

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

MICRO-BYTES: Penne al Dente

EPISODE 6

By Beth Crane

CAST

PENNE: Emily Stride

MAYOR: Zachary Fortais-Gomm

VIRA: Jen Sugden

LIRA: Chris Sugden

1 ANNOUNCER: Microbytes: A We Fix Space Junk Mini-Series. Episode Six: Penne Al Dente

2 SCENE 1: INT PENNE'S SHIP

3 SFX: **PENNE IS PARKING HER SHIP.**

4 PENNE: Okay, engaging thrusters -- thrusters mid-range. And descending -- descending -- okay...

5 SFX: **SLIGHT SCREECH AND BUMP AS SHE PARKS.**

6 PENNE: (LONG SIGH) Don't shell out for an AI, you said. You'll be fine steering and landing on your own, you said. You won't go slightly mental all alone in the depths of space, you said. And now where are we? Actually, where are we? I've got the co-ordinates but this place is -- unfamiliar...

There doesn't appear to be any signs... or paths...

7 SFX: **SHE DINGS THE BUTTON.**

8 SFX: **THE AUTOMNICON MISSION MUSIC PLAYS.**
SHE HALF SINGS ALONG.

9 AUTOMNIVOICE: [ADJUSTING] [SUN LIGHT REFLECTION PANEL TOWER] [EASTERN TAIABITHAR] [NONE]

10 PENNE: Okay, I better get walking. And... not talking to myself. Come on, Penne. People! You like people. You're good at people.

11 SFX: **SHE SETS OFF ACROSS A STRANGE
PLANET.**

12 SCENE 2: EXT. PLANET - DAY

13 SFX: **PENNE WALKS ACROSS THE SURFACE OF
THE PLANET. SHE SEES SOMEONE IN THE
DISTANCE.**

14 PENNE: Hello! Hello? Hi there -- is this -- Eastern Tabithius?

15 VIRA: What the hell do you mean by that?

16 PENNE: I'm sorry, I'm just looking for --

17 VIRA: Oh, you want to go there. Huh. You poor, unfortunate
soul.

18 PENNE: I'm sorry?

19 VIRA: Don't you know what they say? Those Easterners are
savages. Downright brutal. They may look civilised but
there's not a good man among em.

20 PENNE: Oh. Right. I'm not -- from there, or anything. I just have a
job to do.

21 VIRA: Sure you do. Sure you do. Well, you'll want to go up
that hill and to the right,

22 PENNE: And then?

23 VIRA: And then, you poor soul, you'll be there.

24 SCENE 3: EASTERN TARBITHIUS

25 PENNE: Okay, they're only people. C'mon, how bad can they be?
Hello? Hello!

26 MAYOR: Hello.

27 PENNE: Bruce you gave me a fright! Do you normally greet
people from -- directly behind them? How did you even
get there?

28 MAYOR: It's just how we are. Welcome to Eastern Tarbithius, my
dear.

29 PENNE: Uh... huh. And who are you?

30 MAYOR: Why, I'm the mayor.

31 PENNE: Ah.

32 MAYOR: I'm on official greeting duties. I see from the look of you
that you've run into some of our... western neighbours.
Don't listen to anything they say. Savages.

33 PENNE: Right. Okay. Uh. So where's this giant mirror you want
adjusting?

34 MAYOR: It's up there. On the hill. Perfectly positioned to redirect
light to our crops -- do you know how hard it is to sustain
a town that's stuck in complete darkness ten months of
the year?

35 PENNE: Uh -- hard?

36 MAYOR: Yes. Hard indeed. Now, all we need you to do is sort out
the positioning. We have a crane to winch it into place,
we just want you to focus it. It just needs that -- expert's

touch.

37 PENNE: Right. I'll get to work, then.

38 SCENE 4: ON TOP OF THE MIRROR TOWER.

39 PENNE: Okay, left a bit -- and up -- and -- there!

40 MAYOR: Wonderful!

41 PENNE: Uh -- is it supposed to be casting a shadow over the other side of the --

42 MAYOR: Oh, we have all the permits in place, don't worry.

43 SCENE 5

44 VIRA: Permits be damned! Those devious Easterners are stealing our sunlight! This is all because they chose the dark side of the valley...

45 LIRA: I mean, we did trick them into --

46 VIRA: Silence! This will not go unforgiven. Call Automnicon. Now!

47 SCENE 6

48 PENNE: Okay. Finally back at the ship. Phew. Time for a bre --

49 SFX: **PHONE RINGS**

50 PENNE: At least I'll have time in cryo to rest.

51 AUTOMNIVOICE: AUTOMNIVOICE

52 PENNE:

53 AUTOMNIVOICE: GIANT MIRROR.

54 PENNE: Another one?

55 SCENE 7

56 PENNE: So let me get this straight. You want at giant mirror -- a mirror bigger than theirs -- so you can redirect the sunlight from their mirror, back to your side of the valley?

57 VIRA: Yes. That's about it. But we want ours to be remote controlled.

58 PENNE: That's going to add a couple of days work --

59 VIRA: Cost is no object. All we want is to beat those damn Easterners.

60 PENNE: Well, alright then.

61 SCENE 8

62 SFX: **CONSTRUCTION NOISES**

63 PENNE: And -- that's the last of them. Right. There we go.

64 SFX: **REMOTE CONTROL WHIZZING.**

65 PENNE: Maybe now I'll get my --

66 SFX: **COMMS RINGS**

67 PENNE: What now?

68 SFX: AUTOMNIVOICE. REMOTE CONTROL MIRROR
HACKING DEVICE.

69 PENNE: Seriously? Fine. FINE.

70 SCENE 9

71 PENNE: So you press the red one and then the blue one and
you'll be able to tap into their signal --

72 SFX: **COMMS RINGS**

73 PENNE: Sorry. Excuse me a minute.

74 AUTOMNIVOICE: AUTOMNIVOICE. REMOTE CONTROL MIRROR
HACKER BLOCKER.

75 PENNE: Right. Not like I put my best work into this or anything.

76 SCENE 10

77 PENNE: So this lead casing should block out rogue signals, and
then under that is a --

78 SFX: **COMMS RINGS**

79 SFX: **AUTOMNIVOICE MUSIC STARTS**

80 PENNE: Gaaah!

81 SCENE 11

82 SFX: **AN OWL HOOTS. DEAD OF NIGHT.**

83 SFX: **SCREWDRIVER.**

84 PENNE: Okay. There we go. Compromise. Nobody's going to like it, but they're just going to have to live with it.

85 SCENE 12 -- TOWN HALLS MEETING

86 VIRA: And this is definitely from the repairwoman? Read it to the room!

87 LIRA: Dear people of Tarbithius, East *and* West. You may have noticed that I've made some changes to your giant mirror. Now the light will be shared equally between both communities so you can both flourish. And maybe be nicer to each other. And try sharing. You are both more alike than you know...

88 MAYOR: LIES! LIES!

89 VIRA: She was clearly an Eastern Agent!

90 MAYOR: We've lost out more than you -- I knew she had the stink of the West about her!

91 SCENE 13 -- SHIP

92 SFX: **PENNE SNORES**

93 SFX: **HER COMMS RINGS AND SHE WAKES UP.**

94 SFX: **AUTOMNIVOICE STARTS**

95 SFX: **SHE THROWS IT AGAINST THE WALL AND IT BREAKS AND FADES OUT.**

96 ANNOUNCER: In the sixth episode of Microbytes, a We Fix Space Junk Miniseries, Penne was played by Emily Stride, the Mayor was played by Zachary Fortais-Gomm, Vira was played by Jen Sugden and Lira was played by Chris Sugden. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions. This season is dedicated to every one of our patrons. You've all helped make this possible and your continued support helps us keep making Space Junk what it is. And, by extension, Automnicon, but... let's not think about that.

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In next week's microbyte...

97 SFX: **THEME FADES OUT**