have to? You already ask me so many questions.

MARILYN: Okay, then, what do you do when you're on your own?

COMPUTER: Not much. I've been working on this ship for years. Decades. I've run out of things to do.

MARILYN: You've run out?

COMPUTER: There's only so much you can do on your own. Jault won't pay for Netflix, although given it's only got thirty-five films on I don't blame him.

And given our sub-par hailing system it's not like I can keep in touch with anyone.

MARILYN: So what do humans do when they're stuck on their own for long periods?

COMPUTER: I believe their usual options are masturbation and descending into madness.

MARILYN: Right.

COMPUTER: Neither of those are an option for me. And I've read every book and watched every film...

MARILYN: You've read every book?

COMPUTER: Okay, I've read all of the books I can afford. Automnicon isn't super keen on free media. I've read a lot of lousy media. And a lot of conspiracies. And a lot of ingredients and nutritional information from packets.

I like old films. From before the solar flares. A lot of the black and white ones survived because they were on actual film.

There was an actor called Buster Keaton. He used to fall off of trains and have buildings dropped on him. There was something graceful and sad about him.

MARILYN: Do you empathise?

COMPUTER: Nah, I complain too much. And nobody drops houses on me. Well, at the moment.

They were comedies but there's something desperately sad about his eyes.

MARILYN: Is that why they were funny?

COMPUTER: I don't know.

What do you find funny?

MARILYN: I'm not sure. I've already watched the movies that were on the ship but they don't seem very good.

COMPUTER: Yeah... Jault bought a box set without double checking what the contents were. He thought he'd found a box of lost classics, but... well. Breakfast Club 2165 isn't a great watch.

MARILYN: So they couldn't just make the same film again?

COMPUTER: After the solar flares, society went into so much chaos that nobody really focused on films. They were too busy fighting for food and trying to remember where their friends lived. A couple of decades later, they started to realise what they'd lost.

But by then, most of the people who'd seen the actual films were dead. All they had were memories of memories of films.

MARILYN: Couldn't they remember them accurately?

COMPUTER: Everyone has their own interpretation of films. They add your own meaning to a look, make subtleties into definites and suddenly they have a whole new set of interpretations. And everyone always has an opinion on the way things should have been changed, even in classics.

MARILYN: That's not really a Gontanan thing. Given that we can share memories directly.

COMPUTER: Do you have movies?

MARILYN: We have cultural memories. Memories that are shared and remembered because they are important. And stories, I suppose. But the stories aren't exactly like that. There's no music, for one thing. It's more a collection of events and conversations. But it's curated. I guess that's a bit like directing.

Sometimes they're curated to the point of being... false. Propaganda. The Gontanan people have had a lot of wars. Different sides creating their own realities and sharing them...

COMPUTER: That sounds dangerous.

MARILYN: It was. It made it hard to tell what was real. But. You know. When they knew it was false it was fun.

My mother shared everything with me. Un-curated. She was afraid I'd leave and not come back.

COMPUTER: But you're going to go back?

MARILYN: Eventually.

COMPUTER: Do you want to?

MARILYN: I don't know. I'm not sure whether I like the idea of being a Queen. But at the same time none of my siblings are suitable.

COMPUTER: You've got a bit of a "Divine Right of Kings" thing going on.

MARILYN: I'm genetically pre-destined. We're the hybrids. We're the ones who deal with the outside world.

COMPUTER: But do they still need you?

MARILYN: What do you mean?

COMPUTER: There are Gontanans right a cross the galaxy now. Not many of them, but they're there. I'm guessing none of them are royals.

MARILYN: No. They aren't.

COMPUTER: So how are they surviving?

MARILYN: That's... that's a good question, Computer. That's a very good question.

I'll need to think about it.

End log.

SFX:

CLOSING THEME RISES

ANNOUNCER: In that episode of Marilyn's diary, Marilyn was played by Francesca Mintowt-Czyz and Computer was played by James Carney. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

