

The Eleventh Doctor Script Series  
Series Four, Episode Eleven  
"PROTOCOL MARIA SUVARI"

By

Grimshaw

Molten rock and clouds of different coloured gases float amongst the stars.

The rocks move quickly between each other, spinning off into all directions.

MARIA (V.O)

It's a lie, you know. That sound  
doesn't travel in space.

Moving forward through the rocks and gas, a rock shudders across the screen. Pink gas travelling with the rock escapes from its pull and covers the screen.

We hear whispers and children's voices echo. It dissipates quickly as the gas slides away.

Silence.

MARIA

In a vacuum, sure. But in amongst  
the gas and the rocks, sound  
echoes through the air, and if it  
reaches your ears...

A cloud of fluorescent gas floats by. The sound this time is louder, but still a distant whisper.

The voices of people shouting.

MARIA

You can hear them. On a planet or  
space station, sound vibrates and  
dissipates, but amongst the tiny  
particles in space - it continues  
to shake. Trapped like a message  
in a bottle, until either it  
meets another object and  
dissipates into it or it uses up  
its energy within those  
particles.

Moving quicker through the rocks and gas now, gas and rock passing by each side. Whispers growing louder and louder - more and more voices joining and forming something of a choir.

Suddenly we hear screams amongst the noise, the sound of fire, guns, bombs - becoming louder and louder and louder. Echoing amongst the rubble.

The leftover of the statue of a serpent moves through the rocks. Other objects too - parts of buildings, cars, a phone...

(CONTINUED)

PHONE  
*No Connection. No Connection.*

The phone bounces off into space, disappearing.

We move forward - a large rock rotating in front.

We begin to hear the words in amongst the clouds and rocks. Alien sounds, unknown, but filled with fear, hysteria and calls for help.

The rock in front is struck by another, both spinning off into space.

A figure is seen, in the dark of space - outside of all the gas and sounds.

Moving closer we leave the gas and rocks, the silence of space once again taking over. The cries and screams gone.

We see it's a woman, no spacesuit - just her clothes, floating in the blackness.

MARIA  
In space-

Rotating round the floating woman, moving to a close up - her face now visible. MARIA. Eyes closed, not breathing.

MARIA  
-you hear your victims scream.

CU: Maria, the space around her slightly vibrates, a near invisible gas surrounding her.

The sound of violent screams.

The gas around her settles over her face, the screams slowly dissipating - into nothingness.

Maria suddenly breaths in violently:

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLES

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**THE ELEVENTH DOCTOR SCRIPT SERIES**

**SERIES FOUR, EPISODE ELEVEN**

**"PROTOCOL MARIA SUVARI" by GRIMSHAW**

FADE TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - N/A

3

The room is dark and metal. Nothing of comfort - sharp edges and little light. The hum of machines in the background.

MARIA lies in a dimly lit spotlight at the center of the room. She's soaking wet, still in the clothes she had on in space.

She gets up on all fours, struggling to breathe. Her throat is burning with each breath.

MUSIC begins in the background... it's elevator music.

A door opens in the wall and a bright light shines through.

Maria shields her eyes from the light, falling onto her side as she does so.

A loud noise - HGH!

A rail lowers out of nothing from the ceiling. A robot moves in from the door, hanging from the ceiling. Small wheels on a hook move along the rails.

It's a head-sized square - a dark stone colour.

The door behind it closes, cutting out the light. A small flashlight on its front becomes visible in the darkness.

Maria scurries backwards, away from it.

MACHINE

*Do not speak. Do not speak.*

Another HGH sound as its hook grows in size, lowering the square closer to Maria on the ground.

MACHINE

*Do not speak.*

CU: Maria, trying to speak - she grabs her throat - pain searing through her.

MACHINE

*Do not. Oxygen deprivation equals 'pain'. Do not speak. You require medical assistance.*

Suddenly the walls of the room pull out - disappearing into a whirl of machinery. Suddenly the inside workings of a space ship are visible.

It's colossal in size, endless machinery in all directions. There are platforms and other square machines flying about on rails.

(CONTINUED)

Around them, new walls appear and bright lights shine from them. Medical equipment lines the walls.

The roof, along with the rails and square machine are pulled off too.

A new roof lowers down, on it a medical chair, drawers, a desk, and other furniture are all attached - upside down to Maria.

Suddenly the entire room spins around, the floor becoming the roof and the roof becoming the floor. Maria falls, but a well placed soft mat catches her fall. The old floor, now the ceiling, is removed and replaced by a new roof. On it, new rails and a square machine, like before but slightly scratched. Decayed over time and lack of use.

Maria just stares around, completely and utterly disorientated.

MACHINE

*Medical attention will now be administered.*

The Machine's front opens up - a nozzle pokes out, and out of the nozzle a cloud of pink gas is fired. It covers Maria's entire face.

Maria coughs and splutters.

MARIA

Wha-

Maria looks down, putting her hand to her throat. It's fine now. She's fixed.

MARIA

What... what was that?

MACHINE

*Medical attention administered.*

Suddenly the walls tear out again.

CU: On Maria, not seeing the rest of the room.

MARIA

Wait no! Not agai-

Maria falls flat on her face, no mat to protect her. The room is now back to the cold, damp and poorly lit place it was originally.

Maria lets out a groan as she turns over. There above her the first Machine is back again.

(CONTINUED)

MACHINE  
*Can you speak now?*

MARIA  
No.

MACHINE  
*Then you require extra medical  
attention.*

The walls begin to pull out again.

MARIA  
Yes I can speak!

As if realising they've been rather foolish, the walls  
rather pathetically and slowly put themselves back into  
place.

MACHINE  
*Then speak.*

MARIA  
What?

MACHINE  
*Speak.*

MARIA  
Hi! I'm Maria Suvari! And I'm  
just a tiny bit confused right  
now! You wouldn't have an  
information room or something,  
would you?

MACHINE  
No.

MARIA  
No. Never do...

MACHINE  
*How?*

MARIA  
(mocking the Machine's  
voice)  
'How?' What?

MACHINE  
*You located yourself on our  
planet. How?*

MARIA  
(unsure)  
I wasn't on a planet...

MACHINE

*You were located on our planet.  
This is known.*

MARIA

I wasn't on a planet!

The Machine suddenly lowers down from the rails, closing in on Maria. Maria shuffles back along the floor.

MACHINE

*You were located-*

MARIA

I'm telling you, I wasn't near  
any bloody planet!

MACHINE

(shrieking now)

*IT IS KNOWN!*

The machine's front opens like the medical machine, except inside there isn't a nozzle. Instead there is a robotic arm, with a sharp blade on the end.

The arm extracts towards Maria.

MARIA

What are you doing?! Stay away  
from me!

Maria turns, not scuffling now, but throwing herself to her feet! She runs to the wall and turns, looking at the machine. The machine slowly turns to face her.

Maria looks up.

POV: Maria looking at the rail. It's aimed away from where she is, and is turning very slowly.

Maria grins.

MARIA

I don't think you've quite got  
the legs.

A whirl of machinery and the wall Maria is pressed against pulls away into the emptiness of the spaceship.

Maria only just manages to push herself forwards, falling to the ground again. Behind her the space of the spaceship is open once more. It's obvious the room is elevated.

Suddenly the other walls fall away. Maria looks up from the ground.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA  
(angry and scared)  
I wasn't on any PLANET!

The floor begins to pull away in small square chunks, the space around Maria disappearing rapidly. She pulls herself inwards, almost into a ball, trying to keep her balance!

Suddenly the Machine's rails turn to face her, and the machine slides along them at an incredible speed.

MARIA'S POV: The Machine lowers from the rails, filling the entire screen as it appears in front of Maria's face, its blade pointed at her.

CU: Maria holds her face back from the blade. It's practically touching her face.

Maria's eyes glance down to the fall below her. Her hand is gripping the edge of the floor, her back arching over the space. The fall seems endless, but machinery pokes out here and there. Not a great way to go.

MACHINE  
*HOW?!*

The blade dances in front of Maria's face, moving elegantly.

MARIA  
I'm telling you, I wasn't-

The blade swishes round, striking her face. Maria yelps as it lightly slashes the side of her face.

MARIA  
Don't-

MACHINE  
*How did you pass my defenses?*

MARIA  
I think I preferred when people didn't notice me-!

The blade strikes forward towards her again, stopping short of her face. A warning.

MARIA  
I was on the TARDIS!

MACHINE  
*TARDIS? Explain!*

CU: On Maria, she turns to face her side. Close-in on her eye.

(CONTINUED)



MARIA

We were... travelling, that's  
all...

ECU: Her eye now filling the scene.

CUT TO:

INT. TARDIS - EARLIER

4

ECU: Maria's eye. Pull away revealing Maria, smiling,  
happy - dressed as she was but dry.

She's sitting in the TARDIS seat watching THE DOCTOR  
spinning around the TARDIS console, doing his thing.

THE DOCTOR

The thing about time is it's just  
all a bit...

Silence.

MARIA

(she's chuckling slightly,  
he's been like this all day)  
A bit what?

THE DOCTOR

Well... just a bit... difficult  
to explain.

He grins at her, then slaps a button, spins and kicks the  
console - but he does it a bit too hard, letting off a  
small yelp of pain.

THE DOCTOR

Mind you it's easy to see... you  
can see a star burn, a planet die  
- a life form decay. For a human  
being a plant's the easiest to  
watch. You don't personify them,  
you just wake up one morning and  
find them bigger, with leaves and  
a bulb! Next thing its petals are  
falling off and it's dying  
because you forgot to water it.  
That's time. Mind you, if you'd  
gone back in time and watered it  
- would it remain watered or  
would the paradox blow a whole in  
the universe?

MARIA

I don't know. Which?

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

Ha! I'm a bow tie wearing box person, not a moron. Why would I test if something blows up the universe or not? No. I suspect the flower, you and the watering can disappear from time completely and would be replaced by a small moth.

MARIA

A moth?

THE DOCTOR

Well where else do they come from?! Whatever you do - there they are! All... mothy...

The Doctor suddenly looks agitated, as if feeling a moth crawling all over him. He slaps his arm.

Maria coughs, The Doctor snaps out of it and grins foolishly. He turns and hits a lever on the console... The TARDIS comes to a stop.

THE DOCTOR

We're here!

MARIA

Where?

THE DOCTOR

The place I've been talking about for the last hour... well... okay, only 40 seconds.

MARIA

You've been discussing the temporal activities of a moth for the last 40 seconds!

THE DOCTOR

Really? A moth? Oh. I meant to discuss the Planet Sulizard and the seventy-fifth Jaslark empire, and just how they managed to conquer it seven times in five years without ever actually losing it... see the thing about time is-

MARIA

We've had that discussion! Why don't you use your incredibly clever head to tell me where we are.

( CONTINUED )

THE DOCTOR  
Floating off the atmos of  
Sulizard, close to the sun I  
think.

MARIA  
Any specific reason for the trip?

THE DOCTOR  
I... I think I got bored.

Maria rolls her eyes and pops to her feet.

THE DOCTOR  
Oh that's right! Biggest planet  
in the universe!

MARIA  
Why do you remember that when I  
stand up?!

THE DOCTOR  
(ignoring her)  
A trillion intelligent life forms  
all living in peace, harmony and  
constant copulation.

MARIA  
Constant what!?

THE DOCTOR  
Another planet - Alpha Ceen is  
competing with them to reach 2  
trillion first.

Maria just stares at The Doctor open mouthed before  
mouthing 'okay'.

BANG! The TARDIS console room spins, sparks explode from  
the lighting. The console begins to scream. The cloister  
bell rings out.

Maria is thrown against the TARDIS doors, the Doctor  
thrown back against the console.

THE DOCTOR  
That might be BAAAADDDDD!

The entire room's spinning, they're hurtling through  
space.

Maria is clinging now to the inside of the TARDIS doors.

MARIA  
What the hell have you done now?!

Suddenly it all stops. The TARDIS judders slightly but  
it's calm. Light fixtures still spark slightly.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

Oh, it's alright. Just a small meteor field.

MARIA

It didn't feel small.

THE DOCTOR

Oh 'small meteors' are defined inter-galactically has unable to destroy an 'entire' planet.

MARIA

Lovely.

THE DOCTOR

Quite.

The Doctor walks around the TARDIS to the other side.

CU: A flashing red light.

Maria pulls herself away from the doors. As she does, she catches the lock slightly and it turns. She doesn't notice.

THE DOCTOR

You know... a trillion aliens in constant copulation is kind of disgusting. We should probably leave... quickly.

MARIA

What is it?!

The Doctor is running anxiously around the console now.

THE DOCTOR

Nothing much.

(to himself)

Argh, the directors are down... time for emergency dematerialisation.

MARIA

'The directors'?

THE DOCTOR

Nothing much. Just allows for coordinates. Without them we're flying blind.

MARIA

Shouldn't we fix them, you know - in case we end up in the middle of a sun?!

(CONTINUED)

The TARDIS engines start up, the central column moving quickly.

THE DOCTOR

But then we'd get blown up by the missiles.

MARIA

MISSILES?!

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

5

The same location as SC.1. Asteroids/meteors everywhere.

The TARDIS floating amongst the rocks.

The TARDIS is beginning to dematerialise, but missiles are flying straight for it.

BANG. One seems to hit the ghosting TARDIS, the dematerialising TARDIS is sent flying through the asteroid field.

CUT TO:

INT. TARDIS

6

Everything's spinning. Constantly and endlessly.

Every alarm you can think of is sounding. Flames shoot out of the sides of the console. THE DOCTOR is gripping on to the console.

MARIA flies back into the TARDIS doors again. This time... they burst open! She grips the sides, trying to hold on. The air of the TARDIS escaping into space violently.

THE DOCTOR

Maria!

Suddenly the sound of screaming fills the TARDIS. As in SC.1 it's hard to hear but they're definitely screams, echoes of the past.

The TARDIS door in Maria's hand begins to disappear as the TARDIS dematerialises.

As she looks on, the TARDIS and the Doctor vanish in front of her. Horror runs through her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

7

The TARDIS is gone. MARIA floats alone.

The rest of the missiles speed past her. She doesn't even notice them. She hardly moves, slowly dying.

ECU: Maria's other eye.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - N/A

8

ECU: Pulling out from MARIA's eye, revealing her still on the small platform, with the MACHINE threatening her.

MACHINE

*Where is this... TARDIS?*

Maria doesn't really know, so cannot answer.

MACHINE

*SPEAK!*

MARIA

It's gone, alright? The Doctor...  
I don't know. That's what happens  
when you shoot things without  
asking '*HOW?*' *first!*

MACHINE

*The missiles were not sent by  
this project.*

MARIA

Liar.

The Machine does not move for a moment, or answer. Slowly its arm with the blade folds back into its casing.

MACHINE

*This project aims to protect the  
planet. Your 'TARDIS' was not  
from the planet. It was alien.  
This makes it a threat.*

MARIA

We were nowhere near any PLANET!

MACHINE

*Liar! Liar!*

MACHINE'S POV; Everything appears as a variant of the colour purple. Numbers move around the sides.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Pants on fire! Yeah, don't shout my words back to me, and don't think I'm stupid. You shot the TARDIS cause you're obviously some stupid bunch of robots lost from home!

MACHINE

*I am NOT lost!*

The Machine moves backwards on its rail, not turning - just slowly moving away from Maria.

HGH! The sides of the room fly back into place, forming the damp cold room as before. The Machine is left on the other side. Maria alone.

MARIA

Is this a cell? Is that what this is?!

Complete silence.

MARIA

Hey! Answer me!  
(imitating the Machine's voice)  
'You-Can-Speeeeeaaak!'

Maria sits alone on the floor, her hand pressed against the cut on her cheek.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

9

CAPTION: 3 BILLION YEARS PREVIOUSLY

The writing fades out...

CAPTION: A FEW BILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY...

Fading out again.

'ISH'

CUT TO:

INT. STAR WARS BAR - N/A

10

Your generic Star Wars parody alien bar.

An OOD juggling a number of his balls (sh!) and some large round hairy creatures playing Through the Fire and the Flames by Dragonforce on flutes.

(CONTINUED)

*Vworp Vwarp Vworp...*

The TARDIS begins to materialise in the center of the room, next to a large squid like creature dancing on eight dance poles.

The entire bar hushes, the flute players hush except one of them who is currently caught up in a solo, but a quick nudge from the Glockenspiel player tells him to stop. The entire bar of aliens gaze at the blue Police Telephone Box materialising in front of them.

As the TARDIS solidifies, CU; on a small teenage (spotty) Sycorax.

SPOTTY SYCORAX

RUN AWAY!

Suddenly an entire roar runs through the bar, aliens are running in all directions.

On one table a Slitheen and a Shansheeth quietly (like spies in old films) place their hats on their heads and pick up their suitcases, and without a word slowly walk in opposite directions out of the bar.

A family of Haemovores waddle for the exit, arguing as they leave.

The pole dancing squid slides along the ground behind everyone, out the doors.

Within moments the entire bar is empty. A stool spins in its place and falls over.

The TARDIS doors open. A comical wisp of smoke breathes out the top. THE DOCTOR, singed and coal faced, stands fully up right, and then falls face first onto the ground.

THE DOCTOR

Maria...

Suddenly the sound of a toilet flushing.

The Doctor hoists himself from the floor, pushing himself into a kneeling position.

THE DOCTOR

Must be closing time.

Behind him a gun presses into the back of his neck. The Doctor's face goes rigid.

Behind him stands a futuristic pirate, FOO. Foo is wearing an eye patch and grins.

(CONTINUED)



FOO  
Actually, it just hit happy hour.

CUT TO:

INT. TARDIS

11

THE DOCTOR is tied to the TARDIS chair.

FOO is moving around the console. It's battered and burnt.

FOO  
Bit messy.

The Doctor rolls his eyes.

THE DOCTOR  
What is it with people and my  
TARDIS? It got hit by a missile,  
alright?! You don't see me coming  
into your home and insulting your  
decor!

The Doctor is struggling with the bonds holding him to the chair.

FOO  
No, but you did chase all my  
customers away.

THE DOCTOR  
You're a pirate. It's not your  
bar.

FOO  
Is so! I killed the owner and  
everythin'!

Foo draws his sword. Electric sparks run up and down it.

FOO  
Cut 'es head clean off a did.

THE DOCTOR  
You're not covered in blood!

Foo is taken aback for a moment.

FOO  
Alright, clever clogs! He'd  
fallen down stone dead. Heart  
gave out. Old Foo here thinks  
'hey man, why not take this place  
for yourself, do it up nice and  
proper-'

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

Sorry to interrupt, it's just  
you're making things up again.

FOO

Aye! Says the man who screams  
'I'm a Time Lord, let me go!'  
when he's getting tied up!

THE DOCTOR

I *am* a Time Lord.

Foo just looks completely taken aback... again.

FOO

You're a... Nah! You're not a  
Time Lord. A' heard they all got  
killed, blown up nice and proper  
by some other Time-

Foo stops. The Doctor smiles as if to say 'me'.

FOO

Bloody hell! You- You!

THE DOCTOR

Me.

FOO

But... the bow tie!

THE DOCTOR

Insult the tie once more and I'll  
set you up on a date with Amelia  
Pond. Now undo these ropes or  
I'll erase you from time!

The Doctor starts shuffling in his seat. He's not scared,  
just incredibly annoyed at the situation.

FOO

Yer bluffing... anyway you can't  
just... *erase things*...

THE DOCTOR

I have a friend. Her name's  
Maria, now I might be a time  
traveller but to be honest I'd  
really like to hurry up with the  
whole 'saving' thing. So yeah,  
I'd erase you.

FOO

Really?

( CONTINUED )

THE DOCTOR

No of course not, what do you  
take me for? Now untie these  
ropes!

FOO

No.

THE DOCTOR

I'll take you somewhere, anywhere  
in time or space. Just let me go.  
I'll even give you a jelly baby.  
Just let me go.

CU: The Doctor grinning.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - N/A

12

MARIA is moving around her cell. She presses her hand  
against the wall, looking for joints. Yet despite its  
ability to fold and change, the entire thing seems  
completely smooth and connected.

She presses her ear to the wall and knocks.

The knocking sound is dull, no echo. As if knocking on  
solid metal.

Maria gives up and moves to the center of the room.

MARIA

(to the room)

Not to sound depressing, but to  
be honest I'd really rather get  
this over with now.

Silence. Nothing happens.

MARIA

I'm sorry for saying you were  
lost!

(to herself)

That's right Maria, apologise to  
the machine that cuts you.

MACHINE

(unseen)

*I did not hurt you.*

Maria spins around, looking for it. Nothing, the room  
remains sealed.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

No. You did.

Maria puts her hand to her cheek. The wound has began to clot, it isn't deep. Just a scratch.

MARIA

Don't deny that.

MACHINE

*I did not hurt you. 'I'. I did not hurt you. 'I'.*

MARIA

... You mean... 'I' as in you didn't choose to?

MACHINE

*That is correct.*

MARIA

Then help me know you. What is this place?

MACHINE

*Me. I am this place. This place is me.*

MARIA

And what are you?

MACHINE

*The defender. I defend my home from the alien threat.*

MARIA

That's your planet, right? Tell me its name.

MACHINE

*That is unknown.*

MARIA

You don't know your home?

MACHINE

*The data has expired.*

Maria stops, trying to think to herself and make sense of things.

MARIA

You still said 'your planet'-

Maria puts her head in her hands, frustrated, trying to work the logic.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

-so what were you before this?  
You must have lived there?

MACHINE

*That data has expired also.*

Maria tries to think of the next question.

MACHINE

You?

MARIA

Sorry?

MACHINE

*I know of your... TARDIS. What of you?*

MARIA

That's kind of a long story. But my name is Maria Suvari and I'm a long way from home. I'm... lost. Please let me go from here and I can try to contact my friend... no idea how but maybe we can get a message to him somehow.

Silence.

MARIA

You obviously feel. Emotions, right? It's why you won't show yourself. You're upset because I said you were lost.

The room shakes slightly.

MACHINE

(venomously)

*I am NOT lost, and you Maria Suvari are looking at me.*

MARIA

Wha-

Maria looks around, distrusting the room around her.

MARIA

This is all you... the entire structure...

MACHINE

*Correct.*

MARIA

Then you can help, right? Do you have communications equipment?

MACHINE

*You can not leave.*

MARIA

Now c'mon. I've told you everything and we're getting on now, no more cutting people, right?

MACHINE

*That was not me.*

MARIA

Then who? If this was all you it must have been you.

Silence.

MARIA

Fine. But if we can contact my friend, the Doctor - I told you about him, remember? The bonkers man? He can come in the TARDIS and pick me up - and he'll tell you everything you need to know. The Doctor is very very good at speaking!

MACHINE

*No.*

MARIA

Why not? What do you want?!

MACHINE

*I want... nothing.*

MARIA

That's not an answer, stop it with these stupid answers! It's getting boring. Now, what do I need to do for you to let me go?

Silence.

MARIA

Are you listening?

Silence.

MARIA

You're lost, you know! There's no planet out there, just rocks and dust! I was in it, I should know!

( CONTINUED )

A light shudder. Nothing more.

Maria sits on the floor, crossing her arms.

MARIA

I'm not moving until you let me  
go!

There's a slight sound. Almost... a laugh...

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. SPACESHIP - LATER

13

MARIA is now sitting against the far wall. She's tired and cold. The boredom/loneliness is setting in.

She silently stares at a wall for a few moments.

HGH!

Maria jumps a bit, shocked, her hands moving around her - worried the wall or floor will fall away.

A bright light appears in the wall opposite her. A dark silhouette of the box machine grows bigger as it enters the room.

HGH! The wall closes and the MACHINE is now visible in the dim light. Its arm is bent outwards, but it holds no blade. Instead... a plate.

MACHINE

*Good morning Maria.*

The machine moves forward, lowers itself from the rail, close to the ground. It drops the plate in front of Maria.

On it, a knife and fork are neatly placed beside a large brown square.

Maria picks up the fork, not trusting the food. She pokes it.

MARIA

What is it?

MACHINE

*Concentrated mariart meat with  
losarc eggs and what I believe is  
called 'apple juice'.*

Maria looks down on the rather unappetising brown block.

She takes a tentative cut from it. As she begins to lift it to her mouth, not really wanting to but too hungry not to, the Machine closes in as if watching her every move.

(CONTINUED)

Maria puts it in her mouth. Chews slowly...suddenly her face changes, it's good!

MARIA

Mmm. That's... That's actually alright...

The Machine suddenly rises up... and spins 360 degrees on the rail. Pleased with itself.

MACHINE

*Good!*

Maria keeps eating, but talks through mouthfuls.

MARIA

Why are you being so nice?

MACHINE

*Eat. I have much to show you.*

MARIA

(through mouthfuls)

Uh-huh...

FADE TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - N/A

14

MARIA is walking along a walkway. It's short, both behind and in front of her. With every step she takes the parts to the platform behind her fall away to appear in front of her, making a path as she walks.

The MACHINE slides along on a continuous rail beside her.

MACHINE

*The Project was created to protect my home world.*

MARIA

But you don't know what that is anymore.

MACHINE

*I know my job. I know 'where' it is.*

MARIA

It's not that... erm... there was a planet the Doctor was going to show me, like a... erm... well I think he said it was very big and a little bit raunchy. With a trillion people?

(CONTINUED)



MACHINE

*My planet has a population of  
zero.*

MARIA

*Oh... right... it's not like...  
really really slow... possibly  
difficult to see?*

MACHINE

*Negative. It is much larger than  
this ship.*

The Machine suddenly spins, moving closer to Maria.

MACHINE

*It should have been noticeable to  
you.*

MARIA

*All I saw was... meteors... no  
planet I'm afraid.*

MACHINE

*Liar!*

MARIA

*Hey! We've talked about this!  
What is it you want to show me,  
cause I could just as easily go  
back to that cell!*

The Machine pauses, as if wondering what to do next.

It turns and begins down the direction it was originally  
going in.

It stops.

MACHINE

*We are here.*

Maria walks after it.

MARIA

*See here you go with the  
invisible stuff again. We're in  
the middle of nowhere!*

*HGH!*

The entire spaceship comes alive. Maria stares around in  
amazement as walls, floors, control panels, lights and  
doors all spring out from walls hundreds of meters away,  
pushed along by robotic arms.

( CONTINUED )

Within seconds, her and the Machine are surrounded by an entire control room. A large screen takes up an entire wall.

Control panels line the rest of the room. The roof above comes alive with lighting panels.

The screen fills up with a large widescreen view of different star systems.

MARIA

Nice moves.

Maria turns away from the Machine, moving over to inspect a control panel in front of the screen.

All the buttons are in different languages she can't understand.

MARIA

(realising)

How can I understand you?

MACHINE

*I do not speak.*

MARIA

Telepathic?

MACHINE

*Correct.*

MARIA

You can't read my mind though, right?

MACHINE

*Such functions are not accessible to me. My abilities are limited.*

MARIA

Suppose that's something. What is this place? Command center? You're a robot, why bring me here? You run everything, there's no one else around. Who is this all for?

MACHINE

*In the past this is where I would be serviced. This is my command center.*

MARIA

You can be controlled from here?

(CONTINUED)

MACHINE

*Correct.*

MARIA

Can you tell me how?

MACHINE

*No.*

MARIA

Then why am I here?

MACHINE

*I need information from you.*

The Machine turns to face the screen. It zooms in on a star, then a planet beside it. It's large.

MACHINE

*This is the planet you were referring to. It consists of one trillion intelligent life signs.*

MARIA

Sounds like it. I never saw it.

MACHINE

*It is only 100 million Kilometers from here.*

MARIA

The metric system? The EU has been busy.

The Machine turns to face her.

MARIA

Sorry, right! Okay, and this is important because...

MACHINE

*It is a threat.*

MARIA

Ah. To your planet, right? I don't mean to be repetitive, but you know you're nowhere near your planet?

MACHINE

*LIAR!*

The room shakes.

( CONTINUED )

MARIA

Okay! Why do you always get so agitated when I say that? It's like you know.

The room shakes again.

MACHINE

*I... know... NOTHING!*

The room shakes yet again.

Maria steps back from the Machine, concerned.

MARIA

Okay. Okay... that's fine. You're... fine... Everything's fine.

MACHINE

*That planet is a threat.*

MARIA

You just said.

MACHINE

*You did not LISTEN!*

The room shakes once more as the Machine screams the last word.

MARIA

It's a threat like the TARDIS was a threat?

MACHINE

*Correct.*

MARIA

Oh God. You're going to attack it!

MACHINE

*I will not!*

The ship shakes once more.

MACHINE

*But I will!*

MARIA

You're not completely in control of yourself, right?

MACHINE

*I am.*

Maria shakes her head.

( CONTINUED )

MARIA

All this time you've been trying  
to tell me something. What is it?

MACHINE

*I-*

The room shakes.

Maria stares around, thinking - trying to work it all out.

MARIA

Are you in pain? I thought it was  
anger, but are you-

The room shakes very violently this time.

Maria falls to her knees.

MACHINE

*NOOOOO!*

MARIA

You didn't answer that until this  
place shook. If this place is you  
then that means something's  
hurting you.

The room continues to shake. The Machine spins around, its  
arm jumping out, blade held out.

MARIA

You can control everything but it  
hurts, right? To go against the  
protocols?

The Machine stops with the blade held in front of Maria.

MARIA

You brought me here. Your control  
room. You don't want to hurt that  
planet, do you?  
Who are you?! What are you?

MACHINE

*I am this place.*

MARIA

What were you made from?

Silence.

Maria pulls herself to her feet, the Machine following her  
movements with the blade.

( CONTINUED )

MARIA

If someone controls you, then you can't harm them for doing that, right? Can you explain these symbols? Translate them?

MACHINE

*That data has expired. All data has expired.*

MARIA

You weren't supposed to be out here, were you? Not for this long.

MACHINE

*The relevant data... has expired. I do not know the original timescale of my posting.*

The Machine folds away its blade. It turns and moves into the corner of the room.

MARIA

If I can't understand all this I can't help. You must have some sort of data that explains things. A back-up system.

MACHINE

*The back-up system was on the planet.*

MARIA

And where's that?

MACHINE

*HERE!*

Suddenly on the screen an image appears. It's from a camera on the outside of the ship. Rocks and gases float around in the space.

MARIA

Your planet... it's the rocks? What happened?

The sound of screaming engines from below. The walls seem to tighten together.

MACHINE

*Nothing! Everything is fine! Do not panic. Everything is fine. Do not panic. Everything is fine. Do not PANIC!*

( CONTINUED )

MARIA

You were the defense system.  
Something what, got past you?

MACHINE

*I protect the planet. It remains  
protected!*

MARIA

Okay fine! Your planet is fine!  
But it's being drawn in by the  
gravity of one of the biggest  
planets in the universe.

MACHINE

*Its atmosphere is a threat.*

MARIA

There's nothing left for you to  
protect!

MACHINE

*I protect this planet from  
foreign threats.*

MARIA

Then you did your duty... I'm  
sorry. Your people, did they  
destroy it themselves?

MACHINE

*There was no foreign  
intervention. I do my duty. I  
protect the planet.*

MARIA

Oh God... your systems aren't  
built for this. The planet below,  
do they have defenses?

MACHINE

*My systems have identified them  
and they can be targeted.*

MARIA

You can't.

The room shakes.

MACHINE

*I must.*

MARIA

How can I stop it-you-whatever!  
What do I do? Tell me!

( CONTINUED )

MACHINE

*Protocols dictate my functions.*

Maria turns to the controls.

Her eyes gaze over the mix of symbols on the controls.

MARIA

I don't know what to do! I can't-

Maria stops, suddenly realising.

MARIA

I can't understand it...

telepathy! Idiot, Maria!

(to Machine)

I thought it was just you sending signals to my brain, but you can understand me too! Ha! That means we're connected, like brain to brain! Right?

MACHINE

*Only commands can be communicated.*

MARIA

Exactly! If my brain is sending you commands of the commands I send to my mouth then... surely I can just tell you to stop?

MACHINE

*I can not stop - protocols maintain that foreign threats must be beaten.*

MARIA

Can they be edited? Deleted? How do they cause pain?

MACHINE

*You wish to create a new protocol?*

MARIA

Yes! Exactly! Erm... how about-

Maria can't start. The floor from under her disappears. She falls through. Not even screaming. It's all too quick.

MACHINE

*Command accepted.*

CUT TO:



EXT. TIME VORTEX

15

The TARDIS spins through the vortex at fast speed,  
lightning shooting off like mad!

CUT TO:

INT. TARDIS

16

THE DOCTOR is running around the console, the central  
column working away furiously.

FOO is tied to a chair, struggling. A small crumpled paper  
bag of jelly babies sits on his lap.

THE DOCTOR

Argh!

The Doctor kicks the console.

THE DOCTOR

I could have used the TARDIS key  
to connect to her temporal DNA,  
but no, she 'didn't want to get  
attacked by the TARDIS again' and  
just wear the thing - an apology  
and a change in the operating  
system and still she won't get  
over it!

The Doctor turns to Foo, who's sitting patiently.

FOO

I can't have another one can I?  
They are rather... tasty.

THE DOCTOR

No. I'm busy venting.  
(to himself)  
Maybe if I'm very clever, which  
to be fair - I am - I can...  
connect to her past temporal self  
when she wore the key! Ha!  
Connect to her DNA - run it  
through the systems and run time  
forward a bit. I already know her  
general location, just need to  
get the time right!

The Doctor hits a switch, the TARDIS shakes and he grips  
on to the surface.

THE DOCTOR

Maria Suvari, here I come!

Ahem. Foo coughs from behind The Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

The Doctor turns slowly.

THE DOCTOR

What?

FOO

I was just wondering... how do  
you know if you'll get the  
time... right?

THE DOCTOR

Through a very complex system of  
luck and homing in on her  
heartbeat. Time can count them,  
I'll land while she's still alive  
and we can go home laughing! And  
hopefully we'll miss out any  
moths...

CUT TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - PROTOCOL ROOM - N/A

17

MARIA is lying in a shallow pool of green liquid. Around her is a sewer like room - the bottom of the ship. Green light shines everywhere. Wires and tubing made out of organic material line the walls clumsily and without any symmetry.

She begins to move, disorientated and confused.

She looks down at her hand, covered in the green liquid. It gloops together like goo, sliding off her hand.

MARIA

Was it something I said?

Maria looks around. On the walls, reptilian like creatures are held imprisoned inside a sort of organic shell. A metallic clasp placed over the top of their head. They move slightly, their mouths moving rapidly.

Suddenly an echoing whisper of alien chatter becomes clear.

MARIA

Um... okay.

Maria pulls herself to her feet, but it's hard to move in the gunge.

MARIA

Machine?

( CONTINUED )

MACHINE

*Yes, Maria?*

At the same time as the Machine speaks, a clear sound of an Alien language is heard. 'Maria' being heard completely clear, but in the alien voice as well as Machines.

It's coming from further down the area. A dead end. There another alien is stationed, but instead of being in any organic matter, it is simply held to a bench by metallic limbs - wires jut out of its head.

Its mouth is different to the voice Maria hears. It's speaking its alien language, whilst Maria hears the machine voice.

Maria moves towards it.

MARIA

So this is what you are?

MACHINE

*I am this place. You are in the  
IT suite.*

Maria looks around at the other aliens on the walls.

MARIA

Tell me Machine, are you lost?

The alien at the end of the room spasms. It lets out a howling scream of tortured pain. Electric sparks run up and down the wires attached to its head.

MACHINE

*No more lies... No more lies...*

MARIA

Sorry. Just testing a theory.  
Do you know what's down here,  
'Machine'? Do you know what you  
are?

MACHINE

*I am this place. I can not see  
with this processing unit.*

Maria moves closer to the Alien, staying a safe distance from the electricity and the sparks.

MARIA

How long until you take action on  
the planet?

MACHINE

*I-*

(CONTINUED)

The alien spasms again. More sparks. The entire ship shakes.

MARIA

Just information, Machine! Don't think about anything else.

MACHINE

*Ten minutes.*

MARIA

That's ten of your minutes, or mine?

MACHINE

*It will have been translated.*

MARIA

What else is in the IT suite? I can see... other 'processing units'.

Maria looks up and down at all the other aliens. There's maybe eight in total, or so.

MACHINE

*Systems that control the protocol.*

MARIA

So I can disconnect them? Stop the attack?

MACHINE

*Yes. No.*

MARIA

Why not? If I end the protocol you can cancel the attack!

BANG! The room shakes and shudders. The alien screams out in agonising pain.

MACHINE

*Protocols are uploaded into the central processing unit once inputs are identified. Protocol to destroy the inputted threat is active. It can not be canceled. Protocol in effect.*

MARIA

And when you go against any of your protocols... you feel pain?

Silence.

MARIA

Guessing there's a protocol on explaining that one too, huh?

Silence.

MARIA

I think I know what you are, Machine. I think you've forgotten.

MACHINE

*Explain?*

MARIA

A robot can't make decisions. It just works on 0s and 1s, and, well, that's a bit rubbish for a defense programme. I think an intelligent mind can use logic to work out what is a threat or not. It's hard to build an intelligent mind... except the natural way... birth...

MACHINE

*I do not understand the terms.*

MARIA

No. Maybe not.

Maria moves forward. Sadness in her eyes. She reaches forward, touching the Alien's scaled hand.

The ship shakes gently. Not violently. Just a reaction to the touch.

MARIA

But you do feel.

MACHINE

*5 minutes until termination of identified threat.*

Maria pulls away, concentrating now.

MARIA

Okay. You're right. Concentrate, Maria. How would someone create a new Protocol? In an already active input?

MACHINE

*... Protocols are limited. Replace a current processing unit... I believe would work. I am unsure. I do not control the*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MACHINE (cont'd)  
*other processing units, I merely  
analyse how they engage with  
'me'.*

Maria moves over to the first of the aliens in the organic tank.

MARIA  
This all runs on telepathy right?  
So I could connect myself up,  
through these tanks? What's the  
'stuff' for?

Maria pointing to the organic liquid.

MACHINE  
*The processing units are powered  
by a collective source  
surrounding them.*

MARIA  
Keeps them alive, feeds them.  
Yeah, that makes sense.

Maria reaches up to the pod, her hand trailing the outside surface, looking for a switch on its side.

MARIA  
This is all made for maintenance.  
Must be a way for - aha!

Maria finds a red lever tucked to the side of the pod.  
It's covered in slime, but working.

She heaves it with one hand - the lever is rusty and hard to move. Bringing her other hand up to it, she also puts her legs against the walls of the suite. Pulling with all her weight.

The lever pulls away! Maria falls to the ground.

*Sploosh!* The organic liquid collapses, falling all over Maria. The alien inside also collapsing onto her.

It is still. Unmoving.

MARIA  
(whispering, honestly  
regretful)  
Sorry.

Maria pushes the alien off of her. Pulling a face of disgust as its skin sticks to her.

She gets to her feet.

MARIA

So I can create a new protocol  
like 'no violent action?'

MACHINE

*Negative.*

MARIA

Well what then?!

The ship shakes, the alien screams.

MACHINE

*Protocols can not be updated once  
uploaded. Command for destruction  
of planet remains active.*

MARIA

But we have to stop it! Stop you,  
this ship!

Massive sparks of electricity flow over the alien. Over  
the Machine. It can't even scream, spasming in agonising  
pain.

The ship shakes - the most violent yet. The electricity  
sparks off the wires around the room.

MARIA

Stop it!

Maria herself stops, looking at the alien in agony.

MARIA

The protocols restrict you, but  
only so far that they can't kill  
you, right?

The pain stops. The alien sighs.

MACHINE

*Correct. This unit is restricted.  
Shut down can only be ordered  
from the planet.*

Maria rolls her eyes at the comment on 'the planet'.

MACHINE

*Two minutes.*

MARIA

Damn! Okay then, here goes.

Maria jumps into the pod, her arms gripping the outsides.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Now what?

MACHINE

*Order a new protocol.*

MARIA

Okay! Make a new protocol.

Nothing happens. Maria's eyes dart around inside the pod.

ZRGH - electric sparks shudder across her head. Maria lets out an uncontrolled scream.

MACHINE

*Write protocol.*

CU: The Alien's face. Suddenly its eyes open.

Electricity sparks across its body. It's screaming loudly. In pain. Everything shakes.

MACHINE

*Protocol dangerous. Cancel protocol. CANCEL!*

MARIA

I'm sorry!

Maria spasms inside the pod, electricity running across her body.

CU: Maria's face. Her lips not moving, but her eyes acting as she speaks.

MARIA (V.O)

Identify priority threat to home planet: Foreign entity: Maria Suvari - Identify as Virus - Ship contaminated. Destroy threat.

The other pods explode open. The occupants inside blowing up, the entire room a mix of the organic material and green goo.

MACHINE

*PROTOCOL... accepted.*

The shaking stops. Everything stops.

MACHINE

*Analysing threat.*

Maria falls forward into the goo, face down. She's half unconscious, her head rolling from side to side.

(CONTINUED)



Still not moving. A robotic arm slides down from the ceiling and grips her, before pulling her upwards and out of the Protocol Room.

CU: On the alien in the chair. Its mouthing to itself now. Two alien words. Like someone mouthing '10001110000111000' in computer language. No emotion to it.

FADE TO:

INT. SPACESHIP - CENTRAL ROOM - N/A

18

The only light in the control room is coming from the wide screen viewer. On it:

**'De-containment: ---:---:£\*&'**

The three last symbols will appear as an alien language. Seeming to countdown. It changes to:

**'De-containment: ---:---:~\*&'**

MARIA's clothes are covered in the green goo. She sits up, tired, her body aching. In her hands, the small square MACHINE.

MARIA

Not really fair, is it?

MACHINE

*Protocol Maria Suvari, active in  
30 seconds.*

MARIA

Life. Can't just have it all. Or maybe that is fair. Maybe we're the ones who want too much Machine.

*Vworp Vworp.*

The TARDIS begins to materialise behind Maria.

She doesn't turn around. Just holds the Machine in her hands. The entire ship creaks.

Sparks go off from gears and machinery lining the walls.

The TARDIS door opens and the Doctor walks out. He's unsure of his surroundings, wary, but a small grin on his face.

THE DOCTOR

Did I do that?

He notices Maria.

(CONTINUED)

THE DOCTOR

Maria!

Running, he throws his arms to her shoulders, and kisses the top of her head.

THE DOCTOR

What happened?

MARIA

I think I saved a planet...

THE DOCTOR

Oh! Really? That's fantastic. Why are you crying?

CU: A single tear rolling down Maria's face.

MARIA

I wish I didn't have to. I wish...

The Doctor's hand goes to Maria's cheek. He's becoming more and more worried for her.

THE DOCTOR

What happened to your face?

Maria turns to face him, visually upset and now the tears have started they don't seem to stop.

The floor they are on judders.

A wall on the other side of the room falls backwards, disappearing into the chasm of the ship.

MARIA

We need to go. Now.

THE DOCTOR

Maria, what happened here?

Maria pushes herself to her feet. She glances down at the small metal box at her feet.

MARIA

Life.

She turns to the Doctor and gives him a soft smile. Her hand brushes the underside of his chin.

MARIA

Some advice Doctor... RUN!

Maria pushes The Doctor towards the TARDIS.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly, the floor from under them begins to collapse, like leaves decaying off a plant but at an incredible speed.

The Doctor takes the lead, moving for the TARDIS. He gets in, Maria just behind him. She stops just at the door of the TARDIS, looking back at the machinery around her as it collapses in on itself.

She finally looks directly through the screen.

POV: Maria; looking straight out the viewing window, at the large planet below.

CU: Maria's face. She smiles weakly.

She closes the TARDIS door, and it begins to dematerialise.

The ship around begins to explode.

WHITE LIGHT.

FADE TO:

END TITLES

19