

WOLF 359

"GREENSBORO"

by

Zach Valenti

BEGIN MINI EPISODE 9.

START RECORDING.

Before we begin, as the opening theme fades away, we hear:

MR. CUTTER
(V.O.)
Number four. Cape Canaveral. 2010.

Slowly we begin to hear AMBIENT NOISE as we -

FADE INTO:

INT. MEETING ROOM - GODDARD FUTURISTICS HEADQUARTERS, CAPE
CANAVERAL - 1045 HOURS

Lovelace sits at the table, impatiently DRUMMING her fingers
against the surface.

After a LONG BEAT, there's a KNOCK on the DOOR. A moment
later it opens.

RACHEL
(entering)
Good morning, sorry to keep you
waiting. My name is Rachel Young.
I'm one of managers for Special
Projects.

She offers her hand, which Lovelace takes.

LOVELACE
Nice to meet you. Isabel Lovelace.

RACHEL
Pleasure.

Rachel settles at her desk, starts to go through a file.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
And that's miss? Missus? Captain...
?

LOVELACE
Miss is *fine*.

RACHEL
Duly noted.

She takes a couple of notes on her file. As she does so -

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I'm going to be taking care of your screening.

LOVELACE
My *what*?

RACHEL
Screening.

LOVELACE
I thought I was here for a job interview.

RACHEL
We don't do interviews. Well, okay, yes, we do *some* interviews, but that's only when we don't want to hire someone and need a reason to *not* give them a job. That's not what we're doing.

Lovelace is at about a 2.0 in the Confusion Richter Scale.

LOVELACE
It's not?

RACHEL
No. You *we want* to hire. So we don't interview. We screen.

LOVELACE
And the difference is... ?

RACHEL
When I'm doing a screening I only use my *indoors* voice.

She looks up from the file, and smiles. Then -

RACHEL (CONT'D)
We're just going to be talking for a little bit, see if there's anything that would mean you can't work for us.

LOVELACE
Well, I do have this very long, elaborate plan to infiltrate this company and bring it down from the inside. Is that going to be a problem?

RACHEL
(taking note)
Candidate... is... very funny.

She sets her pen down and gets up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's go.

LOVELACE
... go? I thought we were just
going to talk.

RACHEL
Well... it's not *quite* that simple.

LOVELACE
What do you mean?

Before we can hear the answer, we -

CUT TO:

INT. TEST ROOM - GODDARD FUTURISTICS HEADQUARTERS, CAPE
CANAVERAL - 1115 HOURS

We hear a STEADY HUM. Lovelace sits in a chair, a device on
her arm. A few feet in front of her we find Rachel sitting at
a computer console.

LOVELACE
I... I see what you mean.

RACHEL
Relax. Polygraph test's standard
protocol. It's all completely
routine. State your name.

Captain Lovelace takes a DEEP BREATH. She's not thrilled
but...

LOVELACE
Isabel Sofia Lovelace.

RACHEL
Are you an officer with the Air
Force?

LOVELACE
Yes.

RACHEL
Have you ever received a
dishonorable discharge?

LOVELACE
(eyebrows rise)
No...

RACHEL
Have you ever been convicted of a
crime?

LOVELACE
No.

RACHEL
Are you an alien?

LOVELACE
Excuse me?

RACHEL
We always do a calibration round -
we need verifiable yeses and nos.
Are you -

LOVELACE
No, I am **not** an alien.

RACHEL
Is your father William Lovelace,
district judge for New York City?

LOVELACE
Yes.

RACHEL
Do you love your father?

LOVELACE
(how dry can she go)
Yes.

RACHEL
Have you always wanted to serve in
the armed forces?

LOVELACE
Yes.

The polygraph emits an ANGRY WHIRR.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)

Okay. I wanted to play basketball. Junior year at the Academy I was in a car crash and my left knee got a little bit... shattered, so that's not happening. Service was always second on the list.

RACHEL

(skeptical)

Always?

LOVELACE

Mom was a career enlisted woman with the marines.

RACHEL

And you look up to her?

LOVELACE

Lady's pretty badass, what's not to like? Next question.

RACHEL

Do you have a degree in a physical science?

LOVELACE

Yes.

RACHEL

Have you clocked at least 1,000 flight hours?

LOVELACE

Yes. Is this still calibration or -
?

RACHEL

Do you have twenty-twenty vision?

LOVELACE

Yes.

WHIRR.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)

Twenty-*fifteen* in my left eye, get off my case.

RACHEL

Do you have any pre-existing medical conditions?

LOVELACE
Just my knee.

Rachel FLIPS A PAGE.

RACHEL
Do you like the air force?

LOVELACE
I'm trying to get a job away from
it, aren't I?

RACHEL
That's not an answer to -

LOVELACE
No, I don't.

WHIRR.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)
It's complicated.

RACHEL
How complicated?

LOVELACE
Very complicated.

RACHEL
What's the three sentence version?

Lovelace lets out a HEAVY SIGH. For a LONG BEAT she weighs
her words. Finally -

LOVELACE
I owe *a lot* to the air force. It's
responsible for **a lot** of who I am.
But being an officer hasn't always
agreed with me.

Rachel considers her for a BEAT... then makes a NOTE and
moves on.

RACHEL
Have you ever disobeyed a direct
order from a superior?

LOVELACE
(too fast)
Nope.

WHIRR.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)
(low, to herself)
Why would I even try that... ?

Rachel CLEARS HER THROAT: well?

LOVELACE (CONT'D)
There's been times when I haven't
seen eye-to-eye with my superior
officers. Like all those times they
gave me *stupid* orders. On those
occasions, I was inclined to carry
out my orders with a bit of...
creativity.

RACHEL
(off a page)
That's not how Major Jordan put
it...

LOVELACE
(low)
I'm sure it isn't...
(higher)
Look: I'll be the first to admit
that I've never been the most...
orthodox of officers. But even if I
did it with a certain degree of...
interpretive flair, I always
accomplished my missions. And I
think anyone who served under me
would agree.

RACHEL
Oh yeah...

We hear her go over a page and TURN it... and then ANOTHER...
and ANOTHER... and ANOTHER... and ANOTHER.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
They were *all* very vocal about
that, actually.

Lovelace takes that in, silently moved. After a moment -

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Can't imagine it made you too
popular with the higher ups,
though.

LOVELACE
No... which is why I've been
commanding a lot of very isolated,
very quiet outposts these last two
years. Kinda the reason I'm looking
for a new employer.

RACHEL
Have you enjoyed being an officer?

BEAT.

LOVELACE
Ummm...

Before she can even get a word into her answer: WHIRR.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
It's complicated?

LOVELACE
Yes. Very.

Rachel FLIPS to another page.

RACHEL
Fair enough. Let's see...

LOVELACE
Hold on, can I... Isn't this a bit
much? You really do this for
everyone you send to Greensboro?

RACHEL
Sorry, what?

LOVELACE
Greensboro? North Carolina? Isn't
that where I'd be stationed if I
get this flight instructor post?

BEAT.

And then Rachel CHUCKLES softly.

RACHEL
No. We don't do this for everyone
we send to Greensboro. We don't do
this for *anyone* we send to
Greensboro. We're screening you for
a different job.

LOVELACE

But my application was for -

RACHEL

No, don't worry. I've got your paperwork, you're in the right place. We keep an eye out for candidates that might be good in other departments. Your file set off a couple of flags for one of our sexier jobs.

LOVELACE

Can I ask what the -

RACHEL

Mission Commander. For the deep space survey division of Special Projects.

There's a moment for shock. Lovelace SWALLOWS HARD.

LOVELACE

I... I'm not sure I understand.

RACHEL

You. Deep space. Mission command. Crew of five or six, mostly science officers. You'd be in an orbital outpost, probably somewhere in the...

(off her notes)

... Leo Constellation. We don't have more specifics at the moment.

(off her reaction)

You pass all the physical requirements with flying colors. You've got good flight *and* command experience. Glowing recommendations from practically everyone you've given an order to. And when you're multiple light years away from your superiors? It's probably good to have someone who can think for themselves.

LOVELACE

(trying to keep it together)

I... I see.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)

Unless... you're not interested?

LOVELACE (CONT'D)
No! No, no, I'm interested!
Definite interest.

RACHEL
Good.
(looks around)
Because just between the two of us,
by this point the screening's just
a formality. Job's yours if you
want it.

LOVELACE
I... I don't know what to say.

WHIRR.

LOVELACE (CONT'D)
I mean... it's a lot to take in. I
need some time to think about it
before I can -

WHIRR. Rachel smiles.

RACHEL
Shall we get back to the next
question?

LOVELACE
Yes. Please.

RACHEL
Okay. Have you ever considered any
of...

And as they resume the screening process, we -

FADE OUT.

FADE OUT.

STOP RECORDING.

END OF MINI EPISODE 9.