

Act IV: The Companion

Theme: Fragile connection, vulnerability, creeping dependence

Tone: Emotional disarmament, unreliable safety, intimacy with decay

After a dangerous expedition injury, Cass is recovered by the now-active maintenance droid. As they're escorted back, the figure from the ridgeline follows at a distance.

Later, the figure appears outside the outpost. After much hesitation, Cass lets it in.

- The mimic's presence distracts Cass from noticing the third entity. But the *companion* seems wary of something besides her.

The suited crewmember never speaks. They refuse to remove their helmet. They write crude messages on the wall, warn Cass of danger, nod silently during conversations. They are strange, but Cass is starved for connection. The logs shift—Cass speaks of “they” now. They describe comfort, even if the behavior is inconsistent.

Cass notes:

- The companion never eats in front of them.
- They move differently. Not clumsily, but... strangely.
- They always seem to know when a storm or danger is coming.
- They react strangely to the sealed section of the outpost—pounding on it with sudden violence, only to stop when Cass intervenes.
- They write a strange symbol once—maybe it's a warning, or a failed attempt to communicate something about the observers.

Repairs progress more quickly with the droid and surface resource runs. Cass feels *almost* like things are getting to a complete place.

But the reader should feel what Cass doesn't: something is deeply wrong. The logs betray it—between lines, in strange phrasing, subtle contradictions.

Summary

Theme: Fragile trust · Yearning for connection · Hope through illusion

Tone: Tentative warmth, unsettling behavior, quiet deception

Narrative Role: Introduce the mimic. Shift from isolation horror to emotional horror. Build trust in a lie.

Structural Note

This act is one of the most dangerous narratively—**not because of threats**, but because of **how safe it feels**.

The mimic should feel:

- Protective (warns of danger)
- Capable (helps with tasks)
- Playful, even, in a clumsy way (tries to mirror Cass's jokes or gestures)

But:

- **It doesn't eat or sleep**
- **It tries to access restricted areas**
- **It writes increasingly abstract or ominous phrases**
- **Cass begins to trust too much and stops noticing things**



SCENES & SUGGESTED LOGS

Scene #	Title	Summary	Log Focus
1	Crash and Recovery	Cass is injured on a surface run. Blackout. Wakes up inside the outpost—was brought back by the maintenance droid. She reviews the footage. Someone followed.	Injury log + video review + paranoia rising

2	A Knock at the Airlock	A humanoid form stands outside. Still. Silent. Hours pass. Cass watches. Eventually, she lets them in.	Log of hesitation, tension, hope
3	The Silent Companion	The suited figure never removes the helmet. They respond to gestures. Eventually write on a wall: <i>"Still here."</i>	Companion introduction, cautious optimism
4	Watching the Watcher	Cass tests them—leaves items to see if they move, speaks to them about irrelevant things. They nod, sometimes mimic her. Cass begins to trust.	Reflective emotional log, trust exploration
5	Old Ghosts	The mimic reacts strongly to a sealed section of the outpost—tries to break in. Cass has to stop them. They scrawl a symbol afterward (an Observer glyph).	Tension spike; mysterious behavior
6	Comfort in Routine	Cass starts speaking to them casually. Names them. Writes jokes on walls for them. They respond sometimes—awkwardly, but consistently.	Warmth creeps into the logs
7	A Warning	The mimic writes a new message: "Don't go out tomorrow." No explanation. Cass heeds it. A minor system anomaly occurs while they stay inside.	Obedying the mimic, small tension relief
8	A Hollow Kindness	Cass asks the mimic why they haven't spoken. They write "Don't want to lie." Cass doesn't understand. She thanks them anyway.	Poignant emotional beat
9	Dependency	Cass realizes she hasn't written much recently. Doesn't feel the need to talk to herself anymore—	Quiet intimacy. Emotional blindness.

		she has “them.” She stops reviewing her own logs.	
10	Motion in the Dark	Late at night, Cass sees the mimic standing perfectly still in a hallway—facing the sealed door again. Doesn’t respond. Cass walks away this time.	Uneasy closing note

LOG ENTRY GOALS FOR ACT III

- **Target Entry Length:** 600–900 words for most; include at least one *long, warm entry* in which Cass feels truly safe again
- **Emotional Progression:**
 - Apprehension → cautious openness → emotional reliance → uncanny cracks
- **Narrative Purpose:**
 - Readers *must* fall for the mimic too.
 - These entries should later be re-readable with *completely different horror* once the truth is revealed.

SAMPLE LONG-FORM LOG ENTRY — Act III

LOG ENTRY 03–35

Subject: Companion | **Timestamp:** 07:12:03

“I let them in.

It wasn’t a decision. Not really. They just stood there. Still. For hours. Not knocking, not gesturing—just... waiting.

I tried comms. No response. No suit signal. I checked the logs—no activation, no old tags. They aren’t in the manifest. But I opened the airlock anyway.

They stepped inside. I raised my hands. They mirrored me. I asked if they were okay. They nodded. They still haven’t said anything.

But they followed me inside. Sat down at the same table. I offered water—no response.

Then they took a stylus from the desk, walked to the wall, and wrote three words:

Still here too.

I didn't cry. Not really. But I haven't felt that kind of warmth in days. Weeks? I don't know anymore.

I'm going to let them stay. I think they understand.

I needed this. Maybe they did too."
