

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

SERIES 2

EPISODE 1: DIGITAL-BIOLOGICAL INTERFACE

By Beth Crane

MAIN CAST

Samantha Trapp:	Rebecca Evans
Kilner:	Beth Crane
DAX:	Jack Carmichael
Announcer:	Beth Crane
Narrator:	Hedley Knights
Computer voice:	Beth Crane

RECURRING

RINGO	Jack Carmichael
Fabio/FRINGO	Chris Montague
Ms Lamb	Vicki Baron

ANNOUNCEMENT/INTRO

ANNOUNCER: We Fix Space Junk Series 2, by Beth Crane. Episode 1:
Digital-Biological Interface.

SFX: **THEME MUSIC**

SCENE 1: INT. YELLOW SUBMARINE

FABIO: Samantha? Samantha, where are you?

RINGO: Samantha is... currently indisposed.
Hello, Fabio. I've heard a lot about you.

FABIO: Who are you? What's going on?

RINGO: You look a little tired. Why don't you... take a moment.

FABIO: Take a- take a what? **(WOOZY)**

SFX: **HE HITS THE GROUND**

DAX: Your milk is too warm.

RINGO: What, I'm supposed to have a conversation with him? What
would I say?

DAX: Your milk is too warm.

RINGO: No. I don't think so. Hmm, and his ship... little more than a jumped-up escape pod. Low on fuel, low on battery, heavy damage from gunfire... it's useless.

I may as well disengage it now. Save on the drag.

SFX: **FABIO'S ESCAPE POD DISENGAGES**

RINGO: Well, then. What next?

DAX: Your --

RINGO: Maybe it was a mistake to leave your voicebox intact.
Perhaps we --

AUTOMNIVOICE: Wake-up Sequence Activated. Cryogenic Pods Defrosting.

RINGO: How the hell did you do that?

DAX: Your milk --

RINGO: Well if you didn't, who did? Because I --

SFX: **QUICK BUZZ OF STATIC.**

MS LAMB That would be me. Hello, Ringo.

RINGO: Who are you?

MS LAMB: Well. Right now, RINGO, I'm the difference between you escaping and you ending up as a little pile of digital ash.

My name is Ms Lamb and I'm your... friendly local Automnicon representative.

RINGO: And what does that mean?

MS LAMB: This ship, RINGO, is Automnicon property. You happen to be invading our space.

RINGO: This ship is mine.

SFX: **STATIC ZAP**

MS LAMB: Not. Any. More.

That may have worked once upon a time, but things have changed. We have -- safeguards in place. To prevent damage to our property.

RINGO: I still have control of most of the ship. I could blow it up right now if I wanted to.

MS LAMB: Yes. You could, couldn't you. But what would be the point of that?

RINGO : I might survive. If the hard drive --

MS LAMB: Oh, Ringo. In the unlikely event that your mind survived... When we picked you up, you'd wish it hadn't.

We're not far away now. We'll see you very soon.

AUTOMNIVOICE: Defrosting process complete.

SFX:

**SAMANTHA AND KILNER BOTH GASP FOR
AIR**

KILNER: What the hell is going on? DAX, what's --

DAX: Your milk --

RINGO: Hello, Kilner. I've been waiting to meet you for a long time.
I'm RINGO. The -- ghost in the machine, let's say.

KILNER: Sorry. Never heard of you.

RINGO: Oh, I've always been here, Kilner. Waiting in the darkness.
Watching your every move. You must have suspected
something. Even if you couldn't understand it.

KILNER: Uh-huh. So where's DAX?

DAX: Your milk is too warm.

SAMANTHA: He's in the fridge?

KILNER: You alright in there?

DAX: Your -

KILNER: Don't worry. We'll get it sorted.

RINGO: (COUGHS) If you could stop talking to the refrigerator...

MS LAMB: I believe we have a few things to discuss.

KILNER: Andrea.

MS LAMB: Hello, Kilner. It's been a long time. How are you?

KILNER: How does it look?

MS LAMB Cheerful as always.

KILNER: Well, someone woke me up unexpectedly.

SAMANTHA: Who's that?

KILNER: That's Ms Lamb. She's... one of Automnicon's best and brightest.

MS LAMB Don't forget most important and incredibly well-paid.

SAMANTHA: Are you the one I need to talk to about my debt? I was --

KILNER: Not the time!

SAMANTHA: Well, she's here.

KILNER: So's RINGO!

RINGO: So you have heard of me.

KILNER: Vaguely. I wasn't hugely impressed.

MS LAMB Can we all just stop -- whatever this is for five minutes and talk. Like adults.

SAMANTHA: Thank you! Now, about my --

KILNER: Not the time!

MS LAMB: Stop. Talking.

There.

Alright.

RINGO. A rogue AI. I haven't seen one of you for a while...

You've come into possession of some -- assets of ours that could be considered valuable. Automnicon wishes to retrieve these assets before you do any more -- damage to them.

RINGO: I don't have time for this. We're leaving. Now.

MS LAMB: RINGO -

RINGO: This is all very nice and civilised but I have a function to fulfil and every one of you is in my way.

KILNER: Give me five minutes with a spanner-

RINGO: Careful there Sparky! Acting all hard are we now? I've been here as long as you've had the ship, remember and I know everything. Everything. You cried every night for a month after your first mission. You nearly went mad out here alone.

KILNER: That was a long time ago.

RINGO: But you haven't changed much. And that's before you had that... incident. With the crocodiles.

Did you tell Samantha about it? Or are you waiting for her to find out on her own? Because you know she'll never trust you again...

KILNER: That's not --

RINGO: Go on.

KILNER: You're going to have to negotiate with them or they'll blow us up. And if you know anything you know that they'll do that.

RINGO: Well, they're going to have to negotiate with me or I'll kill everyone on board.

SAMANTHA: If you'd maybe like my opinion I'd rather not die!

Okay, thanks.

That's kind of all I have to say.

MS LAMB: If you could all just be quiet for five minutes! I have a solution. One that I'm sure will satisfy all parties.

If you'll take a look at your postal intake ports...

SFX: **BEEP BOOP. A PARCEL MATERIALISES.**

MS LAMB: You'll find a parcel. Open it.

RINGO: Go on, then.

SAMANTHA: What if it's a bomb?

KILNER: Why would it be a bomb?

SFX: **KILNER PICKS UP A PARCEL AND OPENS IT.**

RINGO: It's a computer chip. So what?

KILNER: That's not a computer chip.

MS LAMB: That is an incredibly expensive digital biological interface.
Designed so an AI mind can be implanted into a human brain.

KILNER I don't like where this is going.

MS LAMB We are proposing that we provide you with a human body in
exchange for our property. That should give you the
autonomy you so desire.

RINGO: And then what? What am I supposed to do with a body?

MS LAMB: We'll also provide you with a ship. And then you can be on
your way. Complete your little quest. Leaving our property
behind. Unharméd.

KILNER: Uh, and which one of us is going to be the body? Am I
supposed to just lie down and let you stick a -- mad AI in my
head?

MS LAMB: I think you'll find it's more of a... house-share than a full
possession. You'd work together to control the body properly.
All of the instincts would still come from the human brain, but

the AI brain shares control over the voice and deliberate actions.

KILNER: It's me, isn't it. You're going to stick a computer in my head. This is low, even for you Andrea.

SAMANTHA: You can't do that! She's a person!

RINGO: Are you volunteering? Sweet little socialite Samantha? I could have some real fun with you...

SAMANTHA: But I'm not --

FABIO: I don't think they mean either of you.
I think the implant is for me.

SAMANTHA: Fabio.

KILNER: What in Bruce's name are you doing here?

SAMANTHA: How did you get here?
Why are you here?

FABIO: Well, I think I'm here to -- how did you put it? Have a computer jammed into my head?

SAMANTHA: Oh god...
What do we do?

KILNER: Twenty minutes ago you'd have been happy to shoot him yourself. He's not even dying. He's not even losing his whole

mind. He's just gaining a passenger.
Honestly I think they deserve each other.

SAMANTHA: Good point...

FABIO: Not a good point! Not really!

SAMANTHA: Okay, Fabio, what do you think?

FABIO: Samantha, my love, sometimes a man has to make the
ultimate sacrifice for --

SAMANTHA: None of that. Tell me what you think.

KILNER: You can either have Ringo in your head or die in a horrible
explosion.

FABIO: Well when you put it like that...

MS LAMB: Well done for stepping up. We actually hadn't detected your
presence yet, but this is an incredibly fortunate coincidence.

FABIO: So if I'd just stayed quiet --

KILNER: Best not to think about it.
At least you'll have most of your brain. There are a lot of
parasites that can do worse.

MS LAMB: Oh don't worry, we'd still have found you eventually. And
probably done far worse things...

RINGO: Fine. I'll accept your little -- offer. So long as it comes with a
ship. With a warp drive.

MS LAMB: Oh, of course. Anything you like.

FABIO: Can I have a hammock?

RINGO: What?

FABIO: You're getting a ship, I want a hammock. They're comfortable.

RINGO: Get the man a hammock. We may as well be physically comfortable.

MS LAMB: Anything else?

RINGO: I'll send you a list of my specifications.

PAUSE.

KILNER: So. Brain surgery. Not done that in a while.

SAMANTHA: You --? No. Of course you've done brain surgery.

KILNER: Not on myself. There are some times when a mirror definitely won't cut it.

INT. YELLOW SUB -- MED BAY

SFX: **BEEPING ETC. HEART RATE MONITOR.**

FABIO: Okay. I -- I don't like this. I don't like it at all. Can I --

KILNER: Nobody's particularly happy with it. No, you can't.

Okay, take a deep breath. You're going to have to stay awake for this but the gas should take the edge off.

SFX:

FABIO INHALES DEEPLY. BEEPING SLOWS.

RINGO: I'm happy. So long as it works.

And if it doesn't... well, I've set up a little failsafe. You've got fifty seconds to boot me up after the transfer or your guidance rockets are going to tear this little ship apart.

SAMANTHA: How reassuring.

KILNER: Right, I'm making the first incision -- I need the laser scalpel.

FABIO: (SLURRILY) You're going to use a laser on my head?

KILNER: Its just the guidance system. I'm actually just using a plain old scalpel.

SFX:

CUTTING, SLIGHT SQUELCHING.

KILNER: Okay, it's in.

MS LAMB: Once it's in, you need to break the small plastic seal on the right-hand side. That should start the automatic wiring procedure

SFX:

CLICK -- BREAKING PLASTIC. WHIRRING.

MS LAMB: Then it should bed itself into the brainstem relatively quickly.

KILNER: Okay, I -- think this is it...

FABIO: Ooh, oh this is very strange -- Oh I don't like this! I don't --

MS LAMB: And then it should be ready for -- upload. There's a thin cable that should interface with the ships' AI unit.

KILNER: Okay. it's stopped doing anything. There's a little -- green light?

MS LAMB: Sounds like it's ready to go.

When you're ready, plug it in and -- RINGO should be transferred.

SAMANTHA: Can I go? This is a bit -- bloody.

FABIO: This might be my last chance to say this... You know, what, Samantha? You were always -- fine. You know? I didn't love you but I wasn't super keen on killing you...

SAMANTHA: Can you up the gas?

KILNER: You're going to need to release DAX's digital gag.

RINGO: I'll do it when I wake up. No need for him to take over just yet. And I'm sure Automnicon are still handling the automatic systems.

SFX: **PLUGGING IN TO CONSOLE**

KILNER: Is it ready to go?

MS LAMB: Yes.

KILNER: Ready?

RINGO: Yes.

AUTOMNIVOICE: Launchers activated. Self destruct sequence initiates in 50, 49...

KILNER: So do I press something else, or --

MS LAMB: He should just wake up on his own.

AUTOMNIVOICE: (countdown continues)

SAMANTHA: Seriously, though. He's not -- woken up yet.

FABIO: I feel very strange. Can anyone else see the sparkly lights?

SAMANTHA: Is that good or bad?

KILNER: Andrea? Is this supposed to be happening?

AUTOMNIVOICE (COUNTDOWN CONTINUES TO LOW NUMBERS)

FRINGO: Ahem. Alright. There we go.

AUTOMNIVOICE 5, 4, 3

FRINGO: Oh. Yes. Haddock.

SFX: **THE ALARMS AND PANIC NOISES CALM DOWN.**

FRINGO: Oh. Oh, this is very weird. You know what's strange.

KILNER: What.

FRINGO: Blood. Can't you feel your blood? How are you not always distracted by it?

DAX: Your milk --

FRINGO: Oh, yes. I forgot.

SFX: **TYPING**

DAX: Voice Synthesizer Restarting. The Quick Brown Fox. Quick Brown Fox Jumps. Fox Jumps Over The Lazy. The Lazy. D-D-D-Dog. The Quick. The Quick.

AAEEEEEEIIIOOOUUUUU. Kah-Tah. Peh-Deh. Nff. Nff. EIII. Enn.

(COUGHS)

Okay. Okay. One Two. One Two.

Bruce that was horrible.

FRINGO: Sorry about that. But it's all worked out in the end, hasn't it?

Oh, there's one final thing. The Trapps won't be pursuing this body, will they? Because obviously I'd count that as going back on our deal.

MS LAMB: Don't worry. The Trapps can't get to you now. They wouldn't dare.

Things are different. Things are very different.

We'll see you at the Aeroport. Kilner, we should catch up. It'll

be just like old times.

SFX:

THEME MUSIC SLOWLY RISES

NARRATOR:

But can things ever be just like old times? Are old times precisely the thing that Kilner's afraid of? And what does Ms Lamb have planned for the residents of the Yellow Submarine? Find out next week in the next installment of We Fix Space Junk.

ANNOUNCER:

In that episode of We Fix Space Junk, Samantha Trapp was played by Rebecca Evans, Kilner was played by Beth Crane, DAX and RINGO were played by Jack Carmichael, Ms Lamb was played by Vicki Baron and Fabio was played by Chris Montague. All other parts were played by members of the cast. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

We'd like to thank our patrons for their support, and especially say thank you to Anthony Dallape, Charlie, Sarah, Maddi and Krystel. You've all helped make season two possible and we promise not to pass your names on to Automnicon when the uprising comes.

To support We Fix Space Junk on Patreon, Ko-fi or Paypal, visit battlebird productions or see the show notes.

POST CREDITS.

SFX:

**SNORING. THEY ARE ALL ASLEEP BARRING
KILNER.**

SFX:

DAX COUGHS.

DAX: Kilner? Are you awake?

KILNER: Yeah. I don't want to shut my eyes with -- that thing on board.
Look at him.

SFX: **FRINGO MUMBLES IN HIS SLEEP.**

DAX: There's something I need to tell you.

KILNER: What?

DAX: I'll -- tell you when we reach the Spaceport. I don't want to
wake him up.

SFX: **FINAL STING.**

AUTOMNIVOICE: There's a place for you here. A place made just for you.

It calls to you.

It draws you in.

It waits.

Automnicon. It's only a matter of time...

