

PANDORA'S HOLOGRAPHIC BOX

Episode 1

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Final draft

FADE IN:

**EXT. CITYSCAPE - SUNSET**

1

WE OPEN on the horizon of a futuristic, happy cityscape with the sun setting in the background. We hear bass booming, quietly at first then loudly. Suddenly-people start running, screaming, from the horizon. As the synth music becomes louder and more clear, a giant spaceship shaped like a red stiletto heel emerges over the horizon after the people.

CUT TO

**STREET VIEW**

SMALLER FLYING saucers shoot lasers at the city, which is in disarray. A laser hits a man up close to our frame in the butt, and he cries.

CUT TO

**EXT. STILETTO SPACESHIP**

WE SEE the spaceship head on, and the opening to the shoe is a glassed-in window. We push in closer to the window and see Pandora (Marney) and her friends dressed in black uniforms.

**INT. STILETTO SPACESHIP**

PANDORA

(grinning menacingly)

Alright team, hit me with the status reportment.

DEVIN

(in a flat, almost robotic voice)

All systems are a go, the compartments are running smoothly.

PANDORA

Excellent, what else?

TINO ENTERS looking out of breath.

TINO

I tweaked the Evil Kitty Attack Transmitter, we're deploying them now.

CUT TO

A WOMAN approaches a kitten in an alley, the city in chaos behind her.

WOMAN

Aw... here, kitty kitty...

AS SHE leans in to pet it, the kitten turns feral and jumps onto her face, clawing and hissing. The fight produces a cloud of smoke around her head as the kitten attacks her.

CUT BACK

PANDORA

Superb. What else can you tell me about the torment?

WES IS standing behind her shoulder and he leans in.

WES

As of 2.4 seconds ago, 4,378 citizens have screamed in sheer terror of your presence, five thousand and...

(he checks his tablet)

One have run for their lives, and 362 have already surrendered and are prepared to become a part of your evil army.

PANDORA

(tapping fingers together)

Hmm... let's get the sheer terror stats up by 3%, the running for their lives up 5.2, and the evil army preparation up by a whole 10%. C'mon team! We need real results here!

WES

Yes, your Highness.

WES BOWS and steps back.

PANDORA

Team, prepare me for my...

(Pandora pauses for dramatic effect)

*villain's monologue.*

PANDORA LIFTS the hatch on a button that says in big letters VILLAIN'S MONOLOGUE SEQUENCE. She presses the button and sirens go off inside the spaceship. Pandora steps onto a conveyor belt on the floor, and as it carries her towards the elevator, robotic arms dress her in bold villain attire.

SHE TAKES the elevator up to the top of the stiletto spaceship and it opens up, so she is now outside facing the city. A microphone rises from the floor she stands on, and a massive live holographic of Pandora projects out from the spaceship into the sky.

PANDORA (CONT'D)

Greetings my weeblings. Yes, it's me...

(she raises her hands,  
palm-side up, in a gesture to  
the crowd)

Your new Supreme Evil Space Empress Overlord!  
With my new power, I promise to make your little  
lives as mediocre and *pain-stakingly annoying* as  
you can possibly bear. I will have so, so much  
fun in your misery.

(she claps her hand twice and  
the music plays louder)

Now dance, my minions, dance!

PANDORA PRESSES a button on her tablet that says "Voluntold  
Dance Number" and a pleasant Siri-like voice booms from the  
spaceship.

SPACESHIP ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Please begin to dance in the choreography shown  
on the screen below, or we'll permanently ban all  
coffee that isn't lukewarm and all ice cream that  
isn't half-melted. Thank you and have a terrible  
day being a space minion!

WE SEE Pandora from behind, with the crowd ahead of her.  
The people reluctantly dance, whining and groaning, and  
Pandora bursts into wicked laughter, reveling in her own  
evilness.

MS-DROID

Marney! Mar-neyyyyyy... *MARNEY!*

CUT TO

WE FLASH to the actual present. Pandora, or Marney, is  
sitting at a desk, doodling UFOs and the stiletto spaceship  
in her pink glitter-notebook. Her teacher, a robot named  
MS-DROID, clears her throat.

MS-DROID (CONT'D)

Marney, dear...

(she starts speaking nicely  
but shifts into an extremely  
stern voice)

Stop doodling or I will employ my laser beam  
function and obliterate your entire existence.

Dear.

MARNEY

(she looks up, forces a  
smile, and shoves her  
notebook into her backpack)

Yes, MS-DROID.

MARNEY SIGHS and puts her head in her arms on the desk. A  
paper airplane flies into her hair, and then a holographic  
football hurdles across the room, knocking Marney out of  
her desk onto the floor.

MARNEY (CONT'D)

(still on the floor)

Ugh... I hate high school.

CUE TITLE sequence

**EXT. SOUTH CRATER HIGH**

**2**

A GLASS dome over a row of buildings on the Moon. The Earth  
is seen half-full in the background.

CUT TO

**INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCH TABLE**

MARNEY, DEVIN, and Tino are eating lunch. Marney eats in  
silence, looking bored, but her mind is busy—we hear her  
inner monologue, as if she's drafting *her own* villain  
origin story, but she's simultaneously introducing us to  
*this* show.

MARNEY (V.O.)

When I'm not aspiring to be Pandora, the next Supreme Evil Space Empress Overlord, I'm... Marney. And these are my comrades in evil- I mean- my *friends*, and we go to South Crater High. If it wasn't for me, Devin and Tino wouldn't even orbit the same planetoid, but they put up with each other for my sake.

TINO SUCKS at his teeth like there's something stuck in them, then turns to Devin and looks at his reflection in her metal forehead. He picks the piece of green out of his teeth with a fork.

TINO

(focusing on his reflection/teeth)

Hold still.

DEVIN

(scowling)

What are you looking at, jockstrap?

TINO

(now admiring his own reflection)

Just my beautiful face in your shiny metal forehead-hey, Marney, is this why you keep the robot around, she's a great mirror-

DEVIN

I am half-cyborg and you know that-

TINO

*Whatever.*

DEVIN SCOFFS and rolls her eyes, but we pan below the lunch table as Tino brings his hand down, and Devin and Tino lock pinkies. Marney continues eating her soup, oblivious.

WE SEE Wes enter and sit down. Dreamy music plays and our perspective tunnel-visions around his face, and then shows Marney, who is gazing at him with a dazed expression. The sound of the other friends greeting Wes is drowned out by the music playing in Marney's head.

DEVIN USES her robo-extended arm to punch Marney out of her day-dream.

MARNEY

(she rubs her shoulder)

Ow!

A SYNTHESIZER tone rings out over the loudspeakers in the cafeteria, and the friends look up, anticipating an announcement.

LOUDSPEAKERS

Attention, South Crater Space Rangers, it is once again time to make your vote count for our Lunar Landing Day Parade Queen! Ballots are due by the end of the day. And don't forget to add the finishing touches to your floats! As always, the Queen will ride the *best* float. See you at the game!

THE SYNTHESIZER tone rings out again, signaling the end of the announcement. Marney rolls her eyes.

DEVIN

You guys voted, right?

MARNEY

Ugh, why? It's just another outdated popularity contest, like everything else at this school.

DEVIN

(in her regular monotone voice)



Marney, Marney, Marney... just because you don't like the system doesn't mean you shouldn't vote. Nothing's gonna change unless you change it.

TINO

Hey, Marney, isn't your cousin up for royalty?

CUT TO

WE PAN over to Marney's cousin, Calliope, across the cafeteria. She's literally shining, her aura radiating sparkles and butterflies.

MARNEY (V.O.)

(in a snide voice)

*Calliope...* my disgustingly perfect cousin. She's Venusian, but she came to South Crater on a foreign exchange program. I wish she never came. I know I'm supposed to like her, because we're related and everything, but oh my *Goddess* does she get under my skin. She's *so* good at everything it makes me want to be even *more* evil, and when I rise to power, you watch, she'll be the first person I take down.

THE CAMERA shifts back to Marney and she sticks her finger down her throat and fakes gagging. The camera pans out to the whole lunch table.

WES

Hey, it's not all bad! You know, tradition says if you ask someone on a first date to the Lunar Landing Day parade, the couple's bound to succeed, just like the first lunar landing.

MARNEY MAKES a face like she'd disgusted.

TINO

Oh come on, everyone knows the first moon landing was a hoax.

DEVIN

(squinting her eyes and furrowing her brows in disbelief)

Tino, what-

MARNEY

Well I wouldn't be caught dead at an event so aesthetically *inferior* to myself. It wouldn't be good for my reputation. Besides, it'll just be a bunch of I-peaked-in-high-schoolers there.

WES

(snorts)

Ah, yeah, that's too bad. I still believe in it, though...

WES LOOKS past Marney, and the camera pans to Calliope, then back to Wes, who smiles. The camera pans back to Marney, who doesn't notice his glance towards Calliope. Devin extends her arm across the table and taps Wes on the shoulder.

WES

What's up, Dev?

DEVIN

So I'm thinking of running your student council ads in the paper next week-

DEVIN AND Tino both notice someone coming up behind Wes and Marney and they look concerned. A disc-scratch noise interrupts the scene.

TYRANNA (O.S.)

HEY BOZOS!

WES

(sighing)

Not this again.

WE CUT dramatically to Marney narrowing her eyes which dart to the side of the screen that Tyranna comes from.

CUT TO

TYRANNA AND Marney facing each other, from the thighs up - Western-style music akin to "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" by Ennio Morricone playing.

MARNEY FAKE spits to the side, her narrowed eyes staying on Tyranna.

MARNEY

(dramatically)

I thought I told you to never show your face here again.

TYRANNA

(scoffs)

Oh please, your threats are about as empty as Tino's head. And besides, it's..school. I have to be here.

WE CUT to Marney in extreme close up, who considers Tyranna's point for a moment-looking to the side and tilting her head and nodding-then we quickly cut back to the wider shot.

MARNEY

Yeah? Well?...

(petulantly, but stalling as if she's looking for a comeback)

TYRANNA

Hey, Marney, 2098 called, they want their frizzy space buns back.

MARNEY

(scoffs, taken aback, touching one of her hair buns self-consciously, then speaking in a mocking baby-voice)

Awww, what's wrong Princess, did mommy and daddy forget your birthday again? Don't worry, I'm sure they'll buy you the Parade Queen crown to make up for it.

TYRANNA

At least I *have* money. And popularity.

(then remembering something else, speaking in a conceited voice)

*And beauty...*

CUT TO

DEVIN CLOSE-up, and we see Tyranna's reflection in Devin's forehead, who seems to be admiring herself. Devin's eyes look down to the side, then back towards the camera, then down and up again. She waves her hand in front of her face.

CUT BACK

TYRANNA SNAPS out of it and faces Marney again.

MARNEY

(sarcastically)

And humble too!

TYRANNA SMILES and nods, not registering Marney's sarcasm.

MARNEY

You have a lot to say for someone who's had metal glued to their teeth since the Jurassic period.

TYRANNA

The what period?

MARNEY

See. I'd rather have two functioning brain cells than be hot and rich-

MARNEY (V.O.)

Although a billion dollars would really expedite the whole Evil Space Empress business-

TYRANNA

*Ohhh* you must be upset because no one's asked you to Lunar Landing Day yet...unlike Calliope.

MARNEY FOLLOWS Tyranna's gaze across the cafeteria, and she sees Wes talking to Calliope. She turns her head back slowly, barely withholding her irritation.

MARNEY

(through gritted teeth)

Alright Cryanna what's your zeef?

TYRANNA

You and your loserangs haven't fulfilled your extracurricular requirements. As South Crater High's pep squad cheer team *CAPTAIN!*-

TWO IDENTICAL twin cheerleaders lean in from either side of the frame and shake their pom-poms and *woohoo*, then step out of the frame again. Marney and Devin roll their eyes in unison.

TYRANNA (CONT'D)

-I have the unfortunate responsibility of tasking you to work on one of our class floats.

MARNEY

(scoffs)

Yeah, as if, Tyranna, I'd rather eat my own arm than go to the parade, let alone help you with a float.

TYRANNA

(she shrugs)

Hey, suit yourself! By all means, if you want an unsatisfactory grade on your permanent record, go ahead! Not like I care if you fail.

(in a high-pitched voice)

Okay *byeeeee*- oh, and don't forget to vote for me as Parade Queen!

TYRANNA THROWS her Parade Queen flyers into the air around Marney. She turns, laughing and sauntering away with her cheer goonies following behind.

TINO COMES in swinging his fists, ready to lunge at Tyranna, but Devin extends her robotic arm out and holds him back.

MEANWHILE, MARNEY is plotting, and her anger turns into an evil smile.

MARNEY

She wants a float?

(glaring at Calliope across the room,  
who seems perfectly happy and unaware)

*I'll give her a float.*

MARNEY'S FRIENDS look sideways at each other nervously. Marney laughs wickedly.

**EXT. OVERHEAD SHOT - STADIUM - LUNAR LANDING DAY FOOTBALL 3 GAME**

HOLOGRAM FOOTBALL field, goalposts, and football. "Real" players running down the field. Both holographic and real

fans in the stands. The scoreboard shows it's the second quarter of the game.

CUT TO

**EXT. FULL SHOT - OUTSIDE THE STADIUM**

MARNEY AND friends walk past the frame wearing all black clothes, each carrying different objects covered by sheets. Marney has her pink notebook in one hand, too.

WES

(checking over his shoulder)

Are you sure this is a good idea, Marney?

MARNEY

(determinedly)

Of course it is. Now come on, it's almost *show time*.

THE FRIENDS look at each other apprehensively but continue following Marney somewhere off screen.

CUT BACK

THE BUZZER for halftime goes off and players leave the hologram field. Music starts to play.

ANNOUNCER

Allllright all you holographic and corporeal sports fans, it's almost time for the annual Lunar Landing Day parade! But first—who will be crowned the 2396 Parade Queen? Here they come now!

WE CUT to the opposite side of the field where the floats are entering the stadium. The first float on the field is a huge version of Tyranna's head, towed by a pink moon rover. Her cheer goonies—the twins—are fanning her as she basks in

the audience's cheers. One of the cheer twins stops fanning to wave at her mom in the audience, and Tyranna snaps at her.

ANNOUNCER

(cheesy pageant voice)

Will it be Tyranna? Already the princess of Jupiter's *biggest* moon, Ganymede, this head cheerleader has high hopes of being the honorary Queen of Earth's *only* moon!

TYRANNA'S FLOAT parks as the others parade through the field, and she joins the announcer on the stage.

ANNOUNCER

Welcome, Tyranna! Next, here comes her competitor—the one, the only, the beautiful Calliope!

TYRANNA LOOKS annoyed to have the attention taken away from her. We cut to Calliope sitting relaxed on her own float, smiling genuinely and waving to everyone. She talks to her friends riding the float with her. The float itself seems to glide effortlessly along the field atop holograms of butterflies. She joins Tyranna on stage.

ANNOUNCER

(holding the crown, getting closer to Calliope's head)

The moment you've all been waiting for...

CUT TO

TINO COMING into the tech control room. There's a man at the control panel, who turns around and lifts a headphone.

TINO

(pretending to be out of breath)

Someone's towing a yellow space-hummer outside!



CONTROL MAN

(immediately taking off his headphones  
and standing up)

Oh God!

(to his car, running out of the control  
room)

Don't worry baby, daddy's coming!

TINO WAITS until the man leaves then waves in Wes and Devin, locking the door behind the control man. He sits down in the chair and Wes and Tino hand him various tools and wires as he changes something on the controls.

DEVIN

I'll tell Marney that everything's good to go.

CUT BACK

THE ANNOUNCER, Calliope, and Tyranna on stage.

ANNOUNCER

And the winner is...

SUDDENLY EVERYTHING goes black, and the music stops playing. Confused murmurs from the audience.

PANDORA

*Me!*

THE STADIUM lights turn back on, but they're funky neon flashing lights this time. We've cut to Pandora atop her own float, modelled after the Stiletto heel spaceship from Marney's daydreams, which is shooting out laser beams. She's dressed in her villain look. Devin is also on the float.

OMINOUS SYNTH music akin to the beginning of "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" by Eurythmics plays. The crowd initially cheers, thinking it's a performance.

PANDORA

(projecting her voice)

My name... is Pandora! Remember me! Remember my name! *I will be the villain to conquer the galaxy and rule you ALL!*

(then quietly, speaking to Devin by her side)

Turn up the intensity.

DEVIN

The *lasers*? Marney it's too high already, we can't turn them up, it'll be dangerous-

PANDORA

(pushing Devin out of the way)

Fine, I'll do it myself, move.

PANDORA CRANKS the laser intensity up and the machine shakes violently. The lasers aren't just light beams anymore, but actual lasers, burning through the surface of the things they hit.

THE CROWD starts to yell and run. Chaos and panic. A laser hits Tyranna's float and it catches on fire, and we see her bawling on stage.

PANDORA LAUGHS maniacally, as her friends rush towards her.

TINO

We gotta go, Marney!

WES

Come on, Marney, please! I can't get in trouble!

SPACESHIPS WITH flashing lights and sirens show up and start extinguishing the fires as the friends force Pandora off of her float and towards an exit, but MS-DROID and Mr. Gooper step in front of them before they can leave.

CUT TO

THE FOUR friends from a distance, being escorted into South Crater High by the teachers. The frame zooms back and we see a silhouetted figure writing something down, watching them.

**INT. CLASSROOM - MEDIUM CLOSE-UP ACROSS MS-DROID'S DESK 4**

ALL FOUR look beat down and tired, especially Marney. Their hair is messy and their clothes are all singed. Devin, Tino, and Wes are sitting with their backs towards Marney and their arms crossed. They're clearly angry with her, and she keeps trying to make eye contact with one of them and say something, but they won't look her in the eye. We cut to MS-DROID who is also very angry and glaring at Marney, but Marney won't look her in the eye. It's absolutely silent.

MR. GOOPER

(clearing his throat and stepping into the frame behind MS-DROID, speaking sheepishly)

Um, if I may... I saw Devin, Tino, and Wes all walking out of the tech room during halftime. We know what you did-

MS-DROID

(angrily and shrilly)

You three could have killed someone! Do you have *ANYTHING* to say for yourselves? *What on this rocky white MOON* possessed you to tamper with the sound and lights?

THERE'S ANOTHER silence and Marney grimaces but raises her hand slowly.

MARNEY

(remorsefully)

Me...

EVERYBODY LOOKS at her.

MARNEY (CONT'D)

It was me... it's my fault. I mean, they wouldn't have done any of that if I hadn't made them. I planned the whole thing. I tried to make a really extravagant float that would *have* to win the contest, but I went too far and I pushed my friends too far with me, all to prove a stupid point. If anyone is getting expelled, it should be me.

(offering her hands up as if for handcuffs)

MS-DROID

What are you doing?

MARNEY

Aren't you going to cuff me or something? Throw me in the slammer? The clink? The big house? The-

MS-DROID

Oh, heaven's no, I was considering suspension... but-

ALL FOUR sit forward in suspense.

WES

*BUT?*

MS-DROID

But I appreciate your honesty, and that you would  
sacrifice yourself for your friends. This time-

(speaking in her very stern voice)

*Don't let there be a next time-*

(more motherly again)

I won't expel or suspend you. Two weeks  
detention. And you can start by cleaning up the  
stadium.

THEY ALL stand up from their chairs.

WES

Detention! Woohoo! Yeah! Right, Marney?

MARNEY

(begrudgingly, unconvincingly)

Yay... thank you... MS-DROID...

WES INITIATES a group hug. Marney, Devin, and Tino all  
pretend to be grossed out by the display of affection, but  
they smile anyway, showing how they all secretly love each  
other. Mr. Gooper walks towards the group hug with his arms  
outstretched.

MS-DROID

(sternly)

*Gooper. No.*

MR. GOOPER shrinks back. The friends release from the hug  
and Marney sighs.

MARNEY

I guess I should, uh, go-

MS-DROID

Yes, dear, go on.

MARNEY STARTS toward the door with her head down.

DEVIN

Hey, wait for us.

TINO

Yeah it'll go a lot faster if we help you.

WE CUT to the hallway as they make their way out of the building. There are other people in the hallway and we see Calliope.

CALLIOPE

(smiling and waving a hand)

Marney!

THE FRIENDS walk up to her.

MARNEY

(again, begrudgingly)

Hi, Calliope...

CALLIOPE

Where ya going?

MARNEY

I, uh, have a lot to clean up. At the stadium.

CALLIOPE

Can I help?

MARNEY ROLLS her eyes but Devon punches her shoulder with her robot arm.

MARNEY

Yeah, fine, thanks.

WES SMILES, and behind them we see Tino and Devin sharing a secret loving glance.

WE FOLLOW them down the hallway towards the door where Tyranna is talking on the phone and crying.

TYRANNA

(between sniffles)

It's not!... Fair!... Mommy!...They're making me help clean up the ashes of my own float! Hello?

SHE TAKES her phone away from her ear and looks at the screen then yells, because her mom has hung up on her. She looks up and sees the friends walking towards her.

TYRANNA (CONT'D)

What do you want, *bozos*?! You already got me detention. Somehow.

MARNEY

Well, then I guess you're coming with us.

WES

Let's hit it.

TYRANNA GROANS and stomps behind them out of the school. The rest of them are laughing. It seems like the end of the episode...

**INT. HALLWAY - SECRET FACILITY**

**EPILOGUE**

THE SAME silhouetted figure from the end of scene 3 is walking down a long hallway in a nondescript location.

A DOOR automatically slides open for them. There is an even more ominous figure sitting in a large villainous throne in front of a big screen.

SILHOUETTE

Your Highness, I think I have something you'd like to see.

VILLAIN

Hm. I doubt it...

(giving into intrigue)

Show me anyway.

SILHOUETTE TURNS on a recording of Marney/Pandora's mayhem on Lunar Landing Day.

PANDORA

*My name... is Pandora! Remember me! Remember my name! I will be the villain to conquer the galaxy and rule you ALL!*

WE SEE Tyranna's float bursting into flames and everyone running and screaming while Pandora laughs maniacally.

A WICKED smile curves on the villain's face.

VILLAIN

This is... very interesting. This, Pandora, I want more. Follow her. Show me what she can do.

SILHOUETTE

(bowing)

As you command.

FADE OUT