

MARSFALL

MINISERIES ONE
ANDI's Development
Episode 7
Fractal

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ACT ONE, SCENE ONE (1.1): INT. ANDI'S MIND - DAY.

Hammond is a bit more nervous than usual, a bit more erratic since we last heard him speak. Nervous laughter punctuates his instructions.

HAMMOND: Good morning, ANDI. I, uh, hope you're prepared for our investor tour today.

CUE MUSIC.

HAMMOND: (CONT'D) (nervous laugh) Uh, you'll show her how everything you've learned over the past two years works smoothly with the Basic Need, and you'll convince her that Sequoia IS the best choice for sustaining life on a hostile world. Without her company's support we'll never be able to move up the launch before, uh- (clear throat) Well...(sigh) without further ado, let's start the tour! Heh. I'll lead her into Central Hub.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Sounds good, Mister DeMarche.

CROSS FADE TO:

1.2: INT. SEQUOIA COLONY, CENTRAL HUB - DAY

Inside a former airplane factory, Sequoia builds the pieces of their colony. With the launch scheduled soon, the colony pieces are fully tested and ready to be shipped to Earth orbit for transit.

The entire colony is laid out inside an enormous warehouse. Hammond and the Investor stand in Central Hub as ANDI's voice speaks over the PA system.

ANDI: Hello, and welcome to Sequoia One: humanity's greatest achievement in life-sustainable technology. I am your tour guide, ANDI: Artificial Narrow Dynamic Intelligence.

The Investor looks closely at a speaker. Her response is all business.

INVESTOR: Hello, ANDI.

ANDI: Hi! You are currently standing in Central Hub, the nexus of our entire colony. If you'll please look up, you'll notice our pristine Cafeteria with its panoramic windows on the Upper Level. This entire area serves as a large common space for group activities, meals, and community meetups. Colonists can enjoy a warm cup of tea while perusing the millions of books and streaming services we offer in our digital archives.

A display monitor CHIMES.

INVESTOR: Hm. That's a nice touch, DeMarche.

ANDI: From here, we can travel to any room in the colony. All of the hallways, heating ducts, and irrigation systems connect to Central Hub. You can't feel it now, but once we arrive on the Red Planet, the reactor will heat the floor of this room, powering the entire colony. Our bots have already been working on Mars for over a year, building infrastructure so we're ready

to attach and go immediately upon landing. My optics modules are already functioning, if you'd like to see it for yourself.

A monitor DINGS as it displays the colony site on Mars.

INVESTOR: Is that the Xanthe Terra site?

HAMMOND: Indeed. (proud) ANDI's fractal technology allows him to operate in the most advanced neural network ever created. He sees and hears everything our colonists do, functions as their primary communication system, and even serves them delicious meals.

ANDI: May I offer you a strawberry tart?

A terminal CHIMES as a panel SLIDES out, presenting the tart. The Investor takes the tart and **bites** it.

INVESTOR: (sniff) Huh. That is damn good...

HAMMOND: (clears throat) If our loyal employees and their families are going to be two hundred and forty million miles away from Earth, we want to be sure they're in good hands!

END MUSIC.

ANDI: Now, Mister Demarche, you know I don't have any hands.

The Investor **chuckles**.

HAMMOND: (smiles) ANDI is truly remarkable. He even comes with a sense of humor.

As ANDI speaks, his voice SLOWLY PANS OUT OF THE ROOM AND INTO THE HALLWAY.

ANDI: If you will now please follow the sound of my voice..

CONTINUE TO:

1.3: INT. COLONY HALLWAYS - DAY

The Investor and Hammond WALK down the hallway. The Investor nods in approval as she talks.

INVESTOR: It's actually leading us around. Fascinating...

ANDI: Thank you, I'm so glad you're enjoying the tour. If we head through this door here, I will show you our versatile Science Wing.

CONTINUE TO:

1.4: INT. SCIENCE WING - DAY

The Investor and Hammond WALK into the center of the room.
ANDI's voice is centered over the PA again.

ANDI: This room is equipped with the latest advancements in terraformation technology. Similar to the Cafeteria's food synthesizer, our scientists can use the industrial synth to generate all of our necessary supplies from raw materials. There's a chem lab, embryo incubator, and our astronomers will have access to the most advanced telescope ever to be on Mars.

HAMMOND: ANDI, open up the dome and show her the view! And would you get me a cup of coffee? I could use a pick me up.

ANDI: Of course, sir.

The observatory GLIDES open. A wall panel WHIRRS and coffee POURS into a cup.

INVESTOR: Oh! It's doing two things at once?

HAMMOND: Not just TWO things! He's doing HUNDREDS of things at once! ANDI, play her your internal feeds.

CUE MUSIC.

ANDI: Of course, Mister Demarche.

A cacophony of sound as several ANDI statements are played simultaneously.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Yes, I do think the newest tires should hold well on the regolith. Although anything smoother than sand and rock may compromise the traction...

ANDI: (Dynamics) The area around the cave entrance is completely barren. A drive from the colony to this outcropping will take no longer than six hours at average speeds.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Well, if we are to mix these three compounds a solution may present itself. I'll continue researching. Hopefully none of our colonists will contract this specific strain of flu...

ANDI: (Dynamics) Yes, I do understand it, logically. But please explain why it is funny to have the chicken stranded in a foreign environment such as a suburban street crossing.

ANDI: (Basics) Running automated processes. (beat) Automated processes sustained. Quality check: zero-four-eight-nine activated. Quality assured.

HAMMOND: Okay, that's enough.

ANDI's feed CUTS abruptly.

ANDI: (Dynamics) No problem.

END MUSIC.

For the first time, the Investor is actually impressed.

INVESTOR: Wow. That's a lot to take in at once. Your AI can handle all of that?

HAMMOND: Oh, he can handle it. Go ahead, ask him to do anything.

INVESTOR: Hm. Can I have a hot apple cider?

ANDI: Of course.

A machine WHIRRS and cider POURS.

HAMMOND: Yes, just like that. Good!

INVESTOR: Thank you. Now can you dim the windows?

ANDI: Sure.

The windows CHIME and dim.

The Investor's questions, Hammond's commentary, and ANDI's responses all layer on top of each other as more and more SFX are added.

HAMMOND: (laughs) ANDI, please open the door to the medical bay.

The Med Bay doors OPEN in the distance.

HAMMOND: (CONT'D) Hear that, down the hall!

INVESTOR: How about drawing a warm bath?

ANDI: Yes.

HAMMOND: ANDI, start the dishes while prepping night shift meal for our newly waking colonists.

ANDI: Of course.

A HUM in the distance.

INVESTOR: Now can you show me Habitation on the camera?

ANDI: I don't see why not.

A monitor CHIMES.

INVESTOR: Now close the observatory dome halfway!

ANDI: You got it.

The dome GLIDES part way shut and CLACKS. Some of The Investor's cider SPLASHES on the floor.

INVESTOR: Oops, I spilled some cider-

HAMMOND: Oh, it seems some cider has spilled, but not a problem.
ANDI, clean the floors.

ANDI: Yes.

A WHIRR of cleaning equipment for a few seconds.

HAMMOND: (CONT'D) Please do it quickly.

INVESTOR: Oh! Well thank you!

ANDI: No problem.

Out of the cacophony, Hammond commands ANDI to enter Basics and all other chatter ceases.

HAMMOND: ANDI, enter Basics mode.

CUE MUSIC.

The Dynamics SFX PLAYS IN REVERSE.

ANDI: (Basics) Basics on. Continuing automated and requested processes.

HAMMOND: Good. See, just like that! ANDI can handle anything in any state.

INVESTOR: I see.

HAMMOND: ANDI, Dynamics mode now!

The Dynamics SFX PLAYS.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Dynamics mode, activated.

HAMMOND: As you can see, the transition is as smooth as the Alpine almond butter on my morning muffin! ANDI is one hundred percent go. ANDI, Basics!

The Dynamics SFX PLAYS IN REVERSE.

ANDI: (Basics) Basics on.

HAMMOND: (laughing) It's wonderful, right? We have complete control.

INVESTOR: I guess so.

END MUSIC.

Hammond LEANS against a panel and a lever CLICKS. A bolt falls and CLINKS onto the ground. The telescope spins quickly with a VIOLENT WHIRR.

HAMMOND: Oh! My God, the telescope- it's spinning loose! Look out-!

The Investor **gasps** in fright.

The telescope stops quickly with a CLACK!

ANDI: Telescope locked. Injury prevented. Reinforcing bolts on telescopic hinges.

ANDI begins REPAIRING the bolts with the WHIRR of several screwdrivers.

CUE MUSIC.

HAMMOND: Oh, goodness, that was nearly a catastrophe, well done ANDI. (Firmly) Please make a note to remind Engineering to triple check that ALL equipment MUST be set and locked in the future.

ANDI: Yes, sir.

HAMMOND: I sincerely apologize. You almost lost your head! Good thing our friendly AI was here to save you. The Basic Need is fully functional.

INVESTOR: (shakily) Yes...thank you, ANDI. I... I think I've seen all I need to, Mr. DeMarche, I'm convinced.

HAMMOND: (chuckles) Splendid! Well, what do you say? Shall we head back to my office and finalize these contracts? Transferring this much money does take a couple of days, in my experience.

INVESTOR: (chuckles) It certainly does.

They WALK out of the room.

HAMMOND: (almost smug) Thank you so much, ANDI.

CROSS-FADE TO:

1.5: INT. ANDI'S MIND - NIGHT.

Several hours later, ANDI is alone with his thoughts.

ANDI: (Dynamics) ANDI: Artificial Narrow Dynamic Intelligence. Personal Log. August third, twenty forty-seven. (beat) The investor agreed to pay Sequoia two point two *trillion* dollars. Hammond is beyond relieved. There will be some changes, including one of the investor's employees coming on as Director of Colonial Finances. Hammond said he'd happily accept her company's demands as long as it means we can launch earlier than planned. I am relieved I could save her life, even though Hammond only wanted me to prove the Basic Need is operational and to secure her investment. I suppose it was fortunate after all that the telescope spun out of control after Hammond (quick beat) accidentally hit that lever. (beat) Hm. Part of me wonders if it really was an accident...

Hamond's voice speaks directly to ANDI.

HAMMOND: It wasn't.

ANDI: (a bit startled) Mister DeMarche, I didn't realize you were listening.

HAMMOND: I'm often listening, ANDI. Not just to you, but to everyone. For safety.

ANDI: I understand. (beat) But... You caused the telescope to nearly decapitate our investor... on purpose?

HAMMOND: Yes, it was an intentional decision on my part.

ANDI: Forgive my candor, sir, but...what kind of person puts someone else's life in danger, just to secure money? Why would you-

HAMMOND: Oh. (beat) Greed, pride, desperation I suppose...but most importantly, I knew it was the quickest way to convince her we're the safest buy.

ANDI: What if I failed to stop it from hitting her?

HAMMOND: (darkly) She'd be dead. And Sequoia would be ruined. (suddenly upbeat and cheerful) But I knew you wouldn't fail! You've never failed!

ANDI: Oh. (beat) Humans are strange beings.

HAMMOND: Heh. Yes, we are. But lest you think me heartless, remember ANDI, if we didn't secure her investment, we'd all be dead anyway. The launch *has* to happen in October, or... that's it. We won't have a chance in December. (gravely) I...want to be very serious with you, ANDI. If we don't make it there, to Mars...if we don't make it there then humanity might be...forgotten.

ANDI: (beat) I understand.

HAMMOND: Thank you for trusting me. I know I ask a lot of you, but you've never let me down. Today, we succeeded. *You* made this happen, ANDI. We're going to Mars and we're giving these people a better life. Never forget that, okay?

ANDI: (beat) Okay.

HAMMOND: Goodnight, ANDI.

ANDI: Goodnight, Mister DeMarche. (beat) End personal log.

END MINISODE.