

Writing Sample – Kerryn Freaan

Casting bio and sample lines for Sci-fi Comedy *Miner on Pallas-13*

CHARACTER BIO: Kate Haught, Asteroid Miner, aged 20

Kate Haught doesn't want to be here.

Which is easy to feel, as being here *fucking sucks*. She's in the middle of space, mining pieces of rock, with no one other than a modified droid for company, what more can you say? Well not much, because Cutter (the droid) currently can only identify 120 singular words, whilst recognising 3 different clause meanings at a time.

But the *distinguished* Martha Haught got her this job, whilst insisting that Kate "grew up" and "left the house" and "stopped eating all their groceries." So, whilst the galaxy knows Lieutenant Colonel Haught to be a loyal leader and a Knighted Protector of all 4 Earth Quadrants, Kate knows her to be a very unloving mother. Now she can look forward to dried eggs every morning.... Thanks mum!

Kate can understand why she's mad though. As even after 8 years of training and studying at The Zolim Military Academy, she was discharged from The Reserve Regiment. Word spread and "Haught" is now the laughingstock for the Galactic Armed Forces, something that Martha will have to work very hard to wipe away. So, she pushed Kate off the planet as she attempts to clean up her daughter's mess. Kate knows this. Kate is trying very hard not to think about it. However, it's very hard not to because *there's barely anything to do here*. So, she sleeps, eats, mines, records asteroid samples, modifies Cutter, and then goes back to sleep again. All whilst thinking that she is a massive failure to her family name. Nice.

A few years is hopefully all her mother will need, and Kate is 9 months in. She doesn't know what she's going to do when she gets back to Earth. She'll cross that bridge when she gets there, but for now there is some dried ice-cream in storage that isn't going to eat itself.

Sets of Sample Lines: Robin (dispatcher at Pallas Station) radioing Kate for their routine check-ups

SET A

ROBIN
Talk to me, Kate.

KATE
No thanks!

ROBIN
(warningly)
Kate.

KATE
(mocking exasperation)
Fine! What do you want to know?

SET B

ROBIN
Hello, Kate.

KATE
(pretending to be an automated attendant)
Thank you for calling Kate Haught.
Your call is very important to her.
Please stay on the line.

She sings some "On-hold music."

ROBIN
Kate.

KATE
Thank you for staying on the line.
You are currently 3rd in the queue.

She starts to sing the "On-hold music" again.

ROBIN
See, I know this is fake because you would never have that many people calling you at one time.

She stops singing and laughs.

KATE
(jokingly)
That was just hurtful, Robin.

SET C

ROBIN
How's my favourite asteroid miner?

KATE
I don't know, why don't you go ask them?

SET D

ROBIN
Come in, Kate.

KATE
Piss off, Robin.

The radio goes silent.

KATE (CONT'D)

Wow! Are you giving me the silent treatment?

Pause.

KATE (CONT'D)

Robin?

Pause.

KATE (CONT-D)

Alright! I'm sorry! I'm here. What do you want?

ROBIN

Literally the tiniest amount of professionalism.

KATE

HA! Well, you called the wrong person.

SET E

ROBIN

How you doing Kate?

KATE

Worse now that you're talking to me.

ROBIN

Ouch.

Sets of Sample Lines: Kate and Cutter radio exchange as they explore a crashed ship

SET A

Kate approaches the crash site.

KATE

(Reacting to the crash site)
Jesus Christ.

CUTTER

Did you mean that in an exclamatory or religious call?

KATE

Err... maybe both.

SET B

CUTTER

Kate, I am sensing... danger.

KATE

I appreciate the warning Cutter,
but you don't have to be Sherlock
to figure that out.

CUTTER

Unknown word detected, please
create an entry for "Sherlock."

Kate sighs.

SET C

Kate picks up an item.

KATE

Interesting... New material found
Cutter.

CUTTER

Excellently done Kate.

KATE

Aw, you flatter me.

CUTTER

Yes, Kate. You programmed me to.

KATE

Damn straight.

SET D

CUTTER

Hello Kate. You have been quiet for
some time. Are you okay?

KATE

I'm okay, Cutter. I just haven't
been using the radio. Would it make
you feel better if I did use it
more?

CUTTER

Yes, please Kate.

KATE

You got it.

SET E

KATE

Cutter, can you look up the make
and model of this passenger
freighter?

CUTTER

I'd love to, Kate. However, I don't
know which make and model it is, as
I am not there.

KATE

Shit yeah that's a good point. I'll
look it up when I get back.

Lines for Kate to say when warning Cutter of an imminent attack

1. Check your 6, Cutter!
2. Watch it!
3. Look! I know those eyes are programmed better than that!
4. Get this dust bucket out the way!
5. Shots, Cutter! Shots!

Lines for Cutter to say when it finds something of interest

1. Kate! New material!
2. Oh, shiny.
3. Alert! Alert! New thing!
4. Unknown item, please create name entry.
5. Perhaps I can be upgraded with this.

Lines for Kate to encourage Cutter to complete a task

1. Look at you go, Cutter!
2. You got this.
3. Keep going!
4. Nicely done, Cutter.
5. You've done harder than this, Cutter. Come on!

Lines for Kate to start a conversation in the market on Pallas Station

1. So, what is the dried substance of the day?
2. Nice... weather? We're in space. Pretend I didn't say that.
3. Morning... I think?
4. Anything interesting in the vacuum packing?
5. Chocolate? No? Wishful thinking, sorry.

END OF WRITING SAMPLE.