

The Curious Case of Dogless Space Episode 3

CHATTER, BOOTS WALKING, ENGINE REPAIR NOISES. THE BAY DOORS HISS
OPEN.

Karen

Hello?! Who's in charge here please?

Commander

Commander on deck!

Hench

At ease, as you all were.

Karen

Who's in charge of seeing to repairs?

Kevin

Ma'am, Commander Kevin Rince. We haven't had an opportunity to look at your ship yet.
We've had our hands full.

Karen

yes, the pirate, I'm aware. BARRINGTON!

Hench

Mrs Everfield-

Karen

Karen, please. BARRINGTON, COME HERE, I NEED YOU.

Hench

Karen, my engineers can and will help you-

Karen

I'm all too glad. I will of course assist you as well, once we get my dear Martin safely
back.

Hench

well thank you-

Karen
BARRINGTON CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN COME OUT.

heavy slow robot footsteps.

Kevin
good lord!

Barrington
Yes Mrs, I can hear you.

Karen
Good man. How are things, dear?

Hench
Is that a Mark IV?

Kevin
where did he come from?

Barrington
Brass engines have cracked due to overheating. Banks are clean. Fuel is clean. Reserves are low but functional.

Karen
He's a Mark II, actually. Rebuilt him myself.

Barrington
Mrs, intruders took the ship and Mr Everfield.

Karen
I know dear.

Barrington
I attempted to engage in rescue, but the self preservation protocols you reinforced compelled me to evacuate and hide.

Kevin
How did you uninstall his first law protocol?

Karen

Oh I didn't! Quite impossible, I just clipped it a bit and bolstered his second law failsafe. I won't have our Barrington get himself killed because of some silly superstition about the robot menace.

Hench
Is that wise?

Barrington
My understanding is Mr Everfield is safe as long as he cooperates. I must protect Mrs. I cannot protect Mrs if I am disabled. I was outnumbered. I apologize for my ineffectiveness
Mrs.

Karen
Oh, heavens. Dear, not at all. You did absolutely what I needed. Sweet old thing.

Kevin
Ma'am, only self-tesseracting models can come close to having the kind of feelings your projecting onto this robot. Even the Project 9's don't. There's no way a Mark II-

Karen
That will be quite enough of that! Barrington may not be flesh and blood, but he's family. Aren't you dear?

Barrington
Yes, Mrs.

Hench
Kevin, please. Karen, what's the situation? Tell me about your ship.

Karen
It's just a little brass hopper of our own design. Martin, bless him, is a brilliant engineer. I dreamed up an equation that could let us go anywhere in the galaxy and he designed an engine that could handle it.

Kevin
How does it work?

Karen
with a great deal of complexity, Commander. I say only Martin could keep up with me, and I haven't the time to hold your hand through it.

Hench

Ha ha! So the pirates of Dogless space have a ship that can take them anywhere in the universe in an instant?

Karen

and my Martin. I don't fancy the idea of them having either.

Hench

hear hear. How long until they get it working?

Karen

Barrington?

Barrington

You and Mr Everfield could affect repairs in the lab in 2 hours 25 minutes.

Hench

Not much time.

Kevin

You think Pearl and Cutthroat can figure out how to repair it?

Hench

If they have Mr Everfield, eventually yes.

Karen

Agree. We'll have to work quickly. My Martin will do his best to stall them.

leaky, creaky, space pirate ship noises.

[pirates laughing loudly]

Martin

And so all this time, Mrs Everfield is scribbling in her note book, just watching. I'm outside the ship, running ragged from tree to tree, just trying to get my trousers back-

Pearl

They're not still wet from falling in the creek?

Martin

No, darling, no. Some time has passed.

Rudder

Wait, how long as your wife been watching your run around without your pants on?

Martin

Oh a full half hour, at least!

[pirates laugh louder]

Martin

You see, this is when I realized that the wind wasn't blowing the branches at all. The trees themselves were not only quite sentient, but it seems also a race of pranksters!

[pirates laugh with Martin]

Martin

So-so...you see I realize I'm not going to get anywhere by running about like a loon. I have to reason with them. I shout up at the tree "I say! Would you mind terribly dropping my trousers?"

[pirates laugh uncontrollably]

Martin

and Karen, without missing a beat or looking up from her notebook just says "Martin, they haven't ears. They can't hear you. You're barking up the wrong trees!"

[everyone laughs]

Rudder

Ohh. Oh Martin. You are a card!

Pearl

You're all right by me!

Martin [laughing]

oh heavens yes. Good sport. This is why Mrs Everfield and I took this safari you know. Meet new people. Experience life! This has all be quite exhilarating.

metal bangs on metal loudly several times.

Cutthroat

IS IT?

[everyone stops laughing]

Cutthroat

Are you having a good time?

Martin

Ah, all things considered, yes I suppose.

Cutthroat

Aye. And you lot? Rudder, you having a laugh?

Rudder

Come on, Cutthroat, leave it.

Cutthroat

Pearl? You think I should 'leave it' too? You think we should all just let Martin here tell
enthrall us with tales from outside till our teeth fall over?

Pearl

We got him. We got the ship. Soon as it's repaired we're outta here. No harm in
celebrating.

Cutthroat

CELEBRATING? Oh we're celebrating, is it? What is we celebratin then? Eh? River
Run, what we celebratin?

River

well you said, what you said was this ship can get us out of dogless space.

Cutthroat

I surely did! Mr Martin, your ship can get us out can't it?

Martin

I certainly hope so. It got me and the Mrs in too quick.

Cutthroat

There we go! Pearl, you think that's worth a laugh and a cheer?

Pearl

...Yeah, I do. I do! You want to tell me what I can cheer about now??

Cutthroat

No no. I just want to make sure we're all on the same screen. Let's all have a cheer. Let's cheer, all of us, to being free! We did it! We're finally free and out of dogless space! All of us!

[silence]

River

But we ain't out cap'n. We're still-

[loud metal bangs again]

Cutthroat

I KNOW WE'RE STILL HERE, RIVER YOU LOW THRUST CAN OF TIN CRAP! AND WE'RE GONNA DIE HERE IF WE DON'T GET THIS SHIP WORKING. YOU THINK HENCH IS JUST SITTING ON HIS STATION, WAITING FOR US TO DO AS WE PLEASE?

[silence]

Martin

If I may, Captain Cutthroat, there's no need for all this giddered and nonsense. Really, we only-

Cutthroat

Mr Martin. Is your ship currently in ship shape?

Martin

Well no, I-

Cutthroat

Can you get it in ship shape?

Martin

Well with a little help I could-

Cutthroat

good. now tell me what you need to fix it. and do it in 3 words or I'll shoot you dead and have the Overload Twins figure it out on their own.

[silence]

Martin
Brass. Welder. Time.

Cutthroat
How much time?

Martin
depends on the welder. depends on the brass. I don't suppose any of you know anything
about engineering or construction?

Rudder
Chasm does.

River
No he doesn't!

Rudder
He got the Overload Twins and they know about engineering so that means Chasm does!

Pearl
that's not what it means.

Cutthroat
Shut up! SHUT UP SHUT UP!

[BEAT]

Cutthroat
Call Chasm. Tell him if he wants out, he's gotta get in with us. Bring the twins, their
tools, and...how much brass Martin?

Martin
Do you have much to spare?

Cutthroat
We don't have much at all.

Martin

then bring what you have, hopefully it will be sufficient.

Cutthroat
For your sake.

Martin
Yes, that's what I was implying, thank you.

River
Don't make us have to want to kill you, Martin. You're a funny guy.

Cutthroat
Get to work. I Pearl, Rudder, stay with him. Everyone else grab a gun and get to stations.
Hench'll be here soon so I want to be gone sooner.

[Boot steps as he walks off]

Martin
Captain.

[boots stop]

Martin
If you're lucky, Commander Hench will get here before my wife does. If you're smart,
you'll listen to her.

Cutthroat
Are you threatning me Martin?

Martin
If you don't, there won't be anyone left here for Hench to deal with when she's through
with you.

[CUTTHROAT GROWLS. HE STOMPS AWAY]

[breathing inside a space helmet. the occasional soft beep or thruster noise. click. Hench
and Barrington speak through a radio]

Hench
Hench to Everfield, do you hear me Karen?

Karen

Yes, I hear you. Fine signal.

Hench

We're top of the line at the 15.

Karen

very good. I'm on approach to the pirate vessel now.

Hench

You may want to kill your thrusters. They can be picked up by their instruments

Karen

Commander, that will nearly double my travel time. I have no intention of leaving Martin to the devices of these greedy horrible people for a second longer than is absolutely necessary.

Hench

Could put him in danger if they see you coming.

Karen

Hardly. They need him. If they see me it'll just put ME in danger.

Hench

Can't argue.

Karen

And I'm already in danger, so six to one.

Barrington

Mrs, if you are in danger I am required-

Karen

No, no. I was speaking broadly Barrington. Its fine. Continue with the plan as programmed.

Barrington

Yes Mrs.

Hench

We have our ship to ship fighters on standby. I can have a compliment of guards meet

follow you in walk suits.

Karen

for the last time NO. Thank you commander, but the more people I have to watch over the less likley this is to work. Once I'm on board, THEN you may dispatch your fighters.

The only walksuit and rifle I want out here are mine.

Hench

This plan is a little unorthodox, if you don't mind me saying.

Karen

In fact I do, Commander. I've been called unorthodox before, seems to me nothing more than a euphamism for 'clever' used by men who would rather be in control.

Hench

Karen, it's my job to look after the safety of any citizen on my station.

Karen

I'm no long on your station.

Hench

any civilian, then.

Karen

excepting pirates, you mean.

Hench

I can't help them, they just want to steal.

Karen

Seems to me they only want to steal to leave.

Hench

they'd just steal out there then!

Karen

It's no business of mine Commander, if you want to be the warden of this strange little jail. But don't take the higher ground with me. There's no high ground to take in space.

Just us and our choices.

Barrington

Mrs, you are close to your destination, reccommend break thrusters.

Hench

We'll put a pin in this conversation for later then. Karen, My fighters are prepped and ready. Are you prepared to sneak onboard?

Karen

Sneak??

Barrington

Impact in 13 seconds.

Hench

You need to slow down if you're going to get in undetected.

Karen

Karen Lafayette Grammel Everfied does not sneak, Commander.

Hench

what are you doing??

Barrington

Impact in 9 seconds.

Karen

I am getting my husband back.

[thruster sounds gets louder]

Hench

Oh my god. Commander, scramble the fighters, prepare to launch!

Karen

LET'S HOP!

[she starts shooting her laser rifle wildly]

Hench

NOW! LAUNCH! LAUNCH!

Barrington

Impact minus 0. Mrs I am in position.

Karen

The focal point of my rifle should be heated enough now, Barrington. Please tear me open a hole.

Barrington

At once, Mrs.

[the steam robot tears metal.]

[PIRATES YELLING. STEAM SHOOTING. A JANKY RED ALERT. everyone's yelling over the nosie]

Rudder

What's that?

River

The alarm! We hit! He's firing on us.

Martin

This tin cup wouldn't have any power left if Hench fired on you.

[a rocking boom! the ships being torn apart!]

Pearl

Then what do you call that?

Martin

If I've not missed my guess, that's my wife tearing a hole in your wind up toy starship.

[the door hisses open. Cutthroat stomps in]

Cutthroat

MR MARTIN.

Martin

Captain Cutthroat, I did warn you. You know the Commander better than I do, would you say he is on his way with the calvary?

Cutthroat

HE MAY WELL BE.

MARTIN
MY WIFE WILL BE HERE SHORTLY, LIKEY WITH OUR VALET. IF YOU WANT
TO SALVAGE ANY KIND OF WIN FROM TODAY, I SUGGES-

[BLAM! LASER RIFLE SHOT!]

Martin
Oh. My.

Cutthroat
You talk too much Mr Martin. And you don't repair engines fast enough.

Martin
Oh no.

Cutthroat
Now let's see if we can talk some sense into that wife of yours.

Martin
Karen, no-!

[laser rifle blast]