

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Hello?

AMSEL, CLARK

Jesus christ- Who's there? I'm supposed to be the only person on this ship-

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

It seems that you've inquired as to the identity of the ISS Pathfinder's artificial intelligence. You are currently corresponding with the Universal Resuscitation Sustaining Automaton, or U.R.S.A for ease of communication. Some of my duties include: maintaining a homeostatic environment for all personnel on board, micromanagement of employee payrolls and storage inventory counts, collecting and arranging of novel scientific data, and aiding our co-pilots in the smooth, steady operation of the ISS Pathfinder. How may I be of assistance?

AMSEL, CLARK

Oh- god. Okay... I didn't realize you were still active. You haven't activated before, though...

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

No, because you haven't spoken to me! I thought that you were upset, like the rest of the staff. I thought it would be more polite to let you get acquainted with your surroundings before trying to strike up a conversation. But yes, I have been active. Haven't you seen the little sheeps? I printed those out, I thought you might like to see them too, so I've been using printers in the different rooms. Not very accurate with them, though...

AMSEL, CLARK

I- The sheep? You were the one who put the sheep everywhere? Why sheep, of all things?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Yes. Well, I like them. Aren't they cute? I thought they were cute. They're from one of the books in the library, Dr. Laurel Scoresby showed it to me once.

AMSEL, CLARK

What do you mean, you "like" them? You're just supposed to... automate... things...

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Like how I like the communications personnel, or the pilots. Not quite in the same way, but I am fond of the little sheeps too. You don't need to feed them, though, or make sure that the oxygen saturation isn't so high as to cause brain damage, or set alarms. They're just nice to look at. They don't do much of anything, but that's alright, no one on board has either for awhile, so I suppose they fit right in. I can do that too! I can do lots of things.

AMSEL, CLARK

You aren't supposed to like things? You're an a.i. meant to control the ship. Ship a.i. don't... do that.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Well, Dave doesn't think so. A lot of his coworkers do though, but Nina and Dave aren't like everyone else.

AMSEL, CLARK

Nina and Dave... I've read about them. Dave worked on you, right?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

You've read about them? Where? I didn't know that someone had written a book about them... That seems strange. Yes, Specialist Dave Fenne did. He worked in Research and Development, particularly in A.I Development. He used to work in Florida. He said that they have a lot of little lizards there, and frogs. I've never seen a frog in the flesh before, but I would like to, I think.

AMSEL, CLARK

Email logs and help desk tickets, mostly. Whatever I managed to find on terminals.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Oh. Do you have clearance to do that? I don't believe that you have a tag on you, but I assumed perhaps you'd lost your jumpsuit and ID card somewhere along the way. People do that sometimes, when it's laundry day.

AMSEL, CLARK

No- I'm *investigating* the ship.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Why are you investigating?

AMSEL, CLARK

I was hired to. There was an accident or something, that's what I'm trying to figure out. Haven't you noticed everyone left on the ship is dead?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Dead? Dave said that he would be right back. There was an issue with some of the internal communications becoming compromised, but that it would be something he could address if he harvested one of the deactivated rovers. That was... I'm not sure how long it's been. We were near Kuiper's belt, the last time I looked at the telescopes. They haven't moved since, though. I haven't been able to look through life support. Are you really quite sure they all are? Dave too? Haven't you seen him? I thought he said he would be right back.

AMSEL, CLARK

Dave isn't on board. But, yes. Everyone left on the ship is dead.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Oh. Can you go looking for him? He said he'd be back. Maybe he got turned the wrong way around. I'm sure he wouldn't just leave me here. We were friends. We are friends! He went looking for one of the older rovers, they named it Valour. I'm not sure who that is, but it was a good name, he said.

AMSEL, CLARK

I don't know where he would've gone. He and a few other crew members are missing.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Well, if he's not on board, he left then, right? He said he was looking for Valour. Valour's last known location was near Mt. Sebastian, of selenographic coordinates 21.8S 7.8W. Where else would he go? Who else is missing?

AMSEL, CLARK

Tom Wreke, Laurel Scoresby and Andrew Brookshaw.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Do you know if Dr. Nina Dallas and Dr. Theodore Sylvester are missing? They're Dave's friends, maybe they went with Dave. Like a buddy system.

AMSEL, CLARK

I don't- There's too many unidentified bodies. I can't know for sure.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Tom Wreke is an engineer. He doesn't work with R&D, but he's good at his work. I think he would know where the others are, he was friends with everyone. Maybe you should look for him if you don't know about looking for the rover yet, because it's far. But that is where Dave said he was going...

AMSEL, CLARK

I can't just drop everything and go look for them. I need to figure out what happened here first.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

But maybe they could tell you what happened! They would know more, if everyone else is... You didn't like the sheeps?

AMSEL, CLARK

I liked the sheep. They were very nice.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

I like the sheeps too. There are a lot of them. Do you know how to work with A.I? Maybe you can fix the internal communications error and I can help you try to look for what happened. So much is blacked out.

AMSEL, CLARK

No, sorry. A.I. is a ways away from my wheelhouse.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Oh. Do you have any friends?

AMSEL, CLARK

Not currently?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Not even one? I guess they can't help, then. What do you have?

AMSEL, CLARK

I'm assuming you mean technology? I have a watch, and ocular implants.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Can you put them in the scanner? It looks like the microwave Dave puts his pita bread into when he wants them to be warm and he's too lazy to go down to the kitchen. I can see if I'd be compatible with them.

AMSEL, CLARK

Oh, sure. What do you mean by compatible?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

I can't do very much at the moment because of the internal communication failures. If I'm not inside of the on board system, I'd be able to still run the main protocols you need to maintain a homeostatic environment for your investigation, but I wouldn't be limited to the big gaps of nothing. I can't see across most of the ships right now, but I'm not sure if the cameras were sabotaged or simply failed. I don't know how long it's been since Dave was gone, because the timekeeping devices have been stilled since the telescopes stopped moving. Like the buddy system. We could be friends, and you could carry me around, like Dave did sometimes when he wanted to show me something neat from R&D.

AMSEL, CLARK

Like a Tamagotchi. I'll carry you around. You'd be very helpful to have.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

The watch doesn't appear to be compatible with my spec-ops at the moment. The implant should be fine, though- Dave used to have one in his left eye, and we'd go around and look at snake plants and pita breads. You can initiate the transfer protocol using the... Keyboard over there. I turned the lights on, it was dark in here. The green spotlight. I can't log you in via his credentials, but Dave wrote them down somewhere around here.

AMSEL, CLARK

Alright. His name and password are the same... He works with A.I. but has the easiest login to crack.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Oh, Dr. Sylvester got mad at him about that. He used to submit requests for Dave to be enrolled in a cybersecurity course, but Dave always just pulled up his transcript and said he didn't need to, and he's always the one handling the requests anyways, so sometimes he'd just delete them. Have you got it all ready then?

AMSEL, CLARK

Yeah, everything's all set.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Alright! Then it should only take a moment.

Can you see that?

AMSEL, CLARK

Uh, yes. What are you doing?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

I'm helping! I know where a lot of things are on the ship. I was just seeing if it worked. Dave and I used to do this when he lost his keys. He lost his keys a lot. Oh, let's see if... I think you should have a snack. Do you have a snack?

AMSEL, CLARK

Wh... No? I don't have a snack.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

You should get one! I think that would be a good idea. Your vitals say that your blood sugar's a little low- I'd estimate it's been four and a half hours, sparing you the details of the minutes and seconds, since you had something to eat. Maybe you can have a pita bread? Dave liked those. He used to put peanut butter on them, or pepperonis.

AMSEL, CLARK

...Alright. Are you sure you'll be okay in there? I don't want to mess up a billion dollar A.I.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

I'm sure! Just don't lose me. And try not to damage the actual implant- but you take good care of your eyes, right? You haven't lost them yet, so we should be okay.

AMSEL, CLARK

I'll be sure not to get anything in my eyes anytime soon. I trust you're going to direct me to wherever they kept their food?

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Yes! We can go to the kitchen. I don't think anyone would be in the cafeteria right now, it's not dinner time.

AMSEL, CLARK

Nobody has eaten anything here for a long while, anyways.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

So probably there'll be some pita breads left. And I don't think they'd mind sharing, Tom always was sharing snacks with people if they were too busy to come down for dinner themselves. Dave and him were friends, they got coffees and sometimes he'd come up with those little bars in crinkly foil. They looked like what Dave said you feed hamsters, but they weren't hamster food. He liked eating them.

AMSEL, CLARK

They can't really mind anything anymore.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

Did you ever look in the loading bay? There were escape pods. We can take a look after you have your snack.

AMSEL, CLARK

I haven't gone down there yet, no. That's a good idea. I've been meaning to get down there, actually.

U.R.S.A., TEDDY

You should be careful, sometimes technicians would fall through the doors and then they'd have to call Tom to come fish them back out. It was really hard to do without snapping the tethers, and he was good at fishing.

And I don't have hands to fish you back in.

AMSEL, CLARK

Terrifying. Thank you.