

TINK & JUPITER

40 Arpents (Episode 7)

An original audio fiction podcast by

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CAST

ANNOUNCER	The announcer.
TINK	Teen girl who can talk to machines.
STEVIA	Teen girl and neighborhood bully.
OTTO	Teen boy. Gawker turned ally.
OFFICER	Police officer.
CAR 247	The officer's car.

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MUSIC: EPISODE INTRO.

OTTO: (FLASHBACK) Security footage...

TINK: (FLASHBACK) We'll erase it all. They'll never know we were here.

SOUND: Fast-approaching forklift.

OTTO: (FLASHBACK) Do you think the driver saw us?

STEVIA: (FLASHBACK) This is the hard drive here! Smash it!

TINK: (FLASHBACK) But--!

STEVIA: (FLASHBACK) Just do it!

SOUND: Tink smashing the hard drive to pieces.

SOUND: A resounding crash, the door splintering, the security officers kicking their way inside.

SOUND: Weapons being drawn.

SEC. OFFICER 1: (FLASHBACK) Away from the window! And hands up!

ANNOUNCER: Tink and Jupiter... Chapter seven of eight... 40 Arpents...

EXT. CANNERY PARKING LOT - LATER SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Tink, Stevia and Otto are arrested in the security office.

OFFICER: All right, you three. This way.

SOUND: Tink, Stevia, and Otto being led outside.

SOUND: SFX of a car door opening.

OTTO: Why are you putting us in the back of a police cruiser?

OFFICER: At the very least we have you on trespassing and destruction of property. Once we suss out the why of this, there will likely be more. We'll call your parents from the station.

OTTO: Can I sit up front?

OFFICER: No. You can't.

OTTO: What if I call shotgun?

OFFICER: (SIGHING) Come on, kid, you've caused enough trouble for one day. Just get back there.

STEVIA: It's not too bad, Otto. It's like an Uber, but with iron bars.

SOUND: SFX of Stevia, Otto, and Tink climbing into the car.

OFFICER: I'll be back in a minute.

SOUND: SFX of the police car door slamming.

STEVIA: What's wrong, creeper? You haven't said a thing since we got caught.

TINK: I didn't want to get anyone else in trouble. This is my mess.

OTTO: Like you said before. We're the ones who followed you.

STEVIA: Yeah, you're the Pied Piper of weirdos.

TINK: All I wanted was to find Jupiter and undo the damage I've been causing all day, but I keep making everything worse.

OTTO: It'll be okay.

TINK: How will it be okay? We're in the back of a cop car. They'll find the money Stevia stole. They'll link us to the grocery store, where there will be security footage of us too. And then they'll call our parents. How could it possibly be okay?

OTTO: (QUIET) I don't know. It's just something you're supposed to say.

STEVIA: I'll tell them you guys had nothing to do with the money. That's one less thing for you to worry about.

TINK: Why would you do that?  
(BEAT)  
At this point I don't think that matters.

OTTO: Okay, enough! We're going to get out of here. Let's do this!

SOUND: SFX of Otto pulling on the door handles and moving around the backseat.

TINK: What are you doing?

OTTO: Saving our butts! There's a soft spot in these police car dividers. One stiff kick

and the entire thing comes off its hinges. It happens in, like, every Jackie Chan movie.

STEVIA: (SING-SONG) This is a dumb idea.

TINK: No, wait!

SOUND: SFX of Otto kicking the plastic divider, the divider bending, then Otto yelling.

TINK: Are you okay?

STEVIA: The idiot's foot is stuck in the divider.

OTTO: (MEEKLY) I guess I'm not on Jackie Chan's level yet.

SOUND: SFX of oncoming footsteps, then a door opening.

OFFICER: (CHUCKLING) That was a bright idea, hotshot.

OTTO: Can you help?

OFFICER: I'll unstick you once we get you down to the station. Speaking of-- what are your names and phone numbers?

(BEAT)

Well?

OTTO: I can't remember. The blood is rushing to my head.

OFFICER: Fine. I'm going to finish taking statements here, but when I get back I'll ask again. I promise it will be easier for everyone if you tell me.

SOUND: SFX of the car door slamming shut, Otto struggling with the divider.

STEVIA: They've got my face on file. It's a matter of time before they figure out who I am. We need to get a move on.

TINK: And how do we do that?

STEVIA: Well...

TINK: I can't. I won't do it anymore.

OTTO: Are you serious? Just wrinkle your nose and bring this baby to life so we can get out of here!

TINK: (QUIET) No.

OTTO: What? Why?

TINK: I'm not using my stupid power again.

STEVIA: (UNDERSTANDING) Because of the can seamer?

TINK: Because of the can seamer, because of the cash register. Because when I'm not Frankensteining kitchen appliances, I'm risking my life and-- and breaking into buildings and talking to rats.

(SIGH) I wish I'd never woken up that stupid microwave. I wish I'd just eaten my burnt breakfast and went on with my mundane existence.

(BEAT)

I haven't eaten all day.

OTTO: Maybe there will be food at the police station.

STEVIA: We're not going to the police station because creeper here is going to use her power and get us out of this mess right now.

TINK: No, Stevia. I'm done.

STEVIA: This isn't over.

TINK: It is over. It was over the second I convinced myself we could undo the stupidity of breaking into the cannery with the stupidity of breaking into the security station. What was my plan there exactly?

OTTO: (STRUGGLING) I seem to remember voicing a similar concern.

STEVIA: Concern yourself with shutting up, Otto.

TINK: Just leave me alone...

STEVIA: Look. We can either wait here for Officer Krupke to come back and haul us into the substation on St. Bernard Highway--I've seen it and it's a perfectly respectable cage for children who misbehave--or we can finish this thing we've started.

TINK: Everything we do just makes it worse.

STEVIA: Not everything. This morning--this morning I wouldn't have pissed on you if you were on fire.

TINK: That's a comfort.

OTTO: And an image.

STEVIA: But now... Now I want to see this thing through. Your friend is still out there. Jupiter is still out there. And he needs you.

TINK: I can't. Before I speak, these machines are just machines. But as soon as I open my mouth, as soon as they become self-aware... Then they think and they feel. And every time I put them back to sleep, it's like killing them.  
(BEAT)  
(REFLECTIVE) I struggled even to smash that computer's hard drive. It was like I was ripping out its heart.  
(BEAT)  
I think I may be a monster.

STEVIA: No. A creep, sure, but a monster? I know monsters. They give and take according to their whim. For their own amusement. Do any of us look amused right now? You're doing this because it's what's right. The same reason you wanted me bring back that cash.

TINK: Heh. A lot of good that did.

STEVIA: You have to think of it like this. These machines? You're their creator. You'd be asking this car for a sacrifice. But that's your right, as its creator, if it's in the service of something good. Do you understand?

OTTO: Is this about the beans again?

TINK: No. Kind of. I--

(EXHALE)

Okay. One more. One. More. And that's it.

SOUND: Tink composing herself.

TINK: Okay. You can wake up now, Patrol Car.  
Patrol Car, wake up.

SOUND: SFX of machine waking up. Engine coming to  
life. Bloop! of patrol car sirens. Buzz of  
its radio.

STEVIA: (SIGH) Thank god.

OTTO: Thank Tink.

SOUND: Burst of static from radio.

CAR 247: (BUZZY, FROM RADIO) This is car 247,  
reporting in.

TINK: Uh, hi, Car 247. We're trying to find  
someone. Could you help us?

CAR 247: That's what I'm here for.

SOUND: SFX of car pulling into motion, gravel  
crunching under the wheel.

STEVIA: Hopefully it knows how to drive itself.

OTTO: It won't steer us wrong.

STEVIA: Oh, God, no.

OTTO: This is driving you crazy, isn't it?

STEVIA: I'm going to leave you stuck in that divider  
forever.

SOUND: SFX of siren bleeping, radio buzzing.

CAR 247: Where to, kids?

TINK: Let's start by getting out of here. Can we cross St. Bernard Highway?

CAR 247: Can do. Buckle up!

SOUND: Engine revving.

OTTO: But seriously. Can the two of you help me down from here?

SOUND: INTERLUDE...

SOUND: Cars passing, engine humming, car noises.

CAR 247: Here's St. Bernard Highway.

TINK: Thanks, patrol car. Any sign of Jupiter yet?

CAR 247: Not yet, but I've got my headlights peeled.

TINK: Okay... Let's cross and search the New Arabi neighborhoods then.

CAR 247: Sure thing...

SOUND: Car 247 pulling into traffic, blinker on, traffic growing louder... then pulling off the highway again.

OTTO: Is this where it happened, Tink?

STEVIA: Where what happened?

OTTO: Oh... I guess she didn't know, huh?

STEVIA: Know what?

TINK: (ANNOYED) Yeah, Otto, know what?

OTTO: ...Nothing.

STEVIA: Don't hold out on me, creeper! Just when I was starting to think you might be cool.

TINK: Not cool enough to stop calling me creeper. It's not that big of a deal, okay?

OTTO: Yeah, nobody was even killed.

TINK: Stop helping. There was a car accident this morning on St. Bernard Highway that I might be in a very tiny way responsible for.

OTTO: I thought you said you ran into the middle of the road and the cars all had to swerve to avoid you?  
(BEAT)  
Right. I'll stop helping.

STEVIA: Wow. You're having a banner day for being a badass, aren't you?

TINK: It's not just you who's in trouble. You're a thief and all, but I fled the scene of an accident I caused. They'll match my description at the cannery to what the driver told them this morning, and I'll be upstate with you.

STEVIA: Maybe we can share a cell.

TINK: No, the constitution forbids cruel and unusual punishments.

OTTO: And don't forget the cop car we stole. That'll probably add another year to your sentence.

SOUND: SFX of radio buzz.

CAR 247: Stole?

TINK: He's kidding, Patrol Car. Don't pay him any mind.

STEVIA: Besides. I think she stole herself.

TINK: Have you spotted him yet?

CAR 247: Still no sign of any golden robots. Are you sure you don't want me to put an APB out to dispatch?

TINK: No, better if we keep this quiet for now.

CAR 247: If you're sure... Wait! I've got unusual movement at the next corner!

TINK: Is it him? Is it Jupiter?

CAR 247: I don't think so. It appears to be--

OTTO: Are those rats?

STEVIA: Those are rats! Two fat, disgusting rats!

TINK: They look like they're in a hurry.

OTTO: And running down the middle of a sidewalk in broad daylight. What gives?

CAR 247: Should I pursue?

TINK: ...Yeah. Let's see what they're up to.

SOUND: Car cruising along...

STEVIA: Look, there are more of them! They're all running in the same direction.

OTTO: Think this has something to do with Jupiter, Tink?

TINK: In a sane world, no. Today? Let's see where they go.

SOUND: Someone screaming in surprise. Kids running. A door slammed shut.

OTTO: Did you see that? Those kids just booked it!

STEVIA: What would you do if a few dozen rats ran pellmell down the street towards you?

OTTO: I'd stand tall. Strong. I'd tell those rats what's what.

STEVIA: You spent the last half hour with your foot wedged above your head. I'm not sure how intimidated they'd be.

TINK: Look! They're all running to Mr. Schrott's!

STEVIA: The scrapyard on the other side of the 40 Arpent? Oh, I see it! What the hell?

TINK: I don't know...

OTTO: The 40 what now?

STEVIA: The 40 Arpent. You lived your whole life in St. Bernard and you don't know the 40 Arpent?

OTTO: I can't know everything.

STEVIA: Small chance.

TINK: The 40 Arpent is the canal that runs the whole length of upper St. Bernard Parish. We've got the Mississippi on one side and on the other is the 40 Arpent.

OTTO: Okay... But why is it called the 40 Arpent? Is it named after the great French explorer Monsieur Arpent? Were there 40 of him?

STEVIA: You're half right.

TINK: (INCREDULOUS) Which half?

STEVIA: The French part. Everything else is idiotic. The arpent was an ancient French unit of distance. When they measured out the plantations here, they gave the owners all the land from the river to 40 arpents away. The canal is built on the old boundary line.

OTTO: How on Earth do you know that?

STEVIA: Don't sound so surprised. You'll hurt my feelings. Its levee failed in the last storm and that's what flooded St Bernard.  
(SELF-CONSCIOUS) I read a book about it.

SOUND: Radio buzz.

CAR 247: The rats have gone over the bridge and through the gate. I'm not sure I'll fit. Should I pursue?

TINK: No, we can go from here on foot.

OTTO: And we'd better hurry. I think these cop cars are all lo-jacked. We'll have company soon enough.

TINK: Exactly. So, if you don't mind, just let us out and we'll be on our way.  
(BEAT)  
Could you unlock the doors, please, patrol car?

CAR 247: I can't. They're manual.

STEVIA: Duh, it's a cop car. They don't want to accidentally leave the doors unlocked for criminals to escape. How about the windows? Can you roll those down?

CAR 247: No problem!

SOUND: SFX of electric windows rolling down.

TINK: Uh, patrol car. Those are the front windows. We're sitting in the back seat. Could you roll the back windows down please?

CAR 247: Let me see... I don't think I can... They should be on my normal circuits, but the switches have been disabled.

TINK: Hell. Now what are we supposed to do?

STEVIA: (QUIET) If the car can't unlock the door for us, I know there's one thing you should do...

TINK: You're right. I'm sorry Patrol Car. Thanks for your help, but you can go to sleep now.

CAR 247: Are you sure? I'm not the least bit tired.

TINK: I know. But please, just go to sleep.

CAR 247: But I--

TINK: Sleep! Go to sleep, Car 247! Sleep!

SOUND: SFX of car falling asleep.

OTTO: It's never taken that much effort before, has it?

TINK: No. It hasn't. I think-- I think it's because my heart wasn't all the way in it. Part of me wants the car to go on living. But I know it's better this way.

OTTO: Although when the car fell asleep, the air conditioner shut off and now we'll bake to death.

TINK: It's like 75 degrees outside.

OTTO: Suffocate then.

STEVIA: We're not going to bake and we're not going to suffocate. Come on. We can kick the divider down, climb into the front seat, and out the window.

OTTO: That suggestion sounds awfully familiar.

STEVIA: You couldn't do it by yourself. But with the three of us pushing at the same time, it'll work.

TINK: Do you have a lot of experience breaking out of cop cars?

STEVIA: Is that a question you really want an answer to? Scrunch down like this.

SOUND: Tink, Stevia, and Otto getting into position...

STEVIA: And put your feet here...

SOUND: Think of their feet on the plastic divider.

STEVIA: Now, on the count of three, we push...

One...

STEVIA/TINK/OTTO: (TOGETHER) Two...

STEVIA/TINK/OTTO: (TOGETHER) Three!

SOUND: Straining, pushing, and after a few moments, the crack and splintering of the plastic divider.

OTTO: Hurray for teamwork?

STEVIA: Just shut up and climb out. And be careful not to cut yourself.

SOUND: Otto, Tink, and Stevia climbing past the broken divider, through the front seat, and out the window.

TINK: Everything is about to get a lot clearer.

SOUND: Tink, Stevia, and Otto crossing the wooden bridge and passing through the chain-link fence.

STEVIA: Look at all the rats... There's so many of them...

OTTO: They're all just sitting and staring. What are they looking at?

TINK: (EXCITED) There! Do you see? It's him!  
(DETERMINED) ...It's Jupiter.

SOUND: Outro.

ANNOUNCER: This has been episode seven of Tink and Jupiter. Tune in again for episode eight... And now, a word from our sponsors...

Starring Zelda Kimble, Maria Perniciaro, and David Waguespack... Also featuring Jake Madison and Alison Logan... And I'm...

Tink and Jupiter was written and produced by Jon Nathan Raby and Leon Perniciaro.

For more, go to Tink and Jupiter dot com, and follow us. On Twitter and Facebook. Not in real life... Thank you... for listening.

THE END