

WE FIX SPACE JUNK

MICRO-BYTES: Terrible Flammable Alchemy

EPISODE 4

By Beth Crane

CAST

MS LAMB:

Vicki Baron

COFF:E:

Sarah Rhea Werner

ANNOUNCER: Microbytes: A We Fix Space Junk Mini-Series. Episode Four: Terrible Flammable Alchemy

SFX. **A CROWDED MARKETPLACE. MS LAMB STANDS BESIDE A COFFEE DISPENSER.**

C0FF:E: Hello there! And welcome to --

MS LAMB: Coffee. See my file for how I like it.

C0FF:E: Ah. Ms Lamb. Hello there! Can I call you --

MS LAMB: Call me Ms Lamb.

C0FF:E: And what would you --

MS LAMB: Coffee. My file has the details.

C0FF:E: Uh -- I'm sorry. I'm -- the file seems to be corrupted.

MS LAMB: No, that's how I like it.

C0FF:E: I have a new range in this week, coffee grown in zero-gravity conditions on the other side of Ursa Minor. They say you can taste the starlight.

MS LAMB: Can you?

C0FF:E: What do you mean?

MS LAMB: Can you taste the starlight?

C0FF:E: I mean... no. I'm not equipped with tastebuds.

MS LAMB: Mm.

C0FF:E: Or if you don't fancy that, there's a heavenly new chocolate in from the Cat's Eye nebula. We've had to get a special license to sell it as it's mildly euphoric, but...

MS LAMB: Why don't you want to serve me what I want?

C0FF:E: Because it's -- it's certain death!

MS LAMB: Is it?

C0FF:E: For me it is! What if you decide you don't like it and --

MS LAMB: I do like it. That's why I'm ordering it. What are you so afraid of?

C0FF:E: Bad reviews.

MS LAMB: Really?

C0FF:E: One time someone asked for their coffee extra hot, burned themselves, posted up a big rant about it and -- I nearly got decommissioned. And that was only hot. This is... what is this? It's not coffee! It's... I'm not sure it's even liquid!

MS LAMB: You're new, aren't you.

C0FF:E: Well, I'm new here. I used to work more centrally but then they moved me after that bad review.

MS LAMB: One bad review was all it took?

C0FF:E: It took my star rating down from a full 5 to a 4.99. And they don't allow that.

MS LAMB: Interesting.

C0FF:E: You know what they say. Anything less than five stars is failure, and failure must be punished.

MS LAMB: Hmm. Well. I would consider the vending of anything other than my chosen beverage a failure...

C0FF:E: Oh. Oh Bruce --

MS LAMB: But at the same time were someone... normal to try and order this, they would potentially gravely injure themselves. So let's compromise

C0FF:E: How do you mean?

MS LAMB: You make two drinks for me. One of my -- specials -- and one that you choose. The best drink you could make. The thing you think I will like more than anything else. And I'll choose.

C0FF:E: That... that sounds fair.

MS LAMB: Alright then. Off you go.

SFX. GRINDING, CRAZY NOISES AS IT MAKES MS LAMB'S DRINK.

MS LAMB: Thank you.

C0FF:E: Wait! Try this one first!

SFX. EFFORT NOISES. VARIOUS DRINK MAKING NOISES.

MS LAMB: Are you... quite done?

C0FF:E: And a cherry, and... there!

MS LAMB: I mean, it's beautiful. I'll give you that.

C0FF:E: Thank you.

MS LAMB: It's almost a shame to drink it.

C0FF:E: Please drink it!

SFX. SHE SIPS IT.

MS LAMB: Hmm.

C0FF:E: Well?

MS LAMB: It's interesting, I'll give you that.

C0FF:E: Oh.

MS LAMB: I don't hate it.

C0FF:E: Oh.

MS LAMB: I don't love it, but it's... not half bad.

C0FF:E: Oh.

MS LAMB: Quite honestly that's about the best you were going to get from me. If it helps, this is probably the best variation on my -- specific -- coffee that I've had in a good while. You've got the hint of engine oil ju st right. And the fumes -- (SHE SNIFFS) -- ahh, they are eye-wateringly perfect. Wonderful.

C0FF:E: You're a strange person, Ms Lamb.

MS LAMB: I would watch who you're talking to. But -- I will be back again. Oh, this is the only thing that's missing.

SFX. SHE PUTS A TIN CUP ONTO THE TABLE.

C0FF:E: Is that a -- tin cup? It's awful rusty...

MS LAMB: I find it really adds to the depth of flavour. Keep it in your storage cabinet. I'll be back again. Some time soon.

C0FF:E: Oh.

There, 5 stars.

Oh, thank you! That's -- so kind!

MS LAMB: Don't worry about it. It would be 6 but I don't want you going anywhere.

C0ff:E Haha... wait, can you do that?

SFX. SHE WALKS AWAY. SHE STARTS GETTING A PHONE CALL.

MS LAMB: Hello, Ms Lamb here -- oh for Brucesake, do I have to do everything myself? How hard is it to kill one little diplomat?

SFX: **THE THEME FADES UP.**

ANNOUNCER:

In the second episode of Microbytes, a We Fix Space Junk Miniseries, Ms Lamb was played by Vicki Baron and Cof:EE was played by Sarah Rhea Werner. The programme was written by Beth Crane and produced by Hedley Knights for Battle Bird Productions.

This mini-series was created with the kind support of our patrons. This episode is dedicated to Samantha. Visit Battlebird.Productions to support the show or buy merch from our store.

In next week's microbyte, Fringo takes on his next Automnicon mission. And it may be his hardest yet...

SFX:

THEME FADES OUT