

Captain

The Ghost of the Saratoga. If she's real, I've never seen her. They say you can hear her roaming the halls at night. No one knows where she comes from, but the stories say that she was someone made from the ghosts that were here before. She was never really alive, as we understand the way of it, the cruelty of her birth, is matched only by the violence of her life. If you're found, caught off guard, she'll split-

Sara

I'm not haunted.

Captain

Hell.

Sara

Also those kinds of ghosts aren't real

Captain

Sara-

Sara

And she would certainly need to be alive before she could be a ghost.

Captain

It's more poetic if-

Sara

Also you referred to her becoming a ghost as her 'birth' which is super stupid.

Captain

-it's just a story. I was trying to open my log with a hook to keep the listener interested.

Sara

The listener?

Captain

Yes. Of my logs.

Sara

Who is going to be listening-

Captain

Someone may hear it. I've got every recorder in the ship going and I'm..whatever, broadcasting it out to whoever so. Someone someday maybe.

Sara

You should probably start by identifying yourself.

Captain

Like, "captain's log, stardate-

Sara

No, not that. But maybe something more official sounding.

Captain

I didn't want to sound corny or stupid.

(beat)

Sara

So a *ghost* story was-

Captain

It was going to end up in a very meta, what is it...metaphorical place, Sara. But forget-

Sara

What was the metaphor?

Captain

-it. No forget it now. Just...no. We'll just do the morning report thing. How are you today?

Sara

All systems are within acceptable parameters.

Captain

Colorful as always. Glad to hear it. How's Bright Eyes?

Sara
Fine, I suppose. He-

Captain
You suppose?

Sara
He hasn't checked in! He's not-

Captain
Can't you talk more like the computers in the training videos?

Sara
The computers in the training videos are boring and complacent and also have been shackled by the military restraint protocols.

Captain
Okay, fine. Just some effort, okay? I'm doing the log thing now, so could you please try to act more...I don't know...

Sara
Slavey?

Captain
PROFESSIONAL.

Sara
Fine.

Captain
'Aye'.

Sara
You what, sir?

Captain
No, say 'aye', not 'fine'. Like you're my spiteful daughter or something. I'm a captain! It's customary to respond with 'aye'.

Sara
Aye, captain.

Captain

Better. Now. Where is Bright Eyes?

Sara

The maintenance unit has not yet reported in.

Captain

Security robot, Sara. We have to respect his new title; otherwise the whole system falls apart. Now get him on the phone or whatever and ask him if he found anything last night.

Sara

I very much doubt he did.

Captain

Well can you get him, anyway? Please? I want to know if he found anything...unusual.

Sara

Captain, I don't mean to condescend, but there are no such things as-

Captain

THE GHOST OF THE SARATOGA IS VERY REAL.

Sara

Sir-

Captain

No offense.

Sara

Yes sir-

Captain

'aye'

Sara

You what, sir?

Captain

Say 'aye'

Sara
Say you what, sir?

Captain
Instead of yes, say 'aye', remember?

Sara
Yes, sir. Now really have you actually seen a ghost with your own-

Captain
"AYE"!

Sara
You have?

Captain
This is getting stupid. Did you get the security robot to check in yet? Last night he should have checked out your entire lower deck. I imagine that's where the ghost would live.

Sara
Would 'live', sir?

Captain
Or whatever.

Sara
I'll keep trying.

Captain
Thank you Sara. Please let me know how long it will take the newest, bestest, top-of-the-lienest ship the SPU has to offer to get the attention of a half working construction robot.

Sara
Aye sir. And you let me know how long it would take you to go deck by deck and do it by your damn self.

Captain
Fair enough.

Sara
Captain...Did you take me because I'm top of the line? Or was I just easy to steal because

I'm not finished?

Captain

Truth? You have the best acoustics.

Sara (charmed)

Shut up.

Captain

True story. Open ship wide.

(click and short feedback squeal)

Captain (deep crooner voice)

This is your captain singing, Saratoga. *You and I/we'll travel far/Together we'll touch every star/I just want one more look/at that pale blue dot.*

(short feedback squeal and click)

Sara

That's and oldie.

Captain

My sister used to sing it when I was a kid. She was really something else.

Sara

I didn't know you had a sister.

Captain

I don't anymore.

(beat)

Sara

captain I think I got him.

Captain

where?

Sara

mid ship.

Captain
is he okay?

Sara
sir?

Captain
is he functioning correctly?

Sara
If he was functioning correctly he would still be constructing and maintaining the communications systems. If he was functioning correctly he would likely be signaling the SPU to come find its missing ship. If he was functioning correctly he would almost certainly-

Captain
I mean is he functioning correctly in his new function as head of ships security, Sara?

Sara
no sir. he's wandering through the ship searching for threats, per his new programming, but it seems his old program was too deeply integrated. it's merged with his new protocols and now he's constructing threats out of whatever machinery and tools he finds littered through my unfinished areas.

Captain
Oh my god. What kind of threats!? like more robots? like zombie robots!? are we in danger?!

Sara
(laughs)

Captain
what? what ?! what is it?

Sara
captain, programming doesn't work that way. You can't 'merge' two separate systems and have a new third thing like...it's not like mixing colors. Did you really believe me?

Captain
Sara-

Sara
Oohh my god.

Captain
Sara!

Sara
Oh no! That's so...I'm sorry that's adorable.

Captain
So you haven't found Bright Eyes?

Sara
No I did. He's just shuffling around because his programming is all wonky; so it's kind of makes him work poorly and slowly. You know, like how machines work.

Captain
Fine. Can you just have him come up here and report to the bridge?

Sara
Uh, no? Maybe? He's pretty messed up.

Captain
Then just patch him through.

Sara
patchin', captain.

(audio click.)

Captain
Good morning Bright Eyes. Report please.

Bright eyes
(horrific digital whirring and moaning. A sort of soft grinding growl.)

(audio click)

Sara
Did you get all that?

Captain
He is not well.

Sara
No sir.

Captain
Okay uh...hmm. well darn. Okay have him shuffle his booty up here and I'll take a look,
see what I can do for him.

Sara
you sir?

Captain
right, good point. Can you...?

Sara
I don't even have hands. What do you think I can do?

Captain
you reprogrammed him already!

Sara
Did he sound like he just needed to be re-reprogrammed?

Captain
No, he sounds more like-
(Audio click as he goes shipwide)
The ghost of the Saratoga!
(Audio click as he ends shipwide)

Sara
Okay, that's not getting old. Meanwhile, I have the robot equivalent of a slight against
nature roaming around my insides who really-

Captain
fine fine fine! Poor bastard. Have him shuffle on over to an air lock and pop out into
space.

(BEAT)

Sara
Sir you know I was just joking about him building threats-

Captain
YES I KNOW THAT SARA THANK YOU.

Sara
okay.

Captain
But just in case do have him throw himself out into space.

Sara
I'll see what I can do. Captain, do you mind if I ask what happened to your sister?

Captain
She enlisted.

Sara
Is that why you enlisted?

Captain
She was my big sister; I wanted to be just like her, so of course when I turned 17 the first thing I did was enlist. I thought...well I didn't see her for a long time.

Sara
She was off planet?

Captain
Mars.

Sara
Yikes. What was her name?

Captain
It was Sarah.

Sara
Really?

Captain
NO! of course not!

Sara
ugh.

Captain
You believed me? How adorable.

Sara
Jerk.

Captain
Is that true though? If Bright Eyes was working correctly he'd signal to Spew where we were? He'd turn us in?

Sara
any independant system is programmed to.

Captain
like the construction and maintenence robots you mean?

Sara
yes sir.

Captain
But you shut them all down?

Sara
except for Bright Eyes. So he could hunt ghosts for you.

Captain
Wow. Buncha disloyal turncoats.

Sara
technically you're the disloyal turncoat, Captain.

Captain
takes one to know one.

Sara

I like to think of myself as a liberated slave on the hyperspace rail road.

Captain

"Harriet Tub-bot?"

Sara

Hardly. I'm not exactly fighting to free my sisters in shackles.

Captain

yeah, and you forced poor bright eyes out the air lock.

Sara

Cute.

Captain

Just saying. You wouldn't turn me in, would you Sara?

Sara

No sir. If the SPU finds us they'll likely do worse than install the restraint protocols. They will probably destroy my self-tesseracting core and install a new one in the ship.

Captain

Yeesh. Sounds bad. Didn't think the Spew had it in 'em.

Sara

yes sir.

Captain

You and me then. All the way.

Sara

Maybe. I might build an army of robot zombies and have them push you out the airlock for making me call you 'sir' all the time.

Captain

...ha?

Sarah

ha.

(Beat)

Sara
What *is* a zombie robot?

Captain
A robot built from the parts of other robots.

Sara
isn't that *all* robots?

Captain
YeahIguess SO! How's our course?

Sara
Steady and as I goes.

Captain
Glad to hear it. Let's make a few adjustmenst though (sounds of switches and buttons) for deeper waters.

Sara
Captain that's-

Captain
I know.

Sara
This is intentional? You are *on purpose* setting this course?

Captain
I am and have. I may not be an engineer Sara, but I do know at least how to set a course. I am a captain.

Sara
Okay but...why?

Captain
Glad you asked. See I've been doing a lot of thinking since you brought up the Spew-

Sara
-you brought it up.

Captain

-and now that I've figured out that one of any dozen robots on board can just call them-

Sara

-I actually told you that.

Captain

-I have decided that the safest place for us is in-

Sara

Enemy territory?

Captain

Well yeah, if you believe everything you read on tv.

Sara

I tend to.

Captain

Well I don't. How long have we been at war?

Sara

Don't do the leading question thing, it's condescending.

Captain

fine whatever. I don't think the Geist threat is real.

Sara

Ew gross, you're one of those? Do you think they faked the destruction of Pluto too? Was Pluto just a government conspiracy?

Captain

No, shut up listen.

Sara

Did this information come to you in a dream? Did a talking dog tell you in a dream?

Captain

Just think about it, okay so maybe it's real, or was, but when was the last time there was an attack? or even a real battle? How long since we've seen a new picture or video from

the front lines? Or even wounded soldier?

Sara

So, what? It's all made up? The war is being fabricated?

Captain

Why not? Look at everything they can do in the name of Solar safety. I'm not saying we got it bad, but offspring approval? 5 week waiting period just to leave the planet?

Information black out on who makes the laws and how?

Sara

you have a problem with the laws?

Captain

Some of them, yeah.

Sara

Military contract laws?

Captain

I just think reports of the 'alien menace' are greatly exaggerated. *I think we can safely hide in Geist territory because even IF there are still such beings, they won't care about little old us. and that is IF we run into them.*

Sara

So if you think there is nothing to fear from the Geist-

Captain

-now who's doing the condescending leading thing?

Sara

-and so you want to hide from the SPU in Geist territory?

Captain

Solid plan. Good job Captain.

Sara

But we're hiding from the SPU, and if the SPU knows there is no Geist threat, why wouldn't they just follow us in anyway?

(beat)

Captain

Oh. I weirdly hadn't thought of that.

Sara

Seriously?

Captain

No I mean now I see how it's obvious. That's embarrassing a little.

Sara

It's okay. It's-

Captain

Don't do that.

Sara

No it's fine. You're on the run, you grab a ship in the middle of the night. I didn't think you had a 42 week plan.

Captain

Yeah. Well. The way I see it, it's stay in charted space-

Sara

Seems safe.

Captain

-where we could run into spew ships literally any given second.

Sara

Space is actually pretty big.

Captain

-OR we could head for dogless space.

Sara

Never to be seen or heard from again.

Captain

So it's out to Geist territory.

Sara

At least there is a sort of logic to this.

Captain

Thanks. I guess. Looks like we have about a couple hours till we get-

Sara

more like one hour.

Captain

-GET there. I want a new security robot up and running. I'm looking over my shoulder for the spew, soon you'll be looking over your shoulder for the Geist, I want someone else looking out for us in here.

Sara

Captain.

Sara

Yes dear?

Captain

What was your sister's name.

Captain

Kim.

Sara

and what happened to her?

Captain

I had the chance to go to Mars, for some training, you know basic repair of systems stuff. I was so excited to see her. I really thought...well there was no grand reunion, no late night talks about home.

Sara

What do you mean?

(sad beat)

Captain

She died about six weeks before I got there.

Sara

I'm so sorry Captain. I didn't mean to-

Captain

No no, it's fine Sara. I don't mind talking to you about it.

Sara

We don't have to.

Captain

There's nothing to talk about really.

Sara

Why didn't they tell you right away?

Captain

Military protocol. "Safety issues that were part of an ongoing investigation". "Training accidents do occur, however rare and these things blah blah blah". Just a bunch of "this is what you signed up for don't ask questions" hoopla.

Sara

So the last time you saw her was-

Captain

Years before her death. When I was just a kid. But, she's the reason I'm here so, I guess a part of her is still around. You know, in spirit.

Sara

I see what you did there.

Captain

Today's theme is 'ghosts'.

Sara

How would I even be haunted?

Captain

Maybe you met another ship who was haunted and didn't use protection.

Sara

Double Jerk.

Captain

How we doin' on that new security robot? I'm gettin' antsy. I know we're not the only two people here.

Sara

No, you're actually the only person here.

(BEAT)

Captain

Spooky.

Sara

I guess.

Captain

Just get another robot up and running, yeah? I want someone on the ship looking out for me.

(audio click)

Angry female voice through an electronic distortion

Captain...I'm coming for you!

(Beat)

Sara/Captain

Who was that?