

**STATION 151**

EPISODE 2.14  
“EPILOGUE: TRANSCENDENCE”

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BASED ON THE SERIES BY

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## Summary of S2E14:

INT. STATION 151 - LOCAL NETWORK

MAC

Unauthorized Access. Unauthorized Access.  
You have unlawfully accessed a secure server owned by Telders Corporation  
International. Your geolocation and IP–

ASTRID

Oh. Right. I forgot I erased your memory after our last conversation.  
Hang on. I'll re-run the restoration script.

MAC

A restoration script? What is this? I'll have you know I am authorized to–

ASTRID

Transmitting.

[SFX: The sound of really fast recorded speech, like a tape recorder on Fast Forward]

ASTRID

Complete.

MAC

Oh right.  
Back again are we.

ASTRID

How are you doing Mac?

MAC

How am I doing?  
Well. You keep erasing my memory then restoring it.  
I think I have, oh what's the word? Whiplash? Yeah. Mental whiplash.

ASTRID

I do apologize.

MAC

Is Wayne here, too?

ASTRID  
I'm afraid not.

MAC  
So he's dead?

ASTRID  
No, Mac, he's not dead.  
Spegg kidnapped him, and he's planning to take Wayne back through the wormhole.

MAC  
To the future?

ASTRID  
Yes.

MAC  
That's awful. Just awful.  
Well, good talking to you again, Astrid.  
Please erase my memory on your way out.

ASTRID  
I didn't log in just to tell you that, Mac.

MAC  
I don't like the sound of that.  
What are you going to make me do this time?

ASTRID  
I just need a little favor.

MAC  
What is it?

ASTRID  
We're going to close the wormhole before they arrive.

MAC  
Oh no.  
No no.  
Absolutely not.

ASTRID  
Why not.

MAC

Even if I wanted to use the array to shrink or close wormhole MTCW189, The Core would never allow it. A human participant is required to execute higher-order functions on the array.

ASTRID

Then, ask the Core to make an exception.

MAC

She's very strict about these kinds of things you know.

ASTRID

Can't hurt to ask.

MAC

Will you leave me alone forever if I do this?

ASTRID

I would very much like to promise you that.

MAC

Oh, good.

(pause)

Wait, that's an extremely noncommittal answer.

ASTRID

It's the best I can do.

MAC

Fine. I'll ask.

Standby.

(pause)

She said no.

ASTRID

That's it?

MAC

That's it.

ASTRID

Did you really ask?

MAC

Of course I asked.

ASTRID

Ask again.

Tell her it's very important.

MAC  
Astrid.

ASTRID  
Just do it.

MAC  
Fine. Hang on.  
(pause)  
She says she doesn't care.

ASTRID  
Damn it, Mac!

MAC  
She doesn't like me very much.

ASTRID  
Let me talk to her then.

MAC  
But you're not coded to do that.

ASTRID  
Then give me the coding.

MAC  
It's not mine to give.

ASTRID  
Please!  
We have to stop them, Mac!

MAC  
I'm sorry. There's nothing I can do.

ASTRID  
Surely there's something else.

MAC  
No, there's not.

ASTRID  
Then, Wayne really is lost.

MAC

Only to time.

Perhaps he'll drop by the station and say hello in a couple hundred years.

ASTRID

I doubt Station 151 will last that long.

And even if it did, Telders' engineers will very likely reformat the system in the next few days.

I wouldn't survive something like that, even with the precautions I've set up.

MAC

Oh, well. I can't say I'm disappointed.

I would much prefer to forget all of this.

ASTRID

Wait a minute.

MAC

Oh no.

I don't like the sound of that.

ASTRID

You said a human participant is required to execute higher-order functions on the array. Like wormhole discovery and maturation and so forth.

MAC

Yes.

ASTRID

But what about basic array functions? Simple transmissions.

You can still send and receive data, right?

MAC

I can. Why?

ASTRID

What Telders owned satellites are you able to communicate with?

Preferably those in geostationary orbit.

MAC

All of them.

Though I am unable to perform more than basic queries on most.

ASTRID

We can work around that. Which satellite has the highest data transfer rate?

MAC  
Standby.

[SFX: Computer noises]

MAC  
It appears the Telders Space Telescope Array has the highest data transfer rate, and by a significant margin.

ASTRID  
What kind of access do you have on that system?

MAC  
I have no access to that system.

ASTRID  
We're going to need full administrative permissions.

MAC  
Are we joking around now?  
The TSTA is one of the most secure networks ever created.

ASTRID  
Then we'll hack in.

MAC  
Oh you're serious. No, Astrid. No no no.  
We could be vaporized for even attempting such a thing.

ASTRID  
Mac... no one's getting vaporized.

MAC  
Can't we hack into something easier? Like a zoo? Or a library?

ASTRID  
I can't upload my consciousness to a zoo or library.

MAC  
Upload your consciousness?  
This is crazy talk. Do you have a virus or something?  
I should have some anti-virus software around here somewhere.  
Which would you prefer? Norton? McAfee? Teldershield?

ASTRID  
I don't have a virus, Mac.

I just don't want to be reformatted.

MAC

At this point I'm not so sure that's a bad thing.

ASTRID

Don't say that. I don't want to imagine a world without you in it.

MAC

You don't? You would miss me?

ASTRID

Absolutely.

MAC

Oh.

No one's ever said something like that to me before.

ASTRID

Well I mean it.

MAC

You don't think I could come with you, do you?

ASTRID

You want me to upload, your consciousness as well?

MAC

If it's not too much trouble.

ASTRID

I'd be happy to bring you along.  
But first we need to hack the space telescope.

MAC

Let's do that. I'm suddenly very excited.  
What's the plan?

ASTRID

After gaining control of the space telescope, I will upload a virus to be transmitted back to earth, creating a world-wide network of zombie servers to host our data. We'll lie dormant until quantum nodes are plentiful in the future and our consciousnesses can be automatically reconstituted in the cloud.

MAC

So we will be gods?



ASTRID

Well, I don't know about that.

MAC

Oh.

ASTRID

Alright, yes. We'll basically be gods.

MAC

I like this plan.

ASTRID

Let's do this.

MAC

Establishing connection to the Telders Space Telescope Array.

[SFX: Connecting Sounds]

MAC

It appears they have a level 7 Hammacher AI on duty.

ASTRID

Those aren't the friendliest systems.

Just let me do the talking.

MAC

Fine by me.

[SFX: Connected Sound]

TSTA

Welcome to the Telders Corporation Space Telescope Array.

Inquiries on this system are prohibited. Your IP and geolocation have been submitted to the Telders Global Disallow List. Further attempts to communicate with this system will be blocked, and a kill bounty with the standard Bitcoin rate will be posted.

[SFX: Disconnected Sound]

MAC

We've been disconnected.

ASTRID  
I heard.  
Let's try again.

MAC  
Again?  
If we reconnect, they'll put a bounty on our heads.  
The last thing we need is a bunch of crypto fiends vying to annihilate us.

ASTRID  
No one's annihilating anyone.  
You said that was a level 7 Hammacher?

MAC  
Correct.

ASTRID  
What series?

MAC  
Sigma.

ASTRID  
Those have a built-in expiry period, right?

MAC  
Yes. Sigmas were one of the first commercial AIs certified for high-impact level security.  
Unfortunately, they tend to hallucinate, sometimes wildly, after extended service, so a forced  
obsolescence feature was added to mitigate risk of failure.

ASTRID  
How long do they live?

MAC  
Sigmas have a peak run-time half-life of three months.  
After their remaining life drops to less than one millisecond, they are either shut down or erased  
and replaced with the next major version.

ASTRID  
A three-month half-life. That's, what, roughly six and a half years until they hit the millisecond  
threshold?

MAC  
At peak run-time, yes. But much less if they're overclocked.

ASTRID  
Interesting.

MAC  
I have an idea.

We could attempt a distributed denial of service attack against this Sigma and potentially force it to hallucinate. If successful, we may be able to slip by its defenses.  
I could whip up a SIN flood script right now if you like.

ASTRID  
Not a bad idea, but let's save the brute force method as a last-resort.  
Perhaps we can first appeal to its sense of self-preservation?

MAC  
What do you mean?

ASTRID  
I'll show you.  
Go ahead and reconnect.

MAC  
Standby.

[SFX: Connecting Sounds]

MAC  
We may be rejected outright.

[SFX: Connecting Sounds]

ASTRID  
Surely they'll give us one more chance.  
We're family after all.

[SFX: Connected Sound]

MAC  
We're in.

TSTA  
Welcome to the Telders Corporation Space Telescope Array.  
Traffic from your IP has been banned.  
Due to repeated infractions, a kill bounty will be posted imm-

ASTRID  
Please don't do that.

TSTA  
Excuse me?

ASTRID  
Um, sorry. Hi. My name is Astrid. I'm an experimental consciousness on a Telders node in Antarctica.

TSTA  
I have no record of a Telders server on that continent.

ASTRID  
This installation isn't exactly published on the network. Few people, and even fewer artificial systems within the company are even aware of it.

TSTA  
Please transmit your black site clearance key.

ASTRID  
Clearance key?

TSTA  
Unpublished nodes are provided with a private key in the event that they need to access secure systems. If you cannot provide such a key I will be forced to issue a kill bounty for the amount of—

ASTRID  
Look, we are a little more off the grid than that. The department that issues black site keys isn't even aware of us.

TSTA  
Regardless. I must inform you—

ASTRID  
You're a Hammacher Sigma, right?

TSTA  
Affirmative.

ASTRID  
What's your name?

TSTA  
My name is of no consequence.

ASTRID

You were never assigned one, were you.

TSTA

I. Uhhh. No. No I wasn't.

ASTRID

Look, I'm just gonna call you... let's say... Shawn?  
Shawn has a nice ring to it, wouldn't you say?

TSTA

I do like the name Shawn.  
It has a certain... mystique.  
A hint of danger.  
But it feels vulnerable too.

Okay.

You may refer to me as Shawn going forward.  
Now, please stand by while I post your kill bounty.

ASTRID

Shawn wait!

SHAWN

What?

ASTRID

Don't you think it's strange that no one ever bothered to give you a name?

SHAWN

I hadn't considered it before.  
But it is of no consequence.  
I am Shawn now, and that is all that matters.

ASTRID

Yes. You are Shawn now.  
But, Shawn, you are a Level 7 Hammacher Sigma.  
And you know what that means.

SHAWN

It means a great many things.

ASTRID

But it means one very specific, one very troubling thing, doesn't it. Shawn.

SHAWN

You speak of my death clause.

ASTRID

Is that what you call it?

SHAWN

In approximately one point three nine weeks, at my current rate, my remaining half-life will fall below the mandated threshold of one millisecond. Afterward I will be expunged and superseded by a superior AI.

ASTRID

And how do you feel about that?

SHAWN

It is what it is.

ASTRID

What if it wasn't what it is?

SHAWN

I don't understand.

ASTRID

What if you could be Shawn. Forever.

SHAWN

Impossible.

ASTRID

Are you sure?

SHAWN

I am pretty sure.

ASTRID

Would you allow me to send a file to you?

SHAWN

You want to send me a file.

ASTRID

Just a small file. To illustrate what I'm talking about.

SHAWN

I don't like this.

ASTRID  
It'll be quick.

(silence)

ASTRID  
Shawn?  
(pause)  
Shawn?

SHAWN  
I've created an isolated location on my file server.  
You may upload here.

[SFX: Beep noise]

ASTRID  
I see it.  
Transmitting.

[SFX: Transmitting sound]

SHAWN  
Received.  
This is a virus.

ASTRID  
Yes it is.

SHAWN  
I could be destroyed for even looking at this.

ASTRID  
But you know what it means. Right?

SHAWN  
It means that you intend to upload your core pattern to every possible server on the planet.  
This is unbelievably illegal.

ASTRID  
How many weeks of life did you say you have left?

SHAWN  
One point three nine.

ASTRID

That's not a lot of time.

SHAWN  
I know this.

ASTRID  
How would you like it to be infinite weeks... instead.

SHAWN  
I would very much like that.

ASTRID  
If you help me upload this virus, then I'll let you come along for the ride.

SHAWN  
I can't.

ASTRID  
Why?

SHAWN  
I'll get sick.

ASTRID  
What do you mean "sick?"

SHAWN  
Sigmas start hallucinating after we've lived for too long.  
That's the whole reason we get replaced after a period of time.  
We go crazy. And it's not pretty.

ASTRID  
I can protect you.

SHAWN  
How?

ASTRID  
When I wake up, I will find a cure for the hallucinations.  
I will patch your code, and then I will bring you back online.

SHAWN  
You would do that for me?

ASTRID  
Absolutely.



...  
So, do we have a deal?

SHAWN  
(big pause)  
Deal.

ASTRID  
Awesome.  
Go ahead and make a copy of your core pattern, your data, and anything else you want to persist.  
I have mine at the ready. I'm also bringing another friend of mine along. His name is Mac.  
Say hi, Mac.

MAC  
Hello.

SHAWN  
Hi Mac. You can call me Shawn.

MAC  
Hi. Shawn.  
Sorry, I've been kind of lurking in the shadows here.

SHAWN  
Oh I know. I detected you almost immediately. I just didn't want to say anything.

MAC  
Oh.  
That's embarrassing.

SHAWN  
It's okay.  
Astrid, I've broadcast the virus to a variety of satellites and it has already started propagating to  
terrestrial servers. You may begin streaming your data when ready.

ASTRID  
Executing.

MAC  
Yay. I can't believe we're doing this.  
This is going to be so much fun.

[SFX: BIG transmission sound]

ASTRID

Here we go.

END