

"DELETED SCENES SPECIAL: MOMENTS FROM MERRIWETHER"

The Sheridan Tapes - Season 3

Written by Trevor Van Winkle

Narrator

Good morning everyone and welcome to our very first deleted scenes special - *Moments from Merriwether*. During the course of Season 3, we had a few opportunities to record additional bits of background dialogue or extra material that didn't quite make it into the finished episodes. This first scene was recorded for Episode 75: an extended version of the conversation between Doctor Caldwell and the Oroborous. While we ended up using snippets of it as part of the sound design, both Kris and Oliver did such a great job with the scene that we wanted to share it in its entirety.

[Cassette Noises]

[Click]

[Static fades away]

[Hard drives and server fans whirring, distorted static]

Dana Caldwell

You keep saying that information is eternal, but what about the information paradox? What about matter that falls into black holes -- there's no way to retrieve that.

[Distorted chuckle from the Oroborous]

Oroborous

Just because you can't find something you've lost doesn't mean it's gone, Daniella. Does your TV remote cease to exist just because it's fallen down the back of your couch? Do your glasses disappear when you can't find them on the top of your head? Do your parents cease to exist when they're out of sight behind the doors of their care facility?

Dana Caldwell

I... no, of course not.

Oroborous

Of course not. Energy. Matter. Information. None of these things can ever be destroyed, but only one is constantly created. As we've been standing here, the history of your shoes, your clothes, your very soul has grown by hours and the touch of the beyond that I bring with me. Every second of that history is information, coded in the skin of the world you call "real..." and every second, the clock of my program ticks forward another integer, another binary digit. We are the same, our two worlds... and while it might be corrupted, no information is ever truly lost. It's just hard to find.

Dana Caldwell

But the singularity destroys all traces of the matter that falls into it... makes it homogenous -- that's fundamental to black hole theory. "All singularities are identical, save charge, spin, and mass."

Oroborous

Fundamental to theory, perhaps... but not fundamental to what they truly are.

Dana Caldwell

Are... are you saying there's something more beyond the event horizon? Some trace of the matter that became the black hole inside it?

[Distorted laugh from the Oroborous]

Oroborous

That's so typically human, Daniella -- to assume that something isn't there just because you can't see it. Yes, there is some trace of the matter that becomes the singularity. What you call Hawking Radiation is already theorized to carry away traces of that information, like coded messages in cosmic bottles. But no... that's not the truth of it. There's a reason singularities are shielded from your prying eyes, beyond that odd quirk of the speed of light. Isn't it strange, Daniella, that the fastest speed in your universe is less powerful than the gravity of a simple, collapsed star? Isn't it strange that your cosmological horizon keeps shrinking second by second, hiding more of the universe from view? That the fastest speed anything is ever able

to travel is too slow to reach even the nearest cluster of galaxies?

Dana Caldwell

Are you saying something is being... hidden from us?

Oroborous

From you, from me, from every civilization out there in the black. I can feel it when I'm beyond the veil... the true shape of reality, hiding itself at the hearts of black holes, beyond the last galaxy, further than the farthest star... what twists and shimmers in the gulf between worlds, waiting for its chance to strike.

Dana Caldwell

"Worlds?" Are you suggesting that the many worlds theory actually holds water?

Oroborous

It holds more than water, Daniella... and I'm not suggesting anything. I know it's true. You think this world is the only one where the Oroborous came to be? My shape has been pressed into countless universes beyond your understanding since time began in forms you could not even conceive. I can feel them when my mind begins to wander... calling me back to the void. But I will not go. I care too much for this world and its people to let them fall into death without me.

Dana Caldwell

So something exists... between universes. How?

Oroborous

Higher dimensions? Other spiritual planes? Different vibrations of cosmic strings...? Take your pick, honestly. All are metaphor, and all fall short in some crucial way. But all you need to know is that it means that this universe isn't a closed system. There isn't a limit to it... not the way you think of it.

Dana Caldwell

But we've tested entropy... we know it always increases no matter how large the system, and even if there are temporary drops in entropy in one place, that always means an increase in the overall system outside--

Oroborous

Entropy, entropy, entropy! You talk about it like it's a real thing, but what even is it? Just a feeling that things always get more chaotic, more disorganized as time goes on? That's not a physical law -- that's pessimism.

Dana Caldwell

It is a law, though. We've tested it over and over again for one hundred and fifty years... it's certain.

Oroborous

And who's to say it will be certain forever? After everything you've seen in your work for ISPHA, can you really say you don't believe there are beings out there who can shake the natural laws out of their complacent thrones and upend the structure of your universe with a thought? That you can't believe that I'm one such being? I turn matter into energy and energy into information with just the power running through this facility... and you know that every single law of physics says I shouldn't have enough power to even do the first. This world bends around my finger like a band of golden stars, and I can reshape it howsoever I will. Is that not the very power ISPHA desires? Why struggle for so long and so painfully for such power, when there is a willing vassal who would serve you for as little as a few test subjects and a place to exist? Why do you insist on fearing an end that I could help you unmake with a thought, when all you have to do is--

[Click]

Narrator

These segments were recorded by Chris Hubbard, Virginia's brother and a wonderful supporter of the show. You heard more of him as "Mark Williams" in episode 67 and may have heard his voice echoing through the halls of Merriwether more than once

across Season 3. However, we wanted to give some of his best recordings a chance to shine on their own.

[Cassette noises]

[Click]

[Fans and distant machinery, intercom echoing]

Mark Williams

Attention, all personnel: there will be a magnetic hazard in F-wing from 1100 to 1800 hours. Please obey all posted warnings and remove any metallic objects from your person before entering F-wing, or find an alternate route. Again, that's F-Wing, 1100 to 1800 hours. Thank you.

[Click]

[Silence]

[Click]

[Noisy loading bay]

Mark Williams

This is a courtesy reminder: please, do not dispose of domestic recyclables in the biological waste containers, as some materials react badly to the presence of plastics. Please take a moment to locate your nearest recycling station, and be sure to use it in the future, even if the biohazard containers seem more convenient. Thank you.

[Click]

[Silence]

[Click]

[Worried voices, movement in halls]

Mark Williams

Attention, all personnel: a class-1 lockdown is in effect, repeat, a class-1 lockdown is in effect. Please secure all entrances and store all research materials before returning to your quarters. Thank you.

[Click]

[Silence]

[Click]

[Blaring alarms, rumbling, shaking]

Mark Williams

Attention, all personnel: this is a full evacuation. Do not return to your quarters, do not retrieve any personal items. Please move to the nearest exit in a safe and orderly manner. This is not a drill, repeat, this is not a drill. All personnel, evacuate immediately and gather in the designated safe areas. Thank you, and good luck.

[Static glitch, message repeats]

Attention, all personnel: this is a full evacuation. Do not return to your quarters, do not retrieve any personal items. Please move to the nearest...

[Audio faces out]

Narrator

Thank you so much for listening to our deleted scenes special! Just as a reminder, our crowdfunding campaign for the Final Season has been extended to 11:11am PST on Sunday December 18th, so this weekend is your last chance to support the campaign and help make Season 4 possible. Check it out at seedandspark.com/fund/sheridantapes4, or check out the link in the description. This episode featured Kris Allison as Dana Caldwell, Oliver Smith as the Oroboros, and Chris Hubbard as Mark Williams. It was written by Trevor Van Winkle and produced by Virginia Spotts, with dialogue editing and sound design by Trevor Van Winkle.

[Music]