

## Creatures Such as We

### **Format: ChoiceScript Interactive Fiction (mobile and Steam)**

*In their role as a lunar tour guide, the player has just saved a tourist from a minor - but still terrifying - accident. Together, they then connect over the fragility of life.*

*This conversation includes both a narrative-only choice (a “fake” choice) and a “real” choice that, while mechanically simple, affects variables with long-term consequences. I have condensed the conversation into Diane’s path and scrubbed the majority of programmatic markup to make for easier reading.*

Diane finally speaks, "I just... I just wanted to get away from things. Sorry that I freaked out back there, and, I mean, I knew I was fine, I knew it would be okay, but I couldn't stop it; I couldn't get hold of myself."

She slumps down and collapses against the bulkhead, "It's just this place. It's so intimidating. I mean, being out on the edge is supposed to be fun and this amazing, lucky experience. Who doesn't want to go to the moon? But, it's scary. And of course, I can't admit that, because then I'd be the killjoy."

\*fake\_choice

#What happened would have been frightening for anybody

She sighs, "Yeah, I guess." She looks down at the stewards helping her undress, then back up to you, "I'm just worried about being perceived as someone who's boring, who can't take risks, who prefers to play it safe. How do you all do it? Live out in space?"

#A lot of guests feel uncomfortable with some of our activities

She rubs a hand to her temple, "Sure, but I feel like I need to put on a braver face, for the company's sake. And I just... I let it slip." She looks down at the stewards helping her undress, then back up to you, "I can't let them think that I'm boring, that I'm not excited to be up here with them. How do you all do it? Live out in space?"

#Everyone is afraid of something in their lives

She digs her hands into her scalp, "Yeah, but normally they don't have it dragged out in front of everyone they're trying to impress." She looks down, "I just don't want them to think that I'm not excited to be up here with them. How do you all do it? Live out in space?"

#Well, I'm glad things turned out alright

She digs her hands into her scalp, "Yeah, well, we'll see how it goes. Hopefully that didn't screw everything to hell." She looks down at the stewards helping her undress, then

back up to you, "I just don't want them to think that I'm not excited to be up here with them. How do you all do it? Live out in space?"

\*fake\_choice

#We get used to it, after awhile

Diane smiles, "I guess you would. Maybe by the end of the week, I'll be a seasoned professional." Her voice lightens, "I'm sure you'll show me the ropes."

#We focus on what we can control

Diane smiles, "That makes a lot of sense." She takes a heavy breath, "Keeps you from feeling completely helpless."

#We still deal with things that are scary

Diane nods her head, "I'm glad to hear that. I mean, not that you get scared, but that I'm in the company of others. Makes me feel like I'm not alone, you know?"

#I have trouble with it myself

Diane nods vigorously, "You too? What a relief! I mean, not that you have trouble, it's just always nice to know: you're not alone."

She looks up at you, "Hey, I know this is a weird time, and feel free to say no, but, could I ask you for a hug?"

You let out a small sigh of pleasant surprise. She seems like she could use it... but should you?

\*choice

#Yes, it would be romantic

\*goto YesHug

#Yes, it would be pleasant

\*goto YesHug

#Yes, it would help her

\*label YesHug

Diana looks over at you, "You know, it's hard for me. Everyone assumes that because my material is so dark, deals with death, that nothing frightens me. That because I toy with dark themes, I'm immune to it. But I'm not. I'm just as frightened as anyone else. But with you, I feel like... I can finally relax. Admit that I'm not what they think. So, thank you." She smiles.

\*goto HugDone

#No, it's dangerous

\*goto NoHug

#No, it's not professional

\*goto NoHug

#No, I don't really want to

\*label NoHug

\*set AffectionLove false

You lay it out, "I'm deeply sorry, but I can't do that. I do want you to know that I am very concerned for you, though. I mean, I care about how you're doing."

She hastily nods her head up and down trying to cover up the failed advance, "Oh yeah, no, don't worry about it. I just needed some reassurance, don't worry." You sit down on the opposite side of the bulkhead.

\*goto HugDone

\*label HugDone