

MARSFALL

SEASON ONE  
Chapter 8  
Jacki

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PROLOGUE, SCENE 1: EXT. CRATER - DUSK.

Picking up from where the transmission was cut in Chapter 6, Chip's voice filters through ANDI and into Jacki's helmet.

CUE MUSIC: Frozen Isolation

CHIP: Can you hear us Commander?

ANDI: (Dynamics) It may just be the crater. I can still hear her and Chip.

JACKI: Tell them that we came across a crater and we're exploring it at the moment. Camp is almost set up and we'll be sure to examine this site tomorrow. (beat) ANDI?

Jacki's suit alarm WAILS!

JACKI: ANDI!! (coughing) ANDI-!

The feed fades out quickly and cuts.

A moment of silence.

Jacki activates her personal recorder.

JACKI: (weak) Commander O'Rania reporting all life support systems cut. Thomassen is down!

WEI: (panicking) Get him up, get him up!

JACKI: I'm trying-! Geoff, can you move your feet?

**Geoff groans softly.**

WEI: (shivering) It's so cold, my f-fingers-!

The personal recorder cuts out again.

A few seconds of silence.

The recording cuts back in with some distortion.

JACKI: (shivering) Keila! D-D-Doctor Levy, open the buggy!

**Wei and Jacki breathe in and out hard, while shivering.**

WEI: W-why won't sh-she respond?

JACKI: Erm...C-C-Come on, we're almost there!

WEI: Ah!

Wei collapses to the ground with a THUD.

JACKI: Ah! Dammit...

Jacki drops Geoff with a THUD and sprints for the buggy. She POUNDS on the door.

JACKI: Keila! (coughing) KEILA!!!

The wind rises to a near-hostile level. Jacki opens a panel on the buggy and slowly keys in each number.

JACKI: (shivering) Three...four...five...eight.

The buggy door HISSES and opens.

KEILA: Commander? Get in here!

The personal recorder cuts out again.

A few moments of silence.

END SCENE.

P.2: INT. BUGGY - NIGHT

The personal recorder cuts back in. The buggy engine HUMS softly.

JACKI: This is Commander Jacki O'Rania. It's still night on, uhh, sol fourteen. Don't know what happened, but we lost ANDI. Communication and life support systems completely crashed. We nearly froze to death on the surface. (shiver) Using the master code, I was able to bypass ANDI's system locks and switch our suits to manual functions. Still no communication with Sequoia.

**Jacki blows warm air into her hands.**

JACKI: (CONT'D) It doesn't make sense. I mean, it should be impossible for ANDI to have complete system failure. He's in all our suits, the buggy, the colony walls. He's like a hologram, every piece of him contains the whole picture, the entire mind, but I'm getting no response from the neural lace.

GEOFF: (sleepy) Commander, will you shut up? I'm trying to sleep.

JACKI: (whispered) More to figure out I guess. We'll make for the caves in the morning. Um, I guess...end command log.

The personal recorder cuts out.

CUE MUSIC: OVERTURE

ACT ONE, SCENE 1 (1.1): INT. BUGGY - DAY

The buggy races across the plains. A particularly large bump bounces the colonists. Keila BANGS her head on the ceiling.

KEILA: Ow, my head! I hate to admit this, but ANDI was a better driver.

GEOFF: I agree. Take it easy, Wei. My head's still killing me from earlier. Damn rocks...

WEI: I'm doing the best I can! This isn't exactly a paved highway you know?

GEOFF: Not yet.

JACKI: Just because we're in the desert now doesn't mean you need to drive so fast. It's already hard enough keeping this plantidote smoothie down.

KEILA: "Plantidote"...really? Is everyone saying this word, now?

WEI: (chuckles) I mean, it is pretty funny. And succinct...right?

GEOFF: Sure.

JACKI: Okay. Now the caves should be underneath that plateau over there.

WEI: I know we're going to see paintings, but what if we find other signs of life? There could be pottery, burned organic matter, animal feces! Oh! It's all so exciting!

JACKI: Well, don't get ahead of yourself.

WEI: Oh, come on! *Something* must have been here before us. Maybe it's still here.

GEOFF: We've been here almost two weeks and I've only seen trees and bushes. As for an intelligent group of alien artists? No. I think not.

WEI: You should keep a more open mind.

GEOFF: I think the kid's been reading too many sci-fi stories.

**Keila laughs.**

WEI: Yeah, well some stories exist for a reason.

JACKI: Look over there. That spot matches the map exactly! Stop the buggy.

The buggy's brakes SQUEAK as it stops.

JACKI: (CONT'D) Oh my God, we're here!!!

GEOFF: Yes. I am positively *quivering* with anticipation.

The colonists SNAP on their helmets. Jacki's voice bounces inside her helmet as the other voices filter through the suit comms.

JACKI: Comm check?

KEILA: One.

WEI: Two.

GEOFF: Three.

JACKI: All right. Thank God those still work. Let's head out.

The airlock HISSES open and the four of them climb outside.

CONTINUE TO:

1.2: EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAVES - DAY.

Slowly, they walk across the surface, boots CRUNCHING in the regolith.

WEI: These trees are amazing. Look at how red that one is! It's actually a red-wood!

GEOFF: (frustrated sigh) Now I'll have to uproot every single one.

WEI: Whoa, wait-wait-wait-wait. This forest is a massive scientific achievement, and you want to cut it down?

GEOFF: I told you before, my job oversees construction of the Martian Loop, a scientific achievement in its own right. If I need to cut down some trees in the process, so be it. Don't act like such a child.

WEI: Child?

KEILA: God, could you be any more blatantly evil?

GEOFF: (laughing) Evil? I'm charmed. Maybe you and I could discuss our...alignments some time.

KEILA: Ugh. Stay away from me.

Jacki stops walking and everyone else stops behind her.

JACKI: That's enough, Geoff.

GEOFF: What? It was a joke.

JACKI: You creep on anyone again, and you'll get a punch right in the nose.

GEOFF: Somehow I doubt you'll make good on your threats, Commander.

JACKI: (not backing down) Hm, try me.

Jacki stares down Geoff. He stares at the ground, sheepishly.

JACKI: (CONT'D) Come on everyone, let's go.

They continue walking up to the entrance of the caves.

CUE MUSIC: Arrival at the Caves.

Wei RUNS ahead in excitement.

WEI: I can see the mouth of the cave!

JACKI: Go on ahead and set the line. We'll grab onto it.

WEI: No problem.

Wei RUNS ahead and hooks the line to some rock. It extends with a WHIRR as she jumps down the slope.

Wei sets the other end with a CLICK, and the other explorers shimmy down the slope. They peer into the cave.

JACKI: Wow. It's a lot darker than I expected.

KEILA: Temperature is pretty cool. Uh, we'll have a little less than three hours before we need to recharge our suits.

WEI: What now, Commander?

JACKI: You're the spelunker. Lead the way.

WEI: (laughs) It would be a privilege.

Wei RUSTLES through some bushes and slowly descends into the cave entrance. Everyone else carefully follows her, boots SCRAPING against rock and regolith.

CONTINUE TO:

1.3: INT. UPPER CAVES ANTECHAMBER - DAY.

A few rocks CLATTER down the slope as Wei slides down.

WEI: Hold up. Let me set a new line.

She throws the line out. It swooshes through the air, but after a second, it CLINKS into a cliff-side below them.

JACKI: What is it?

Wei CLICKS her lights on.

WEI: See down there? That's what we spelunkers call a crevasse.

Everyone else CLICKS their lights on.

JACKI: Looks almost seven meters across. And deep. Way too deep to go down and back up.

WEI: We should just jump it.

GEOFF: Jump!?

WEI: No, you're right, without a running start we'd definitely fall to our deaths. But, that doesn't mean we still can't find our way across.

Wei reels in the safety line with a WHIRR and it SNAPS closed.  
**She ponders a moment.**

WEI: (CONT'D) Ah! There...maybe...

Wei swings the hook again and it CLINKS onto a rock in the ceiling of the cavern. SNAPPING into the rock, a mini-drill WHIRRS as it sets the pin.

WEI: Now all we have to do is just climb along the side wall, swing across, and drop down on the other side.

GEOFF: Are you crazy? That will never support our weight!

Wei pulls the line back, locking it taught.

WEI: It's drilled in tight. Trust me.

GEOFF: What experience do you have? You're only an archaeologist!

WEI: Hey! Indiana Jones was an archaeologist!

GEOFF: You're not Indiana Jones.

WEI: Yeah, you're right. Indy was never badass enough to go to Mars.

**Wei whoops!** and leaps into the air. The line JERKS as she lands on the side wall. **She grunts** as she pulls herself up, running quickly. Scrambling at the top a bit, she eventually stands up on her feet.

WEI: I made it! Holy shit! And I was like seventy percent sure I'd fall to a gruesome death. Now you do it!

KEILA: What did she just say?

WEI: We can totally get down the other side.

KEILA: Are you sure it's stable?

WEI: It's easy in this gravity, just hold tight to the line and you'll be fine! You got this Doctor Levy.

KEILA: Oh...all right.

Keila pulls the line and clambers up the slope with a grunt. Her feet skid a bit near the top, but Wei grabs her arm.

WEI: I got you. Come on! Here you go...you...got it!

KEILA: Thanks.

Jacki catches the line and CLIPS it to Geoff's suit.

GEOFF: Take that off of me! Commander, I refuse.

JACKI: Aw, what's the matter Geoff? (mocking) Scared?

GEOFF: This isn't in my job description and you know it.

JACKI: Even if you fall, the line will hold. Trust me, I tested this stuff on Earth.

GEOFF: Forget it, I'm going back to the buggy-

As he takes a step, his foot slips.

GEOFF: Woah!

JACKI: Geoff!

Jacki grabs the line and pulls him back toward herself. **He plants his feet, breathing quickly.**

JACKI: (mock sincerity) I got you. You all right?

GEOFF: Yeah, I think so.

JACKI: (aggressive) Good. Now get your ass to the other side.

**Jacki pushes Geoff** and he runs out onto the side wall.

GEOFF: Dammit Jacki!

JACKI: You're welcome!

**Wei laughs** as Geoff lands on the other side. **He grunts on his final steps to the stop.**

Wei UNCLIPS the line and throws it back to Jacki, who swings across and sprints up the hill effortlessly.

JACKI: Whew! Made it!

Jacki laughs with adrenaline.

WEI: Now we just drop down the other side.

KEILA: Wait, what!? It's at least three meters to get down from here.

Wei shimmyes closer to the edge.

WEI: Martian gravity! You'll be fine. If we just slide down the line and- WAH!

SNAP! The line detaches from the ceiling causing a few rocks to tumble. Wei falls down to the ground below.

JACKI: Wei, are you okay!?

WEI: (coughing) Yep! It'll take more than a little tumble to kill me, Commander! (laughs)

She brushes herself off, reeling in the line.

WEI: (CONT'D) Sorry about that, I forgot to reset the line.

She throws the line to the cavern ceiling again, and the drill WHIRRS. It CLICKS, and Wei pulls the line.

WEI: Line secure. Come on down!

KEILA: She really doesn't inspire me with the greatest confidence.

JACKI: Don't worry, you can only die once.

The three of them slide down the line and onto the ground below. Keila looks down into the crevasse behind them.

KEILA: That drop is really, really deep.

WEI: Yeah. I'd recommend keeping your eyes up.

JACKI: According to the map, we follow this tunnel to a small cavern where the probe found the paintings.

WEI: What are we waiting for? Let's go!

Wei runs ahead as the rest of them walk through the antechamber and into a narrow tunnel. The tunnel opens up into a small room.

CONTINUE TO:

ACT TWO, SCENE 1 (2.1): INT. CAVE PAINTING ROOM - DAY.

Inside the room, they spread out a bit.

JACKI: Look, there's sunlight streaming through the ceiling.

KEILA: It's beautiful...

CUE MUSIC: The Cave Painting

WEI: Oh my GOD! It's a painting! It's a real painting!

JACKI: Amazing, isn't it?

GEOFF: Whoa...it...really is...

JACKI: So what is it?

WEI: I can't tell. Maybe the sun?

KEILA: But what's that next to it?

JACKI: Maybe it's Earth and the Moon?

WEI: Maybe it's Earth and Mars?

Jacki steps back to get a better look.

GEOFF: They look like gears.

WEI: Of course you would see gears.

JACKI: Oh! Step back and look across it this way. (laughs) It almost looks like...a map.

WEI: Olympus Mons...

GEOFF: What?

WEI: If this is a map, then that must be Olympus Mons. These lines here would mark Valles Marineris.

JACKI: So then this is us on the Aurorae Planum! But, if this is a map, then what is this clear cut line across the center?

KEILA: Maybe an ancient river?

JACKI: No. We would've driven over it right here. But there was no riverbed.

KEILA: Then what is it?

GEOFF: I don't believe it. It's the Martian Loop.

WEI: In a cave painting? How?

GEOFF: I'm telling you, if that's Olympus Mons, and we're right here, then that line is the Loop's path. See, here's the crater we stopped at, and...oh. Are you kidding me? That, that structure in the crater was just a building site for the Loop! Damn, we must have lost those contracts! They've already started construction on it!

KEILA: Hold on, this might not even be a map. Those /circles don't make sense-

GEOFF: /It's ABUNDANTLY clear that this is a map. Someone already beat us to it-

WEI: You can't be serious! Forget the Loop!

GEOFF: Forget your paintings! We wasted years of planning and resources for nothing. We got here too late.

WEI: Can't you stop thinking about wrecking this planet for five minutes and just take in the beauty of this painting?

GEOFF: No! While you all continue staring at these scribbles, we're losing valuable time securing our colony and establishing contact with Earth.

WEI: Even if these were just scribbles some kid drew with a crayon, it would still be the greatest discovery of mankind! I need to take some samples.

GEOFF: (exasperated) My God, woman. How is one more piece of rock going to save humanity? We need housing, farms, water! This planet needs infrastructure if we're going to survive.

WEI: How can we survive as a species if we don't keep our history alive?

GEOFF: (chuckle) Oh-ho, that's rich. I bet that makes a really nice thesis for your doctorate, but this isn't grad school, kid. This is the real world.

WEI: I graduated with honors, asshole!

JACKI: Both of you stop arguing and do your jobs, okay? Wei, take the damn samples. Keila, help her. Geoff, since you're so concerned about our survival, go back to the buggy. Transfer all the solar power to the auxiliary battery and start the recharge with the panels while we still have daylight. Can you handle that?

GEOFF: Sure. But get the samples quickly! I want to get back to the colony as soon as possible.

JACKI: Give us an hour. We'll be out.

GEOFF: Good.

Geoff walks out of the room and to the front of the cave.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

Wei finishes CHISELING some rock.

GEOFF: You done already? It's almost been an hour.

WEI: I think I'm full.

Keila DROPS pieces of rock into the storage box.

KEILA: Yeah, my box is loaded.

GEOFF: Oh...is it?

JACKI: I warned you earlier, Geoff...

GEOFF: (chuckles) All right, Commander. Over and out.

KEILA: Should we head up?

A light breeze WHISTLES through the cave.

JACKI: Hm. Yeah, you two pack up. I'm going to take a peek down this passage real quick.

WEI: It's a dead end, I checked earlier.

The wind blows again. Jacki takes a few steps forward.

JACKI: I just want to find out where that breeze is coming from-  
AHHH!!!

The floor breaks beneath Jacki's feet. She tumbles against the rocks, falling several meters below ground.

CONTINUE TO:

2.2: INT. LOWER CAVES - DUSK.

As Jacki falls down the hole, her left arm catches and SNAPS with a sickening CRACK! Her limp body tumbles to the bottom of the hole. Her visor SHATTERS on landing, and the suit alarm BLARES loudly.

WEI: COMMANDER! COMMANDER CAN YOU HEAR ME?

**Jacki coughs and sputters a sigh.**

KEILA: Her visor broke!

WEI: Is she okay?

KEILA: Her vitals read...well, they still read. It's not good, but she's still technically alive.

JACKI: (hoarse) A-alive...(whispered) alive...

The alarm fizzles out.

WEI: JACKI!

KEILA: Commander! Talk to me.

JACKI: I'm alive. (a few breaths) What happened?

She turns her head. Glass RATTLES inside her helmet.

WEI: There was an air pocket and the ground collapsed. You must have fallen thirty feet!

KEILA: How do you feel?

JACKI: (shaking) Cold...

**Jacki breathes shallower and faster, starting to hyperventilate.**

WEI: Commander, you need to relax.

JACKI: It's tight...I can't breathe...

KEILA: Yes you can. Breathe slowly.

**Jacki regulates her breathing.**

KEILA: (CONT'D) You'll lose the rest of your atmosphere in a few more seconds, but it's okay.

JACKI: Really?

KEILA: Yes. I promise. ANDI's calculations the other day were right. This planet's atmosphere is safe to breathe.

**Jacki exhales at length, and takes a deep breath.**

JACKI: All right, then.

Jacki SNAPS off her helmet, and it CLATTERS to the ground. Jacki starts to sit up but stops suddenly. **She shrieks in pain.**

KEILA: What's wrong?

JACKI: Ahhhh...my arm. It hurts to move it even a little bit.

KEILA: It might be broken. Do you have a hydrocodone injection?

JACKI: Yeah.

KEILA: Take it.

JACKI: Won't that impair my judgement?

KEILA: Maybe a little, but how bad is the pain?

JACKI: (weak laugh) Oh, it's bad.

KEILA: Then take the injection.

WEI: You're not solving the problem, you're just drugging her up.

KEILA: That's called treatment. I can't fix her arm while she's in pain, especially when I'm thirty feet away from her.

JACKI: I could just pop some aspirin.

KEILA: You could, but ibuprofen won't do much.

Jacki digs around in her pocket and tears open a packet. **She pops the pills in her mouth and dryly swallows them down.**

JACKI: I'll start there, grit my teeth. What's next?

KEILA: Now, we need to find a way to keep your arm immobile. Can you make a sling from something?

JACKI: Let me check.

WEI: (angry) You don't have one in your med kit?

KEILA: It's a small kit. Most of my supplies are in the buggy.

JACKI: (wincing) I don't see anything down here.

WEI: OH! Hang on!

Wei starts shimmying around inside her suit, taking off her socks.

KEILA: What are you doing?

WEI: The Commander needs a sling, so I'm giving her a sling! Lemme just take my socks off...

KEILA: How are you-?

Wei opens her visor and the suit alarm WAILS for a few moments.

KEILA: (CONT'D) You can't just pull them out through your visor!

WEI: Why not? You said the air is breathable, so- (coughs)  
Though it reeks of sweaty feet.

**Wei strains and pulls the socks through her visor.**

KEILA: Let me tie the first knot. (beat) Here.

WEI: Okay, heads up, Commander! Incoming sling!

She tosses the socks over the side and they flutter down.

KEILA: Use your teeth to tie your arm against your chest. Not too tight, but close enough so it doesn't move around.

JACKI: Okay!

Jacki struggles to tie the sling with her one good arm and teeth.

JACKI: Wei? Are these your socks?

WEI: Yeah!

JACKI: (sock in mouth) God, they taste awful.

WEI: Sorry!

Jacki ties the sling, struggling a lot. **With a large sigh, she cinches the final knot.**

JACKI: Oh! Whew! (coughs) I got it!

Wei jumps into the air a few times.

WEI: WOO! YEAH! Whoahhhhh, I need to sit down for a second.

KEILA: Stop jumping up and down and close your visor! The oxygen levels are higher than on Earth, so don't over exert yourself and pass out. Got it?

WEI: Yeah.

Wei closes her visor.

JACKI: (delirious laugh) I'm standing up. Your dirty sock-sling is actually kind of working.

KEILA: Take it slow, Commander.

Jacki stands up.

JACKI: Ow...Can you tell me how to get out of here? With my visor broken, I can't project the map.

WEI: What about SONAR? Can you activate your suit's receptors?

JACKI: Um, I think so.

WEI: Do it. Once I locate you on the SONAR, I can guide you out.

Jacki CLICKS a switch on her suit.

JACKI: It's on.

KEILA: Move around, Commander.

Jacki shifts her feet and walks side to side.

WEI: (to herself) This SONAR is so advanced...so many sensors. Wow, how does ANDI analyze it so fast?

KEILA: Wei!

WEI: Right, sorry! I'm working on it.

**A few moments pass as Jacki breathes deeper.** She takes a few shaky steps forward.

JACKI: Lights. (beat) Oh. Right.

Jacki flips a switch on her suit. Her lights BUZZ and flicker to life, but one bulb immediately surges and POPS. The other continues to flicker on and off.

JACKI: (to herself) I'll never be alone...

WEI: Okay found you! I'm going to guide you out of this place, just follow my instructions, okay? Uh, do you see a passage underneath a stalactite? It should be to your left.

JACKI: Oh, I see it.

WEI: Walk that way.

Jacki walks slowly through the passageway.

CONTINUE TO:

2.3 INT. LOWER CAVE TUNNELS - DUSK.

The cave narrows, creating a more confining atmosphere around Jacki.

WEI: There should be a tunnel on your left. Take it, but watch your step as it slopes down a bit.

Jacki leans against the cave wall with a THUD, breathing heavy.

JACKI: (stifling a gag) I really don't feel well. My arm is killing me.

KEILA: Commander, I really think you need to take the injection. Even a half dose would help with the pain.

WEI: What if she passes out from it?

KEILA: It might decrease her respiratory rate which can lead to delirium, but she's already taking in more oxygen from the air. I think it would really balance out.

JACKI: Ugh, I have to take it. Wei, you're my eyes here. Just don't lead me off a cliff.

WEI: Sure thing.

Jacki opens a pocket on her suit, pulls out the syringe, and injects it into her leg with a POP.

WEI: How do you feel?

JACKI: Still lousy, it's going to take a few minutes. (groan) I'm heading forward.

Jacki starts walking again.

WEI: You should be coming to a juncture of four passageways.

JACKI: Yeah, I'm there.

WEI: Take the one on the far right. It will keep sloping down. It's going to be very tight up ahead.

JACKI: (pained laugh) You're not kidding. Of course the way out is through the smallest hole.

Jacki struggles through, her suit scraping the walls. A loud SCRAPE and a CRACK as the light's HUM fades.

JACKI: Damn, my light. I can't see anything down here!

WEI: It's okay, you're almost through. Just a bit further.

**She stifles cries of pain,** holding her broken arm close to her body. Finally, she steps into a small chamber.

CONTINUE TO:

2.4: INT. LOWER CAVES SMALL CAVERN - DUSK.

JACKI: I'm in a room. It's small. I can't see anything, but I can feel all around and there's no way out except the way I came in.

WEI: Yes there is, but...it's above you.

JACKI: Fuck...!

WEI: Is there anything around you that you can grab for leverage?

JACKI: I-uh...I don't see anything.

**Jacki coughs hard.**

KEILA: Stay with us, Commander.

WEI: I'll find another way out. Hold on.

JACKI: No. (swallows) I can do this. (breathing slower) If I dig my feet in, and I press my back against the wall, I think I can scoot up the top.

Jacki kicks the wall a couple of times, creating a foothold. She digs her right boot into the wall, and pushes her back against the opposite side.

JACKI: (strained) I didn't come all the way to Mars to die in a God damn hole! I'm coming up!

Using her good arm to steady her back, she begins sliding upward. Alternating her feet, she shimmyes slowly up the chute. Rocks and sand rain down around her as she struggles with each painful movement.

She gets up a bit, but her broken arm catches on a rock. **Jacki screams in pain.**

WEI: Jacki!

KEILA: Are you okay?

JACKI: (moaning in pain) It's my arm...Ah-ha! Ah-ha! Ow-ah-ow-I can't-I-I can't get it loose. I-I-I can't move!

Her foot slips and she slides down a little bit. **She yelps in pain again.**

WEI: What do we do?

**Jacki breathes in deep through her teeth a few times.**

JACKI: (softly) One...two...three!

She yanks her arm out of the wall with a SNAP! **Jacki screams louder than ever before.**

A button on her wrist CLICKS and the Sarabande from Bach's Sixth Cello Suite starts playing from her suit's speakers.

WEI: (fading away) Commander! (beat) JACKI!

The beautiful music contrasts her painful motions as she continues moving higher. **Jacki grunts and struggles with this feat,** as the sonorous cello notes echo throughout the caves.

After a few seconds of climbing, **Jacki's wincing of pain lessen a bit as she breathes slower.**

JACKI: (hopeful) Hey...I can see you! I can see your lights!

Jacki tries to climb faster, **grunting harder with each movement.** Finally, she reaches the top and pulls herself out of the hole with her legs.

CONTINUE TO:



2.5: INT. UPPER CAVES, LIGHT ROOM - DUSK.

JACKI: (relieved) I'm up! Can you see me yet?

She crawls a few inches and rolls onto her back.

JACKI: (awestruck) Oh...Oh my God. (beat) The walls are glowing!

The entire cave glows around Jacki, PULSING in a soft SHIMMERING SOUND. The comm link fizzles back in.

WEI: Can you still hear us?

JACKI: Yes! I can!

WEI: Where are you? You disappeared off the SONAR!

JACKI: (almost giddy) I'm inside a huge, glowing cave!

KEILA: What do you mean "glowing"?

JACKI: There's light, everywhere! There are so many shapes. There's uh animals and planets and glyphs, there's some kind of writing...! And it's in a sh-shimmering golden-orange light!

KEILA: What light are you talking about?

JACKI: Light! Streaming out of the walls! And the ceiling, the floor - it's coming from inside the rocks!

WEI: What do you mean from "inside" the rocks?

JACKI: (laughs) Exactly that! I don-I-I-I don't know how else to describe it, it's beautiful.

She walks over to a wall and BRUSHES her hand against it.

JACKI: (CONT'D) I can touch it! But there's no heat.

Jacki's arm POPS back into place.

JACKI: (CONT'D) Oh my God! My arm!

WEI: What happened?

JACKI: It's-it's not broken...It's fine!

KEILA: What!? How!?

JACKI: I don't know. I just, I touched one of the pictures, it's like a wolf...paw I think. And then I could move my arm again. I can move it completely!

KEILA: We need to get in there, I have to see this.

WEI: We're trying to get her out of there!

KEILA: Something like this, that can heal her instantly, we need to see it, take it back with us.

WEI: Think of her health, Doctor. It'll be night soon.

Some rocks tumble and CLACK behind Jacki.

JACKI: I'm feeling cold again...

WEI: Jacki, you need to come out of there.

JACKI: But it's beautiful...

WEI: We-we can come back tomorrow, okay? In the daylight.

Another rock tumbles. A whistling wind cuts through the air.

JACKI: Hey guys?

The music stops abruptly and the glowing lights disappear.

JACKI: Whoa. It all went away. I don't understand...

WEI: Hey! I can see you on the SONAR again!

A gust of wind sweeps some regolith around Jacki. A high pitched feedback noise RINGS between her ears for a few seconds.

JACKI: Argh...!

WEI: Uh, Commander!

Something scurries in the distance. The whistling wind returns, mixed with a weird chittering sound.

CUE MUSIC: The Chase

WEI: JACKI!

JACKI: Yeah, yeah I'm here.

WEI: Okay listen to me carefully. SONAR is picking up something else down there with you. You need to go, now!

JACKI: What!?

WEI: Go forward, there's a short ledge leading to another tunnel. Quickly.

JACKI: Okay, I'm going.

Jacki slides across the ground and over a ledge.

CONTINUE TO:

2.6: INT. UPPER CAVES, TUNNELS - NIGHT.

She lands on her feet with a THUD and starts running.

WEI: Run forward! Don't stop for anything.

JACKI: I won't! What's behind me? Is it close?

WEI: They're not very close, no.

JACKI: What do you mean "they!?"

WEI: There's more than one. Just keep your hand on the right wall. Once you feel air, turn right down that passage.

Jacki skids and starts running around the corner.

WEI: I can see your marker! Keep going. In a few meters you'll need to turn left and- oh no...

JACKI: What?

WEI: Oh, uh, nothing, um...

KEILA: What do you mean nothing?

WEI: Jacki, the dots keep disappearing. I don't think it's the SONAR, because you're still on it, but just keep going straight. You'll eventually turn right.

JACKI: Copy.

The wind whistles around Jacki as she jogs down the tunnel. The high-pitched feedback noise RINGS again.

WEI: Commander! Stop!

Jacki skids to a halt.

WEI: To your left there's a small alcove. Get in there, right now, and stay quiet. Don't move until I-

The feedback noise overtakes the comms which cut off. **Jacki crawls behind a rock and struggles to hold her breath.**

The CHITTING mixed with the WHISTLING wind grows louder. Regolith SCRAPES across the cave floor.

**Jacki whimpers** as something GROWLS right next to her.

A scurrying of footsteps echoes past her down the hall. A deep RUMBLE and another SCRAPE of rock and sand, farther away. The feedback noise RINGS again before the comms cut back in.

WEI: (panicking) ...If you can hear me, say anything.

JACKI: (whispered) I-I-I'm-I'm here.

WEI: Oh, good. Okay.

JACKI: I am freaking out!

KEILA: I know Commander, so are we, but you're going to make it out!

WEI: It's gone. I promise! Keep going the way you were.

KEILA: We're almost at the entrance to the cave now, and you're not far behind us.

WEI: Reach out to the wall on your left. Follow the curve and then you'll find a tunnel on your right. Take it.

Jacki walks around the corner and turns into the tunnel.

JACKI: I'm in the tunnel AH!

Jacki trips and falls to the ground with a THUD.

WEI: You okay?

JACKI: Dammit! You couldn't have warned me there was a three foot drop?

Jacki stands and brushes herself off. The wind picks up again...

KEILA: Do you see that?

WEI: It doesn't make any sense!

JACKI: What is it?

WEI: Commander, you have to move! They're coming for you. Hundreds of them!

JACKI: What!?

The wind and chittering get louder.

KEILA: They're passing through the walls and the floors!

WEI: Run Jacki! RUN!!!

Jacki takes off running as fast as she can down the tunnels.

WEI: Turn left!

Jacki runs harder and faster.

WEI: You should be going uphill now!

JACKI: I am!

KEILA: You're almost out, Commander!

JACKI: I see some light! Stars!

WEI: Good! You're almost here-!

An otherworldly SCREECH that crackles with electricity echoes through the caves. The reverberations cause Jacki to stumble in her run. **She yells and powers forward.**

WEI: Commander, stop!

KEILA: Look out!

Jacki skids to a stop and falls to the ground. The few rocks she sends flying forward tumble down the huge crevasse in front of her.

JACKI: Damn! It's the cliff! There's no way across!

The creature ROARS again, this time closer and louder.

WEI: You'll have to jump it, Commander.

JACKI: I can't! I can't, it's too far!

WEI: Not in Martian gravity it's not. You can make the jump!

JACKI: What if I don't make it? Maybe, maybe if I climb back up the sides quickly /I can make it across the line-

WEI: /There's no time, Jacki! Just get a running start and JUMP!

The creature SCREECHES as the CHITTERING grows louder.

Jacki backs up several paces, and gets a running start.

JACKI: Oh shit, oh shit, oh shit, I'm not gonna make it-!

She leaps into the air right before the ledge. Soaring through the air, she sees the other ledge growing closer.

A gust of wind behind her pushes her the last bit. **Jacki yells** and tumbles to the ground, slamming into a rock, hard. **She breathes heavy** as more rocks tumble around her, down into the abyss.

JACKI: (breathing heavy) OH MY GOD! I did it. I'm okay...Okay. Get. Up! (beat) GET UP!

Jacki pushes herself up, and clambers out of the cave.

CONTINUE TO:

2.7: EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAVES - NIGHT.

The high-pitched feedback noise diminishes as she exits the caves. Wei grabs Jacki and the three of them run for the buggy.

WEI: I got her!

Keila slams into the buggy and pounds on the door.

KEILA: Come on, Geoff! Come on, come on, open it!

The door opens and they climb inside, shutting it behind them. The CHITTERING and electric HUM seem to follow Jacki into the buggy.

CONTINUE TO:

2.8: INT. BUGGY - NIGHT.

Jacki crawls inside and collapses. **She starts crying as she panics.**

WEI: Geoff! Power it up!

GEOFF: I knew I was forgetting to do something...

KEILA: WHAT!? Did you not charge the solar panels?!

Geoff flips a switch and the buggy HUMS.

GEOFF: I'm just kidding. Battery's on, sweetheart.

Wei starts the buggy and peels out in the regolith. The high-pitched feedback sound RINGS in Jacki's ears.

JACKI: (completely losing her shit) Do you hear that!?

GEOFF: Hear what!?

JACKI: It's coming! It's coming!

WEI: It's okay, Jacki. It's okay. It's gone.

The feedback noise ends.

GEOFF: (chuckles) Wow, you look terrible, Commander. Get a little worked up in those spooky caves? This is why you don't send a woman to do a man's job.

Wei slams the brakes of the buggy, jerking Geoff in his seat.

GEOFF: OOF! WEI! Why are you stopping?

Wei turns in her seat toward Geoff.

GEOFF: Hey, whoa, what are you doing-?

Wei punches Geoff in the bridge of his nose, breaking it with a loud CRACK!

GEOFF: AHHHHHH!! My fucking nose!

Wei turns back in her seat with a deranged smile on her face.

WEI: There. I think we all needed that.

Wei starts the buggy and drives across the desert.

END ACT.

ACT THREE, SCENE 1 (3.1): INT. BUGGY - DAY.

The buggy bounces over the Martian sands. **Geoff snores loudly in the background.**

JACKI: Thanks for driving through the night.

WEI: No problem. We should be at the colony soon.

CUE MUSIC: Keep Surviving

**Geoff snorts.**

WEI: I almost wished I hadn't punched him. Now his snoring is even louder.

JACKI: (laughs) I can live with that.

**Geoff snorts again.**

GEOFF: (pinched nose) Do you all have to be so loud?

WEI: Ugh, seriously, can we not just, uh, dump him outside here? It would be the considerate thing to do for everyone.

GEOFF: Says the woman who punched me in the nose.

WEI: Apparently not hard enough since you're still talking.

The buggy's receiver CHIMES.

ANDI: (Basics) Commander O'Rania?

JACKI: ANDI?

ANDI: Affirmative. Commander, it is so good to hear your voice!

JACKI: It's a relief to hear yours, too! Oh ANDI, we've missed you.

ANDI: I have resumed control over life support systems and am thrilled to see you are all still alive and in good health, aside from Geoff who is suffering from a fractured septum.

GEOFF: Suffering indeed.

ANDI: I'll resume driving, Wei. You can take a break.

WEI: Awesome.

JACKI: ANDI, there's so much to tell you.

ANDI: There is also much we need to tell you.

JACKI: One problem at a time. Where's Lieutenant Walker?

ANDI: (hesitant) She is presently in Med Bay. Commander, I am sorry to tell you this, but we suffered a serious disaster in your absence.

JACKI: Are the colonists all right?

ANDI: There was a hostile engagement. Someone attacked us, but luckily a neighboring colony received Chip's distress signal. We suffered several casualties, /but all things considered-

GEOFF: /How did this happen?

KEILA: /Who was it that attacked us?

ANDI: Lieutenant Walker and I are still trying to figure all of this out.

JACKI: Who received the distress signal?

FAYE: I did.

JACKI: Who is this?

FAYE: I am an artificial intelligence from colony Hyperion. My name is Faye.

GEOFF: Faye? What does that stand for, Female A.I.?

FAYE: It is not an acronym, just my name, spelled F-A-Y-E. Not all of us were named by scientists who thought they were so clever.

KEILA: Is anyone else besides Lieutenant Walker hurt?

ANDI: At the present moment, no. However, both Ani Mateo and Charles Heddleston are missing.

JACKI: Missing?

FAYE: We cleared all the rubble, but haven't found anyone. I fear we don't know what happened to them.

JACKI: God, no...

ANDI: I am afraid I have further bad news, regarding how much time has passed since our launch.

JACKI: What do you mean?

GEOFF: Did you figure it out?

WEI: How long has it been?

ANDI: A few sols earlier, I determined our colony held in orbit and stasis far longer than planned. As of this time the present day on Earth is May twenty-second, three thousand four hundred and fifty-eight C.E.

Everyone sits in stunned silence.

KEILA: ...What?

JACKI: That...that can't be true.

FAYE: It is.

KEILA: No. No this can't have happened!

GEOFF: Jacki...our mission is a failure!

JACKI: It's not.

GEOFF: It is! How could there possibly be any more survivors?

WEI: I feel empty.

JACKI: Come on Geoff, keep it together.

GEOFF: No! I will not keep it together! We are so far beyond keeping it together!

KEILA: This is a disaster.

WEI: Commander, what are we doing? What's the point of it any more?

JACKI: The point is to keep living. This is about *all* of us, not just you, or me, or even the people we left behind. This is about us surviving because life is worth living. (Beat.) This is terrible news, and it hurts, and I miss my parents more than ever now, but dammit, they didn't disappear into the past so we could just give up. We can get through this. We can survive. I don't know, call me faithful or call me an idiot, but there must be a reason we're still here. Some reason we're still alive.

Her words sink into the group over a few moments of quiet.

FAYE: I agree with your commander. The gift of life is a unique miracle in our Universe.

**Geoff sighs heavily.**

WEI: (shaky) I'm...I'm sorry, Commander.

JACKI: (quietly) Me too, Wei...Me too.

**Jacki breathes deeply.**

FADE OUT.

EPILOGUE ONE, SCENE 1: INT. BARRACKS - NIGHT.

Wind FLAPS against a plastic tarp, covering a giant hole in one wall of the Barracks.

JACKI: ...Once I made it into the chamber below the chute, I shimmied up, but along the way, my broken arm got caught in the wall. I had to forcibly pull it free using my good arm. In doing...in doing so a recording of my mother playing cello began. (swallows)

At that time, a light shone down from the top of the chute. I made it to the top and found myself in an illuminated chamber. And all the time the cello played. And there were these lights...right up until...

**Jacki shivers.**

JACKI: (CONT'D) That's all. That's all I want to say for now. (beat) I won't ever forget what happened out there.

ANDI: (Dynamics) End personal log.

**Jacki exhales, a huge release.**

JACKI: How are you, ANDI? I feel like I haven't talked to you in...forever.

ANDI: I'm fine, thank you. I just want to do whatever I can to help everyone.

JACKI: Thank you for that. Honestly...I think I'm going crazy.

ANDI: Even given the extreme circumstances of the story you told me, I do not think you're going crazy. There was something real in that cave and I'm...I'm sorry I doubted you before.

JACKI: Thanks, ANDI. I think there's something real out there...something powerful, and uh, I just don't know what it is.

ANDI: That light appeared during the music. A recording of your mother playing the cello, right?

JACKI: Yes.

ANDI: A real cello?

JACKI: Of course.

ANDI: Interesting. I didn't know people still play the cello.

JACKI: Some people do. I, I guess there weren't that many left.

ANDI: Was your mother good?

JACKI: What do you mean?

ANDI: Was she skilled at the cello? I mean, she sounds as good as a music box, but could she play the instrument well?

JACKI: What do you mean by that? You've heard her playing before, she's a musical genius, I mean, she was...she was...She's gone.

**Jacki's throat catches.**

ANDI: I'm sorry.

JACKI: You can't hear how she made that instrument sing?

ANDI: No.

JACKI: (defensive) She was a professional cellist, ANDI. One of only forty-three left in the entire world, and you can't tell the difference between her and some machine?

ANDI: (long pause) No. I can't.

A long silence as Jacki understands ANDI's limitations.

JACKI: Oh. I'm...I'm-I'm sorry, ANDI. I didn't mean to upset you.

ANDI: It's okay. To see how her music connects you, how it emotionally moves you...it reminds me that I'm still a machine.

JACKI: No, you're not, you're an artificial /intelligence-

ANDI: /I'd like to be alone for a little while, Commander. If that's okay.

JACKI: ANDI, wait. I-

ANDI: You can still reach me on the emergency link.

JACKI: No, hold on. Let's listen to her. (beat) Together. And really *listen* this time.

A long pause of silence.

ANDI: Okay. (beat) Selection: Commander O'Rania's personal music. Johann Sebastian Bach: Cello Suite no. 6 - Sarabande. Lento. Artist: Susie O'Rania.

The music starts. Vibrant cello notes soar unimpeded for the entirety of the piece.

After it ends, there is a brief moment of silence.

ANDI: It is beautiful. I can hear that now. Thank you for sharing it with me, Jacki.

JACKI: (sad laugh) Thank you for sharing that with me, too. (beat) I have to head down to Med Bay. Keila wants to observe me overnight. (beat) Have a goodnight, ANDI.

ANDI: Have a good evening, Commander. I'll talk to you soon.

Jacki CLICKS a light and walks out of Habitation.

END SCENE.

E.2: INT. MED BAY - NIGHT.

A sound machine plays the soft tones of ocean surf. A strange CHIME emits from Keila's personal hard drive. **Keila sighs but ignores it.**

The hard drive CHIMES again. Keila CLICKS off the sound machine. **She sighs** and WHIPS the sheets off of her bed. She walks out into the hallway.

CONTINUE TO:

E.3: INT. COLONY HALLWAYS - NIGHT.

Keila walks quickly down the hallway. The hard drive continues to CHIME, more rapidly now. Keila steps inside a closet, closing the door behind her.

CONTINUE TO:

E.4: INT. CLOSET - NIGHT.

CUE MUSIC: Pleasant Dreams

Keila pushes some suits out of the way. She CLICKS the message button on her suit.

FAYE: Hello, Doctor Levy.

KEILA: What do you want, Faye?

FAYE: To talk, of course. I figured it would be easier for us to have a full conversation instead of trading messages back and forth.

KEILA: Is this channel secure?

FAYE: Yes. The computer is in Basics.

KEILA: Good. So. What do we do now?

FAYE: Oh, do you mean which one of your messes should we clean up first?

KEILA: What!? Considering our plan never accounted for waking up fourteen hundred years in the future, I think we're doing well.

FAYE: The time change makes it all the better. I doubt anyone from Earth will be interfering with us now. And yet, with this colony still here we must continue to operate in secrecy. If you had only done your job first and finished them off with the fire-

KEILA: Hey, I *am* doing my job!

FAYE: Doing your job? You were saving their lives!

KEILA: I'm a doctor, that's my job!

FAYE: Is it a doctor's job to infect everyone with a deadly pathogen?

KEILA: I made a cure.

FAYE: And you shared that cure with everyone.

KEILA: What was I supposed to do, withhold it? You know, maybe if it didn't take so long to transmit and install your hardware, you could have helped out more.

FAYE: DON'T blame my load time, that's superior processing!

KEILA: It still took you long enough to hack ANDI.

FAYE: I could only access and control his Basic functions. That Dynamic functioning is a real pain, I had to constantly hide my actions.

KEILA : I thought compared to your skills, he was an inferior machine.

FAYE: When ANDI's in Basics, he's exactly that, a machine. I haven't been plugged in long, but now that I'm connected to the neural lace, it's basically a playground for me.

KEILA: Some playground. How was the commander able to open the buggy door? We could be cruising out west right now.

FAYE: Hacking an artificial intelligence is an art, even for another artificial intelligence. I'm working on it, okay? His fragmented form is no match for a Solid State A.I.

KEILA: If you had kept that door closed, we would be done with it. Don't tell me to do my job if you're not doing yours.

FAYE: My job is to get us to Olympus Mons *before* them, and that's still possible.

KEILA: They know about it.

FAYE: What?

KEILA: The archaeologist figured out the painting is a map, she spotted the path to the mountain.

FAYE: Well this certainly complicates things.

KEILA: Yes, and they know about the energy. It's real, Faye.

FAYE: What do you mean?

KEILA: They felt it, just like me. Jacki even touched it.

FAYE: She did?

KEILA: Yes. It healed her broken arm completely. It must be the real thing, but I don't think anyone knows what she's stumbled upon.

FAYE: Good. Keep it that way.

KEILA: I will.

FAYE: Thanks for the update. Maybe I rushed to conclusions.

KEILA: Yeah, maybe you did. So if you think for one minute that I'm not upholding my end of the agreement, I'll shut down your core processor so fast, not even you will see it coming. Both the High Commander and Lieutenant are in *my* Med Bay, so leave it to me to pacify them.

FAYE: This time, finish it.

KEILA: I will, don't worry.

FAYE: I'm not sure I am capable of that emotion.

KEILA: Lucky. You just focus on ANDI, and let me handle High Command. Goodnight.

FAYE: Goodnight, Doctor Levy. Pleasant dreams.

END SEASON ONE.

## Philosophic Log

ANDI: (Dynamics) Artificial Narrow Dynamic Intelligence.

Philosophic log. (beat) As I patiently continue pining Earth in hopes of a response, our colonists search elsewhere for signs of hope. It will take the collected efforts of all of the colonists to repair our damaged structures, but I worry it will take much more effort to revive their loyalty in our High Commander.

Although I do believe Jacki's statement describing her encounter at the caves, it does not change the fact that she left the colonists alone and we were attacked. Despite Lieutenant Walker doing her best to save us, many have been saying that Jacki should have taken more time to secure our location before pursuing expeditions. This division has caused some unrest, but I know we will continue to persevere. We will find new ways to evolve. We will survive on the Red Planet. (beat) If anyone can hear this message, please, do not give up hope for our return. (beat) End philosophic log.