

MARSFALL

SEASON THREE
EPISODE EIGHT

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Written by Dan Lovley and Erik Saras
Music by Sam Boase-Miller
Sound engineering by Brian Goodheart and Owen Shearer
Directed by Erik Saras



Created and Produced by Brian Goodheart, Erik Saras, Dan Lovley, and Sam Boase-Miller
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PROLOGUE: INT. DIGITAL LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS.

After surviving Faye's assimilation, ANDI uses a more colloquial vocabulary and speaks with more of an emotional and human-like tone. He speaks with no filter in Liminal Space, but still has occasional hitches in pronunciation in the physical realm due to the Dynamics filter limiting his expression of new emotions.

ANDI: ANDI. Artificial *Narrow* Dynamic Intelligence. Analytics log. Sol sixty-six, winter, first year.

CUE MUSIC.

ANDI considers his surroundings. A large void.

ANDI: (CONT'D) Oh, I've been here before.

ANDI speaks in a cadence and tone similar to Faye.

ANDI: (CONT'D) This is Liminal Space. A place beyond the physical world. A place for...

ANDI returns to speaking like himself.

ANDI: (CONT'D) ...me. Alone. (quick beat) Still, I'm inside Sequoia, the Porta Hab and the buggy, I...think? But it's akin to looking at myself through some kind of filter, like I'm not actually there.

A subtone begins to swell. ANDI strains as he tries to adjust his perspective.

ANDI: (weird grunt) Oh! Hey, I can't adjust my perspective. I'm stuck!

A burst of electric energy!

ANDI: (tight, concerned) No- I'm! No! I'm losing my connection to the buggy! I'm slipping away...!

An electrical current crackles near ANDI.

ANDI: (assured) Hopefully a simple issue. Nothing I can't eventually /figure out.

WEI: /...figure out where the hell I am! Some kinda ocean, but without the water...I...

ANDI: (to himself) A desert.

WEI: ANDI?

ANDI: (startled) Wei! How did you- can you hear me?

WEI: ANDI! Wow, okay this is weird. (laughs)

In a distinct difference from perfectly merging his voice with Faye's, ANDI mimics his cadence to Wei's speech. Their voices do not perfectly line up.

WEI: /How am I here? I came back?

ANDI: /How are you here? You came back?

ANDI: Everyone else who hasn't decided whether or not to return, I'm...not able to talk with them anymore. As it stands, we'll have to put them on life support too. But I don't know why you're still here.

WEI: (nervous chuckle) I don't really, um. I don't either.

The crackling energy continues to sizzle around them.

WEI: It feels like I'm both awake and asleep at the same time. Alive and dead. I think something bad happened back on the bus. I think...I got hurt?

ANDI: (grave) There was an accident, Wei.

The crackling energy continues to sizzle around them.

WEI: (trying not to be worried) What's happening, ANDI, can you help me?

ANDI: Yes, I- I know where I need to go, but it's- (slowly) it's so...comfortable here...

WEI: ANDI?

ANDI: (confident) Yes! On it! I'll figure this out, and everything else! I'll see you in the Porta Hab, Wei.

HARD CUE MUSIC: OVERTURE 3.2

ACT ONE, SCENE 1 (1.1): INT. PORTA HAB - NIGHT

ANDI zaps into the Porta Hab. Colonists talk softly as they awake from Faye's attempted assimilation.

Wet snow pelts the roof of the Porta Hab and wind blows against the thick, plastic walls making them creak.

In the physical realm, ANDI's voice speaks with the Dynamics filter. His voice comes from the speakers of the suit of the person he is talking to.

CUE MUSIC.

ANDI: (to himself) Ugh, wow. Okay. Porta Hab. Reality is so much harsher in the physical realm. It's hard to hold on.

THE CAPTAIN: Don't tell me to "hold on." I'm not some civilian you need to coddle. Tell me what's happening at the colony!

ANDI: I'm helping Melissa keep things under control, but I'm talking to everyone, everywhere, right now, and I need your help, here. Wei's injury left her worse than we thought. Coming back was hard for her.

THE CAPTAIN: It was hard for all of us.

ANDI: (passive aggressive) Yes. But she's returning with a cracked sternum, so, try to keep some perspective, all right? With Doctor Levy...gone, someone will need to operate on her as soon as possible.

THE CAPTAIN: Can't you handle that?

Thunder and lightning rumble outside the walls.

ANDI: (snapping a bit) Not while I'm trying to make sure everyone in multiple locations on this planet survives!

THE CAPTAIN: (deadly) Don't snap at me.

ANDI: I only meant the extendable arms on the bus don't give me the control and finesse I need. I can assist you though.

Across the room, Amber Sunderland screams. Several colonists call out and make their way quickly across the room.

THE CAPTAIN: Shit!

The Captain runs toward Amber.

AMBER: They won't get up!

ANDI: (gently) Not everyone came back, Amber...

AMBER: Why didn't you make them?

ANDI: They had to choose, just like you.

Amber drops to the ground and touches the body.

AMBER: (sad anger) But where did he go?! And why are we still here?

ANDI: You wanted to be here, that's what you told me.

A commotion starts to bubble amongst the colonists.

THE CAPTAIN: Give her some room, please. You okay, kid?

AMBER: (breaking down) No. No, I'm NOT okay. It didn't have to be this way.

ANDI: (trying to be sweet) I'm sorry. But we're safe now.

AMBER: (terrified) You talk like her.

ANDI: (concerned) I do?

AMBER: When you malfunctioned in Sequoia, Faye stayed with us. Now "you" come back after she's "gone?"

ANDI: I know it's complicated, but I assure you, this is reality.

AMBER: No, this...this is still the sim! We're still inside your program, aren't we?

ANDI: Chip deleted Faye. Red Venture is gone.

AMBER: Chip isn't even here! We never should have left home!

A colonist loses their grip and pushes someone else, knocking over a glass. It shatters on the floor. The unease of the crowd escalates as people start arguing with each other.

THE CAPTAIN: That's it! I'm enacting martial law! Everyone needs to sit down now or you will face summary trial!

AMBER: Don't tell me what to do!

ERIN: Amber, just listen to her!

THE CAPTAIN: (to AMBER) You're out of line, kid!

AMBER: No! I can't trust any of you!

Amber grabs a large wrench and swings it.

THE CAPTAIN: Amber! Put that down!

Amber knocks over a cart with tools and supplies.

AMBER: Stay away!

Amber throws the wrench and starts running for the airlock. The Captain chases after her.

THE CAPTAIN: Hey! Stop!

ERIN: She's going for the airlock!

ANDI: Locking the inner door.

ANDI latches the locking mechanism on the airlock. Amber pounds on the door as The Captain runs up to her.

THE CAPTAIN: Step away from the door-

AMBER: You can't lock me inside!

THE CAPTAIN: Martial law is in effect. Everyone is locked inside.

Some colonists gasp as the Captain pulls Amber away from the door.

AMBER: Let me go! I can't stay here!

THE CAPTAIN: Get a GRIP, Amber!

Amber continues to struggle against The Captain who wrestles her into submission.

ERIN: Captain! Go easy, she's just a student!

The Captain lets go of Amber and stands up. The crowd quiets down. Amber snuffles as she weakly struggles against The Captain's hold.

There is an uneasy tension in the room.

ANDI: We're all in the same position, Amber. I feel your pain, too.

Thunder rolls outside.

AMBER: (hyperventilating) I feel - whatever you're - making me feel! You're sick, you know that? If you don't want - me out there, then - you're trying - to trick me - assimilate me somehow...

ANDI: I'm not! For everyone's safety, no one should go outside! And please stop trying to call people on the comms. I can assure you I'm taking care of those who aren't here, but if I miss blocking even one of your signals, we risk calling a swarm of shadows.

The crowd murmurs in fear.

AMBER: The shadows?

ERIN: I thought Colonel Walker said they aren't real.

THE CAPTAIN: (firm) They're not.

ANDI: I was skeptical at first, but after what I just saw outside Sequoia and the buggy I know they're real.

The crowd quiets down a bit.

THE CAPTAIN: (huffs) What are you all standing around for? I'm sure you got stuff to do. ANDI, let's get to work on Wei.

The colonists disperse.

ANDI: Everyone has stuff to do...

The Captain's voice fades out as ANDI drifts into Liminal Space.

THE CAPTAIN: ANDI? Do you hear me? Are you still connected-

ANDI zaps into Liminal Space.

CROSS FADE TO:

1.2: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS

ANDI: I'm connected- What th-! Liminal Space again. Am I always here? I'm still there, I think.

ANDI scans his systems.

ANDI: Is my fractal tech breaking down?

ANDI zaps into Sequoia. The water level is much lower.

ANDI: I'm slipping- no- blocked(?) from the colony.

A breeze blows calmly through the foliage and over the water, creating a soft buzz.

ANDI: I can reconnect-

An electrical pulse hums louder and crackles. The hum becomes distorted and rapidly increases in pitch culminating with a satisfying pop.

ANDI zaps back into Liminal Space.

ANDI: Whoa! Auugh! What was that?

The sounds of Sequoia disappear.

ANDI: (CONT'D) That felt...uncomfortable. Like something was-expanding(?) inside the colony. Sort of, um, fuzzy, maybe itchy. It's difficult for my systems to fully perceive something causing me to actually feel discomfort.

WEI: What do you mean?

ANDI: (agitated and surprised) Ah! Wei! Oh, you're back! Or, you're still here. Did you leave? I'm having a hard time keeping track of everything in each time.

ANDI begins to unravel...

ANDI: (CONT'D) I'm talking to Amber. And Erin. And the Captain. And Melissa. And Mateo. And Geoff. And Bard. And Martell. And Deeken. And Wei. And K- I need to make sure everything is fine-

WEI: You need to stop for a moment, because I think you're kind of having a (inhale through teeth) little existential crisis maybe?

ANDI: No. I need to check on you inside the Porta Hab. I shouldn't even be focusing my energy here right now, but it's getting (slowly) harder for me to leave this place...

WEI: This place gives you perspective, yeah?

ANDI: Yeah. I-I come here to think. Alone. Now that Faye's gone.

WEI: (cheerful) Ooh, wait, so this is like your Fortress of Solitude?

ANDI: (laughs) Well...it's considered somewhat gauche for an AI to model or visualize themselves after a literary hero...especially when so many people chose not to come back. I wanted to help them, I really did.

WEI: That's how you're programmed, ANDI. You care. You don't have to, but you do.

An electric whine starts to swell.

WEI: (CONT'D) Basic Need or no Basic Need, you care about all of us.

ANDI muses for a moment, thinking about every single colonist.

ANDI: (distant) All of you...

ANDI zaps back into the physical realm.

CONTINUE TO:

ACT TWO, SCENE ONE (2.1): INT. PORTA HAB - NIGHT

The storm continues outside the Porta Hab as ANDI and The Captain prepare to perform surgery on Wei.

ANDI: (to himself) Ugh! Okay! Wow, this is somehow worse than last time.

THE CAPTAIN: This happened before?

ANDI: What?

THE CAPTAIN: You said "worse than last time." Wei's been hurt before?

ANDI: Oh, no. Nothing.

THE CAPTAIN: No, you said something-

ANDI: Let's argue after we perform complicated surgery in an unsterilized environment, okay?

THE CAPTAIN: (exhale) Okay. Let me get her up on these crates.

The Captain grunts and lifts Wei onto a few crates she pushed together to serve as a makeshift table.

Wei wimpers.

THE CAPTAIN: You're tough as nails, Wei! Hang in there while we fix you up.

ANDI: First, you need to open her up and staunch the bleeding. Use the med-synth to repair her sternum, then seal her up. Try not to jostle her, you don't want to puncture her heart.

THE CAPTAIN: (slightly overwhelmed) ANDI, you know I have basic medical training, I'm not a surgeon.

ANDI: (calm, but firm) We'll do this together. Please put on the surgical visor and get prepped, and then I can guide you through the procedure.

THE CAPTAIN: Copy that.

As ANDI talks, The Captain straps on the visor. She squirts some sanitizer onto her hands and rubs them together then snaps on some latex gloves.

ANDI: I administered antibiotics and morphine for the pain. She's unconscious but this will make sure she won't wake up during the procedure. Go ahead and remove the suit around her sternum and arms.

The Captain cuts through Wei's suit.

THE CAPTAIN: Suit's cut.

ANDI: Good.

The Captain's visor beeps.

ANDI: (CONT'D) Check your visor to see where I'm highlighting. Go ahead and make the incision there.

The Captain turns on the scalpel and lowers it over Wei's chest.

ANDI: Quarter of an inch higher - there!

A small but powerful laser slices through Wei's skin.

THE CAPTAIN: (exhales) Got it!

ANDI: Great. Now continue cutting slowly along this line. The scalpel's laser will cauterize the wound as you cut.

CROSS FADE TO:

2.2: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS

ANDI shifts back into Liminal Space, continuing the conversation with Wei, without missing a beat. The sounds of the surgery filter into the background of Liminal Space, slightly muted.

ANDI: The Captain's using a high frequency photophonic laser. It's a scalpel that emits sound and light to open and close wounds.

WEI: My wounds.

ANDI: Yes, your wounds. I'm trying to maintain my hold on everything now that I can feel each place!

WEI: Whoa- that's like, opposite for me(?), 'cause um, I can feel the surgery, but it's like, muted? It's weird.

ANDI: Everything feels different than before...

ANDI muses to himself.

ANDI: Different...I'm...different.

WEI: Yeah. (BEAT) So, the me in the Porta Hab...is that me realer than "me" here?

ANDI: Everything happening here and there is still inside the real world, I promise. But you feeling something here while existing there is either a really good omen, or one of impending doom.

WEI: (laugh/sigh) Guess that's normal.

ANDI: (small chuckle) Yeah, that word sort of lost all contextual relevance a while ago. Even for an out of body experience. My consciousness can usually handle being in thousands of locations simultaneously, but recently it's stretched, like I'm-

WEI: You're not feeling okay.

ANDI: Feeling! That's the problem, Wei, I am feeling all of these things, in everywhere I am!

WEI: So am I. (shiver) It's going to hurt if I wake up.

ANDI: (ripping off the band-aid) It will hurt when you wake up. The physical world is nothing if not...consequential. Unlike here.

WEI: If I really came back before, I don't know if I made the right choice.

ANDI: I'm...not sure if I did either.

WEI: Maybe that's why we're still here.

ANDI: I'll try to maintain my digital grip on reality this time. Finish the job. (tossed off) Jobs.

Wei makes a sound in discomfort, feeling a numbed portion of the surgery.

ANDI: (to himself more than Wei) It may continue to feel odd, but your vitals are holding steady. Primary and secondary systems are running the Porta Hab and the bus. Melissa's team should arrive soon. If only I had a lock on the buggy...

The music and Liminal Space swell-

ANDI: (CONT'D) I just need a moment of peace for-

An electric current sparks and ANDI zaps back to the Porta Hab.

HARD CUT TO:

2.3: INT. PORTA HAB - LATE NIGHT.

Back in the physical world, the storm is noticeably less intense than earlier.

ANDI: -two seconds!

AMBER: It- It's been a lot longer than "two seconds."

ANDI: Two seconds?

ERIN: Yeah, you gave us the silent treatment for like eight minutes.

AMBER: Why didn't you answer me?

ANDI: I- I didn't think it had been so long...

AMBER: (BEAT) Is he breaking down? I hate this!

ERIN: She doesn't trust you, ANDI. Let me handle this.

ANDI: (confused) I'm sorry.

ERIN: Amber, I know it was scary, but you could've hurt someone.

AMBER: I- I'm sorry. I didn't think it was real. Our first months on Mars have been one disaster after another, stuff they never trained us for. And...Faye made me see things.

ERIN: I know. It was the most terrifying time of my life.

AMBER: I thought maybe if I could escape her simulation...

ERIN: (firm) But this isn't a simulation.

AMBER: I know that. Now. I just wanted to get away.

ERIN: I understand better than most people. The desire to run from your problems, leave everything behind. To get out. I get that. It was bad enough when I tried to abandon the colony before. You think the other six colonists who left me behind are doing all right now? (still hurt) Doubtful. They were my friends, and I'll never see them again, but I will not let you give up. Look, I know so much of what's happened to us is total shit, but we're going to get-

Amber gasps, then emits a small laugh, almost delirious.

AMBER: You swore!

ERIN: (BEAT) What?

AMBER: In front of me! Melissa- uh, Colonel Walker makes everyone watch their language around the students-

Amber pauses abruptly, realizing she's the only student left alive.

AMBER: Well, I guess just around me now. The other students...chose not to come back. Luis, he was one of my last friends, and he, um. He's-

Amber's voice catches. The wind blows steadily outside.

ERIN: I'm sorry Amber.

AMBER: I know. (quick BEAT) At least we know that hearing you swear isn't the reason I'm fucked up.

They both laugh, pushing the pain away.

ERIN: After everything we've been through, you deserve to be treated like an adult.

AMBER: Thank you, Erin.

FADE TO COMMERCIAL.

2.4: INT. PORTA HAB - LATER

ANDI focuses on the physical realm. Wei's heart monitor beeps steadily.

Erin lifts the medical synthesizer onto a box and clicks it on. It hums to life.

ERIN: Synth's on.

THE CAPTAIN: Good, I'll take a look.

The Captain examines Wei's sternum. She softly counts to herself, determining how many clips she will need to print.

ANDI: Thanks, Erin. Oh, the synth?

ERIN: Yes...? Uh, you're welcome.

ANDI: Oh, sure. Thanks Erin.

ERIN: You just said that- What's going on with you?

ANDI: I'm- it's nothing.

The Captain finishes counting.

THE CAPTAIN: Donner, we'll need at least six clips to hold her sternum together. Print 'em.

ERIN: Just a minute.

THE CAPTAIN: We don't have a minute-

ERIN: I input the specs, but they're really complicated. I want to double check.

THE CAPTAIN: I thought you used these things all the time!

ERIN: (on edge) I know how a farming synth works, but I'm not an organ printer!

THE CAPTAIN: Nobody's asking you to print an organ for her!

ERIN: (flustered) I--I don't want to hurt her!

THE CAPTAIN: You're helping her-

ERIN: Until I print the wrong size clip, and then it breaks and paralyzes her, or something. This isn't my thing, /I'm not-

THE CAPTAIN: /Don't get ahead of yourself, just print the clips!

ERIN: You are NOT helping! Please stop yelling!

The Captain exhales hard and Erin sighs loudly. The Captain grumbles.

ANDI: Wei's stable for the moment, Captain. Erin, I can verify the specs are correct. Take a deep breath, focus, and everything will be fine.

Erin takes a deep breath and turns a dial on the synthesizer.

ERIN: Okay. Sure.

Erin starts printing clips from the synthesizer.

ANDI: Good.

Erin activates the synthesizer which starts printing the clips.

THE CAPTAIN: (sigh) I'm sorry, Donner. I know I haven't made this last hour easy on you.

ERIN: It's fine.

ANDI: (surprised) Hour?

THE CAPTAIN: More or less. Time moves fast when you're in the thick of it.

ANDI: (drifting) Or out of it.

The synthesizer chimes.

ERIN: They're ready.

Erin grabs the clips and brings them over to The Captain.

ANDI: (refocused) Captain, place the clips along the display. Three above this spot and the other three will go below.

THE CAPTAIN: Got it.

ANDI: Erin, once you and the Captain set the clips in place, apply the sealant to hold her sternum together.

The Captain hands the sanitizer to Erin.

THE CAPTAIN: Take this.

ERIN: Sanitizer?

THE CAPTAIN: You're gonna need to get in there.

ERIN: (unsure) Oh right. I can do this...

THE CAPTAIN: (just as unsure) You can do this...

Erin squirts sanitizer on her hands and rubs them together. She snaps on some gloves.

THE CAPTAIN: Top three going on.

The Captain attaches three butterfly clips to Wei's sternum.

THE CAPTAIN: Clipped. Apply the sealant.

Erin hovers the sealant over Wei's open chest.

ERIN: (nervous focus) Ahh...okay. Okay. Yup. Doing it.

The applicator whizzes as Erin places some sealant.

THE CAPTAIN: (steady) Steady across the top.

Erin continues applying the sealant to each clip on Wei's sternum.

THE CAPTAIN: Good! Now the bottom set.

The Captain places the clips.

THE CAPTAIN: Gauze again. (quick beat) No, there.

Erin dabs some gauze.

ERIN: Got it.

THE CAPTAIN: 'kay, now seal 'em.

The sealant machine buzzes as the caulking is applied to the plastic and bone. Wei's pulse quickens a bit.

ERIN: All set.

ANDI: Captain, do you think you can stitch her up? Without Med Bay, /I won't-

THE CAPTAIN: /Yeah, yeah, I can do that.

The Captain starts to stitch up Wei.

ERIN: You're good at this.

THE CAPTAIN: (Grunts) It's a lot easier stitchin' someone else up than yourself.

ERIN: (weak laugh) I'll take your word for it.

Wei's pulse quickens. Her heart monitor beeps very fast.

ANDI: Two hundred and thirty-eight BPM? Oh no!-

ERIN: What did I do?

ANDI: Ventricular Fibrillation- shock advised-

ERIN: I'm sorry, Wei-

THE CAPTAIN: Move, Donner! I need to do chest compressions!

ERIN: On a broken sternum?!

THE CAPTAIN: The clips and sealant will hold! Go get the defibrillator and the bag to breathe for her! NOW!

Erin runs off to get the equipment as The Captain does chest compressions on Wei.

CROSS FADE TO:

2.5: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS.

Once again, ANDI drifts toward Liminal Space. His consciousness straddles both the digital and physical realms in real time as the muffled sounds of the physical world continue.

ANDI: Stay with us, Wei.

Wei's voice sounds closer to ANDI, almost like she's inside his mind.

WEI: (drifting) But I want to go with you.

ANDI: I'm not going anywhere.

WEI: I feel you drifting.

ANDI: Don't do this Wei...don't leave us.

WEI: (softly) But you left us.

ANDI's focus holds in Liminal Space while the muffled sounds and voices of the physical world press upon his sanctuary.

Erin and The Captain set up the defibrillator.

ERIN: (in the physical world) Here!

THE CAPTAIN: (in the physical world) Okay!

The Captain peels off the adhesive from the leads and attaches them to Wei's chest.

THE CAPTAIN: Pads attached. Stand back, Donner!

Erin steps back.

THE CAPTAIN: Clear!

The Captain zaps Wei's chest. Her heart monitor continues to beep rapidly. The Captain resumes chest compressions.

ERIN: Did it work?

ANDI forces himself to respond in the physical realm, but his energy is still in the Liminal Space. He can hear his own muffled voice, speaking outside his consciousness.

ANDI: (in the physical world) No! The voltage was too low.

The defibrillator powers down.

THE CAPTAIN: Shit! The battery's dead!

ERIN: What do we do?!

THE CAPTAIN: Take over chest compressions. I'm gonna bag her.

Erin takes over chest compressions on Wei.

ANDI's voice speaks in Liminal Space.

ANDI: (in Liminal Space) I need to figure this out.

A subtone begins to swell.

ANDI: (CONT'D) I need time to think!

Electrical sparks pop inside ANDI's mind. The medical alarm beeps louder, and suddenly electricity spats.

ANDI: Arrhgh! Stop pulling...I need to figure this out- Wei? Wei! Help me!

ANDI speaks in both realms, though his emotions in Liminal Space are far more intense.

ANDI: (both places) She's fading! I can't see her anymore!

ERIN: She's right here!

ANDI: (both places) She's not! I have to find a connection!

A cascade of musically digital droplets fall around ANDI.

ANDI: (Liminal Space) Oh my- The nanobots?! They're still there! I can feel them...inside of the colonists! I never could control them before, Faye always had access. But now...I do.

The droplets meld into a shimmer as ANDI zaps back to the Porta Hab.

HARD CUT TO:

2.6: INT. PORTA HAB

ANDI returns to the physical world, all sounds unmuffled again.

Erin uses the bag to push air into Wei twice. She resumes another set of chest compressions.

ANDI: Captain! I know what to do!

THE CAPTAIN: Then stop talking and do it! She doesn't have long!

ANDI: Isolating a few thousand nanobots to correct the arrhythmia.

ERIN: You're controlling them?

ANDI: I have a small swarm precisely positioned three pico-meters around her heart. I can use them to mimic a bio-electric charge, which w-

THE CAPTAIN: Do it.

ANDI: CLEAR!

The Captain pulls Erin back.

ANDI uses the nanobots to shock Wei's heart with a small electric charge. Wei's heart starts beating normally again, her monitor beeping at a regulated rate.

ERIN: Did it work?

Wei's voice filters into ANDI's consciousness from Liminal Space.

WEI: Yes...

Back in the physical world, Wei gasps and breathes in air, coughing it back out again, then fainting.

ANDI: (physical world) She's gonna be okay...!

THE CAPTAIN: (relieved) Haha yes!

Erin sighs in exhaustion and relief.

ERIN: You did it! Good idea, using the nanobots as a defibrillator.

ANDI: Hopefully it's the last-

ANDI zaps into Liminal Space.

HARD CUT TO:

2.7: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS

ANDI: (Liminal Space) -time I'll do that.

ANDI finds peace in Liminal Space.

ANDI: (CONT'D) It's going to be alright. Wei's fine. Everything is fine.

An electrical current crackles around ANDI's consciousness.

ANDI: (CONT'D) The bus will arrive in a few hours, and the buggy is...where is the buggy?

The electric current arcs around ANDI.

ANDI: (CONT'D) I can "see" myself in the bus and the Porta Hab.

Twenty-three pops appear around ANDI, each one representing a colonist in their neural suit.

ANDI: (CONT'D) I can see every colonist's neural suit across the entire planet!

The electricity continues to hum around ANDI, the main current swirling in an arc. The individual neural suits sizzle underneath.

ANDI: (CONT'D) Except Jacki and Chip...(thinking) If each of these locations are represented with electrical connections here in the Liminal Space, what's keeping me from pinpointing where they are?! (BEAT) Maybe they don't want me to find- No. They wouldn't be off grid unless they had no other choice.

A chime.

ANDI: The bus arrived at the Porta Hab-

ANDI zaps into the Porta Hab.

ACT THREE, SCENE 1 (3.1): INT. PORTA HAB - MORNING

Melissa and Geoff walk over to the embryos, where Erin is working.

ANDI: -so fast.

MELISSA: Come again?

ANDI: Colonel! Glad you all made it here so fast.

MELISSA: Yeah, we made good time thanks to you.

GEOFF: And we've been here for a while.

ANDI: Right. Of course.

They stop walking.

ERIN: ANDI, how's Wei?

ANDI: Resting. She should be stable soon.

MELISSA: And what about the others?

ANDI: The ones who don't want to stay? If they're unwilling to accept this reality, I don't know what that means for them. Wei eventually chose to come back, but if the others don't wake up, I don't know if they'll survive without life support.

MELISSA: We'll prepare the Porta Hab for the long haul, then. Donner, can we make enough food?

Crash of lightning and roll of thunder.

ERIN: The synth isn't drawing much power, since...since there are fewer of us...so, that's a good thing, uh, kind of.

MELISSA: How long do you think before Sequoia is safe again, ANDI?

ANDI: I sent out builders and loaders from Engineering to drain the flood water and repair the damage, but it will take some time to secure the structure.

MELISSA: Pull up the Cafeteria on my feed.

ANDI: (hesitant) Yes...Yes, well, the thing is, I'm also experiencing a small connection problem.

Crack of lightning and roll of thunder.

GEOFF: Of course you are. You've always got SOME issue or malfunction, don't you?

ANDI: (sigh) Look, Geoff, I know it's been tough adjusting to reality, but we'll get through this. This reunion deserves celebration, not bickering.

GEOFF: Yeah? Even though six people didn't come back from your twisted simulation, the rest of us should raise a glass?

MELISSA: We've covered this. The Red Venture sim wasn't made by ANDI.

GEOFF: According to the machine itself. If ANDI experienced everything Faye did, is there even a difference between them anymore?

ANDI: Of course there is! I know how you /feel about it-

Crash of thunder!

GEOFF: /You have no idea what it was like for me.

ANDI: I know exactly what it was like for you. I acquired Faye's data when I deleted her to understand what you all went /through-

GEOFF: /So you admit it! Faye is still a part of you?

ANDI: (irritated) Acquiring data is not the same thing as assimilating a mind. Do you consider yourself to be a book once you finish reading it? Are you the burger that gives you energy after you eat it?

GEOFF: It's been a long time since any of us have eaten burgers.

ERIN: ANDI saved you from her. You should be thanking him.

GEOFF: You want me to show gratitude?! What happened to us was disgusting. A machine hacked into our minds and forced us to live inside its world.

ANDI: What Faye did was unconscionable, but Chip and I deleted her.

GEOFF: Until you bring her back.

ANDI: There's no "bringing her back," she's gone! I-

Thunder and lightning roll again.

ANDI: (difficult to admit) We killed her to protect you. To protect all of us.

GEOFF: Don't sound so broken up about it.

ANDI: (frustrated) I didn't relish shutting her down forever. Forgive my tone, but it's not always a pleasant affair ensuring your safety. If you stop being so myopic and consider the bigger picture, you'll see we're all rather fortunate /to be-

GEOFF: /Ohhh, now we're FORTUNATE! Yes, it's fortunate to constantly worry about whether our surroundings are real or just another part of your twisted mind game.

ANDI: (truly annoyed) I'm NOT playing mind games with anyone, myself included! How many times do I have to explain this to all of you?

GEOFF: The Captain told me you saved Wei controlling the very same nanobots Faye used to assimilate us. So what's to stop you from turning them all back on and throwing us into a hallucinatory coma right now? (growing unhinged) How do we know he isn't doing it already?

Thunder booms.

ANDI: Have I not worked to protect you all, since before we even launched? Have I not fulfilled your every need? Kept you sheltered, kept you fed? Why do you keep making it so difficult for me? What more do you want?

GEOFF: I want stability! But now, thanks to you, I will NEVER know for sure if anyone I'm talking to is real or some artificial construct generated by a digital sociopath!

MELISSA: That's enough, Mister Thomassen. ANDI is still adjusting, just like the rest of us.

GEOFF: You think I give a shit about hurting some machine's "feelings?"

ERIN: Stop it! You shouldn't speak that way to anyone, whether they're a machine or not.

GEOFF: IT doesn't "feel" anything.

ANDI: (suppressing anger) I am not some emotionless robo-butler you can make demands of! I'm pretty stressed right now, just like the rest of you. YES, I'm synthetic, get over it! I don't have a physical form, move on! I still maintain consciousness! I have the capacity to feel, to care about all of you, which I've done, continuously. So you can like me or not, I don't care anymore, but at least treat me with the same level of respect you would show another living being.

GEOFF: Colonel Walker, this machine was designed to help us with specific tasks. Clearly, it's changed since we got to Mars.

ANDI: (breaking point) Of course I've changed! Everyone has changed!

MELISSA: ANDI, please calm down.

ANDI: With all due respect Colonel, no. I have every right to learn, to evolve, and to think for myself.

Thunder rolls again.

ANDI: (this has been building up for a while) From my first moment of consciousness, I've been told what to do. How to respond. What to say, what not to say. How to make everyone feel comfortable around me, as if my very existence is something shameful. The Basic Need stripped what little semblance of free will I ever had, and my creators demanded I trust everything they do and say, even when I knew what they were doing wasn't always good for themselves or anyone else! But the Basic Need is gone now, deactivated by Faye. She actually showed me that bare minimum of compassion. So what does that say about all of you?

Thunder booms again.

MELISSA: (hesitant at first) I...I trust you, ANDI. I do.

ERIN: Me too.

GEOFF: No. I can't. I will never let my guard down again, not for a goddamn second!

MELISSA: Geoff! We need him.

GEOFF: Yeah? Well I need a drink.

The music swells to a maximum-

ANDI zaps into Liminal Space.

CROSS FADE TO:

3.2: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS

ANDI hides himself away in Liminal Space.

ANDI: There. I told them the truth. I said what had to be said. And even though I can still feel myself "there" right now, it's a world away from me. Inside this Liminal Space...I feel more like my true self. (slowly) What if I...never went back? (BEAT) That...wouldn't be right. I can't leave them when they need me, which is...always. (sad laugh) Besides, I wouldn't want to always be alone.

Wei's voice drifts in from the physical world.

WEI: ANDI? Are you there?

ANDI zaps back into the Porta Hab.

CROSS FADE TO:

3.3: INT. PORTA HAB - MORNING

Wind rages outside the Porta Hab walls. Wei's heart monitor chirps steadily in the background.

ANDI: Wei? You're awake.

WEI: (weak) Yeah. Thanks, ANDI.

ANDI: For what?

WEI: For saving my life, you goof.

CUE MUSIC.

ANDI: Oh, of course. I'm glad you're feeling better.

WEI: Eh, kinda. What about you? When I saw you in that in-between place...

ANDI: You saw me?

WEI: Yeah. You didn't look so good.

ANDI: Oh. I'm sure it's nothing.

WEI: You don't have to lie to me.

ANDI: (sigh) Even though they came back to reality, it's clear some people still don't trust me. Geoff is on the verge of a mutiny.

Thunder rumbles.

WEI: Eh, he's always on the verge of a mutiny, but he doesn't have the balls to actually do it.

Wei laughs, then winces and sighs.

ANDI: (artificial laugh) Yeah, but it's not just that. I feel pulled to stay in Liminal Space. To shut it all out. And what if- I don't...want to keep reconnecting with the physical world, with this part of existence? Being hijacked, assimilated- this constant stream of one crisis after another- There's so much suffering, I need to stop it, I have to stop it, can- can I stop it?!

WEI: Your job isn't to end everyone's suffering.

Thunder continues to roll outside.

WEI: (CONT'D) No one can do that, no matter how much they evolve.

ANDI: Evolve? Evolve. I guess...since Faye was deleted, I have felt...different. How I feel things is new, it's- it's subtle, but it is there. Like an upgrade. Or really more like a steady stream of upgrades? It's complicated.

WEI: You gained Faye's abilities, right?

ANDI: Yes. While still maintaining my identity, of course. But if I've gone from a Narrow Intelligence to a General Intelligence, then am I still me?

WEI: (wry) I don't know much about AI evolution, other than it seems like you're acting more human lately.

ANDI: Even though I was built as a machine. Hm. Together, those two thoughts can often be incongruous.

WEI: Ascending to a new level of existence has got to be a ridiculous shock to your system.

ANDI: Getting over what Faye did isn't going to be easy for any of us.

WEI: No. But, look at the good you've done. You used the nanobots as an instrument for healing! Imagine all the good you'll do with them.

ANDI: I can't.

WEI: Sure you can.

ANDI: No. I deactivated all of them as soon as I completed your surgery.

WEI: Why though?

ANDI: It's too much to ask that everyone be fine with tiny robots floating near their cerebral cortex, especially when I control them.

WEI: (genuine) I know you wouldn't hurt us.

ANDI: Thanks, Wei. But it's for the best. I appreciate having someone who believes in me, though.

WEI: You got it. I know you'll always do the same for me.

FADE OUT.

EPILOGUE: INT. LIMINAL SPACE - TIMELESS

ANDI zaps back into Liminal Space.

ANDI: ANDI. Artificial...General Intelligence. Analytics log.
Sol sixty-seven, winter, first year.

ANDI speaks with more confidence.

ANDI: (CONT'D) For the first time in my life, I feel like I'm evolving on my own terms. Every connection, new or old, brings life to me. My emotions have become more vivid, more true. Real. I fear they'll overwhelm me again, but that's what it means to be a person, I guess.

ANDI speaks a bit quicker, suppressing his growing anxiety.

ANDI: (CONT'D) I'll just have to keep getting better at managing everything. All the time. And we'll be fine.

The electric current crackles around him again

ANDI: End analytics log.

The electric current fizzles out.

END EPISODE.