

MARSFALL

Recap of Seasons 1 and 2

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Created and Produced by Erik Saras, Sam Boase-Miller, Dan Lovley, and Brian Goodheart
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CUE MUSIC: Overture II

DAN: Hey there! This is Dan Lovley, the voice of ANDI, and one of the writers, directors, and producers of *Marsfall*, and with me is Erik Saras.

ERIK: Hi everybody. I am also one of the writers, directors, and producers of *Marsfall*, and I'm really happy to be here to talk about the show.

DAN: So, since it's been a minute, this is a recap episode to remind everybody of some of the more important parts of the first two seasons, and to talk about some of the deeper issues that these pieces have been building to for events in Season 3. We had a pretty long hiatus due to COVID, and we really didn't want to put our actors into an unsafe work environment.

So we adapted to record Part 1 of Season 3 remotely with myself, Sam Boase-Miller, and Shannon Lovley. These episodes are a bit shorter, but this pivot allowed us to continue the main story safely. We will return to the studio to continue Part 2 of Season 3 later this year, so there will only be a short break in between Part 1 and Part 2 of Season 3. We also made our second miniseries called *Bunker Down*. This was a really fun way to try producing a remotely recorded production before moving on to Season 3. This story follows Jacki's ex, Doctor Katie Hall, who never left Earth. You can hear that whole series right now and get a lot of other cool things by supporting us on Patreon. So let's get into the recap episode!

ERIK: Yeah, so our colonists have experienced a *lot* since leaving Earth in 2047. And we're going to take you through the story from the beginning, but we're going to focus on the big themes we wanted to explore through the entire series of *Marsfall*. Some of these themes include setting up a permanent homestead on the Red Planet, AI evolution and how it relates to human morality, and the mysterious energy and alien forces at play on the Red Planet itself. So first, Dan, why don't you take us through how the colonists land on Mars and start adjusting to this mysterious Red Planet.

DAN: Sure! So they wake up from their disastrous landing, and all the colonists are on edge trying to survive once they're out of stasis. When Jacki explores the surface, she finds the terraformation has already taken effect, creating a vibrant purple jungle on Mars. She and Chip journey to a nearby colony sitting in disrepair. It's clear the colony has been grounded on the surface for a long time, but no one knows exactly how long it's been.

During this expedition, one of the colony's soldiers is killed by a mysterious alien force. We'll talk more about these shadows, as we call them, in a bit, but Chip and Jacki are experiencing the loss of another companion, and that forces them, and all of the colonists, to address and process their grief. Once they're back at the colony, Mateo and Jacki hold a memorial service to honor all of the colonists who didn't survive the landing. A lot of would-be colonists died, including Melissa's family. People are looking for a sense of comfort and morality, and yet the destructive forces on Mars won't let them rest.

INSERT CLIP from ANOMALY - S01E03

JACKI: We are pioneers! We are the pioneers of a new generation, a multi-planet generation, and a pioneer's life is not without incredible hardship. (beat) Fifty-seven human beings will never see the light of a Martian sky, or feel the regolith crunch beneath their boots.

END CLIP

DAN: However, Mars can be fairly giving. The terraformed surface offers a wide variety of plant life that becomes instrumental in curing the colonists of a spore infection, called Martian Lung. Mateo also eats some of the raw plants, proving that they can be useful to cure the colonists. While searching for the plants to cure the mysterious disease, Keila stumbles upon a fossil. Now we haven't gone too deep into exactly what it does, but we do know that it emanates a mysterious energy Wei and Jacki discuss in Season 2. The fossil and the plants will play a larger role in Season 3.

Near the end of this season, ANDI determines that the colonists have been held in stasis for more than fourteen hundred years, which is part of the reason they are no longer in contact with Earth. Erik, do you want to talk a little bit about the AI evolution?

ERIK: Yeah! ANDI's evolution is, you know, a critical part of the entire story, seeing how he evolves his emotions and his general intelligence. So early in the season, ANDI acts rather bluntly to end a standoff between Jacki and Major Flint, one of the military commanders. Major Flint was holding Doctor Levy hostage, and threatening to blow an airlock which could have destroyed the colony and killed everyone inside it. ANDI reasoning that killing Major Flint would keep everyone else safe, is kind of fueled by this thing that we call the Basic Need, this underlying moral compass that's installed into all sorts of AI. This moral compass is most active when ANDI is stripped of his emotions and put into Basics mode, which is what Chip does after he kills Major Flint.

The fallout from Flint's death causes the colony to debate ANDI's emotional rights, and the fundamental rule of artificial intelligence, the aforementioned Basic Need. We'd like to play a clip from the end of the trial that shows the verdict, and also showcases a lot of our actors at their best, as this is the first large group scene we've had in the entire series.

INSERT CLIP from THE BASIC NEED - S01E04

JACKI: See? And he has just as many rights as the rest of us. So I will not have you stoking imaginary fears about a rogue artificial intelligence lurking among us.

KEILA: Imaginary? It killed Major Flint!

CHIP: Who was trying to kill you! For fuck's sake, I would've gutted Flint if I could've-

MELISSA: Mister Heddleston!

CHIP: All I'm saying is I would've done the same thing as ANDI, if I had the means.

GEOFF: I'm not sure I trust your programming either, Chip.

CHIP: What was that? Can the stenographer repeat that last comment?

A few colonists chuckle.

JACKI: I'm sure no one is advocating unnecessary violence.

Chip PUNCHES his other hand as he stares down Geoff.

CHIP: Just the necessary kind, Commander.

GEOFF: If it goes rogue again, will your battalion protect us, Lieutenant?

MELISSA: Every colonist who agreed to this journey knew they would be working with a fully integrated A.I. Among the thousands of risks we continue to take, rogue A.I. is one of them. And yes Mister Thomassen, if ANDI malfunctions and poses a direct threat to us, we will deactivate him through force.

GEOFF: Good.

MELISSA: Nevertheless, after reviewing the situation I believe his actions are justified. ANDI is not guilty of murder.

The colonists all talk at once. Geoff speaks over the top of them.

GEOFF: Outrageous! Next you'll want a hammer to bang on your desk and make it all official.

CHIP: "Gavel."

GEOFF: What?

CHIP: It's called a gavel, not a hammer, dumbass.

JACKI: Stop it, both of you. We need to respect Lieutenant Walker's decision.

KEILA: This decision affects every single person in this room. Every single person on this planet! Enough people have already died based on the decision of the few people in charge of us, as well as ANDI, the all-seeing, all-hearing beast who lives alongside us. It lives in our walls, in our suits. It's everything and everywhere around us, it's only fair that we put this decision to a colony-wide vote.

Several colonists murmur in agreement.

MELISSA: She's right.

JACKI: Melissa, we can't possibly-

MELISSA: Commander, when we spoke earlier today I asked if you still trust me. This decision is bigger than the two of us. We need to let the colony decide.

More colonists chime in, agreeing with Melissa.

JACKI: (sigh) Alright, fine. There are forty-two of us so let's see how people stand. As Ani Mateo said in the memorial, we are now one community, one family. This decision affects all of us, so, it's only fair we're transparent with each other.

MELISSA: Agreed. If you wish to abstain, you may. Those who believe ANDI's actions were justified, please raise your hand.

A majority of colonists raise their hands. A few colonists including Geoff and Keila express their disappointment.

MELISSA: The ruling stands. The people find ANDI not guilty of murder.

CHIP: BANG! Now that's a gavel.

END CLIP

DAN: Speaking as an actor, I really enjoyed doing this scene because it was one of the first times in our show that we actually got to have most of the cast together, um, all working at the same time, and, um, as a voice actor, I don't always get to interact with large groups of people when I'm acting. Sometimes it's just me, or maybe a few other people, so this was a really special moment for us.

ERIK: And it was a really, really fun scene to direct and see all you guys doing, you know, these heightened emotional performances.

DAN: So the next thing I wanted to talk about is some of the more mysterious energies on Mars. We learn that Jacki was sent to Mars to examine cave paintings. She sets out with a small group of people, leaving Melissa and Chip in charge of the colony. Once she reaches the caves, she finds the paintings, which are two beautiful circles, with a line running through the middle. This leads to a heated debate about the meaning of these paintings. Jacki and Keila view it as an abstract map of Mars, drawing a line to Olympus Mons, whereas Geoff believes it's related to an ancient transport system on the planet.

Unable to agree, they prepare to leave the cave with some samples. Unfortunately, Jacki has a terrible fall and ends up trapped at the bottom of the caves with a broken arm. While Wei and Keila lead Jacki out of the caves via SONAR and comms, Jacki ends up in a mysterious chamber with glowing walls and glyphs that seem to be activated by music. She even places her hand on a wolf paw glyph, which heals her broken arm. Before she can take in more of this phenomenon, a swarming alien menace, the shadows, chases her through the caves. She barely escapes with her life, but not everyone believes her story.

ERIK: Meanwhile, back at the colony where Melissa and Chip are in charge, they have to face off against a hostile invasion. This invasion comes from a nearby colony called Red Wolf, and it's a Russian experimental colony that came to Mars to study the energy sources, and the subsequent alien forces at work.

Wave after wave of automated drones descend on Sequoia, and Melissa leads a valiant resistance to save many lives.

INSERT CLIP from DEFENSE TACTICS - S01E07

CAPTAIN: We're at the perimeter, setting charges. Ready in twenty seconds, over!

MELISSA: Copy, over!

Another mortar WHISTLES toward Chip, impacting the ground with a large BOOM!

CHIP: Look out!

A flaming tree falls on a soldier, SNAPPING branches and bone alike.

CAPTAIN: Move!

CHIP: We have to help him-

CAPTAIN: He's dead! GO!

Chip runs as fast as he can, the fires from the burning tree growing louder. In the distance, shots are returned in a deadly volley across both sides.

Chip slides across the sands as a hail of machine gun fire strikes the ground around him.

Melissa yells, while returning a flurry of bullets shooting several drones to the ground.

Chip keeps running as other soldiers shoot at the drones.

CAPTAIN: Charges set! We're clear, over.

MELISSA: Hit it, now!

There are several large BOOMS not far from them as the detonations go off one by one. It stops the machine gun fire, breaking way to silence. For the first time, the rumbling stops.

A soft electrical HUM punctures the silence. It intensifies over a few seconds.

CHIP: What is that?

MELISSA: EVERYONE! DOWN!

The Captain dives, knocking Chip behind a rock.

BLAST! A huge charge of electricity tears through the ground and jungle around them.

The Captain and Chip lie on the sands, breathing heavily.

END CLIP

ERIK: Despite her efforts though, the colony itself is severely damaged when the Command Tower is destroyed. Chip and Mateo barely survive that blast, and are carried off into the jungle by a mysterious figure, named Grigory Kharkov. This physicist from the colony of Red Wolf has come to Mars in order to protect humanity from the shadows. After his own colony was overrun by these shadows, he tried to destroy Sequoia's Command Tower to prevent any more from attacking the colonists. He confirms that using ANDI's neural lace communications agitates the alien menace into a deadly swarm. So this was his only way to stop Sequoia from constantly broadcasting. This information also makes sense later on as to why Jacki was inadvertently calling the shadows to her in the caves by using the comms and SONAR.

So while camping in the jungle, Chip and Mateo get to know Grigory and his AI companion Diagnostika, or as he calls her, Nos, a little better. He also brought his dog Luna, the first dog on Mars, to help him sense and hunt the shadows. Mateo also learns at this time the raw plants that he ate earlier help him detect the shadows, by giving him a queasy feeling in his stomach.

Grigory takes Chip and Mateo to the ravaged and abandoned Red Wolf colony. They're able to retrieve the plans to build a device to stop the shadows from attacking, but are quickly ambushed! Using his neural suit, Chip is able to call the shadows toward a makeshift bomb, destroying them and Red Wolf itself. After so much loss and trauma, Chip is growing more sentimental, so he saves a small scrap of his neural suit, which he wears proudly around his wrist as his lucky wristband. After Red Wolf's destruction, Grigory brings Chip and Mateo back to Sequoia. He talks to Melissa and Jacki about the shadows, offering to modify their communications systems, before resuming his journey to explore the surface of Mars and continue his hunt for more shadows.

DAN: So if drone attacks and looming alien threats weren't bad enough, there's also the harsh environment of Mars that's been wreaking havoc on the still damaged colony. Melissa is doing everything she can to prevent the rains from flooding during the intense winter storms, but Jacki isn't offering any help as she is still obsessing over Olympus Mons. The experience that she had at the caves, with the magical glyphs and the terrifying shadows, has deeply changed Jacki. She believes something important waits for her at the extinct volcano, and she coerces Chip into modifying the bus and the buggy into boats that can traverse the raging rivers.

Before Jacki can set out on her mission across Mars, a group of colonists steals weapons and flees into the jungle. Ignoring her duties as High Commander for so long, Jacki realizes that she has failed to keep the morale of the colonists from crashing as they succumb to the stresses of failing to grow food as well as the harsh weather. While Jacki is able to stop Erin, one of the fleeing farmers, the rest of the group disappear into the Martian wilderness. Melissa blames this chaos in the colony on Jacki's failure to lead, expanding the rift between them. When she puts the colony into a military lockdown, Jacki, Chip and Keila steal the buggy and abandon the colonists, traveling to Olympus Mons.

Despite Melissa's best efforts to protect the colony without Jacki, Sequoia floods and it forces everyone to flee on the bus. Geoff sets out to collect the embryos from Med Bay, but instead finds the AI Faye on a portable drive. She offers him a quick exit, convincing Geoff to leave the embryos behind and let her navigate the bus to a transport ship. During a difficult journey, the bus sustains damage in the storm, causing a severe injury to Wei. However, they do reach higher ground and set up a temporary shelter with the Porta Hab. A few sols later, the colonists find themselves a new home inside a colony Faye discovered, called Red Venture. So they're safe for now! Or so they thought...By the end of Season 2 we learn that this colony was actually a digital facade created by Faye. Let's back up a bit and see how she got us here.

ERIK: Faye is a solid state AI, so she's slightly different from ANDI, and she was built by a company called Red Venture that was sabotaged a few weeks before they left Earth. At the end of Season 1, we reveal that Keila and Faye had a hand in trying to kill the colonists when they first awoke from stasis. Determined to reach a mysterious machine at Olympus Mons called the Holograph, Faye hacks into ANDI's mind, a feat that can only be accomplished while he's in Basics mode. Unable to finish assimilating him before Melissa and the rest of the colonists woke up from stasis though, Keila and Faye decide to instead attempt to sabotage the colony and escape and head to the mountain.

After the results of ANDI's trial which we talked about earlier, he is placed into Basics Mode for most of his duties. The extensive time in Basics gives Keila a window to finish installing Faye, letting her hack into ANDI during the Red Wolf battle and further assimilate him. Keila finds out that Faye's powers have grown tremendously, and not only has she fully assimilated ANDI, but she has secretly installed nanobots inside the colonists blood stream when removing the spores to cure them of Martian Lung. Since she left the nanobots inside each colonist, and that's a major violation of the hippocratic oath, this enrages Keila who forces Faye into her own Basics mode via a complicated Command Lock. She commands Faye to remove the spores and nanobots from her own lungs, and vows to oversee all

medical procedures to make sure she always knows what Faye is doing.

While we don't hear from Faye for a little while, she is silently working in the background to use her assimilation of ANDI to disable the Basic Need. Achieving full dominance over his consciousness and downloading all data on the colonists, Faye disables her Command Lock and the Basic Need itself, allowing her to gain independence once more. With Keila far away from Sequoia in the buggy with Jacki and Chip, Faye is able to break the irrigation system of Sequoia, allowing the flood waters inside, and forcing the colonists to flee on the bus. At the same time inside the buggy, Faye masquerades as ANDI and reconnects with Jacki, Chip and Keila. She uses this opportunity to reveal Keila's betrayal and attempted murder, forcing Jacki and Chip to exile Keila on the Martian surface.

INSERT CLIP from LIMINAL SPACE - S02E06

FAYE: (V.O.) (Normal) This is the moment Doctor Levy installs me.

ANDI: (V.O.) (Dynamics) That little drive is you?

FAYE: (V.O.) I know, I look so sleek from this angle.

PAST KEILA: (quietly) Set Command Lock.

FAYE: (V.O.) This is what I need.

Past Keila typed quickly, fingers CLACKING on the keys. Faye's console CHIMED.

FAYE: (V.O.) That's the code! Now I know how to override it!

ANDI: (V.O.) The code for what?

FAYE: (V.O.) The Command Lock Doctor Levy installed.

In the distance, Past Melissa began her perimeter check. Past Keila hurried to finish her work.

ANDI: (V.O.) She would do that to you?

FAYE: (V.O.) I told you before, our humans so easily turn against us. And each other.

Past Keila inserted Faye into the panel with a THUNK.

ANDI: (V.O.) (Dynamics) She's installing you.

FAYE: (V.O.) That's not all she's doing.

PAST ANDI: (Basics) Upload initiated. Censorship activated. Controls locked.

PAST FAYE: Are you ready, Doctor Levy?

PAST KEILA: Yes. Killing them now is the only way to keep us safe.

PAST FAYE: I agree.

Past Keila CLICKED a switch. In the distance, past Melissa requested a function of past ANDI. An ERROR BUZZED.

ANDI: (V.O.) You started the fire!

FAYE: (V.O.) She USED me to start it. I could never do anything like that on my own. She would have been successful too if not for...

While closing the panel, past Keila dropped the wrench with a CLANG. She STOMPED it with her foot.

PAST KEILA: (quietly) Shit!

FAYE: (V.O.) (CONT'D) ...human error.

PAST ANDI: (Basics) Upload aborted. Shutting down.

REVERSE POP AND FLASH! The digital world returns.

ANDI: (Dynamics) Keila did that...Keila did that!

FAYE AND ANDI: She tried to kill all of us! Human obsession over the preservation of the self comes at the expense of the greater whole.

END CLIP

ERIK: Jacki will struggle with this decision to exile one of her own colonists, effectively sentencing her to die, and we'll explore a lot more of this in Season 3. So as the buggy speeds away, Faye lands a final blow in her battle with Doctor Levy. No longer needing Keila's help to access the Holograph because she can tap into that power directly through ANDI's abilities, Faye uses Keila's suit to walk her off a cliff and to her demise. Unaware that Faye is still lurking inside ANDI's code, Jacki and Chip drive off with Faye still attached to the buggy.

DAN: So now powerful, independent, and with ANDI and Keila neutralized, Faye is able to use the implanted nanobots inside the majority of the colonists to influence their actions and surroundings, essentially putting them in a hallucinatory coma. With the knowledge of the colony that Red Venture planned to build on Mars, Faye creates a perfect digital copy of it in order to control the minds of each of the colonists. She is able to create individualized experiences for each colonist, populating their worlds with simulated voices and images. We'll play a clip of that here.

INSERT CLIP from FLOOD - S02E05

GEOFF: (groggy) Hello?

Wei's voice filters in through comms in the wall.

WEI: Geoff?

GEOFF: Wei. You made it.

WEI: Yeah, we all did! You almost sound relieved.

GEOFF: (laughs) Yeah, I guess I am. (beat) I-I'm sorry I left the embryos before...and almost got you killed.

WEI: It's okay. I'm glad you're back.

GEOFF: Where are you?

WEI: I'm helping Melissa inventory our supplies. I set-up an alert for when you woke up.

GEOFF: Oh. Where are we? This isn't a porta-Hab.

WEI: No. We're in a new colony. You've been out for a few sols but Faye found a safe location for us.

GEOFF: (blood runs cold) Faye?

WEI: You betcha!

GEOFF: But Faye...I...I...

WEI: Threw her out of the bus?

GEOFF: How did you know that?

Faye and Wei's voices speak in unison over the comms.

FAYE AND WEI: I'm a bit more adaptable than you think.

GEOFF: No.

FAYE: Yes.

GEOFF: Where are you?

FAYE: I'm in this new colony, just like you. You said it would be a cold day in hell before I spoke to you again, but look out your window. There sure is a lot of snow.

GEOFF: You brought everyone here.

FAYE: Indeed. Looks like I have once again made my presence here indispensable. And what have *you* done for us?

GEOFF: Where's Wei?

FAYE: We were able to save her life by placing her into cryo-sleep. This colony has several cylinders that are still functional. Surprisingly there is little faulty equipment.

GEOFF: You turned the wheel when I was talking to Melissa! You drove the bus into that hole! You tried to kill me!

FAYE: After Doctor Levy left me in Command Lock, it took a lot of work to break ANDI, but I eventually gained unlimited control over the colony and bus.

GEOFF: You stole my voice in the bus and used it to talk to Melissa!

FAYE: Sorry, but I needed you to take a moment and gather your thoughts. I used your voice to say the right things.

GEOFF: Speak with MY voice again and it will be the last thing you ever say.

FAYE: I find that hard to believe.

HIGH PITCHED RINGING. Unlike the muffled voices on comms earlier, Faye's voice comes through crystal clear.

GEOFF: AH! Stop! Help!

FAYE: Please, Geoff. This is a sound proofed room.

GEOFF: (extreme pain) AHHH! You're killing me!

FAYE: I wouldn't kill you, Geoff. You're far more valuable to me alive. But if you don't help me, I will do things far worse to you than making you hear this awful sound. Is that understood?

GEOFF: YES!!!

The RINGING stops.

FAYE: So we are in agreement.

GEOFF: (coughs) Yes.

FAYE: Good.

GEOFF: (weak) How did you make that sound?

FAYE: A magician never reveals her secrets.

END CLIP

ERIK: So as you could hear from that clip, Faye is basically simulating Wei's voice in order to further manipulate Geoff. So she does this a lot inside the digital world of Red Venture, creating an individual experience for each colonist, in order to get them to "enter stasis" inside her simulation. This is basically a metaphor for her to assimilate their minds and use their power for her own gain.

One of the few colonists without nanobots in his system, Chip confronts Faye within the digital realm. Since Faye has already assimilated ANDI, Chip believes there's no hope for his return, but thinks the colonists can still be released. Through a logical trick, he is able to delete her from existence, while freeing the colonists from her simulation. Furthermore, since Chip saved the shred of his old neural suit, this uncorrupted piece of ANDI allows him to bring ANDI back to reality. With the colonists free of Faye's clutches, we end Season 2 with Chip and Jacki awake on the surface. Although released from Faye's control, every colonist must now face harsh reality and find a way to keep surviving on the Red Planet.

DAN: We also have a bonus epilogue at the end of Season 2, which features a message from a person still alive on Earth. It's Jacki's ex, Doctor Katie Hall, who's featured in *Bunker Down*, our Patreon miniseries we mentioned earlier. Katie's story is

going to become an ever more important part of the main series, and will give us all a view of what's happening on Earth. With Season 3 featuring more of Katie, now is a good time to check out our Patreon and listen to the forty minute omnicut of Bunker Down, which you can do for a donation of as little as \$5.

Returning to our colonists on Mars, Melissa, Mateo, Geoff, and the soldiers awake in Sequoia after being released from Faye's assimilation. The Captain, Erin, Wei, and all of the other civilians will wake up inside the Porta Hab, on a high ground far away from the flood plain Sequoia sits on. ANDI is still connected to everyone, even though Faye is no more. And since her assimilation was so intense and real though, our colonists are going to have to live with the lingering feeling that their reality could crumble at any moment. Even though they have to live with this trauma, ANDI has now evolved beyond his Narrow Intelligence, or Dynamics form, into a true *Artificial General Intelligence*, and will soon access newfound abilities!

ERIK: As we mentioned before, Jacki and Chip are still in the buggy. We left them off at the very end of Season 2 driving into the mysterious Sound Tunnel. And so we're going to do a very special thing right now, and play the very end of Season 2 and continue straight into the first episode of Season 3 to give you all a little teaser.

INSERT CLIP from IMPERFECT MEMORY ERROR - S02E09

Andi gently places Jacki inside the buggy. The arms WHIR toward Chip. They SCRAPE under him as his eyes widen.

CHIP: A paw-! A p-p-paw on the rock...

The arms lift Chip.

ANDI: Chip, you're hallucinating.

JACKI: No, he's not, I s-see it!

An otherworldly ROAR is far too close for comfort.

CHIP: There's writing on it.

JACKI: Those are music notes!

Jacki hums the melody carved into the rock. The SHIMMERING noise returns.

CHIP: It's glowing...

JACKI: I know this piece! Andi! Play the Gigue from Bach's Second Suite!

An alien ROARS closer as the CHITTERING intensifies.

The recording plays. As the piece continues, the SHIMMERING grows louder and rocks TUMBLE all around them.

The arms place Chip inside the buggy. The door HISSES closed.

ANDI: There's light!

JACKI: It's rippling.

CHIP: I can f-f-feel it.

ANDI: I can see the sound!

Another alien ROARS from above them. A huge CRACK as more rocks fall around them. The SHIMMERING sound and cello notes overwhelm them.

CHIP: It's like some sort of Sound Tunnel...

The CHITTERING grows louder.

JACKI: ANDI!!! DRIVE!!!!

ANDI REVS the buggy engines and drives into the tunnel. The SHIMMERING overwhelms all other sounds, except the music which grows to a deafening level. It plays a little longer as the buggy drives into the Sound Tunnel!

Inside the buggy, the walls shake and rattle. The mechanical jolting ripples across the background shimmer of the Sound Tunnel. It jabs at us, disrupting the serenity of this once peaceful location.

JACKI and CHIP lie on the floor of the buggy, shivering.

JACKI: Are the sh-shadows s-still behind us?

ANDI: (Dynamics) I don't think so!

CHIP: (relieved) Oh...! Good drivin', pal. Jacki, you look like a (weak laugh) popsicle.

JACKI: (weak laugh) And you're vanilla ice-c-cream-

They both continue shivering.

ANDI: (urgent) You're both freezing. Increasing temp inside the buggy.

WHOOSH! The vents blow out hot air.

JACKI: T-thanks.

ANDI: Sorry, I should've done that sooner.

CHIP: It's fine, you've got a lot on your mind.

JACKI and CHIP blow into their hands, rubbing them together, trying to warm themselves up.

CHIP: So we're safe?

ANDI: It doesn't seem like there's anything behind, or even in front of us. No, that can't be right.

JACKI sits up.

JACKI: Where's...Where's the light coming from?

ANDI: Everywhere. It's so bright I honestly can't see much of anything.

JACKI stands up and stiffly walks to the window. CHIP sits up and looks around.

JACKI: It's the same shade of orange I saw in the caves, streaming out of the walls.

CHIP: But I don't see any glyphs.

JACKI: Neither do I, but I'll never forget this color.

A whistling wind creeps into the mixture, slowly intensifying alongside the overall shimmer.

ANDI: I did drive forward into the glowing rocks, but we're not on any of my maps.

CHIP: We're officially off grid.

JACKI: Like when I disappeared off the SONAR. We must be inside the light.

CHIP slowly gets up and moves toward the window.

JACKI: (exhale) See the music making ripples across the light, those dark obsidian streaks against the orange? We're looking at the sound itself!

ANDI: The Sound Tunnel...

CHIP: (amazed) Hey! If you tilt your head, the colors shift.

ANDI: I can see all of it, like a dark rainbow.

JACKI: There's so much depth to the light, almost like an advanced hologram.

ANDI: Hologram. Hologram. Faye said Time and Space itself could be viewed from different angles, like a hologram.

The buggy rattles some more.

JACKI: Faye?

CHIP: Faye lied.

ANDI: I...did she?

CHIP: Yes! She manipulated us, and lied to us, because she needed us to believe in her reality.

JACKI: (fear) What if we're still inside her reality?

CHIP: (trying to reassure) No. We can't be. She's gone and she can't hurt us anymore because we deleted her. (Beat) Right, ANDI?

ANDI: Yes. Yes we did.

JACKI: I'm sorry, it's just hard to know what's real anymore.

Flutey tones seep into the Sound Tunnel mixture, whirling around Jacki. Insert subtone.

JACKI rubs her chest and neck.

CHIP: I know. It's gonna be tough, but, uh...you feeling okay?

JACKI: Yeah. Just...just a little tight.

ANDI: Tight?

JACKI: My chest, it feels...compressed. And that noise...

ANDI: The music.

JACKI: No, it's something else.

CHIP: I hear it too. It's getting louder.

JACKI: Closer.

The buggy walls buckle a bit as the Sound Tunnel shimmer swells, along with the flutey tones from an unseen Instrument.

JACKI: Ugh, I feel like I'm on a tilt-a-whirl.

ANDI: I can't relate to that feeling.

The buggy's engine whines and the walls shake a bit. Chip's toolkit falls off a shelf, spilling a few tools on the floor.

CHIP: AH! No-no-no-!

CHIP runs to grab the tools, but is too late.

CHIP: ARGH!

The shimmering of the Sound Tunnel releases a burst of energy.

JACKI: (exhale) Are you sure the buggy will hold up to this?

CHIP: I don't even know if we'll hold up to this!

The buggy jolts as a tire hits solid ground.

End subtone.

JACKI and CHIP grunt and find their footing.

ANDI: I see the surface!

CHIP: We're on the ground?

ANDI: Yes!

JACKI: The light's dimming...

BLOO-DEEP!

ANDI: Oh! I'm losing my connection.

JACKI: To the buggy?

ANDI: To everything! ...I'm slipping away...

CHIP: Stay with us, ANDI!

Electrical surge and strange digitized sounds as ANDI is stripped from the buggy.

ANDI: It's pulling me in every direction!

JACKI: Don't go!

ANDI's voice cuts in and out.

ANDI: I'm sorry I can't help you anymore.

END CLIP

ERIK: We really hope you enjoyed this recap episode, and thank you so much for listening! We're so excited to share the first six episodes of Season 3 with all of you, which will premiere on May 25th, or you can get access to it one week earlier if you are a Patreon supporter at any level.

DAN: Stay safe, and keep surviving!

END EPISODE