

The Kingery, episode 11x02 "Love Languages"

ANNOUNCER: The following Pendant production contains mature subject matter. Listener discretion is advised.

[A box being dragged.]

MAJOR

(struggling with a box)

'Lock, damn it! What is IN this, it's fuckin' heavy!

(grunts)

[Box set down.]

KAYLOCK

I have fewer boxes than you, therefore they are, on average, heavier. But where did all of these other boxes come from?

MAJOR

Hm? Oh, well, y'know, coupla things I had in storage, plus a coupla things I had shipped from the last place.

KAYLOCK

How did you find the time to arrange that?

MAJOR

Well, I, y'know, I mean...

KAYLOCK

You have a look.

MAJOR

What? No I don't.

KAYLOCK

You definitely do.

MAJOR

All right, there was one- ONE BOX that I really needed from our old place, all right? It was very important, I had Shmu ship it to me since he DEFINITELY OWED ME ONE, the adorable little brat.

KAYLOCK

It must have been costly to send it so quickly.

MAJOR

You know what, don't worry about it, okay? I was workin' crazy overtime while I was livin' at your family's place. I didn't have, y'know, a lot of... expenses.

KAYLOCK

I'm not concerned about the cost. I just wonder what you needed so urgently and--

MAJOR

Kaylock, oy. Uh, it's for... the wedding!

KAYLOCK

I'm not sure what it could be. We're having our ceremony here at the Kingery, and Sarah is making a traditional Earth cake for our friends. You do not have an extensive wardrobe.

MAJOR

I ...wanted it to be a surprise.

KAYLOCK

You know that I do not enjoy surprises... but you do. Therefore I will ...allow myself to be surprised.

MAJOR

Aw, I love you, ya big softy.

KAYLOCK

And I you.

MAJOR

Hey, uhh...are there any, y'know, traditions from your family? Y'know, that we should, y'know... incorporate into the wedding?

KAYLOCK

That is not important to me.

MAJOR

And if it WAS important? There's gotta be some kind of- y'know, somethin' your- something traditional?

KAYLOCK

We have a ... well, you would call it a "net."

MAJOR

A ... a net?

KAYLOCK

Yes, it is ... draped over the couple as a symbol that they will always be connected.

MAJOR

Uh-huh, yeah. I mean, well... wouldn't you just kinda like, y'know... ooze through it?

KAYLOCK

It is made of very flexible strands of natural material native to our world that is ... shiny and does not absorb into our bodies. The item is usually passed down from another family member, or someone makes a new version of it to suit the couple. My family's was given to an older sibling of mine and no one has another, but since our marriage is not traditional, it does not bother me.

MAJOR

Oh, well, sure. Un, okay. But your family, like... is okay too, right? I mean, with us?

KAYLOCK

Their opinion has never factored into my major decisions. That being said, they are fond of you.

MAJOR

I like them too. I just- I just wanna be sure that you're okay, and you're happy with all of this.

KAYLOCK

I am. I have been considering my relations as today I am arranging to send the family ship back to my home world.

MAJOR

Aww, really? I was kinda hoping we could keep it.

KAYLOCK

We do not need it, and if you have not forgotten, we stole technological property and escaped criminal prosecution. It has been decided we will give up the ship in order for the authorities to ... ignore this little incident.

MAJOR

...oh no, 'Lock. I mean, I guess they're a little less fond of me then.

KAYLOCK

They are fine. The family ship was rarely used and I was very convincing.

MAJOR

All right, all right, jeez. You're making me feel bad, although... wait a minute. Are you telling me that you bribed someone?

KAYLOCK

I...did not say that.

MAJOR

Oh, bubbie. (laughs) You fuckin' did it, didn't ya?

KAYLOCK

It was not a bribe! I was able to make an ARRANGEMENT.

MAJOR

Oh my go, just- keep talking, keep talking, this is making me super hot. I love it. All right, lookit, I'm gonna keep unpacking, okay? All right.

KAYLOCK

Very well. I will see you later.

MAJOR

You better! 'Cause someone is all hot and bothered!

[Kaylock leaving.]

[Major opening the box.]

MAJOR

All right, come on come on come on...ah! It's here! Perfect.

[Light music.]

[Coffee shop ambience.]

[Footsteps.]

TYTHIA

Hey Hooks! Over here!

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HOOKS

The name of this place really IS "Warm Beverages from All Over?"

TYTHIA

It's A.I.-run. Haven't tried this place yet. I admit that the name lacks a certain inspiration.

HOOKS

(disinterested)

Huh.

TYTHIA

You look, uh... I mean, you look like a fucking wreck.

[Robarista rolls up.]

ROBARISTA

Greetings, citizens, I will be your robarista. Our special today is Xenia Five's annual blend of monkweed and festival cabbage heated in a traditional clay pot.

TYTHIA

Hey there, uh I'd just like some coffee? Earth coffee?

HOOKS

Oh, uh yeah, I'll have the same.

ROBARISTA

How very... pedestrian. We probably have some Earth coffee beans back there somewhere. It could be a while as I instruct the staff on how to prepare this. Your patience is appreciated.

TYTHIA

You might wanna rethink that, 'cause there's a fair number of humans that come through the Kingery.

ROBARISTA

This information will be added to my matrix. I'm sure it will be a disappointment to someone. In addition to myself, I mean. Please make yourselves comfortable, although I'm sure you're fine, you seem to have overall low standards of choice and dress.

TYTHIA

Hey!

ROBARISTA

Back in a number of minutes.

TYTHIA

You're not going to give me a more accurate estimate?

ROBARISTA

No.

[Robarista rolls away.]

TYTHIA

Damn these Robaristas are judgey, huh?

HOOKS

(distracted)

Huh? I- I don't know, I didn't program them.

TYTHIA

Eh, it's it's fine, nothing to worry about. Hooks, how are you?

HOOKS

Oh, well. Uh. I'm kind of ... still a prisoner.

TYTHIA

To the A.I.?

HOOKS

Yes! Joining with Socks was supposed to make it ... her... a better person! But ... it really didn't. It took all of the bad parts of everything and made them into one giant ... bad thing.

TYTHIA

Wow. I can't believe she let you out.

HOOKS

I'm allowed to go out as long as I'm ... monitored. And I don't make a habit of it.

[Beeps from Hooks' wrist.]

TYTHIA

Well then why are you still wearing that thing? So she can keep controlling you?

HOOKS

Well, uh ... I mean, she saved everyone. But only because of me. And she doesn't like you.

TYTHIA

Yeah, well y'know when she called me a "hybrid abomination" that was pretty fucking clear. So what's next, huh? And why aren't you taking that thing off?

HOOKS

I don't know. I think I'm the only thing preventing her from going on a murderous rampage?

TYTHIA

Hooks, you cannot be singly responsible for controlling her, okay? She's a life form AND an A.I. She's sentient. She has GOT to take some responsibility for herself.

[Beeps from Hooks' wrist.]

HOOKS

(yelps)

TYTHIA

Okay, so she doesn't like this conversation.

HOOKS

Please be nice please be nice.

TYTHIA

I don't think it was mean to say she should take responsibility for her own-

[Rapid beeps from Hooks' wrist.]

AI SOCKS

(from the wrist device)

This conversation will be terminated.

TYTHIA

Oh my god, okay fine I won't talk about you anymore. Okay Hooks, in GENERAL, A.I.s should be RESPONSIBLE for themselves if they're SENTIENT. (a pause) Hey! No beep. Progress.

HOOKS

You sound like a therapist.

TYTHIA

I guess He-B's new program is rubbing off on me? Um, he put a support group together for people to work through ... well, everything.

HOOKS

Yeah, well... I'm- I'm sure that would be good. Listen. Tythia.

TYTHIA

Uh I'm listening, Hooks?

HOOKS

How is a group like that, uh, FUNDED?

TYTHIA

Funded? It's just something He-B put together.

HOOKS

What I'm- what I'm trying to say is that ... the Kingery is really SHORT on FUNDS right now.

TYTHIA

Well, yeah, I guess so, I mean, insurance has covered a lot of the damage but come to think of it I haven't really talked to the boss.

HOOKS

The boss! Yes! The boss!

TYTHIA

Hooks, are you feeling okay?

HOOKS

It's ... IMPORTANT ... that the boss KNOW ... about the FUNDS. That have GONE MISSING.

TYTHIA

I think the boss is probably really aware of the ... oh. Okay ... OKAY, okay. Uh. We'll talk about it.

HOOKS

(sigh of relief)

Thank you.

TYTHIA

I ... haven't done anything yet.

HOOKS

You will. Thank you for the coffee.

TYTHIA

But it's not here yet ...

HOOKS

(so resigned)

It doesn't matter.

TYTHIA

Wait wait, Hooks wait! Okay, look if you ever want to come to the group that He-B's running, um... I'll- I'll send you the schedule, okay?

HOOKS

Okay.

TYTHIA

You're not going to come, are you?

HOOKS

I don't think I'd be allowed.

[Hooks leaves.]

[Robarista approaches.]

ROBARISTA

(with clear disdain)

Your ... Earth coffees. Ground beans and water. Enjoy it I guess.

[Two cups being set down, probably harder than they should be.]

TYTHIA

Thanks?

ROBARISTA

You are welcome!

TYTHIA

You ... you can go now.

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ROBARISTA

Don't you want to try it and tell me if it meets your moderate standards?

TYTHIA

Okay that's just rude, okay? And no. I do not want to tell you how it is.

ROBARISTA

Very well. Please tip well and return often!

[Robarista whizzes away.]

[Pallas enters.]

PALLAS

Hey, sorry I'm late. Is Hooks already gone?

TYTHIA

(sighs)

Yes.

PALLAS

Why'd we meet here instead of in 82A somewhere?

TYTHIA

Because I really needed to know how Hooks was doing, and- and- and- and... now I'm REALLY worried. And I was really kinda hoping you'd get here before he left, because I wanted to... I don't know, a witness? ... ugh.

PALLAS

Okay, what happened?

TYTHIA

It was barely a conversation! Like he's being monitored 24/7 by the creepy Socks A.I. thing!

PALLAS

The A.I. is a sentient life form with a gender, properly termed as "her."

TYTHIA

You're right. Sorry. It's just... really hard to explain.

PALLAS

Try me.

TYTHIA

Okay, um... I mentioned to Hooks that he wasn't responsible for her actions, and she broke into the conversation to insist we stop talking about her.

PALLAS

That sounds like a fairly abusive scenario.

TYTHIA

He just, ugh he seemed so resigned, like there wasn't any other option. But then he was saying something about money? And like- like- like he was trying to tell me something without the A.I. KNOWING that he was telling me something and... and he said something about money missing from the Kingery and that I should tell the boss. Ugh.

PALLAS

That's ... not much to go on.

TYTHIA

I know. But I believe him. I'll definitely say something but ... I just don't know how we can help him. I invited him to He-B's group.

PALLAS

That ... might be all you can do right now.

TYTHIA

He said he didn't think he'd be allowed to come. And I didn't even know what to say.

PALLAS

Keep reaching out about it. Don't give up. Every time there's a meeting, let him know. He has to make the decision to come on his own.

TYTHIA

I don't know. How far does this go before we can help him?

[Background radio and chatter of a police station.]

[Future phone ringing.]

RECEPTIONIST

(bored)

Sector 88G precinct ... yes. No, this is not a police matter, let me connect you to mental health services, thank you.

[Button pushing, hang up. Rings again.]

RECEPTIONIST

Sector 88G precinct ... no, this is not a police matter, let me connect you to the transient housing supervisor.

[Buttons pushing, hang up.]

[Footsteps to Maddie's desk.]

CAL

So, you're ... just right out here with reception, huh.

MADDIE

Yeah, I am really not into this whole open floor plan thing since we relocated. I'm going to request a wall or something.

CAL

Good luck, construction's been backed up for weeks.

MADDIE

I mean, it's kind of entertaining. I get to see all kinds of folks wander in here, and then mostly be directed somewhere else.

CAL

Well, it IS the Kingery. There's always some kinda drama. Anyway, I've got a few leads on the organic/A.I. hybrid trend. I guess a suspected drug lab was raided, and instead they found tech.

MADDIE

Hmm, that is interesting. I'll take a look.

[Future phone ringing.]

RECEPTIONIST

Sector 88G precinct, how may I assist you ... no, this is not a police matter, let me connect you with a community officer to help you submit a stolen property report.

[Buttons pushing, hang up.]

CAL

Why isn't the receptionist a bot?

MADDIE

Eh, we had the money to hire a live person. People find it comforting.

CAL

I guess. Anyway that's- that's not all I have, there's also a bunch of rumors about the old S.O.S. tech people were using to clone bodies as new hosts for their minds. I haven't seen it reported in any legitimate news outlets, but I did find reference to it in some of the materials from the botched raid. Anyway it's all in the report.

MADDIE

Okay, yeah, lemme check.

[Maddie using a future computer. Typing and beeps.]

MADDIE

Wow, there's really a lot to go through. This is gonna take me a while. Why did you come in person, you could have just forwarded the files with a note?

CAL

Eh, not much to do right now. I felt like seeing real people was novel and interesting. But also I- I had a question though, I mean, about Alyson. Isn't she...an example of this tech?

MADDIE

Uhhhh.

CAL

Look, I don't pretend to understand all of the implications of what happened, but the fact is there's a living, breathing example of these rumors just walking around the Kingery, and it's only a matter of time before the media descends or other people want to find out more, don't you think?

MADDIE

I ... don't know. I guess. Yeah. Shit.

CAL

I can also tell you there's at least one group on the Kingery that's putting ads out on the feeds to talk about "the future of A.I." and "A.I./human recombinant tech." They might be a bunch of nutcases, or they might not be. Either way, we've really got to keep an eye on it.

MADDIE

It's a fair point. And the stuff about Alyson is ... complicated. And I really really REALLY wish that she wasn't going to be in danger from now until forever, but ... she might be. I never thought I'd be the one keeping her safe, I guess.

[Erin, Chris and Reyes walk in.]

ERIN

Captain Gray.

MADDIE

Yes...wait, I know you.

CAL

Oh yeah, the marines.

ERIN

Actually, our titles have changed, I'm special counselor Erin.

CHRIS

I'm special counselor Chris.

REYES

And I'm special counselor Reyes.

MADDIE

All right, then what can I do for you, counselors?

REYES

Commandant Browning requested we have a presence on the Kingery, and the title changes are to help make civilians more... comfortable with us. Considering the recent unrest, the Commandant was concerned that the law enforcement presence here might not be... adequate at this time.

MADDIE

Until when?

REYES

For the foreseeable future, ma'am.

MADDIE

Uhh. I see.

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CAL

Well! It is a pleasure to have such distinguished guests. It's nice to see you again.

ERIN

Nice to see you again too!

CHRIS

Look, is there going to be a problem, Captain?

REYES

Chris, would you please dial it back a bit?

MADDIE

Thanks, Reyes. Okay, how is this going to work exactly? I have jurisdiction here.

CHRIS

Yes, and the Commandant has decided we supersede that jurisdiction.

MADDIE

I think I get that, but you're certainly not going to take over police business for the whole Kingery.

REYES

Uh, well, no. Not exactly. I really would have preferred we had more guidance on this to be honest.

MADDIE

So what EXACTLY will you be doing? Wait, no, don't tell me. It's classified, right?

ERIN

Hey, Captain, we're not here to cause any trouble or problems for you. Really!

MADDIE

Uh huh.

REYES

I think what Erin is saying is that ... of course we're not familiar with how things are done at the Kingery, and we'd really like the opportunity to learn about that and help out.

MADDIE

Look... I appreciate your situation, but I'm not going to train you all on how we do things here. As you can see, we have limited staff.

ERIN

Is there anything that we can do to help you? We're really excited to help out!

MADDIE

Actually? No. We are investigating multiple leads and cases right now, but they're not really something you can just jump in on.

REYES

We are of course at your disposal, Captain. As the Commandant has assigned us to work with you, where should we go, exactly?

MADDIE

Oh I can tell you where to go-

CAL

Ooookay, haha, the Captain does have a rather biting sense of humor. There's a conference room down the hall that no one's using. Why don't you book that with the automated system for the time being? Then you're nearby and you won't miss anything.

CHRIS

That sounds fine. For now. I mean, I would hate to let the Commandant know you're not being ... cooperative.

CAL

Oh no, of course not. Happy to help. Pleasure to meet you all, thanks for stopping by!

REYES

Thank you. Pleasure to meet you, Cal.

CHRIS

We'll check in. Later.

[They special counselors leave.]

MADDIE

Are you fucking kidding me??

CAL

Okay, I know you're upset but... this is a good opportunity. The Commandant thinks we're not up to the task, I guess, and we have a great opportunity to find out what these three think about us.

MADDIE

...did you bug the conference room?

CAL

I was testing a prototype in there. So...maybe.

MADDIE

Mhmm. We'll see.

[Phone ring.]

RECEPTIONIST

Sector 88G precinct, how may I assist you? ... no, this is not a police matter, let me connect you to the space traffic coordinator in charge of ship damage claims...

[Papers and files and things that sound like ipads.]

[Alyson's radio is on, as usual, playing soothing music.]

ALYSON

The fuck is all this paperwork? Did Briggs or the Fifth put anything where it's supposed to be? Oh wait, they converted some of this to digital. That's ... kinda good.

[Knock at the door.]

ALYSON

Hmm. Come in.

TYTHIA

Hey there. Ooh, bad time?

ALYSON

No. I mean, yes, but ... it's fine. What. I mean, hello Tythia, it's been a while, I hope you're well, what can I do for you?

TYTHIA

Sorry. Uh, no I'm fine, I'm just- I've been teaching in sector 82A, but I've been dropping by since it's so close. So, um.. um, uh... do uh- do I still, um... call you "boss?"

ALYSON

I remain the boss. Therefore, yes.

TYTHIA

Oh! Okay. Great.

ALYSON

You don't have to be weird about it!

TYTHIA

I'm not! Just, I mean, okay, I'm trying not to be.

ALYSON

(laughs)

I guess it is a little weird. It's okay. Sorry, I didn't mean to snap at you, it's just there's... a lot.

(laughs again)

[Alyson pours a drink.]

ALYSON

Would you like a drink?

TYTHIA

No, uh, I'm good. I actually, um... I just needed to ask you something, like um... uh, are you okay?

ALYSON

...y- yes?

TYTHIA

I mean, like, money-wise.

ALYSON

Okay now you're creeping me out. How the fuck do you know about that?

TYTHIA

Uh, I don't! Uh, I mean, okay so I just talked to Hooks. And ... Socks, or the A.I. formerly known as Socks, still has him as a virtual prisoner. Or really I guess like an actual prisoner?

ALYSON

I know Hooks is still a prisoner of the AI. I'm working on a plan for that. But what does that have to do with my money exactly? Because I'm starting to think that without the money there is fuck-all I can do to help him.

TYTHIA

Hooks and I had coffee...well, almost had coffee. Um... (laughs) I talked to him for like five minutes, um and it was like he was trying to get a message to me? He said he knew something about how you were missing money. And that Socks had something to do with it.

ALYSON

...fuck. FUCK. That's fucking great. I need to talk to him.

TYTHIA

I don't see how. I mean he said that she doesn't let him go anywhere or do anything. Um I invited him to the support group He-B's running.

ALYSON

Okay, that's good. So. I need to find a way to talk to him.

TYTHIA

That...would be a good start. But she's monitoring him, like all the time, everything he says. I think you're gonna have to be really careful.

ALYSON

I can do that. Thanks, Tythia.

TYTHIA

Sure. You know what boss, you're really not that different.

ALYSON

No shit. I'm still me.

TYTHIA

Yeah, you are. (winces) I hope that's not rude.

ALYSON

Not rude. A little obvious maybe.

TYTHIA

(laughs)

All right, all right. I'm outta here. Later, boss.

[Tythia leaves.]

ALYSON
(sighs)

[Phone ring, then answered.]

ALYSON
Hey Maddie.

MADDIE
(over the phone)
Hey yourself. Guess what? I have some fuckin' marines to babysit.

ALYSON
Hey, and I've got a lead on where my money went. Buuut you first.

MADDIE
(over the phone)
Yes! Okay so I'm standing in the precinct minding my own business and guess who walks in...

[Kingery theme plays.]

The Kingery, season eleven episode two, "Love Languages"

Featuring the voice talents of:

M Sieiro Garcia as Major

Jack Calk as Kaylock

Kathryn Pryde as Tythia

Perry Whittle as Hooks

Jaspreet Singh as Robarista

Alexandra Jameson as Pallas

Andrea Richardson as Receptionist

Christopher Gilstrap as Cal

Alicia Laine Pickens as Madeleine Gray

Kristine Chester as Erin

Kaitlyn Kliman as Chris

Carissa M. as Reyes

And Melissa Autumn Hearne as Alyson

Sensitivity Reader - Kristine Chester

Written by Susan Bridges

Story by Tilly Bridges, with Susan Bridges, Rene Christine Jones, Pete Milan, Kathryn Pryde,
and Perry Whittle

Kingery Theme by Tom Stitzer

"River Fire" and "Music for Manatees" by Kevin MacLeod at incompetech.com

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Produced by Pendant Productions

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[Kingery theme fades out]