

The Curious Case of Dogless Space Episode 4

[KLAXON. PIRATES YELLING. LASER BLASTS. BOOTS ON METAL]

Karen

Barrington! Barrington, have you followed me in?

Barrington

Yes, Mrs.

Karen

Very good. You understand the plan?

Barrington

The same procedure as last year?

Karen

Have at it.

Barrington

BATTLE PROCEDURE ENGAGED. SECOND LAW PROTOCOL GIVEN PRIORITY.

[LOUD WHIRRING. STEAM HISSES. THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ROBOT IS TRANSFORMING INTO A BATTLE BOT. HIS VOICE CHANGES]

Barrington

PLEASE STAND DOWN. I WILL ONLY HARM AGGRESSORS.

Pirate

JUMPING JUPITER! LOOK OUT!

BARRINGTON

PARDON ME. I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU.

[pirates screaming in the background as Barrington destroys stuff]

Karen

Good man, Barrington. Keep it up!

[she runs out of the room, boots clanking]

Karen  
My goodness, this ship is filthy.

[laser blast]

Karen  
Stay back! I'm armed!

Chasm  
Who isn't?

Karen  
How do you do? I'm Mrs Everfield, I've come for my husband.

Chasm  
Chasm

Karen  
Ah yes, Mr Chasm, we spoke earlier.

Chasm  
That's an interesting looking gun. I've never seen anything like it.

Karen  
It's my own design.

Chasm  
Impressive. Can it outshoot mine?

[his laser gun whines to life]

Karen  
It only needs to out shoot you.

Chasm  
You ever killed anyone before?

Karen  
No one's ever gotten between me and Martin before.

Chasm

I don't see a killer behind those eyes. Put your gun down and surr-

[last blast. chasm yelps and howls]

Karen

Of course I'm not a killer, you awful man. Now toss your gun away or I'll shoot you in the other leg.

[clank]

Karen

Good. Where's Martin?

[transition noises. back in the room where martin was]

Martin

ugh....oh.....oh...

Cutthroat

River, Pearl, get this ship fixed. If it's not fixed when I get back, I'm killing him, then you two.

River

Where are you going?

Cutthroat

For the woman!

[he leaves]

Pearl

Sorry Martin. Cutthroat get's like this sometimes.

Martin

Are you hand waving my getting shot like a toddler's thrown a tantrum?

River

Tends to get a little shooty in dogless space. That's a gut wound though, so you've got a good few hours before you die.

Martin

Oh i'm not going to die, you ass.

Pearl

That's the spirit.

Martin

Look, if you want to get out of dogless space, I can take you.

River

I think Cutthroat is gonna take us.

Martin

I'm not letting Cutthroat go anywhere in my ship. And if Karen finds out he shot me, I doubt very much he'll go anywhere ever again.

Pearl

Well, Cutthroat is kind of in charge of this operation.

Martin

Fine, What about you?

River

me?

Martin

Yes, Pearl is disinclined to join us in leaving dogless space. You help me, you can still come along.

River

OH!

Pearl

Well hang on now! I want to leave too!

Martin

no, no, you've had your chance AND your say. River and I will be leaving, thank you very much.

Pearl

No wait wait! This isn't River's ship, this is my ship. I can get you out of here faster.

Martin  
Is that true River?

[the door opens and another pirate enters]

River  
It's not my ship, that's true, but I can still fight. You'll need a fighter to get out!

Rudder  
Get out?? What in two korona's is going on in here??

Pearl  
Oh, Rudder! Martin says we can leave with him if we help him and Mrs Evergreen escape.

Rudder  
ESCAPE?? WE ARE NOT GOING TO HELP OUR ONLY TWO PRISONERS  
ESCAPE!

Martin  
We'll also need to get our valet.

Pearl  
What's a valet?

[transition noises. pirates screamaing and lasers blasting]

Barrington  
PARDON ME. I MUST MAINTAIN THE SAFTEY OF THE EVERFIELDS. YOU'RE  
INENT IS HOSTILE. STAY BACK IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE HARMED.

[MORE YELLS AND BLASTS. METAL TEARING. BARRINGTON CLOMPING  
AROUND]

Barrington  
DIRECT ME TO MR EVERFIELDS LOCATION.

PIRATE  
DIE YOU TIN PLATED GOLEM! YOU'LL NEVER GET PAST SERVER 88 AND THE  
TUNGSTEN GANG!!

[loud explosion. pirates scream]

Barrington  
APOLOGIES TO THE TUNGSTEN GANG. I DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE HARM.

[CLANG. SQUISH. ANOTHER PIRATE SCREAM]

Barrington  
DO NOT CONTINUE TO ENGAGE

[transition noises. a radio squeal and hiss.]

Hench  
Karen, what the beautiful living hell is going on in there?

Karen  
I have engaged with the pirates while Barrington clears out the ship. have your fighters scrambled?

Hench  
Our fighters are mission complete, ma'am.

Karen  
Really? Mission complete, already?

Hench  
Yes ma'am.

Karen  
I underestimated you Commander. Well done.

Hench  
Don't relax yet. No sign of the Overload Twins, Hack Barely, or any of the miners out here. In there we've lost visual on Rudder, Pearl, River, Server 88 and-

Karen  
Yes, thank you Commander, but I'm not able to put a face to any of those names. If I see anyone else I will be sure to ask.

Hench

Karen, do not engage directly with these people. They are desperate and dangerous. If you see one, hide and report location. We'll dispatch a security team once we breach.

Karen  
nonsense, I took care of Mr Chasm with little effort.

Hench  
...you tagged Chasm?

Karen  
There are advantages to the subtle sexism of lowered expectations. Though I'd trade them in a moment to never have to explain myself twice again.

Hench  
Karen-

Karen  
oh, everfield out!

[she cuts transmission]

Karen  
Barrington do you read?

Barrington  
I read you clearly Mrs.

Karen  
I believe I'm heading aft, would you be a beach and meet me there?

Barrington  
Yes, Mrs.

Karen  
I do hope Martin is all right.

[laser blast. transition noises]

Martin  
oo! Ah!

Pearl  
you okay Martin?

Martin  
Yes, for now. I am starting to really feel this bolt to the gut, however.

Rudder  
that's the laser. It has a tendency to cook the stomach juices so even hours after-

Martin  
yes, yes, thank you Rudder. I don't need it academically.

Rudder  
Sorry Martin.

Martin  
It's alright. Now, I need you and River to go out and escort my wife here, yes? Pearl will stay with me and help keep me safe until Barrington arrives.

River  
That's the valet?

Martin  
Yes. Good chap is in for a bit of bad news, I'm afraid. But nothing to be done for it! Now River, Rudder, you must listen carefully.

Rudder  
yes.

River  
what?

Martin  
when you see Mrs Everfield, you must call her Sparky.

Pearl  
Sparky?

Martin  
Don't interrupt please. Yes, call her Sparky. It's an affectionate nickname I have for her. She will know you are on our side once she hears it. You must be quick, you understand?

River  
Right.

Rudder  
Sparky.

Martin  
Good. now off with you. and keep your pistols pointed at the ground. By gods, she will  
shoot your knees off and never break a sweat.

Rudder  
Er, right.

River  
Sparky.

[they leave]

Pearl  
if cutthroat comes back and we aren't gone, he'll kill us both.

Martin  
If he plans on killing us, he better do it before he runs aground of my wife.

[transition noises]

Karen  
Commander...commander can you hear me?

Cutthroat  
I can hear you, deary.

[laser pistols whine and click]

Karen  
Where is my husband, Cutthroat?

Cutthroat  
Hopefully fixing my new ship. Hopefully not dead yet.

Karen  
What did you do?

Cutthroat  
motivated him.

Karen  
I see.

[there's a moment where the laser pistols crackle]

Karen  
Well?

Cutthroat  
Well what?

Karen  
are you going to shoot?

Cutthroat  
If you made it this far, I assume you know how to use that.

Karen  
I do.

Cutthroat  
Then if I shoot you, you shoot me.

Karen  
Correct.

Cutthroat  
So let's make a deal instead of both getting shot.

Karen  
No deal.

Cutthroat  
You haven't even heard my terms.

[crackle]

Cutthroat

I take you back to your husband. We get out of here and I drop you at the nearest planet with a hospital. I keep your ship, you keep your man.

Karen

What makes you think Commander Hensch would let you leave with my ship?

Cutthroat

We have him outnumbered and surrounded. We can leave quietly while he deals with my pirate fleet.

Karen

Most of your men are here, on this ship, waiting to leave with you.

Cutthroat

and from the sounds of it, half his men have also boarded. He's spread himself too thin. I'm willing to cut my losses.

Karen

I'm not.

Rudder

Sparky!

Cutthroat

What?!

[laser blast. cutthroat cries out and drops, groaning in pain]

Karen

Did Martin send you?

River

He did! We're on your side now.

Karen

Fine. Take me to him.

Cutthroat

TRAITORS! AARRG! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT OFF THE SHIP! I'LL ORDER THE  
WHOLE FLEET TO BLAST US OUT OF THE STARS BEFORE I LET YOU GET  
AWAY.

[heavy robotic footsteps approach]

Karen

No, I'm afraid not. You see while you had all your resources pooled here, Commander  
Hench sent out HIS fleet to destroy or disable all of yours.

Cutthroat

WHHATT? NNOOOO!! ARRGG NOO NOOO!!

Barrington

Greetings Mrs. I am glad to find you well.

Karen

Thank you dear, you've done very well.

Barrington

How is Mr Everfield?

Karen

these two are taking us to him now.

River

Cutthroat shot him.

Rudder

in the belly.

River

He's okay for now but he's gonna need a medic real soon.

Rudder

sooner the better, t'be honest.

Karen

You shot my husband?

Cutthroat

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE! HE'S SOFT AND WEAK AND HAS NO PLACE IN DOGLESS SPACE!

Karen

Nor do I. Barrington, can I compell you to break this mans leg?

Barrington

No Mrs. He is not an active threat and unarmed. Primary protocol is engaged.

Karen

what a good boy.

[laser blast. cutthroat yowls again]

Karen

Let's not tell Mr Everfield about that, yes?

Barrington

Yes Mrs.

Karen

Let's go.

River

This way, ma'am.

[Transition noises. back to Martin. the door opens. barrington clangs in.]

Karen

MARTIN!

MARTIN

SPARKY!

[she rushes over and they embrace and kiss]

Karen

oh darling, i was so terrified.

Martin

so was i! But I knew you'd come!

Karen  
Are you hurt?

Martin  
No, no, no! Well yes, quite badly in fact.

Karen  
we should get you back to space port 15 for treatment.

Martin  
Oh i don't want to go back there! Can't we just leave?

Karen  
Martin! No, you impossible man.

Pearl  
I would also like to not go to the space port.

River  
hear hear!

Rudder  
Yar!

Martin  
The aye's have it.

Karen  
they don't get a vote. We're going back for treatment first. Did you really promise these people they could come with us.

Martin  
I did, they're not such a bad lot, just dealt a bad hand I think.

Karen  
sweet man. I suppose this means the engines are repaired?

Martin  
well, no in fact.

Karen  
Oh dear.

[BOOMING EXPLOSION. MUFFLED SPACE BATTLE SOUNDS. KLAXONS AND  
STEAM]

Martin  
Heavens!

Karen  
OH!

[radio static]

Hench  
Karen, this is Hench, are you alright?

Karen  
We're all fine over here commander, situation has been dealt with. What's going on out  
there?

Hench  
Reinforcements I'm afraid! The overload twins finally decided to show up, and they  
brought a small armada with them!

[another blast]

Karen  
I don't suppose you can keep them from doing that?

Hench  
I'm afraid not. You sit tight, we're scrambling our jets.

[click]

Karen  
that won't do.

Rudder  
we gotta get out of here!

River

If we tell the overload twins we got your ship, there's no way they'll destroy us!

Pearl

But the twins don't share! They're not pleasant as we are.

Karen

I can imagine. We can't get back to the station and we can't stay here.

Martin

I'm afraid it's time to break the bad news to Barrington.

Karen

oh no, Martin! We can't!

Martin

we don't have any options, darling. It's the only way. And even this is just a best guess.

Karen

oh! Oh dear.

River

Best guess?

Martin

Barrington.

River

best guess??

Barrington

Yes Mr Everfield.

Martin

I'm afraid we'll need you to fuse the engines together yourself.

Barrington

Sir, my self preservation protocols inhibit my ability to self sacrifice.

Martin

Yes, I understand, it's natural to be afraid. But your brass body is the the only way out

right now.

Barrington

It is likely the engines would not react well to the tin impurities in my body.

River

so this might not even work at all?

Rudder

If it doesn't work we're in the same spot as we are now. May as well try! If it fails, we'll fight our way out!

Martin

Oh no no, if this doesn't work we won't hop anywhere. We'll simply explode. It'll be quite a spectacle.

Rudder

a-ah...I..uh

Karen

We'll have to completely rebuild them once we get out.

Martin

So it goes.

Pearl

The robot can fix the engines? Why didn't you do that right away??

Karen

He's *family*, Pearl.

River

Leave no man behind.

Rudder

unless it's all or nothing.

Pearl

Aye. Life in dogless space is more often cruel than not.

Karen

Oh, Barrington!

[BOOM KABOOM!]

Martin

eeuuh! ah. It's time. I'm afraid i'm in no state to-

Karen

leave it with me. You two-

River/Rudder

aye!

Karen

Take mr everfield inside.

River/Rudder

aye!

[ they do]

Karen

Pearl, take the bridge, we'll have to hop from inside this ship and it'll shake all hell loose when we do. Steady our course. Unless we all die, then you won't have to do anything.

Pearl

Aye!

[pearl leaves]

Karen

Barrington, my dear, to the engine room.

Barrington

Yes mrs.

[transition noises. we're on space port 15 now. alarms and muffled canon blasts]

Hench

Full spread, no burst! Keep them dancing!

Commander  
yes sir!

Hench  
Keep them away from Pearl's ship, I want the everfield's back in once piece!

[radio click.]

Karen  
Commander Hench, this is Karen Everfield.

Hench  
I'm glad to hear you're still with us, Ma'am, but I am a little busy trying to keep you alive.

Karen  
That's very sweet, Commander, but we have no problems keeping ourselves alive.

Martin (background)  
Barely!

Karen  
Shush! Rest. Commander, I'm sorry to leave you holding the bag, as they say, but it's become clear we have no choice but to hop out right now or give up the collective ghost.

Hench  
I thought you're engines weren't working?

[BOOM! CRACK!]

Hench  
Rotate axis! Keep the overload twins in line with the meridian!

Commander  
rotating port and rerouting jets!

Karen  
Yes well we've got it sorted, more or less. I believe once we take our ship, the pirates will break off their attack.

Hench  
You don't know these pirates like I do, Ma'am.

Karen

I'm looking forward to getting to know them. The ones we have at any rate.

Hench

You're carrying pirates?

Karen

Only a few.

Pearl (off)

HELLO HENCH! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME NOW! HAR HAR HARR!

Karen

Stop that right now, Pearl. Commander?

Hench

...I'm listening.

Karen

Once we patch up my husband and my ship, we'll gladly come back for all of you and return you to normal space. Assuming the plan goes according to plan.

[BOOM POW!]

Hench

Kind of you to offer, Mrs Everfield, but someone's gotta keep law and order in dogless space.

Karen

As you like it. It was a pleasure meeting you.

Hench

Ha ha! You too! Safe travels.

Karen

everfield out.

Hench

Keep firing! Let's give them the time they need! Ha!

[transition noises. brass engine room.]

Karen  
Are you ready Barrington?

Barrington  
Ready Mrs.

Karen  
Oh heavens. I'm so sorry we couldn't do better by you Barrington. I will do my best to restore your circuits if they survive the jump.

Barrington  
They will not, Mrs.

Karen  
You've been a perfect companion for all these years dear. Mr Everfield and I will miss you greatly.

[radio click]

Pearl  
IT'S NOW OR NEVER, MA'AM! THIS SHIP'S ABOUT TO BLOW!

Karen  
Pearl I am in the middle of something!

Martin (on speaker as well)  
It's time, sparky. We only have moments.

Karen  
Oh very well! Barrington?

Barrington  
Mrs?

Karen  
Do it, please.

Barrington  
My function is service. Good-bye Mrs.

Martin

Thank you barrington! and Good night! See you on the other side, Sparky!

Karen

LET'S HOP!

[loud electricity as barrington fuses his body to the engines. it spools up and HOP! they're off with an explosive crack. The space mountainish music plays again as the pirates laughter echoes off.]