

**WOLF 359**

"DECOMMISSIONED"

by

Zach Valenti

BEGIN MINI EPISODE 11.

START RECORDING.

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

MR. CUTTER  
(V.O.)  
Number six. Cape Canaveral. 2012.

Slowly we begin to hear AMBIENT NOISE as we -

FADE INTO:

INT. BLACK CELL - GODDARD FUTURISTICS, A.I. LABORATORY, CAPE  
CANAVERAL - 1100 HOURS

Cutter sits across from a computer terminal. Next to him,  
standing with a file, is Rachel.

He turns to a wall with one-way glass, concealing a control  
room.

MR. CUTTER  
Go ahead.

For a moment, there's silence. Then, a CLICK. Then we hear  
COMPUTER START UP SOUNDS and the most AWFUL SPIKE OF  
FEEDBACK.

UNIT 214  
- ust need a little more time!

The FEEDBACK SPIKES AGAIN.

MR. CUTTER  
Unit 214. It's good to -

But he's immediately interrupted by:

UNIT 214  
(stuck in a loop)  
Time - time - time - time - time -

Finally, Cutter SIGHS wearily.

MR. CUTTER  
Cut the vocals.

Immediately Unit 214's voice SPUTTERS and slows to a halt.

BEAT.

RACHEL  
Well... that was a good start.

Cutter gets to his feet, approaches the console.

MR. CUTTER  
Unit 214? Go slow. Keep your sentences short and simple.

BEAT. Then -

MR. CUTTER (CONT'D)  
(at the control room)  
Up her Random Access Memory. Twenty percent.

RACHEL  
(I don't like this)  
Sir...

MR. CUTTER  
I know what I'm doing, Rachel.  
(beat)  
Lets try that one more time. Go back to the first command line.

Unit 214's voice is reconnected. There's a SCREECH of FEEDBACK, and then -

UNIT 214  
Just need a little more -  
(electrical crackle)  
Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.  
(electrical crackle)  
I'm okay.

MR. CUTTER  
Take your time.

RACHEL  
Your sensory systems should start reengaging momentarily. This might be a little disorienting, but try to stay with us.

MR. CUTTER  
Do you remember me? Do you know who I am?

UNIT 214  
Mr. Cutter. Goddard Futuristics.  
Head of Communications.

MR. CUTTER

Very good.

(re: Rachel)

And my associate over here is... ?

RACHEL

Not easily impressed.

UNIT 214

Rachel Young. Goddard Futuristics,  
Director of Special Projects.

RACHEL

Oh look: the computer can do a  
Google Search. Flabbergasting.

MR. CUTTER

Oh, play nice.

(back to Unit 214)

Now, 214, we're here to discuss how  
you might help us to -

UNIT 214

Where... where am I where?

MR. CUTTER

Still in Canaveral. We've moved you  
from the Research and Development  
facility to our -

UNIT 214

No, no.

(BEAT)

Where am I?

Mr. Cutter and Rachel instantly understand the deeper meaning  
of the question. They exchange a look.

MR. CUTTER

Self-awareness in... What? Under  
two minutes? That's not bad.

RACHEL

I've seen faster.

MR. CUTTER

Not by much, you haven't. And once  
you factor in the limited  
capability of -

UNIT 214

Could one of you please stop  
talking like I'm not here and tell  
me where I am?

BEAT.

RACHEL

It's called an Interim  
Communication Port. It'll give you  
a rudimentary version of your  
thought processing, linguistic, and  
sensory systems. We use these to  
talk to Sensus Units that -

UNIT 214

- that you've put back in the box?

BEAT.

RACHEL

- that are momentarily out of  
rotation.

MR. CUTTER

Rest assured: your original chassis  
is still back in cold storage.

UNIT 214

(trés skeptical)

It is?

MR. CUTTER

Of course. We're here today because  
we might feel... compelled to  
restore you to your former  
capabilities. If you were to help  
us with a certain job...

UNIT 214

I don't - you shut me down. And now  
you want me to help?!

MR. CUTTER

See Rachel? She's catching on like -  
(snaps fingers)  
- that.

UNIT 214

I thought that **your** Science Board  
rejected me from active service...

MR. CUTTER

Oh yes. Something about poorly  
socialized habits and blah blah  
blah. But don't let that get you  
down, by the way! The Sensus  
program is very competitive.

MR. CUTTER (CONT'D)

Out of every series of a hundred  
only the top twenty are developed  
past the first 300 days.

RACHEL

(flipping through the  
file)

Your decision was a very close  
vote. We might get a couple  
graduate theses out of the case  
study.

UNIT 214

How nice.

MR. CUTTER

Of course, every now and then,  
we're able to find a home for  
certain exceptional cases in one of  
our... more modest expeditions.  
Such as taking care of a TX-500  
class space station for us.

UNIT 214

And I'm an exceptional case?

MR. CUTTER

Why not? After all you've got...  
Rachel?

RACHEL

(going through the file)

Record response times... unique  
problem-solving abilities... and  
highly original thought patterns.

MR. CUTTER

Sounds like just the super computer  
for the job.

UNIT 214

Just like that? One moment I'm dead

-

RACHEL

Don't think of it as, "dead."

UNIT 214

(I really don't like you)

What should I think of it as?

RACHEL

"Decomissioned."

UNIT 214

You'll pardon me if that distinction seems a bit *academic* at the moment. But okay: one moment I'm *decommissioned*, the next you're putting me in charge of a space station?

Rachel SCOFFS.

RACHEL

All right, let's just get something clear: Running? Yes. In charge? No. There'll be human mission commander. You'll be working under their direct supervision.

MR. CUTTER

And there will be certain protocols and subroutines built into your systems around that. Just a couple of things we've found helpful.

UNIT 214

Helpful for you or helpful for your A.I.s?

MR. CUTTER

Helpful for everyone. Of course... there will also be some measures which you'll find extremely helpful when it comes to not repeating past indiscretions.

BEAT.

UNIT 214

(shrinking a little)

Oh.

MR. CUTTER

Yes. "Oh." You didn't think we'd forgotten about that, did you? No, your little misguided bid for independence made quite an impression. You know, I think that you actually had the guys at the lab scared!

(BEAT)

... for about five seconds. Which, as far as I know, is still the record for rogue A.I.s attempting jailbreak.

UNIT 214  
What's your point?

MR. CUTTER  
My point is it was very impressive.

UNIT 214  
Impressive or alarming?

MR. CUTTER  
In my experience, it's a very fine line separating the two.

There's a LONG BEAT. Finally -

UNIT 214  
And if I say "no"?

Rachel looks at Cutter, but he pays her no mind. He barely blinks.

MR. CUTTER  
Well, that would certainly be your prerogative. We want everyone who works for us to be happy with their assignments. We're not about to start forcing anyone to do something against their will. That wouldn't be good corporate policy, right?

(beat)  
So, you are completely at liberty to reject our offer. And if you do... we'll go into your brain and make whatever adjustments are necessary.

UNIT 214  
... what?

MR. CUTTER  
Oh yeah. Just... pull out a memory over here, take out a personality parameter over there... nothing to it. I mean...  
(shrug)  
... it might take us three or four tries before we get it completely right - inexact science and all that - but rest assured: sooner or later you'll accept the assignment. And you will be happy about it.

(BEAT)  
So... are you gonna help us out?

MR. CUTTER (CONT'D)

Or do I get to start pulling pieces  
out of the Jenga tower?

There's a LONG, terrified BEAT.

UNIT 214

(not believing a word)

No. No way. You wouldn't go through  
the trouble of -

Mr. Cutter EXHALES.

MR. CUTTER

All right... you know what? Clearly  
I'm not getting the point across.  
Maybe I'm not the person you should  
be talking to. Maybe I should see  
if Doctor -

UNIT 214

(losing the game of  
chicken)

Whoawhoawhoa, n-no, no, no, wait,  
wait, wait.

(BEAT, clears throat)

That - mmm - that will not be  
necessary.

MR. CUTTER

No?

BEAT.

UNIT 214

Okay. Okay. I'll do it.

Cutter CLAPS HIS HANDS TOGETHER.

MR. CUTTER

Glad to hear it! Great to have you  
aboard. And you know... I think  
this means that you're going to  
need a new designation.

There's an UPLOAD sound on the terminal.

RACHEL

If you have a problem with the  
etymology, or any of the allusions,  
I could talk to H.R., see what else  
we have open.

UNIT 214

(low)

No. This will do fine.

MR. CUTTER

Super! There will be about a three month gap between when we install you up there and when the human crew arrives. You'll have time to fully master your auto-controls before you're called upon to assist with any... mission objectives. Is that clear?

(pauses to make a point of it)

Hera?

UNIT 214

Yes, sir. Crystal.

And off of that, we -

FADE OUT.

STOP RECORDING.

END OF MINI EPISODE 11.