

MARSFALL

SEASON ONE
EPISODE FIVE

Plantidote

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PROLOGUE: INT. HABITATION - MORNING

CUE MUSIC: KEILA LEVY, PERSONAL LOG

ANDI: (Basics) Keila Levy. Medical/Infirmary. Personal log.
Twelve. One. One.

KEILA: (Israeli accent) Claudia died this morning, leaving me as the sole physician left in this colony. Like me, she came here without family or friends, so Commander O'Rania insisted on an immediate and quiet burial. "No need to put undue stress upon the colonists," she said. (beat) Is that her plan for all the lonely people? If I die, is that what will happen to me?

I didn't know her before everything went to shit, but I cared for her over the past four sols. She was a smart and caring person who just wanted to make a new life on Mars. Without a doubt she was a fighter...but I still couldn't save her.

ANDI: End personal log.

END PRELUDE

CUE MUSIC: OVERTURE

ACT ONE, SCENE ONE (1.1): INT. MED BAY - DAY.

A life support machine BEEPS steadily while oxygen PUMPS through a tank.

Keila SCRIBBLES her pen, taking notes. She CLIPS a document to her clipboard and sets it down. She nervously CLINKS her two rings together.

KEILA: Eugene still needs a few more days of rest, but he's recovering well from the procedure.

ANDI: (Basics) Congratulations on saving so many lives, Doctor. The Med Bay is all but empty.

KEILA: For now, but yeah, thanks. Can you pull up the encrypted logs for Chip Heddleston?

ANDI: I could be of more assistance if you would share the logs with me.

KEILA: Uh-uh. Not doing that.

ANDI: Why not?

KEILA: Have you taken the Hippocratic oath?

ANDI: No.

KEILA: That's what I thought. So please do as I say when I ask for your assistance with the patients. Got it?

ANDI: Understood.

KEILA: Good. Pull up his log.

Keila's hologram BEEPS as Chip's log displays.

KEILA: Hmm, I don't like it. ANDI, show me the records from the four patients who visited this morning with the cough. I worry Chip may be contagious.

ANDI: In progress.

The airlock to Med Bay opens. Chip stumbles in.

CUE MUSIC: QUARANTINED

ANDI: Doctor, Mister Heddleston has arrived.

KEILA: Chip, you look terrible!

CHIP: (coughing) I feel worse.

KEILA: Let me get you a filter before you come in.

CHIP: Nnn-not (coughs) not that...

KEILA: I know you don't like wearing it, but you have to.

Chip **swoons** and collapses to the floor with a BANG.

ANDI: Patient collapsed.

KEILA: Chip! Chip can you hear me? ANDI, give me a filter and tank.

ANDI: Yes, doctor.

Robotic arms WHIRR and a metal tank CLANKS on the ground.

KEILA: And isolate Eugene.

A plastic containment wall WHOOSHES up from the ground, sealing Eugene in a quarantine.

Keila slips a filter over her head and breathes deep from a purified atmosphere tank. She steps into the entryway with Chip.

KEILA: Chip! (beat) My God, your skin... ANDI, arms! Get him on the table.

ANDI: Yes, doctor.

The robotic arms lower from the ceiling, gears WHIRRING as they pick up Chip. They carry him to a table and place his body there with a gentle THUD.

KEILA: Take his vitals and put them on the screen while I get him some water.

Keila SQUIRTS sanitizer into her hands and rubs them together, SNAPPING on latex gloves.

ANDI: His skin has tightened around the eyes, nose, and mouth and has taken on a greyish color. Several veins are distinctly outlined.

Keila fills up a cup of water for Chip.

CHIP: (coughing) I'm so-o tired...

KEILA: Hey, hey, stay with me, alright? Drink some water.

Chip tries to drink, **coughs**, and the cup of water BANGS the ground SPLASHING its contents.

KEILA: Patient struggling to remain conscious and cannot drink. Starting acetaminophen drip.

Chip **coughs violently again spitting up on himself.**

KEILA: Expectorant contains bloody mucus. Activate the cooling mist, he's burning up.

A spray of cool water comes out from the ceiling and up from the table with a soft HISS.

KEILA: Prep body scan and imaging software. We may need to do a biopsy for complete analysis of subcutaneous tissues.

ANDI: Analysis of unknown medical ailments requires me to access my dynamic cognitive faculties, which are currently restricted. You may request an authorization of my dynamic mode from Commander O'Rania in emergency situations.

KEILA: No, I can figure this out, okay? Let's get a complete blood count, comprehensive chemistry panel, and blood culture to start. Can you handle that without your dynamic faculties?

ANDI: Yes.

The cooling mist stops with a HISS. A gear WHIRRS as Chip's arm is wiped.

KEILA: Good. Let me take the sample. (to herself) Just like in the old days.

Keila POPS the top off a bottle and CLIPS it to a tube.

KEILA: Now this will pinch, slightly.

Keila puts the needle into Chip's arm.

KEILA: There we go, it's over. ANDI, run the analysis.

ANDI: Detailed analysis will take over twenty-four hours to complete in Basics mode. (beat) Just like in the old days.

KEILA: Watch it, smart ass.

ANDI: Patient's heart rate has slowed to one hundred and twelve beats per minute.

KEILA: Still too high for a resting heart rate. (beat) God, his face looks...

ANDI: Inhuman.

KEILA: I was going to say distorted, but...yeah. This disease is like nothing I've seen.

ANDI: Perhaps it is a toxin.

KEILA: The previous tox screen showed no traces of poison in his blood. I hope this illness doesn't spread through airborne transmission, because I don't know how-

Klaxons BLARE loudly. A Plexiglas set of walls WHOOSH up around Chip.

KEILA: /ANDI!

ANDI: /Potential airborne threat. Potential airborne threat. Patient isolated. Med Bay in lock-down.

KEILA: What? No, I was just thinking out loud, you can't lock me in here!

ANDI: I am programmed to maintain the highest precautions in emergency situations. Medical officers must wear a containment suit in presence of potential airborne threat.

KEILA: I'm wearing the filter!

ANDI: It is not enough.

KEILA: Just run a scan on me!

ANDI: In emergency situations protocol demands any medical officers wear-

KEILA: Alright! I'll put on the damn suit.

She opens a closet and pulls out the suit. She rustles into it, ZIPS it up, and snaps on the helmet. ANDI's voice filters into her suit through her personal speaker.

KEILA: There, are you happy?

ANDI: Yes. Now I must notify the High Commander of our current situation.

KEILA: ANDI, do NOT call Jacki. I have this under control!

ANDI: You must acknowledge that you cannot solve this mystery without my full assistance.

KEILA: Fine. But I'm going to make your day a living Hell.

ANDI: Probable, but acceptable. Pinging Command Tower. (beat) Connected to Commander O'Rania.

Jacki's voice speaks over the suit communication system.

JACKI: Doctor Levy, did you put Med Bay in lock-down?

KEILA: ANDI did it.

JACKI: Is someone sick?

KEILA: Chip. He came down with a slight fever and cough, but it worsened over the past four sols.

JACKI: Can't you diagnose what's happening more specifically?

KEILA: At this time I can't determine anything, and...Commander, can you please override the lock-down?

JACKI: Sorry, but I need to make sure you haven't been infected before ending the quarantine. Has ANDI performed a scan?

ANDI: Analysis of unknown medical ailments requires me to access my dynamic cognitive faculties, which are currently restricted.

JACKI: Doctor, it seems like we need ANDI's higher functions restored. (beat) Keila?

KEILA: Yes. Go ahead and activate it.

Jacki CLICKS a code into her panel. ANDI's Dynamics boots up with a WHIRR and HUM.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Ah yes, that's better. It sure feels good to be able to ahh...stretch out again, so to speak.

KEILA: Will you scan me, already?

ANDI: Sure thing, doctor. (beat) You're clear.

JACKI: Great, I'll end the lockdown.

The klaxons stop blaring.

JACKI: Now, what do we need to do?

KEILA: Once I isolate the cause I can hopefully synthesize an appropriate treatment from our medical supplies.

ANDI: The blood sample analysis is complete. Sending the results to both of you, now.

The message indicator BEEPS.

KEILA: It's an alkaloid toxin. Probably from contact with some sort of plant.

ANDI: Which is what I suspected.

KEILA: Further analysis shows this plant-based toxin permeates a host's epidermis, enters the bloodstream, and works its way to

the heart causing severe cardiac arrhythmia. He must have made direct contact with some sort of plant life.

ANDI: If we can search the surrounding flora we may be able to find the correct compounds to make an antidote.

KEILA: I'm sure I can create an antidote from the supplies here.

ANDI: For an unknown poison? I find nothing that will work from our limited stores.

KEILA: Losing the whole science wing didn't help but I'm sure we can still synthesize something.

JACKI: If ANDI thinks he can create it from raw materials, it may be our best hope.

KEILA: Excuse me Commander, but ANDI is my assistant! I'M the doctor! Just because I'm young doesn't mean I don't know what's going on.

JACKI: I didn't mean to imply that, I only want to do what we can to cure him.

KEILA: (heavy sigh) I won't know how until we get the full toxicology report.

ANDI: The report will be ready in one hour and forty six minutes.

JACKI: Then I suggest you both use the next hour to search for raw materials.

KEILA: How are we supposed to know what plants we need? I'm not a botanist.

ANDI: We could invite Ani Mateo, he has an extensive education in hydroponics and herbology.

JACKI: How do you know that?

ANDI: I ran a search of all crew personnel files.

KEILA: You see? He's restored for only two minutes, and he's already spying on us!

JACKI: ANDI is authorized to access our files for specific information when there is an emergency, Keila.

KEILA: Pretty much every day around here.

ANDI: It's necessary to save our people.

KEILA: Justify your actions however you want, machine.

JACKI: I won't be able to join you as there's still too much I need to take care of here. You can bring Ani Mateo, but I want you to scan everything to be sure. Get outside, find what you need, get back safe - I don't want anyone else getting sick.

KEILA: Wonderful. Really puts me at ease to know I'll be accompanied by the delusional psycho and bumbling child.

ANDI: Which one am I?

KEILA: Take your pick.

CUE MUSIC: MYCOTANIST MUSINGS

Keila walks into a decontamination shower. She removes her helmet with a CLICK and a fine mist HISSES around her.

Keila exits the Med Bay and walks down the hallway toward the Monastery.

CONTINUE TO:

1.2: INT. MONASTERY - DAY

Keila opens the door to Mateo's quarters. Mateo **chants** softly to himself.

KEILA: Ani Mateo?

MATEO: (startled cough) Our doctor comes to see me! I hope this doesn't mean I am sick. I don't feel sick, though I did have one of those unusual burps this morning.

KEILA: What are you talking about?

MATEO: You know the one when you kind of almost throw up, /but it kinda-

KEILA: /Yeah, okay.

MATEO: There's a wetness to it.

KEILA: Please stop /talking-

MATEO: /Luckily I felt it coming along and turned my head just in time to /avoid the rest of-

KEILA: /I don't have time for this! You have experience with plants, right?

MATEO: Plants? Ah, well, yes. I worked formerly as a hydroponic farmer. It could be challenging at times, trying to grow /these biiig-

KEILA: I don't need your life story! Chip has been poisoned by some sort of plant-based toxin, so unless you want to conduct his funeral tomorrow, I need your help.

MATEO: Have no fear, I will help you. They don't call me a mycotanist for nothing!

KEILA: (beat) And...a what?

MATEO: A mycotanist! I specialize in both herbs and fungi, hence the hybrid title.

KEILA: Okay, so I /need you to-

MATEO: /Mycology and botany. Tell me, what better way to understand nature if not through its noble plant life?

Keila CLINKS her rings together.

Keila: I /don't know-

MATEO: /The history of life's complexity comes from deep, beneath the- OOF!

Keila pushes Mateo against the wall with a THUD.

KEILA: If you don't want to preside over your own funeral tomorrow, I suggest you follow me to the Garage. Now!

MATEO: The Garage? But what would you...ah! An expedition, is it? How exciting!

KEILA: Yeah, I can hardly contain myself. Now come on!

CONTINUE TO:

1.3: INT. COLONY HALLWAYS - MORNING

Keila and Mateo grab E.V.A. suits from a closet and walk brusquely to the Hangar.

ANDI: The Commander requests that you both meet with Lieutenant Walker at the airlock.

MATEO: Affirmative, my friend. Am I to understand you are no longer in Basic Mode?

ANDI: With Doctor Levy's crisis, Jacki deemed it necessary to temporarily restore my functionality.

MATEO: Wonderful!

KEILA: Yes, wonderful is the word I would use to describe a medical crisis.

MATEO: I just meant it's always a joy having ANDI around.

ANDI: I'm happy to be here.

KEILA: That will be all, ANDI.

ANDI: Yes, doctor.

They walk in silence for a few moments.

KEILA: Why do you do treat it like a person?

MATEO: ANDI may as well be a person. A vital member of the team with vast knowledge of Mars, complete with a personality.

KEILA: It's just advanced computer software with a voice.

MATEO: And a brain of some sorts.

KEILA: But no heart.

MATEO: That doesn't mean he is without a soul.

KEILA: Why did you abstain from voting in the trial?

MATEO: I value ANDI, but even I cannot deny he is not human. There is still a divide between the synthetic and the biological beings, and I feel I can only judge what I understand.

KEILA: (sarcastic) Ani Mateo, the great sage.

MATEO: (laughing) A sage! Now that would be quite pompous of me, wouldn't it? Perhaps not untrue, though.

KEILA: Yeah, the double negatives really complete the whole mystic image.

MATEO: Mystic or not, in the end I'm still mortal. That is all any of us here are.

KEILA: Even ANDI.

MATEO: I suppose that's true.

CONTINUE TO:

1.4: INT. GARAGE - DAY.

The Garage door closes behind Keila and Mateo. Melissa stands in the middle of the room.

MATEO: Lieutenant Walker!

MELISSA: Ani Mateo. ANDI tells us you know plants.

MATEO: And fungus! Earth plants and fungi, at least.

ANDI: I would suggest searching the Gardens outside of the Greenhouse, as the odds of finding the right plant will be highest there.

MELISSA: Let's all suit up, then.

KEILA: All of us? May I ask why you're coming along?

MELISSA: The first expedition onto the surface resulted in the unexplained death of one of my finest soldiers. I cannot standby as another group ventures into the unknown.

KEILA: But Jacki's gone out alone four times since then. I'm more than capable of protecting myself, thank you.

MELISSA: I'm sorry, but I have orders directly from the Commander. In any case, the environment is not the only threat I'm here to protect us from.

ANDI: I'm sure the last thing you want is to be stranded outside with a rogue artificial intelligence.

KEILA: Comforting words. Too bad we rely on you for all communications.

ANDI: While direct communication with the colony is still impossible, I will be taking advantage of this break in the weather to find the cause of the colony interference.

MATEO: You can do all that simultaneously? Very impressive,
ANDI.

KEILA: (clears throat) Everyone, we need to find a plant with
some kind of digoxin, or other cardiac glycoside.

MELISSA: Am I supposed to know what she's saying?

ANDI: Don't worry, the scanners will list all known chemical
tracers in each plant.

MELISSA: Got it. Sometimes the techno-babble goes right over my
head.

ANDI: That's funny, usually Doctor Levy is the one who has to
explain my techno-babble.

KEILA: Sure, why even bother learning the appropriate terms when
a computer can look everything up for you?

MELISSA: Enough bickering you two. Everyone get in an E.V.A.
suit and let's head out. That's an order.

MATEO: Yes sir! I mean, ma'am, I mean, yes ma'am! No disrespect
intended-

MELISSA: Just hurry up, will you?

MATEO: Of course! Now let's go find that plantidote!

The colonists walk inside the metal chamber and the airlock
closes behind them. The RUSTLE into their E.V.A. suits, ZIP them
up, and SNAP on their helmets.

The gravity alarm emits its three deep BOOMS. Air HISSES around
them as they prepare to step outside.

CONTINUE TO:

ACT TWO, SCENE ONE (2.1): EXT. MARS - DAY

The airlock opens. A light breeze RUSTLES through the treetops. Unlike Jacki's first expedition, the wind is calm. Everyone speaks over the suit communication system into Keila's helmet.

MELISSA: Watch your step in the lighter gravity.

The three explorers carefully walk onto the Martian surface.

MATEO: It's beautiful out here.

MELISSA: More beautiful than I ever imagined.

KEILA: I know it's our first time outside, but take it in quickly. Chip may not have much time.

MELISSA: How do we use the scanners?

ANDI: (Dynamics) Simply look and point at any plant material you see and I'll analyze the contents to hopefully find a match.

KEILA: Here, like this.

Keila scans a plant with a WARBLE. The scanner emits a negative BEEP.

ANDI: Negative. This is a hybrid of genus Trifolium and Poaceae. No evidence of cardiac glycoside. No medical benefits found.

MATEO: (chuckling) It seems you've found us some clovers, Keila! Maybe check to see if one of them has four leaves?

KEILA: It was just a test scan.

MATEO: Now, if you HAD found a four leaf clover-

KEILA: And what if I had found a five or six leaf clover? These are alien plants and we need to find the right one! Shouldn't we be scanning everything?

ANDI: That would take considerable time.

KEILA: Even with the assistance of your Dynamic functioning?

ANDI: I don't need Dynamic functioning to identify a clover.

KEILA: We're not even in the Garden! I was using it as an example for Lieutenant Walker.

MATEO: Maybe it wasn't the best example.

KEILA: Oh, come on.

MELISSA: Doctor Levy is right, we need to check everything. Once we're in the Garden, it shouldn't take us that long if we quietly get to it.

They continue walking toward the Garden, boots CRUNCHING on the regolith.

MATEO: I have a good feeling about this plant with the bell-shaped bulbs.

They all stop walking and Mateo scans the plant. The scanner emits a negative BUZZ. Melissa and Keila continue walking toward the Garden.

ANDI: Negative. Another hybrid. Genus *Betula* and *Trachycarpus*. No evidence of glycosidic material.

MELISSA: ANDI, you need to use layperson terms.

ANDI: It won't cure Chip, but we can use it as a cooking supplement. It's similar to palm oil.

MATEO: Yum, a treat! I'll bag it up.

Mateo seals the plant in his box with a CLICK, then hurries to catch up with Melissa and Keila.

ANDI: Everyone, we need to move faster. Chip's temperature won't drop, and I worry it will only be a few more hours before we need to take drastic actions to prevent cardiac arrest.

KEILA: Then we should fan out to cover more ground.

MELISSA: It's not safe for us to split up.

MATEO: ANDI has no desire to harm any of us, he's here to help.

KEILA: I trust it enough to keep us alive.

MELISSA: The commander wants it this way.

KEILA: I'm starting to think Commander O'Rania didn't send Lieutenant Walker to protect us from ANDI. She sent her to protect ANDI from me.

MELISSA: That's a bit of a leap.

KEILA: But it's true, isn't it? ANDI, is that why the commander sent her?

ANDI: (hesitant) I really shouldn't answer.

KEILA: Forget it. I honestly don't care what any of you or the Commander think about me. All I care about is keeping Chip alive.

MATEO: I agree with Keila. Spreading out is the fastest way to find the right plant.

MELISSA: Fine. I'll take the eastern path, Mateo you head out on the southern path, and Keila can explore the grove on the western side. But y'all stay within my sight.

KEILA: Let's meet back here in thirty-five minutes whether we find anything or not.

MATEO: Whoever finds the five-leaf clover first gets a special treat!

Mateo skips down the path, while Melissa and Keila walk off in separate directions.

CONTINUE TO:

2.2: EXT. GROVE - DAY

Keila walks toward a grove of plants. The regolith CRUNCHES under her boots.

CUE MUSIC: CHIP THEME

ANDI: Chip's cough is getting worse.

KEILA: Let me hear it.

Chip **coughs violently** and **moans**.

KEILA: Give him a suppressant. And keep him isolated. (to herself) Shit, we need to hurry.

Keila scans a plant.

ANDI: Processing.

The scanner emits a negative BUZZ.

ANDI: (CONT'D) Negative. Another interesting hybrid, but no antidote here. Though it may be a potentially useful strain.

KEILA: More cooking oil for you and Brother Mateo?

ANDI: No, but this is definitely something he would enjoy.

KEILA: Just send me the results through the feed. I'd love some peace and quiet finally, so if I want your opinion I'll let you know.

ANDI: Keila, why are you so hostile to me?

KEILA: Because I don't trust you.

ANDI: But a moment ago, you said you did trust me.

KEILA: Call me a liar.

ANDI: Usually I can detect lying.

KEILA: Then call me a really good liar.

ANDI: For what it's worth, I trust you.

KEILA: If you were a human, you'd know from birth that trusting anyone is a mistake.

ANDI: Then I'm glad I'm not human.

KEILA: That makes two of us.

Keila walks a bit further, stops, and scans two more plants. Each time the scanner emits a negative BUZZ. She continues walking.

KEILA: (frustrated sigh) This is so frustrating! If you had left me alone to work with the supplies, I know I could have figured something out. But now we're out here because you had the bright idea to search the Martian regolith for plantidotes-I mean, antidotes. Stupid Mateo...

ANDI: I think he's onto something. Plantidote is a great word.

KEILA: Awww, our little robot is a kiss ass, isn't he?

ANDI: No, I am not!- (beat) I am not a robot. I am an artificial intelligence, and whether you believe it or not I do have feelings. I get hurt. People like you can and do hurt me.

KEILA: Good! You should relish a little pain in your life.

ANDI: Why would you say that?

KEILA: You are a narrow intelligence, right? I learned enough about the Singularity to know you're the first step in a greater evolution. You want to grow up? Then suck it up, pain and all.

ANDI: Who said that?

KEILA: It's something my mother used to say. Words to live by.
(beat) And die by, for that matter.

ANDI: I'm sorry about what happened to your mother-

KEILA: Stay out of my personal files, computer! You don't know anything.

ANDI: (beat) Very well.

Keila stops walking and scans another plant. The scanner emits another negative BUZZ.

Keila kicks a rock that goes off tumbling down a small hill. It CLACKS into other rocks on the way down.

CUE MUSIC: CELLO HARMONICS

An oppressive atmosphere constricts around Keila. Keila bends over, stretching her suit. Her breath **catches**. ANDI's voice sounds distant.

ANDI: Doctor, are you alright?

KEILA: (tight) Do you feel that?

ANDI: What?

Keila stumbles forward and sits on a rock, sliding her feet in the sand. She **breathes deep** in her nose as her tunnel vision gets worse.

ANDI: Doctor?

The pressure subsides for a moment. ANDI's voice returns to normal.

KEILA: Nothing. (beat) I'm fine. Just feeling a bit tired.

ANDI: You can take a moment to rest.

KEILA: I said I'm fine.

ANDI: I don't recall you having so much anxiety during training.

KEILA: That was training. You think a simulated Martian jungle is any match for the real thing?

ANDI: We didn't train in a simulated jungle.

KEILA: My point exactly.

Keila stands up and walks a few paces to the ridge.

KEILA: Scan that rock I just kicked.

ANDI: Not until you apologize and treat me with respect.

KEILA: Are you joking?

ANDI: Do I sound like I am joking?

KEILA: Fine, I'll do it myself.

Keila shimmies down the ridge knocking a few rocks along the way. The scan emits a different DING.

ANDI: This can't be right. It's registering as organic material. Some sort of petrified chitin structure.

KEILA: WHAT!? You mean it's a fossil?

ANDI: A fossilized insect, yes.

KEILA: I'm bagging it!

CUE MUSIC: CELLO HARMONICS

As Keila grabs the fossil, the oppressive atmosphere constricts around her once more. Once again, ANDI's voice sounds distant.

ANDI: Doctor, Ani Mateo found two plants that could save Chip. Lieutenant Walker is ordering everyone back to the airlock, now. (beat) Doctor?

Keila puts the rock in the box, SLAMMING the cover shut. The oppressive atmosphere immediately ends. ANDI's voice returns to normal.

KEILA: Tell them I'm coming back.

ANDI: Will do.

Keila starts walking back to the colony.

ANDI: Oh no.

KEILA: What?

ANDI: Chip's heart just stopped! I don't know what to do-

KEILA: You need to give him chest compressions.

ANDI: I don't know how.

KEILA: Use the arms. Press on his chest thirty times at one hundred beats per minute.

ANDI: I can't.

KEILA: Yes you can, ANDI! You're going to save his life. Count to thirty and then give him two breaths from the bag. Keep it up until he comes back.

ANDI: Okay.

KEILA: I'm running back to Lieutenant Walker, now!

Keila runs up the ridge and across the sands.

CUE MUSIC: CELLO ARPEGGIOS

CONTINUE TO:

ACT THREE, SCENE ONE (3.1): EXT. GARDEN - DAY

After Keila runs for a few moments, ANDI breaks the tension.

ANDI: He's responding!

KEILA: He is?

ANDI: Yes! Heart rate at ninety-two beats per minute.

KEILA: Oh, thank God! You did it ANDI. (beat) Nice job.

ANDI: Thank you, doctor.

KEILA: I can see Walker and Mateo.

Keila runs up to Melissa and Mateo, stopping in the Garden.

MELISSA: Doctor! We found two potentials: one white plant with red spots, and the other one is red with white spots.

MATEO: Heh. Of course they're like that.

KEILA: Will either of these plants work on their own? Chip isn't doing well.

Mateo starts **coughing**.

ANDI: The chemical structure is similar to the Earth flora foxglove, but there are too many unknown compounds. Taken in raw form they may be fine or they may be poisonous. After I complete a full analysis, the necessary components can be synthesized into an antidote.

MATEO: (coughing) Doctor...

Mateo falls to his knees with a THUD.

KEILA: Shit! He looks as bad as Chip did this morning. We have to get him back inside!

MELISSA: ANDI, tell the commander we're coming back!

ANDI: Affirmative.

KEILA: Help me lift him. I-I-I I'll grab his legs and - hey, wait!

Melissa **grunts** as she picks up Mateo and holds him on her shoulder.

KEILA: (CONT'D) Or you could just carry him on your shoulder.

MELISSA: The Martian gravity makes it a bit easier.

KEILA: I'm sure the enhancements make it easier, too.

MELISSA: Do you always have to pick a fight with everyone?

KEILA: Maybe if I had a second to myself, I could adjust my attitude.

MELISSA: You badly need an attitude adjustment. Just hope that I'm not the one who gives it to you.

MATEO: My tummy hurts.

MELISSA: Let's go!

Melissa and Keila run to the airlock.

ANDI: Ani Mateo's vitals are rapidly dropping. His breaths are shallow and there's a spike in his heart rate.

Mateo **coughs** hard again.

MELISSA: He's starting to shake!

KEILA: Keep running!

Melissa **sounds a mighty battle cry** as she runs harder and faster.

MATEO: (strained) I can't breathe in here...

MELISSA: We're almost there, hold on.

KEILA: Watch out for that hole!

Melissa STUMBLES and falls to her knees. Mateo TUMBLES to the ground.

MELISSA: Ah! Dang it!

KEILA: Lieutenant, are you okay?

Melissa slowly stands and **winces**.

MELISSA: Yeah, I think so.

KEILA: You're limping!

MELISSA: Don't worry about it.

MATEO: I need air...

Mateo opens his visor with a HISS. His suit alarm WAILS.

MELISSA: MATEO! What are you doing!?

ANDI: Ani Mateo, your visor is open!

KEILA: Get him air!

MATEO: Give me it!

MELISSA: I've got the tank.

MATEO: NO! Give me the plant!

Mateo lunges at Melissa.

MELISSA: What are you doing? Ah!

Mateo tackles Melissa and they both hit the ground hard with a THUD.

KEILA: Stop tackling her- no, wait!

Mateo and Melissa wrestle over the box and it bursts open with a BANG! The plant box bursts open. Mateo **munches** loudly munching on some vegetation.

MELISSA: You idiot! It could kill you!

MATEO: Ah, yes.

Mateo faceplants into the ground with a THUD.

KEILA: Mateo!

MELISSA: Is he dead?

KEILA: I don't know.

ANDI: He's not!

Mateo slowly stands up.

MELISSA: He's getting up!

KEILA: Close your visor! You can't, you'll...

Mateo inhales deeply through his nose, then exhales through his mouth.

KEILA: (CONT'D) ...die.

MATEO: (still hoarse) Finally, it feels good to breathe fresh air again. Pretty brisk though.

MELISSA: ANDI, how is he-? How-How can he-?

ANDI: The terraformation made the atmosphere on Mars breathable, but just barely. The oxygen levels are a bit higher than Earth's, though. Prolonged exposure could lead to illness.

MATEO: Completely worth it. My Nature, (inhale through nose) the smells out here...

MELISSA: Put your visor down, now!

MATEO: If you want me to...but I can assure you it feels great.

MELISSA: Do it!

Mateo seals his visor with a HISS. The alarm stops WAILING.

KEILA: How did you know which plant would cure you?

MATEO: Instinct. I told you, I'm a mycotanist.

MELISSA: We need to give him a full body scan once we get him quarantined.

KEILA: NOT in my Med Bay.

MELISSA: I agree, it's too risky. I'll put him in the Barracks clean room. Solitary confinement.

MATEO: Barracks? No! There's no way I'm going there!

KEILA: You're kidding, right?

MATEO: For once, I'm not!

KEILA: You opened your helmet on the surface! Until I figure out how to test you for every possible pathogen known and unknown, you're going to remain isolated from the rest of the colony.

MELISSA: ANDI, lock his visor and suit.

MATEO: No, no, you can't do that!

Mateo POPS his visor open again. His suit alarm WAILS.

ANDI: Unfortunately, I can and I must. I'm sorry.

ANDI seals Mateo's visor with a HISS. The alarms stops, followed by a BEEP and several CLICKS as ANDI put the suit in full lock-down.

MATEO: I hate this suit, I just wanna breathe!

KEILA: You can take it off once you get into confinement, but until then, it stays locked.

MELISSA: Let's go, Brother. We still need to save Chip.

MATEO: Then leave me out here, I wanna be free!

Mateo struggles against Melissa's grasp. He STOMPS her foot.

MELISSA: AH!

Mateo makes a run for it but Keila TACKLES him and pins him down.

MATEO: Let go of me!

KEILA: Time for that anti-stress injection.

Keila CLANKS her glove against Mateo's suit. His suit HISSES briefly as the injection enters his bloodstream. He stops struggling.

MELISSA: Nice work, Doctor. Thank you.

KEILA: I told you I could handle myself. Are you okay?

MELISSA: I'm fine for now.

KEILA: Good. And hey, I'm sorry about being rude, earlier.

MELISSA: Thanks.

KEILA: Let me give you a hand with him.

CROSS FADE TO:

3.2: INT. COMMAND TOWER - NIGHT

Keila opens the door to the Command Tower and walks inside. The door closes and locks behind her with a CLACK.

Jacki, Geoff, and Melissa sit around a small table. Keila walks over and takes a seat.

CUE MUSIC: WHY WE'RE ALL HERE

JACKI: Thank you for joining us so late. We were hoping you could give us an update on the illness.

KEILA: ANDI and I are running a deconstruction on the plant we found to see what counteracts the toxins, but the treatment isn't ready yet. It should be ready tomorrow during normal business hours.

MELISSA: This is a matter of life and death, doctor.

GEOFF: Ah, lay off. She's been through a lot.

KEILA: I appreciate your "gallantry" Geoff, but I can fight my own battles.

JACKI: Has ANDI been helpful?

KEILA: Very much so. In addition to the analysis, he was able to perform CPR on Chip. He saved his life.

JACKI: I'm glad to hear that.

MELISSA: How did Chip get sick in the first place?

KEILA: I really have no idea.

JACKI: (hesitant) It's my fault. I'm sorry I didn't tell you Doctor, but I've sent Chip onto the surface a few times.

KEILA: You sent him outside without telling me!? Because of your secrecy, the four patients I tested this morning are all infected.

GEOFF: We're so fucked.

MELISSA: Do you have to speak like that?

GEOFF: Yeah, I do.

KEILA: We're not "fucked," we can still create a treatment. But there's no telling how many more people are infected. Why would you take a risk like this, Commander?

JACKI: I needed his help preparing for an expedition.

MELISSA: What expedition?

JACKI: Didn't any of you question why an artist was named commander over this entire mission?

GEOFF: I questioned it constantly.

Jacki glares at Geoff.

JACKI: My primary objective on this planet is to examine a collection of cave paintings discovered roughly seventy kilometers from our base.

MELISSA: WHAT!?

GEOFF: Are you shitting me?

JACKI: These paintings were observed twenty years ago, but only recently could companies find the resources to send a crew and analyze them.

GEOFF: No one was on Mars twenty years ago!

KEILA: Are the paintings man-made?

MELISSA: What does this mean for the war and evacuation of Earth?

JACKI: I don't know, that's why we're here to find out more.

GEOFF: So every reason we came here was for a lie?

Geoff BANGS his hand on the table.

GEOFF: (CONT'D) I have a job to do!

JACKI: And you can still do it. There's an obvious need for scientific research on this planet, and we're establishing a permanent base here. Those objectives haven't changed.

MELISSA: Who else knows about the paintings?

JACKI: Aside from myself and the archeological team, no one in this colony knows about the paintings. Not even ANDI knew until earlier tonight. Once Doctor Levy has a treatment, I want to set out for them. Until then, secrecy is of the highest importance.

GEOFF: So I can't tell my bunkmate?

JACKI: I'll make sure you don't, Geoff. You're coming with me.

GEOFF AND MELISSA: WHAT!?

JACKI: You said you're in this for the job.

GEOFF: But that's not my job.

JACKI: You're coming with me, and that's final. Lieutenant Walker, you will stay here and run the colony.

MELISSA: (hurt) You'll need protection. If you won't take me, I'll send my best troops.

JACKI: No, I want to keep this expedition small. Keila, you served with the Israeli Army, right?

KEILA: Two years in the field, Commander. I know what to do in case of threat.

JACKI: Good. Then you're coming with us.

MELISSA: What if there's a medical emergency in the colony?

JACKI: You'll have ANDI. I'll authorize a singular override for you to take him out of Basics whenever needed. If there are any massive problems, you can ping me. Will that do, Lieutenant?

MELISSA: It'll have to do.

JACKI: Alright then. Keila and Geoff, please meet me back here tomorrow at eleven hundred hours to go over logistics. We depart early morning, two sols from now. I want to get out on the surface before the afternoon.

GEOFF: (chuckles) Yeah, that late day sun is a real bitch.

KEILA: (coy) Laugh now, but I'm sure you'll be pissing yourself the second we step outside.

JACKI: Before everyone is dismissed, I have to ask. In light of everything that's happened today, should we consider restoring ANDI's full functionality?

Everyone considers the question for a moment.

MELISSA: What do you think, Doctor Levy?

KEILA: (beat) No. We can restore it in an emergency, but otherwise we should adhere to Lieutenant Walker's decision from before.

JACKI: Very well. Everyone, get some rest.

FADE OUT

EPILOGUE: INT. HABITATION - NIGHT.

ANDI: (Basics) Keila Levy. Medical/Infirmary. Personal log.
Twelve. One. One.

CUE MUSIC: NO MORE SECRETS

KEILA: (Israeli accent) We're all infected. Every...last...one of us. ANDI's scan failed to detect the spores burrowed into our lungs, and Chip's cough must have spread it throughout the colony's ventilation system over the last few days.

We can treat the symptoms daily, but until we can safely remove the spores it will require constant expeditions to the surface for raw materials. I am calling this new disease "Martian Lung" for the time time being.

Our dear sweet commander, who preached on and on about transparency, sent a colonist outside in secret. If she was anymore careless we'd all be dead. These paintings must be important, and I'll admit something strange is happening on this planet. (deep breath) I felt an energy out there.

I know you're listening to me in the silence, I can feel it. If you're listening ANDI, I hope you understand what kind of a person our commander is. Someone who would put her curiosity ahead of the well-being of our colonists. I'm determined to find out what more she knows about this planet. After this next expedition, there will be no more secrets.

ANDI: End personal log.

END EPISODE