

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

SERIES 2

EPISODE 7: Diamorphically Lackadaisical

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	
Ms Lamb	Vicki Baron

ONE OFFS	
Lingen	Sarah Golding
Shapeshifter	David Eagle

ANNOUNCEMENT/INTRO

ANNOUNCER: We Fix Space Junk Series 2, by Beth Crane. Episode 7:
Diamorphically Lackadaisical.

SFX: **THEME MUSIC**

SCENE 1: INT. YELLOW SUB

KILNER: Okay, this should be a relatively simple one. I've done this before, it's just a little standard maintenance. And then probably a little sightseeing.

DAX: I'd be careful. I'm getting some strange readings from the star...

SAMANTHA: Not sure I'm up to sightseeing. I'm still feeling rough from that fuel stop.

KILNER: I told you we shouldn't go drinking with Octalanians. They have more livers than we do.

SAMANTHA: Just -- try and land gently, alright?

KILNER: But look. Please, just before we land. Look out of the window. See? It's a habitable Dyson sphere. They draw everything they need directly from the star itself. An artificial planet holding itself in place with the sun's gravity, fully sustained by the solar panels on every surface. It's... it's a real marvel. Technically and visually beautiful.

SAMANTHA: Uh huh. Very beautiful. Can you -- please try and land gently?

DAX: I'll try. Their... gravity fields seem a little... off.

KILNER: Philistine.

SFX: **THE YELLOW SUBMARINE LANDS.**

KILNER: Okay, play the thing, Dax.

Dax?

DAX: Sorry, I was playing chess.

KILNER: What? Who with?

DAX: Haroldson.

KILNER: Really? Is he any good?

DAX: Hm. Well, he doesn't actually understand what he's doing but teaching him is half of the challenge.

SAMANTHA: Huh.

AUTOMNIVOICE: Greeting, valued employees, and -- Warning. Valve Hatch Maintenance Overdue. Warning. Overdue. Warning.

KILNER: Damn, we're late. We're -- oh, Bruce, we're really late! We should probably take these...

SAMANTHA: What are those?

KILNER: Radiation suits. Just in case.

SAMANTHA: Right...

SFX

THEY OPEN THE HATCH AND LEAVE.

EXT. PLANET - DAY

SFX

QUIET PULSING MUSIC.

SAMANTHA: Wow, this place is amazing... I can't see anything that isn't neon.

KILNER: Should have worn sunglasses...

SAMANTHA: Yeah, it's not a good hangover planet. But I don't mind the music... it's... kind of relaxing?

Do you think I could get a smoothie?

KILNER: They don't really... eat.

I like it too. It's like... dance music you don't need to dance to.

SAMANTHA: What do you know about dance music?

KILNER: Hey, before all of this I used to go out. It was just -- a long time before you did.

SAMANTHA: You don't strike me as a dancer.

KILNER: Well. I did. Once.

SFX

BELL RINGS

SAMANTHA: What was that?

KILNER: It's like a kind of... lunch break. I think they partly feed on attention because I've never seen one eating.

I've not actually been here before but they also have another planet near Barnard Star... it's nothing near as beautiful as this though.

Here they come now...

SAMANTHA: Oh my sweet Bruce...

KILNER: I know, right?

SAMANTHA: They're just... all so... beautiful.

KILNER: It's always a shock the first time.

SAMANTHA: I think my headache's gone.

SFX

ALARM GOES OFF.

MORPHING SOUNDS. RUNNING.

SAMANTHA: Hey, what's that?

KILNER: It's some kind of alarm...

SAMANTHA: No, the -- people, Kilner. They all -- changed. What's -- ?

KILNER: Oh, yeah. They're shapeshifters. I should probably have mentioned that.

SAMANTHA: What?

KILNER: They are... I can't remember the correct term for it. Dimorphically Lackadaisical. They don't hold consistent shapes. They're pretty much always peacocking.

SAMANTHA: Right. Uh. Why?

KILNER: Why do we have two arms? It's just how they evolved. And these parades are how they find a mate.

SAMANTHA: Right.

KILNER: It's like a kind of... fashion arms race. They're constantly trying to outdo one another.

SAMANTHA: But then the alarm went off and they all -- shrunk down. They're all... grey. And... mouselike.

KILNER: In a crisis no-one wants to stand out any more. So they develop longer legs for running, bigger ears and eyes to hear with...

SAMANTHA: And the body hair?

KILNER: Not really sure about that one.

SAMANTHA: So this crisis...

KILNER: Yeah, that's probably our fault. We should get going. Hey!
You!

SHAPESHIFTER: What?

KILNER: Where's the reactor?

SHAPESHIFTER: You were meant to be here a month ago!

SAMANTHA: We had an accident with a tiny meteor.

SHAPESHIFTER: Sure. Whatever. It's over there. Just fix it. I'm getting out of
here!

KILNER: Come on...

THEY RUN AWAY.

INT. REACTOR - DAY

SFX

THEY OPEN A BIG ECHOING METAL DOOR

SAMANTHA: Are you sure we should be in here?

KILNER: It's a big scary door that they've left unlocked. I'm assuming
whatever's going wrong is in here...

LINGEN Hello? (SNIFF)

KILNER: Who's there?

LINGEN: I'm the (SNEEZE) janitor!

SAMANTHA: Oh!

LINGEN: I'm the only one who (SNEEZE) stuck around.

KILNER: Okay, so did they leave you any -- instructions, or --

SAMANTHA: Kilner, they keep -- every time they sneeze they keep -- changing.

LINGEN: I know exactly what needs doing, I;m just as qualified as everyone else. I just have these -- (SNEEZE) -- allergies which mean I can't -- (SNEEZE) -- stay in one form. I interview very badly and can't get through any -- (SNEEZE) grant meetings.

SAMANTHA: Oh wow

LINGEN: It's a massive pain.

KILNER: Can you show us to the reactor chamber? We better see what we can do...

SFX **FOOTSTEPS. THEY WALK ALONG A MASSIVE CORRIDOR. EVERY TIME LINGEN SNEEZES, THEIR FOOTSTEPS CHANGE TYPE.**

LINGEN: I actually have the same (SNEEZE) qualifications as everyone else who works here... This was always my dream. I mean, not working as a janitor, obviously.

Well, you're stuck with me, anyway. I'm the only one here who knows what's wrong with it. You (SNEEZE) brought the right parts, right?

They don't even bother with maintenance, even though I keep asking -- they've just let it implode in on itself. They think it's easier just to replace parts every so often but then if something goes wrong and the parts are late...

Why are the parts late? What happened?

SAMANTHA: Our ship got damaged and we got trapped on an Ark.

LINGEN: Right. Anyhow. The chamber is just through here.

KILNER: Okay... Sam, can you take the parts in and get set up? I'm just going to check these schematics.

SAMANTHA: Alright. If I put them down here then...

SFX

AN EXPLOSIVE SNEEZE. SLAM.

SAMANTHA: Oh.

LINGEN: Ah.

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Sam!

SAMANTHA: Are we -- trapped?

LINGEN: I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to -- it's my allergies --

SAMANTHA: Can you open it?

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) It's in emergency isolation mode... it won't reopen until the transformer is stable.

SFX

SPLUTTERING, BANGING, GRINDING.

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Uh oh...

SAMANTHA: Uh oh? That's not a good -- be more specific Kilner!

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) I think we'll need to fix the reactor before you can open the door...

SAMANTHA: But what do I do? Are we -- does this mean we're going to die?

Kilner -- Kilner, run. Please. Save yourself!

LINGEN: It's no good running, if it ruptures (SNEEZE) the star's going to rip a hole in the side of the Dyson big enough to mess up the gravity. We'll lose the whole planet!

SAMANTHA: Oh bruce oh bruce oh bruce

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Take a deep breath. You'll be fine.

SAMANTHA: But -

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Everything is going to be okay. Your suit should offer enough protection to get you through the day. All you need to do is open the hatch and start the repair.

SAMANTHA: Kilner I'm not ready for this!

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Hey, we've been working together for -- months now. Years if you don't count cryo. You've come on in leaps and bounds.

SAMANTHA: It's... all moving parts, right?

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) It's all moving parts.

SAMANTHA: Kilner, I'm -- scared.

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) I know. And that's fine.

SAMANTHA: I -

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) What can you see?

SAMANTHA: Okay, what can I... see... There's -- okay, the assembly in front of me has jammed. It looks a lot like the part we've brought with us -- I'm guessing that's what we should have been repairing. But everything's way too hot -- I think it's expanded and fused together...

What do I do?

LINGEN: My degrees are all in Solar-Astral Dysonetics, I don't know the hardware!

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Okay, so why's it so hot?

SAMANTHA: Okay... so this tank in front of me must be the coolant chamber. But it's empty.

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) Ah.

SAMANTHA: There's a hole in one of the coolant pipes where -- something's rusted, I think...

LINGEN: I told them it needed more (SNEEZE) maintenance...

SAMANTHA: Okay... Lingen. Can you see any metal piping around?

LINGEN: Uh --

SAMANTHA: Preferably spare and not crucial to the running of the reactor.

LINGEN: There's the air conditioner -- it looks kind of similar but it's going to get very hot in here --

SAMANTHA: I mean the whole star's going to explode so getting a bit sweaty isn't --

LINGEN: Sorry. Okay.

SAMANTHA: Pull it down off the wall and -- okay, we need to get inside it...

LINGEN: **(SNEEZE) FLESH TURNS INTO METAL.**

SAMANTHA: And now you have a crowbar arm. Great. Uh -- yeah, if you could pry --

SFX **CREAKING AND CRUNCHING AS THEY GET INTO THE AIR CON SYSTEM.**

SAMANTHA: Brilliant. That looks -- close enough to bodge one, anyway.
Then we can cool things down and get that part replaced... is
your arm okay?

LINGEN: It's fine.

KILNER: (BEHIND DOOR) How's it going in there?

SAMANTHA: I'm just about to try and patch up the pipe...

SFX **CRUNCHING AND WHINING OF METAL AS
SAMANTHA WRAPS THE NEW PIPE METAL
AROUND THE RUSTED PIPE.**

SAMANTHA: Okay. I've patched up the pipe and the coolant's running
again... Right.

SFX **HISSING OF COOLANT AS IT COOLS THE
METAL PARTS.**

SAMANTHA: Right, so -- the coolant's flowing, I should be able to... Oh
Bruce.

SFX **HIGH PITCHED WHINE -- THE GEARS ARE
FREEWHEELING.**

KILNER: (THROUGH DOOR) What's happened?

SAMANTHA: All of the teeth sheared off and now everything's spinning
really fast! I can't -- I don't know how to --

LINGEN: If I put my arm -- crowbar -- there I should be able to jam the assembly long enough for you to take a good look.

SFX **CRUNCH. GEARS STOP. GRUNTING FROM LINGEN.**

SAMANTHA: It's getting -- really hot in here.

KILNER: (THROUGH DOOR) Are you alright?

SAMANTHA: Okay, it's out.

SFX **LINGEN GRITS HER TEETH, GRUNTS. WEIRD CHANGING NOISES.**

SAMANTHA Are you -- alright?

LINGEN: I'm -- trying really hard not to -- sneeze.

KILNER: (THROUGH DOOR) Come on! It'll be fine, you just need to switch the part out and then we can get out of here.

SAMANTHA: Okay. Okay.

I've got it.

KILNER: (THROUGH DOOR) So just remove the old gear --

SAMANTHA: I've done that already, it was just a ninety-degree twist pin.

KILNER: (THROUGH DOOR) And --

SAMANTHA: Okay. There. It's done. I guess I can do this.

SFX

**THE MACHINERY STARTS. IT SOUNDS
HEALTHY.**

KILNER: Okay. Okay. Okay you've done it. Get out of there. Bruce, get out of there.

SFX

**THE DOOR OPENS. SAMANTHA AND LINGEN
WALK OUT.**

KILNER: Are you alright, Lingen? You look a bit -- pale.

LINGEN: I feel... odd.

(SHE SNEEZES)

SAMANTHA: Hey, you -- didn't change.

LINGEN: I -- I didn't! Maybe -- oh my, maybe I can change freely now like uh...

Oh.

SAMANTHA: What?

LINGEN: I don't seem to be able to change at all.

SAMANTHA: Oh -- oh Lingen, I'm so sorry, I --

LINGEN: No, you know what? This is fine.

SAMANTHA: But it -- doesn't it mean you'll never find a mate?

LINGEN: I'm not exactly after a relationship right now. What I want is what I've always wanted. To work here. To get our Dyson sphere working properly, not just see her get patched up badly by amateurs -- no offence. And now I'm not changing constantly, I might actually stand a chance of getting through a job interview!

And this body's pretty good for science, I think. A few extra arms, pretty stable. Decent eyes. Ooh. I've got two I didn't notice. Hey, they see in infra-red! Amazing...

EXT. PLANET

SFX

SAMANTHA AND KILNER WALK AWAY.
PEOPLE ARE BACK TO THEIR NORMAL
SELVES.

DAX: Welcome back. Everything alright?

KILNER: It is now. Bruce it's been a long day.

SAMANTHA: So. I guess I'm a repairman after all.

KILNER: Definitely. I'm -- well, I wasn't sure we'd get through it. But we did.

SFX

BIP!

SAMANTHA: What was that?

DAX: Hey, would you look at that. You got a promotion.

SAMANTHA: Really?

AUTOMNIVOICE: Congratulations, junior junior sub assistant repairman Trapp.
We thank you for your service.

SAMANTHA: So do I get a pay rise or --

DAX: Ha! No.

SAMANTHA: Ah, didn't think so. Ah well.

SFX: **THEME MUSIC SLOWLY RISES**

NARRATOR: And so, leaving the planet of shapeshifters behind -- and one former shapeshifter who is looking forward to a whole new career -- our repairwomen travel onwards, unaware of what is about to happen next...

ANNOUNCER: In that episode of We Fix Space Junk, Samantha Trapp was played by Rebecca Evans, Kilner was played by Beth Crane, Dax was played by Jack Carmichael, Lingen was played by Sarah Golding and the passerby was played by David Eagle. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

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POST CREDITS.

SFX:

PHONE RINGS.

KILNER: Hello?

MS LAMB: Hello there. How are you?

KILNER: Andrea. It's you.

MS LAMB: Oh course it is. Just checking up on my -- favourite repairmen.

KILNER: Right.

MS LAMB: Would you mind just popping into head office?

KILNER: Could I -- pop. Into. Head office.

MS LAMB: For a quick little... chat. Nothing formal. You know.

KILNER: Right. I -- right. Okay. We can be there in a -- a week.

MS LAMB: Oh of course, I forgot. You don't have warp drives. See you then, Kilner. I look forward to it.

KILNER: Can't wait!

SFX:

HANGS UP.

KILNER: Shit.

SFX:

FINAL STING. END.

AUTOMNICON MUSIC

AUTOMNIVOICE: Autmnicon loves you. Autmnicon wants you. Autmnicon needs you. And it's going to have you. All we need are the Plutine crystals, and we're so close to having them all... Sooner or later we will have every one of you...

