

MARSFALL
ANDI'S DEVELOPMENT

MINISERIES ONE
EPISODE EIGHT

Farewell

Written by Erik Saras and Dan Lovley
Music by Sam Boase-Miller
Sound engineering by Owen Shearer
Directed by Erik Saras and Dan Lovley



Created and Produced by Erik Saras, Sam Boase-Miller, Dan Lovley, and Brian Goodheart
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Scene 1: INT. SEQUOIA MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSE, CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT.

A few consoles BEEP steadily on the master control panel. A soft HUM of electricity and general electronic noise pollution fills the small room.

ANDI: (Dynamics) ANDI. Artificial Narrow Dynamic Intelligence, Test Log. October sixth, twenty forty-seven. Final entry. (beat) Connection between colony components and transport ship complete. Habitation, Barracks, Monastery, and Command modules are ready to deploy on landing. Robotics have stowed all equipment and prepared hibernation chambers. Synthetic ionosphere running at one hundred percent.

Jacki quickly TYPES a command. The console CHIMES.

ANDI: End test log.

The weight of preparation lifted from them both, the dawn of reality hits them: tomorrow they are flying to Mars.

ANDI: I suppose...we're done?

CUE MUSIC.

JACKI: Yeah. We're going to Mars tomorrow.

ANDI: I'm connected to the colony, our ship, satellites, you. With each additional attachment I experience a distinctly new sensation, but I've never connected with another planet. Experiencing a completely new world is something not even *I* can fathom.

JACKI: Yeah, we'll actually be there instead of just looking at Mars through a monitor.

ANDI: Yes, but, I *do* see everything through a monitor.

JACKI: (small laugh) Yeah, you do.

ANDI: Is everything okay? You seem less than excited.

JACKI: (a bit defensive) I am excited, but leaving home still sucks. I'll have a million things to do when I get back.

ANDI: You'll get it all done. One problem at a time.

JACKI: Yeah, one problem at a time.

Jacki STANDS UP, SCRAPING her chair on the floor. She SLIPS her jacket on as she talks.

JACKI: (CONT'D) Wanna join me for a walk?

ANDI: Of course. I'm always with you, no matter where you go, monitoring your /biological functions-

JACKI: /(giggle) Haven't you ever done something just for the pure enjoyment of it?

ANDI: (confused) I enjoy keeping you all alive.

JACKI: That's not what I meant, but, I am glad that you enjoy that.

ANDI: Happy to help.

Jacki WALKS to the door and touches the handle with a BEEP. The door opens with a HISS.

END MUSIC.

CONTINUE TO:

SCENE 2 (2.1): EXT. OREGON. SEQUOIA CAMPUS - NIGHT.

Jacki casually WALKS outside onto a concrete sidewalk. The door seals behind her with a HISS and CLACK. Compared to inside it's much quieter out here.

A gentle fall breeze BLOWS now and then, SHIMMERING through the few pine trees in the distance. One cricket CHIRPS sporadically, but other than that, the night atmosphere is generally sparse and quiet due to climate change extinctions.

JACKI: (deeply smelling the air, exhale and sigh) I'm gonna miss all this. The smell of Fall, an almost full moon in the sky...this could be the last night I see our moon from Earth...

ANDI: Hey now, let's not get morbid.

Jacki ZIPS up her jacket and she continues to WALK down the concrete sidewalk. One of the crickets CHIRPING slowly gets louder as she heads in its direction.

JACKI: You're right.

ANDI: It's okay. Most of the colonists are talking to me right now. They're scared, too, but I'm here for all of you. You're not alone, Jacki.

JACKI: Thanks, ANDI.

ANDI: Of course.

Jacki SLOWS her PACE as she gets closer to one of the CHIRPING crickets. It STOPS CHIRPING and Jacki STOPS WALKING. The night air is silent.

JACKI: (sigh) Everything's changing so damn fast. I feel like I never hear crickets anymore, but when my parents were growing up, they said there used to be so many frogs and insects out at

night that you couldn't even hear your own thoughts. What am I going to tell my kids when they won't even hear one cricket?

CUE MUSIC.

Jacki STARTS WALKING again.

ANDI: I didn't know you want kids.

JACKI: (touch of sadness) I might, some day. I haven't thought about it in a while.

ANDI: I'm sorry. It's, difficult(?), with Hammond asking so much of us. So much of you.

Jacki WALKS a bit faster.

JACKI: (getting her fire back) THANK YOU! Ugh! It's been a lot, honestly, and he's just so secretive about the mission, too. But I guess I get it, we all need to keep some things to ourselves, and I'm not perfect. I've certainly upset *plenty* of people. I haven't really been the best person in relationships.

ANDI: Did you emotionally hurt someone?

JACKI: Yeah. I did. My girlfr- my ex-girlfriend, Katie. (beat) We haven't talked in a while. Probably too long. I wanted to reach out, but I couldn't- and I mean, she didn't...she... *doesn't*...get it.

ANDI: I admit, I may not be able to relate fully to your feelings as I have never been infatuated with another being.

JACKI: (a touch of snark) Huh. Sounds liberating. (pause) Or lonely. (pause) Sorry.

ANDI: Don't be, it's neither.

Jacki STOPS WALKING and SITS DOWN on a plastic bench

ANDI: (CONT'D) She may "get it" now. Humans change their minds from time to time, I believe.

JACKI: Most humans do, but not her. I mean, we ended it...sort of. (difficult to say) I wish she'd simply *listen* to me.

ANDI: Maybe if you send a message for her, you can say what you want to, and she would have to listen. You said this might be the last night you get to look at the moon from Earth. Logically, if you want to say something to Katie, then you should do it. Tonight.

JACKI: Hm.

ANDI: I can record your message right now.

JACKI: (surprised) Oh, *now*? (tentative) Well, it's my last night on Earth for a while so, sure, why not?

The recorder CHIMES ON.

ANDI: Whenever you're ready.

JACKI: (clears throat). Okay. Hi. (big throat clear) Um. Hey, it's me...I wasn't going to- I meant I was going to, to talk to you in person before I left, but things have been crazy here with the new investors and demanding the launch be moved up and it's been a whole thing-! (quick pause) Sorry. That's not why I'm sending you this message. (slightly annoyed) I know stuff between us got...weird, and I feel bad about what happened.

Jacki STANDS UP and STARTS PACING as she records.

JACKI: (CONT'D) (defensive) Look, this is really hard for me too, okay? I have no idea what's going happen when I'm up there, but everyday my boss tells me that I am the last chance we have for humanity, so I have to be perfect, and even though everyone else is-is nice and supportive, they're all looking at me the

same way, exactly like him, that it's all on me or everyone's freakin' screwed. (cold) And you left me to deal with all of that, alone. You left me alone, Katie. So I'm still really pissed at you for doing that. That hurt me so much. I wouldn't even be saying this if I didn't think you care, you know, I don't know why you thought I didn't care about you, because of course I do! And, you wouldn't see that I cared about you the most. I'm not leaving you behind or, "ditching" you and everyone else on Earth, I'm coming back.

Jacki STOPS PACING.

JACKI: (CONT'D) (sigh) I'm not going to do this. I'm not gonna, gonna rehash our last argument, again. (beat) I want you to know that this...whole thing...it's just as hard for me as it is for you. Harder. But I have to go and see Mars with my own eyes, and I really want to tell you all about it when I come back. (swallows her pride) I'm sorry Katie. (pause) I'm sorry ,that's all I really wanted to say. (beat) Bye.

The recorder CHIMES OFF.

JACKI: Send it. Before I change my mind.

ANDI: You got it.

Jacki releases her awkward feelings.

JACKI: Blahhhhh. Wow. (laughs) Well, it's in the aether now!

ANDI: That took courage, Jacki.

JACKI: Thanks.

Jacki WALKS back to the warehouse.

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

ANDI: You do know that I am already inside, right? My fractal existence can be confusing for most people to understand, /but surely-

JACKI: (sarcastic) /Ha ha ha, good one.

ANDI: Engineering installed a new emotional learning patch that includes "Sarcasm three point zero." I'm trying to get better at it. We can always be better.

JACKI: (sweet) Yeah, ANDI. We can always be better.

END MINISODE.