WOLF 359

"ALL THINGS CONSIDERED"

by

Sarah Shachat

Writer's Note: This episode takes place on Day 1023 of the Hephaestus Mission.

START EPISODE 39.

BEGIN RECORDING:

INT. U.S.S. HEPHAESTUS STATION - BRIDGE - 1900 HOURS

THUNK! We hear the DOOR OPEN. And then WHAM! we get the blast of a SPOTLIGHT.

LOVELACE
(full master-at-arms mode)
Tteenn-hut!

EIFFEL
(deadpan to Lovelace)
Really?

LOVELACE
Really.

JACOBI
Uh... I was never actually in the military, so ow! Ow! Technically-I-outrank-you-okay-ow-that's-my-ear!

Lovelace CLEARS HER THROAT.

LOVELACE
Detail at attention, sir.

Kepler appears, towering over them.

KEPLER
(forced steadiness)
Thank you, Master-at-Arms. All being present, the proceedings of a general inquiry convened on Mission Day 1023, pursuant to Mission Orders, Article C, may now commence.

MINKOWSKI
... sir? Is this... *really* necessary?

EIFFEL
(nervous laughter)
Yeah, can't we skip the A Few Good Men rerun and just discuss this in a calm, non-threatening -

KEPLER
SILENCE.

There is SILENCE.

KEPLER (CONT'D)
Master-At-Arms, please direct these... *people's* attention to the starboard window.

LOVELACE
Detail! Eyes right!

BEAT as all three reluctantly look to the right.

KEPLER
What does that object look like to you, Officer Eiffel?

EIFFEL
(soo tentative)
Uh... like... like a bottle?

KEPLER
Officer Eiffel thinks he is looking at a bottle. THAT IS WRONG, Officer Eiffel. Your off-rotations for the next month are cancelled.
(turns to Minkowski)
What do you think, Lieutenant Minkowski?

Minkowski LETS OUT a shaky breath.

MINKOWSKI
It looks like... No, it *is* your bottle of Scotch, sir.

Kepler studies Minkowski for a moment. And then -

KEPLER
WRONG! CANCELLED!
(beat)
Mr. Jacobi? Care to try your luck?

Jacobi GULPS.

JACOBI
It's... your thirty year old single malt Balvenie Scotch. Sir.

KEPLER
And what is it currently doing?

JACOBI
Uh... Floating in outer space?

There's a BEAT, juuuust long enough for Jacobi to wonder if that was the right answer. But then -

KEPLER
WRONG! WRONG AGAIN, you grotesquely inept, half-blind, I.Q.-draining village idiots! Points to you, Jacobi, for correctly identifying that $300 finely aged speyside malt. But no, no it is not "floating in outer space." It is slowly evaporating through the less than airtight seal, immediately boiling due to the lack of atmospheric pressure, and then freezing at the crisp temperature of 2.7 degrees Kelvin. All of which means? Captain?

LOVELACE
That *someone* is responsible for the willful destruction of the property of a superior officer, sir.

KEPLER
And how am I going punish such an offense, Captain?

LOVELACE
Severely, sir.

That does it. Eiffel, Minkowski, and Jacobi all start SIMULTANEOUSLY and LOUDLY protesting their innocence:

EIFFEL
Whoa whoa whoa, don't look at me, I had nothing to it! How would I even *know* what to do to blow up your door? Colonel, I swear, *these* two -

JACOBI
It's all these idiots' fault, sir! You gotta believe me, Colonel, I would *never* let it get that out of control, I know -

MINKOWSKI
Sir, it's *these* negligent goof-offs you need to punish. They didn't listen to any of my advice, and, furthermore, they refused to -

KEPLER
ONE AT A TIME.
(BEAT, as they go quiet)
One. At. A. Time. Lieutenant Minkowski? You first.

Minkowski CLEARS HER THROAT, and we -

CUT TO:

U.S.S. URANIA - HANGAR BAY - 3 HOURS EARLIER (MINKOWSKI'S STORY)

(NOTE: This is Minkowski's version of events. And everyone who speaks - unless otherwise noted - will be speaking through *her* Point Of View.)

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
Well, sir, as you know, the latest test of the TK-500 modification to the Urania was scheduled to commence today at 1500 hours.

The PA CHIMES.

HERA
Reminder: the next launcher test is scheduled for 1500 hours. Mr. Jacobi asks you to please stay away, stay far *far* away, and those loud noises you hear are probably fine. Thank you!

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
After receiving a request for ten additional liters of oxidizing agent from Mr. Jacobi, I reported to the Urania at at 1349.

A DOOR OPENS. We hear Jacobi SLURPING a drink.

JACOBI
You can drop it wherever.

MINKOWSKI
Really? Jacobi... this whole place looks like a fire hazard.

JACOBI
Yeah, yeah. I got it all under control, Lieutenant.

The door OPENS, and in comes Eiffel with a handful of very delicate-looking mechanical components.

EIFFEL
Yeah, Minkowski, we got it all under control.

MINKOWSKI
Eiffel? What are you doing here?

EIFFEL
Oh, what I'm always -
(non-POV)
Hey, whoa, whoa, whoa. I can see where you're going with this and it is *ridiculously* untrue!

LOVELACE
Let her finish, Eiffel.

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
Thank you. Anyway, I asked what Officer Eiffel was doing, and Eiffel said -

We hear Eiffel GROAN, and then -

EIFFEL
(flat)
What I'm always doing. Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

MINKOWSKI
Why are you carrying that gear?

EIFFEL
(worst lie ever)
Uh... For Hilbert? Because I'm helping him out... with... experiments?

MINKOWSKI
Really? "Experiments?" And, I'm sorry, I know it's your area, but Jacobi, that condenser coil doesn't look at *all* secure.

JACOBI
Thanks a bunch, Lieutenant, but I'm kinda busy taking a cavalier attitude to my dangerous, threatening, and - frankly? - suspicious day job. You mind?

Something big and metal hits the deck with a CLANG that ECHOES throughout the Urania's hull.

EIFFEL
I didn't do it!

BEAT.

JACOBI
Like I said: totally under control.

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
But it wasn't.

We hear the sound of a BUZZSAW.

MINKOWSKI (CONT'D)
Jacobi! Watch it! You could really hurt someone with that!

JACOBI
Aw, *relax*, Lieutenant. If you hit it at juuuust the right angle -

BUZZZ.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
(yelling over the noise)
- it almost makes the lightsaber noise.

MINKOWSKI
I... That's not a reason to... Wait, Eiffel, no don't touch that!

CLANG!

EIFFEL
Oops. My bad. Maybe we should break for lunch? Lets break for lunch!

Minkowski GROANS.

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
Eventually, *eventually*, I was able to get the proceedings in some kind of order and was able to assemble the launcher components.

JACOBI
(non-POV)
Really? *You* assembled the components?

MINKOWSKI
That's right. Because Mr. Jacobi was, in his own words -

JACOBI
- too busy being a smug, useless jerk to help you with that, Lieutenant. Honestly, I wouldn't worry about it.

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
But I *did* worry about it. Mr. Jacobi continued his alarming disregard of protocol. And that's when the <u>disaster</u> started.
(to Eiffel)
Specifically, when the disaster started poking things I told him not to touch!

EIFFEL
(non-POV)
You two were arguing! I was just -

At that moment, an ALARM goes off. We also begin to hear POWER-UP SOUNDS of the launcher coming online.

MINKOWSKI
What the <u>hell</u> did you touch?

EIFFEL
What? What you mean by -

MINKOWSKI
Which. Button.

EIFFEL
The... The big red one?

MINKOWSKI
Seriously?!

JACOBI
Aw, what's the big deal? Eiffel, just grab the thing.

EIFFEL
This thing?

JACOBI
Sure, why not?

CRUNCH. Eiffel BREAKS the thing. A TIMER STARTS.

MINKOWSKI
Eiffel! You just broke the emergency override! Now we can't shut it off!

JACOBI
(mocking)
Now we can't shut it off.
(normal)
Relax. It's not like it's loaded.

MINKOWSKI
A discharge could still compromise the integrity of the Urania!

EIFFEL
Commander, the Urania doesn't *have* any integrity.

JACOBI
That's why we all like me so much!

MINKOWSKI
It's *structural* integrity. Jacobi, we need to find the secondary override.

JACOBI
Ughhh, <u>fine</u>. But what's this "we" business? **I'll** do the heroics, thank you very much.

The two of them start tugging at separate wires.

MINKOWSKI
Stop fiddling with the green one, it's not helping!

JACOBI
Get your hands off the blue wire, I need that!

MINKOWSKI
It's the one we need to cut!

JACOBI
No, it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes, it is!

JACOBI
No it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes it is!

JACOBI
No, it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes it is!

JACOBI
No, it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes it -

KEPLER
GET TO THE POINT.

We hear the sound of a WIRE GETTING CLIPPED.

JACOBI
See? Green wire. Day is saved.

MINKOWSKI
I... I guess so. But from now on, you *have* to pay more attention!

JACOBI
Please.

MINKOWSKI
What?

JACOBI
I want you to say *please*. "Please, even though I'm basically irrelevant, take one of my useless suggestions."

MINKOWSKI
(darker)
What... ?

JACOBI
Pretty please, with a cherry on -

BANG! A part or the launcher EXPLODES. Electricity CRACKLES. So many things BREAK. There's a HOWL of air and -

Suddenly everything FREEZES -

MINKOWSKI
(narrating)
It was around here I realized that - *maybe* - I had been right about it being the <u>blue</u> wire.

- and everything RESUMES.

Eiffel and Jacobi YELL in PANIC. Over the following, we hear the sound of FLAMES and a FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

MINKOWSKI (CONT'D)
(narrating)
The launcher didn't discharge, but an electrical build up caused by Mr. Jacobi's negligence *did* create a short circuit, which caused a tiny bit of decompression - and, well, all things considered, it took some *pretty quick* thinking to isolate the fire, and safely decouple that section of the ship. Of course, I personally regret that we were unable to salvage the contents of your quarters, sir.

BEAT.

JACOBI
(non-POV)
Are you done?

MINKOWSKI
(sighing)
Yes. I think that covers everything.

CUT BACK TO:

U.S.S. HEPHAESTUS STATION - BRIDGE - 1910 HOURS

EIFFEL
Yeah. It covers all the <u>lying</u>.

JACOBI
That was not what happened! Like... not even a minuscule amount!

Kepler doesn't vocalize his impatience. He just GROWLS.

LOVELACE
Settle down, people. There's plenty of inconsistencies to examine, but let's get through this first.

MINKOWSKI
Wait. What inconsistencies?

LOVELACE
Why would Eiffel be there if he was supposedly running an experiment for Hilbert?

JACOBI
Yeah!

LOVELACE
And why would the launcher components keep breaking? I've worked on that thing and Eiffel doesn't have the strength to dent it.

EIFFEL
Yeah! Wait, hey!

MINKOWSKI
Look, I can't know why everything wasn't up to spec, but -

LOVELACE
Let's get through everyone's accounts, and then we'll see. Jacobi? Your turn.

Jacobi CLEARS HIS THROAT and we -

CUT TO:

INT. U.S.S. URANIA - HANGAR BAY - 3.5 HOURS EARLIER (JACOBI'S STORY)

We hear the same events, but this time everyone will, unless otherwise noted, speak through Jacobi's POV.

JACOBI
(narrating)
Well, sir. Perhaps the one thing Lieutenant Minkowski said that wasn't outright *libel* was that we had a test for the TK-500, *which I custom built myself*, scheduled for 1500 today.

The PA CHIMES.

HERA
Reminder: the next launcher test is scheduled for 1500 hours. Mr. Jacobi asks you to please refrain from entering the hangar bay during that time, as your presence might interfere with the testing protocol and/or compromise your safety. Thank you!

JACOBI
(narrating)
I was working on some final modifications to the launcher's ignition system. It was a really complicated, potentially dangerous installation. Very high level stuff. But you can't be everywhere at once, so I recruited Eiffel and Minkowski -

MINKOWSKI
(non-POV)
You recruited?

JACOBI
(narrating)
- I *recruited Eiffel and Minkowski* to be extra sets of hands. But I may as well have pushed the test back for all the help they were.

MINKOWSKI
Seriously, Jacobi, you need to *relax*.

EIFFEL
Yeah, have a donut! Can't build stuff without donuts.

JACOBI
Do me a favor, Eiffel? If your hands are covered in frosting, don't touch the... anything. Okay?

EIFFEL
What about the launcher?

JACOBI
Especially not the launcher. And I would like to point out, *again*, that neither of you are wearing your safety googles.

MINKOWSKI
Those are for nerds.

EIFFEL
Yeah. Nerds.

JACOBI
They're important if you want to have nerdy things like *eyes*. Eiffel, go grab that insulation for me.

EIFFEL
What's the -

JACOBI
Next to the pipes.

Eiffel goes to do so, and of course knocks over some pipes with a CLANG.

EIFFEL
I didn't do it!

Minkowski SNICKERS. Jacobi GROANS.

JACOBI
(narrating)
It was largely on my own initiative that we even came close to being ready, sir. I was obstructed by *these* two at every turn.

We hear the sound of a BUZZSAW.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
Eiffel! Watch it! You could really hurt someone with that thing. Why do you even have it?

EIFFEL
Because! If you hit it at juuuust the right angle...

BUZZZZZ!

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
(yelling over the noise)
It almost makes the lightsaber sound!

JACOBI
I... That's not a reason to - wait, Minkowski, no, don't touch that!

CLANG!

MINKOWSKI
Whoops. My bad.
(beat)
Maybe you should give me a different job so I can screw up something more important?
(non-POV)
Oh for God's sake, I would never -

JACOBI
(narrating, louder)
Eventually... I was able to assemble the components in place. Even if every two seconds...
(to Eiffel)
Eiffel, don't touch red button.

EIFFEL
Aww...

BEAT.

JACOBI
Eiffel! Stop thinking about touching the red button.

EIFFEL
Aww...

BEAT.

JACOBI
Eiffel! Hands off the red button! It's *very dangerous*!

EIFFEL
But it's sooo shiny!

JACOBI
I know, but we have safety protocols in place for a reason.
(MORE)

JACOBI (CONT'D)
That's why I'm running control, and *you* need to be *behind the yellow line*.

EIFFEL
Oh. Sure. Okay. I'll move back. Let me just push off and...

Eiffel goes to push off the launcher to propel himself backwards and -

JACOBI
Wait! No, watch out for the -

But CA-CHUNK! A TIMER STARTS.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
... red button. What did I say? What did I <u>just</u> say?

EIFFEL
Oh. Is that, like, bad?

JACOBI
(narrating)
Well, it was and it wasn't. Eiffel had engaged the machine, but that's why I build in extra safeguards. My mistake, clearly, was to assume that would be enough to stop the slapstick routine.

EIFFEL
Is... that, like, bad?

MINKOWSKI
(panicking)
Oh God. Oh God. It's so so bad! Jacobi, do something!

JACOBI
Okay, okay. Just calm down. The main thing is to step away from - no, Minkowski, don't pull that!

MINKOWSKI
Whoopsy-daisy!

She pulls whatever "that" is, and something SPARKS.

JACOBI
That's cool, that's cool. Don't worry. Let me just get in here...

Jacobi starts adjusting parts. He PLUGS, SWITCHES, and TYPES on a timing keypad. The machine SEEMS TO SETTLE -

JACOBI (CONT'D)
Sweet. There we go. That ought to -

ALARM. ALARM. ALARM.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
(starting to get angry)
Damn it, Eiffel! What did you touch?

EIFFEL
I only pressed the orange button for like a microsecond!

Jacobi GROANS. The machine begins to SHAKE.

JACOBI
Okay - it's okay. I've totally - No, Minkowski, I don't - just *please* step away from the primer! Let me - all right, Eiffel, seriously, get away from that! I'm just gonna reroute this over here, and then we'll move you, buddy, to absorb that over *here*, aaand -

The machine audible SLOWS DOWN, and then STOPS.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
(who's the man?)
Presto change-o. Nothing to it. Now, I'm not mad, but this is why *I* work with the dangerous machines, and *you guys* stay *behind the yellow line*.

MINKOWSKI
Of course, Jacobi. You're right. It was silly of us to presume that we knew something about the incredibly complicated area of expertise to which you've devoted your life.

JACOBI
(do go on)
Aw, *please*. No problem, Lieutenant. I'm just glad we avoided any mishaps with something this dangerous.

EIFFEL
Yeah. Phew. I think I need a moment to recover from all of that. I'm just gonna take a second and lean against this -

CLICK.

BEAT.

JACOBI
Eiffel... did you just lean against the big red button?

BANG!

We hear the same series of sound effects of the explosion as before, except it's Minkowski and Eiffel who YELL. Over the following, we, again, hear the sound of FLAMES and a FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

JACOBI (CONT'D)
(narrating)
And in fact, Eiffel had engaged the charge. *Again*.

EIFFEL
(Non-POV)
What a load of -

JACOBI
(talking over him)
And *that* bit of buffoonery caused a catastrophic short circuit, which created an emergency, and... Anyway: the point is that despite my best efforts, we had to isolate and decouple a part of the Urania in order to save the ship. We were pretty lucky, though I am so, **so** sorry that it ended up being your quarters, sir.

MINKOWSKI
(non-POV, deadpan)
Yeah. What a hero.

JACOBI
All things considered, I really think I am!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. U.S.S. HEPHAESTUS STATION - BRIDGE - PRESENT

MINKOWSKI
I... Sir, I don't even know where to *begin* with how wrong that was.

JACOBI
Oh, give me a break, Gypsy Rose.

MINKOWSKI
Why you little -

LOVELACE
Quiet. It's a different perspective on the incident. Clearly, it got some things wrong. But -

JACOBI
I didn't get *anything* wrong!

EIFFEL
How about the part where you said it was my fault, Curly?!

LOVELACE
I said OKAY! Everyone gets their turn. It's only fair. Right, Colonel?

Kepler's crossed arms look like they have the tensile strength of cast iron.

KEPLER
Yes. We wouldn't want to be... unfair to anyone.

Eiffel, Jacobi, and Minkowski all GULP.

LOVELACE
Right. So. Eiffel?

Eiffel CRACKS HIS KNUCKLES.

EIFFEL
Oh, yeah!

MINKOWSKI
Oh God...

EIFFEL
Are you guys ready for The Truth? For what *really* happened? For the actual, factual, live and precise version of what went down?
(MORE)

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
Are you ready for a whirlwind road trip to Truth Town, USA!
Population: Y'all! Are you -

KEPLER
GET ON WITH IT.

EIFFEL
All right, all right.

He CLEARS HIS THROAT and we -

CUT TO:

INT. U.S.S. URANIA - HANGAR BAY - 4 HOURS EARLIER (EIFFEL'S STORY)

EIFFEL
(narrating)
So, as everyone knows, Jacobi was supposed to do a thing with the stuff on the Urania this afternoon.

The PA CHIMES.

HERA
Reminder: Jacobi's doing a thing. Like, at some point. Hopefully we don't all die. Thank you!

EIFFEL
(narrating)
I was on my way back from the Urania's storage with donuts. For... uh, Hilbert. For experiments!

MINKOWSKI
(non-POV, très skeptical)
Donut experiments.

EIFFEL
(narrating)
That's what I said, isn't it?! Anyway, I've got the donuts, I'm passing through the hangar bay, and I hear..

JACOBI
Get your hands off the blue wire, I need that!

MINKOWSKI
It's the one we need to cut!

JACOBI
No, it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes, it is!

JACOBI
No it isn't!

MINKOWSKI
Yes it is!

EIFFEL
Whoa...whoa... Guys? What's with all the Rabbit Season, Duck Season?

MINKOWSKI
Jacobi is being completely idiotic and refusing to deal with the techno-thinger-ma-jig!

JACOBI
Well, *Lieutenant Minkowski* and her big nose are messing up my Electro-MacGuffin!

EIFFEL
Hey, hey! I'm sure we can work together to figure it out! Let me just stick this box somewhere and we can get into this.

He approaches the launcher and goes to put down his box.

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
(narrating)
But like the vicious sharks that they are, as soon as I, the innocent victim, stepped in to help, they smelled *blood*.

MINKOWSKI
Eiffel, what the hell are you doing?!

EIFFEL
I'm not doing anything.

MINKOWSKI
What is wrong with you?

EIFFEL
I'm just gonna find a -

JACOBI
God, Eiffel, why are you so incompetent?

EIFFEL
Geez, fine, I was only trying to -
(sighs)
You know what? Don't you think that this thing might be in better shape if you... you know, by your powers combined? That timer doesn't look at all secure.

JACOBI
The timer is fine.

MINKOWSKI
Yeah, the timer is fine! God, Eiffel, it's like you've never even *seen* Touch Of Evil.
(non-POV)
Wait, what is *Touch* -

EIFFEL
(this is my story)
AHEM.
(BEAT)
Why don't we just turn this timer guy off here?

JACOBI
Oh, look. Watson thinks he's Sherlock. What a stupid idea.

We start to hear a TIMER TICKING.

EIFFEL
No, seriously, guys, I think *that's* the problem.

JACOBI
No, *you're* the problem.

MINKOWSKI
You're *always* the problem.

EIFFEL
Could, could you just let me try?

MINKOWSKI
Let you *fail*.

JACOBI
Nice one!

Minkowski and Jacobi HIGH FIVE.

MINKOWSKI
(non-POV)
Okay, look. I know there's been inconsistencies between of our accounts -

JACOBI
(non-POV)
But we've *never* high five'd. Like... *ever*.

EIFFEL
Hey, hey, hey! Who is driving this car and where are we headed?

Lovelace, Minkowski, and Jacobi all GROAN.

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
That's right. Truth-Town. Exit 101.
(narrating)
Anyway. Though they were totally harshing my vibe, I was able to take control of the situation.

We hear the sound of a BUZZSAW.

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
(narrating)
Well, mostly.

MINKOWSKI
Hey! I needed that, Jacobi!

JACOBI
Nuh-uh!

MINKOWSKI
Yeah-huh!

EIFFEL
Guys? Do we think this is wise?

JACOBI
No one cares what you think, Eiffel!

MINKOWSKI
Jacobi, give me the saw!

EIFFEL
Commander, please. Just... Why you gotta be like that?

At this point, Minkowski and Jacobi are basically playing tug-of-war with the saw.

MINKOWSKI
Because: I'm incapable of trusting others and refuse to admit the possibility of personal growth in either them or myself. God, Eiffel. Keep up.

JACOBI
Stupid... dumb... no good - you're all stupid!

At that point, we hear two metal things CRASH INTO EACH OTHER. A moment later, a TIMER STARTS.

EIFFEL
(narrating)
Fortunately, Jacobi's clumsiness -

JACOBI
(non-POV)
My *what?!*

EIFFEL
(pointed)
- didn't do much damage to the launcher. With a few quick swaps I was able to get it stable.

JACOBI
Oh, thank God, Eiffel! The launcher is stable.

MINKOWSKI
We couldn't possibly have solved it without you! What an Ace in the Hole!
(non-POV)
Is that another thing I haven't -

EIFFEL
AHEM.
(beat)
Oh, it's nothing really. I'm just glad we can all relax.

ALARM. ALARM. ALARM.

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
Okay... that sounds like someone pressed the not-so-proverbial big red button.

MINKOWSKI
It wasn't me!

JACOBI
Well, it definitely wasn't me!

EIFFEL
Guys! We need to shut this down before it -

MINKOWSKI
This is all your fault!

JACOBI
Well, what are you gonna do about it, you Not-So-Strong Female Character?!

WHAM!

EIFFEL
(narrating, picking up speed)
And that's when things got *crazy*. Minkowski decked Jacobi -

MINKOWSKI
(non-POV)
I did not!

EIFFEL
(narrating)
And Jacobi passed out -

JACOBI
(non-POV)
- I did not!

EIFFEL
(narrating)
- and fell on the emergency release and it snapped.

SNAP!

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
(narrating)
And then these air raid sirens started going off -

Air Raid SIRENS START GOING OFF.

EIFFEL (CONT'D)
(narrating)
And the launcher was totally about to fire! But fortunately, at that moment -

Hilbert ENTERS.

HILBERT
Hello. It is I, Doctor Hilbert. I am here now because Russians drawn to loud noises. Ah, look. Jacobi has head wound. What an excellent opportunity for science!

EIFFEL
And it seemed Hilbert would take care of that and like everything was going to be okay, but then we hear from the Hephaestus -

The PA CHIMES.

HERA
Just FYI. The engines are completely offline and we're falling into the star. Because that's totally like a thing that happens to us.

MINKOWSKI
(as Gone With The Wind as you can make it)
Oh no! Eiffel, what will we do?

EIFFEL
But before I could even spring into action -

MAXWELL
(over comms)
Just a heads up. So my battle-bot army, which I programmed to destroy all humans and make me their Robot Queen, is loose and hungry for flesh! If you see a swarm of floating black balls of death spikes? You know, like in that one scene where Darth Vader is interrogating Princess Leia? You should run.

KEPLER
Hey!

EIFFEL
(narrating, totally carried away)
And the battle bots were banging on the door, trying to get in! And I had to wade through Jacobi's blood while I ordered Minkowski to fight off the robots and barricade the door -

KEPLER
Hey!

EIFFEL
Because *Lovelace* had just launched a coup and was basically proclaiming -

LOVELACE
(POV)
I have regained control of the Hephaestus! None shall escape Thunderdome! All shall taste my revenge!

EIFFEL
(narrating)
And the worst part was that -

KEPLER
HEY!

Whatever music or effects has been supporting this insanity STOPS. We are getting off the ride.

CUT TO:

INT. U.S.S. HEPHAESTUS STATION - BRIDGE - PRESENT

KEPLER (CONT'D)
How much... of that... *completely asinine* story contains even a modicum of truth?

BEAT.

EIFFEL
Umm... A non zero amount?

BEAT.

KEPLER
I think I've heard enough.

EIFFEL
But... but Truth Town!

BEAT.

KEPLER
Master-At-Arms, I've made my decision. Escort Officer Eiffel to Airlock Number 4. Mr. Jacobi, Lieutenant Minkowski, you will accompany them and assist Officer Eiffel in suiting up for a spacewalk. The *entire* detail will be relieved only after you achieve your objective.

EIFFEL
What's our objective?

MINKOWSKI
Yeah, what are we doing here...?

KEPLER
I want you to know, Eiffel, that I'm not singling you out for special punishment because I *believe* you any less than these two. You're *all* such quivering liars, we're lucky that your falsehoods haven't dislodged this station from orbit. But you, Eiffel! Y*our* story was not only the most incomprehensible, it wasted the largest amount of my life. Your objective? Why, you're going to go retrieve that bottle.

EIFFEL
Wait, what?

JACOBI
Uhh, sir? By now, won't the scotch all be -

KEPLER
Yes! It will! But, as I believe I've said in the past... **I like the feel of it in my hand.** By this point it's, probably oh... 200, 250 yards out? Should be no problem for a man of your abilities, Eiffel.
(MORE)

KEPLER (CONT'D)
Especially with such a *capable* navigator and an *expert* in targeting accuracy to help you out! Hell, maybe this is one of those times where your bungling, deadbeat, perpetually buffering job performance stretches *so far* beyond the pale, it comes all the way back around to halfway competent!
(turns to Lovelace)
Master-At-Arms? You'll notify me once the detail has completed its task?

LOVELACE
Of course, sir.

KEPLER
Good.
(one last murderous look at all of them)
Happy hunting.

With that, Kepler strides past them, and SHUTS THE DOOR behind him.

Everyone in the room lets go of the breath they've been holding.

JACOBI
Well...

MINKOWSKI
Yeah.

EIFFEL
That...

MINKOWSKI
Yeah.

LOVELACE
You know, all things considered? That could have gone -

MINKOWSKI, JACOBI, AND EIFFEL
Don't say it.

LOVELACE
(cracking a smile)
Just a perspective.
(beat)
Okay, you heard the man. Move out.

The punishment detail GROANS, but they do. And we -

FADE OUT.

STOP RECORDING.

END EPISODE 39.