# Ninety Degrees South

**EPISODE EIGHT** Poker vs. Chess.

**Brian M Bradley** 

OVERHEAD STATION HUM IN BACKGROUND. CROWD IN HALLWAY LOW DUE TO CLOSED DOOR. PHONE CALL IN PROGRESS. FADE IN

**FIONA** 

(VO)

...other than that, we're not seeing anything unusual or suspect in any of his financial records going back a year.

(Verifying)

So five thousand dollars were being deposited in Doctor Rodney's account each month...going back how far?

**FIONA** 

(VO)

The first instance was November 2020. Electronic funds transfer using converted crypto. I have my team working on back-tracking, but cryptocurrency has changed all the rules for forensic accounting.

**BASS** 

All payments made first of the month?

**FIONA** 

(VO)

Every time.

**BASS** 

(verifying)

So then after March, no additional payments, nothing in April?

**FIONA** 

(VO)

Correct.

**BASS** 

(ponders)

Which would indicate the murder was pre-meditated if the payment in April wasn't wired, on the day of his homicide.

**FIONA** 

(theorizes)

From our perspective, this has all the earmarks of extortion. Sudden transfers of a not insignificant sum, same amount, same time of the month, always clandestinely.

**BASS** 

Good point.

**FIONA** 

(VO)

We'll keep on it Bass, but I figured you would want to hear this news right away.

**BASS** 

Thanks, Fi; great work, appreciate it as always.

## **CLICK OF A HANGUP**

(KNOCK ON DOOR, OPENS A BIT. BACKGROUND HALL NOISE GROWS A BIT LOUDER.)

**THOMAS** 

(hesitant)

Uh, Deputy Marshal? Do you have a moment?

**BASS** 

Come on in, Mr. Kelly. What can I do for you?

**THOMAS** 

(glad)

Thank you!

DOOR CLOSES, HALLWAY NOISE RETURNS TO LOW

**THOMAS** 

So ... I hope you know that everybody is still talking about how you handled the Trolls a few weeks back.

**BASS** 

(humble)

I wouldn't say I 'handled' them, Mr. Kelley. They were just less ornry than usual. Probably cause their new station opened up is all.

**THOMAS** 

Oh, I disagree, sir. I and most of the others here think it was because of how you stood up and won't back down.

**BASS** 

(humble)

I appreciate that, but I honestly don't think it's the case.

**THOMAS** 

(earnest)

Well, whatever the case...people are talking ...and...

**BASS** 

And?

**THOMAS** 

(shyly)

And well, gosh! People would like to know you better. Maybe get you to attend some of the seminars or events we hold. Some people say they see you in the weight gym or running laps in the big gym sometimes, maybe you could. . .teach morning calisthenics or something?

(hedging)

I understand that within a station, even one of this size... people like variety. They like the interaction. I'm more of an introvert, besides that; if all goes well...I'll have found my killer and be on a plane back to the mainland as soon as possible.

**THOMAS** 

(a bit sad)

Well...I suppose that's true...I guess. It would just mean an awful lot; to the crew at the station for as long as you're here.

**BASS** 

(guilty)

Ughhhhh! Look; give me a day to think of something, some way I can, interact more.

**THOMAS** 

(Excited)

Oh, that would be great! Man, lots of people would be excited!

**BASS** 

(stern)

No promises!

**THOMAS** 

(Excited)

No, no, I understand. Take all the time...

PHONE RINGS

**BASS** 

I should...

### **THOMAS**

Oh, of course, thank you again!

## DOOR OPENS, CROWD NOISE, AND THEN CLOSES

**BASS** 

Deputy Marshal Marlow.

CHERYL-LYNN

(over phone)

Hey Shug, I have Doctor Waynewright on the line. Hold on a sec. .

## **CLICKING**

LARRY

(over phone, smug)

**DEPUTY** Marshal.

**BASS** 

Doctor.

**LARRY** 

(over phone, smug)

How many people, may I inquire, are set to be cleared to leave this week?

**BASS** 

(frustrated)

It seems like this is a conversation we keep repeating, doctor. I will clear individuals to depart after I am confident, they are no longer...

LARRY

(over phone, cuts him off, smugly)

...material to your ongoing investigation. Yes, I've heard this many times. I also have understood the NSF is displeased with continuing to have to fund special salary pay for ongoing retention of the 2021 Winterovers.

## WIND GUST

#### **LARRY**

(over phone, smug)

To this end, I've been instructed to inform you the NSF requests \*all\* investigative priorities be directed to clearing the remaining ten individuals who should have left the station last month.

#### **BASS**

(Snarkly)

Don't worry yourself, Waynewright. We'll get your fiefdom back in operational order as quickly as possible. Until then, I'll take the request under advisement.

#### **LARRY**

(over phone) (smug vs. snark)

You seem to be making yourself comfortable, **DEPUTY**Marshal. Perhaps a bit too comfortable? Use of the gym, use of the sauna, weight room. This is time, well... perhaps better spent in pursuit of a killer. Then there is; what I'm told of fraternization with scientific staff.

#### **BASS**

(Bored)

If there is a point here, Waynewright, I sure hope you get to it before Summer is over.

#### LARRY

(over phone) (smug threatening)

It would be a shame if specific research grants were; sent for review and reconsideration for ongoing funding.

(cautioning tone)

Cute Waynewright, right out of the antagonist cliché handbook. You've only known me for less than a month, so let me clearly explain to you...

LARRY

(over phone) (amused & smug)

By all means.

**BASS** 

(sincere)

The things I've done and seen in my lifetime would drive any normal, sane individual mad. Things no civilized person should ever be exposed to. When I tell you I can't be threatened; can't be bullied or intimidated, I want to be \*crystal\* clear and ensure you fully understand the context by which I make that statement. I stopped being afraid of the dark a long time ago, Doctor. Now I'm paid to battle the things that reside in the dark; and I'm damned good at that job!

#### **LARRY**

(over phone) (unimpressed but smug!) I've made my thoughts known. I've delivered the message. (Pause) Oh; you may go now, **DEPUTY** Marshal.

### CLICK OF BASE SET

**BASS** 

(Introspective)

....Nope, not worth blowing my stack over him this time.

FEMALE VOICE – RECORDING STOPPED

2SP

FEMALE VOICE – RECORDING STARTED

## HUM OF SERVERS MIXED WITH STATION HUM; SOUND OF KNOCKING ON DOOR; THEN OPENING. DISAGREEMENT IN PROGRESS

**IT CHRIS** 

(Offended)

So to say the Uruk-Hai would be slaughtered by the Dothraki is ridiculous. (*BEAT*) No disrespect to Jason Momoa!

**IT EMERY** 

(Equally Offended)

Oh please! The Uruk-Hai couldn't stop a bunch of hobbits, and the two they DID catch . . . ESCAPED! They were outsmarted by halflings the size of 9 year old cub scouts!

**IT CHRIS** 

(Defending the Franchize)

They were DISTRACTED. . .by their hunger! It happens. I've seen you push old people out of the way in the galley for a snickers bar! Maybe adult it up some there Em?

**IT EMERY** 

That from the "adult" who owns a Jar-Jar Binks cuddly plush doll?

IT CHRIS

(Through clinched teeth)

That was a gift. . . from MY NANA!

**BASS** 

(Making his presence known)

Good Day, Gentlemen!

IT CHRIS

(excited)

Ah. . . Deputy Marshal! Come in, come in.

Thank you.

## **DOOR CLOSES**

**IT EMERY** 

(excited) (incoherent muttering)

**BASS** 

Good to see you too, Mr. Waters.

## **INHALER SOUND**

**IT CHRIS** 

Dude! Maintain your chill!

**BASS** 

You gentlemen said you had something to show me?

## SOUND OF ITEMS BEING BRUSHED OFF COUNTERTOP

**IT CHRIS** 

We've been monitoring outbound traffic like you asked, looking for any files with the same name or the same size.

**IT EMERY** 

(excited)

Or portions! Tell him...

**IT CHRIS** 

I know; getting to it! So it occurs to me that if the large file can be transmitted, so can a fraction of the file, so we wrote a program...

#### IT EMERY

I wrote!

#### IT CHRIS

No modesty inside, huh? Anyway, \*a\* program was written to monitor for any size file extensions that might equal the original file size but as a pre-identified fraction. A file exactly one-half original size, or one quarter, or one-tenth, and so on. We got a hit about an hour ago.

#### **BASS**

(Mostly to himself)

So it \*wasn't\* Rodney who was trying to send out the file. This changes things. (*To the guys*) Who tried to send it?

#### **IT CHRIS**

Network login credentials were for Grace O'Sullivan. Grace departed the station last week and was on our schedule for credential revocation end of this week.

#### **IT EMERY**

(sad)

Grace was nice. She brought me fruit.

#### **IT CHRIS**

(stern)

Focus! (exhale) Obviously, somebody stole or knew her credentials. The origination point was her Berth Lan port. Her berth hadn't been reassigned yet, and anybody could have accessed it.

BASS

(curious)

Did the email with attachment make it through?

#### **IT CHRIS**

Made it through with an attachment \*exactly\*one quarter data size to the original file we saw down to the byte. It was sent using the same dummy email as before and to the same New Zealand address.

<u>2SP</u>

### **BASS**

(thinking aloud)

So if we block that address, the killer knows we're wise to what they're doing, they change tactics. We don't block, and they may get some of the remaining pieces of the file out. Either way, now we know it wasn't Rodney trying to send it out but his killer.

#### **IT EMERY**

(thoughtful)

We could always write a denial of service-like program that increases outbound net traffic when the remaining file upload is detected. Flood the satellite feed with dozens of routine upload requests at that same time. It would bog down the killer's transmission and ensure the additional pieces never make it out.

## 4SP BACKGROUND SERVER HUM. CHRIS & BASS SPEECHLESS

**BASS** 

(impressed)

Is; is that doable?

IT CHRIS

(irked)

Well, it's a \*bit\* more complicated than what the Dork Lord of the Sith here proposes, but I guessssssss we could whip something up.

**BASS** 

(focused)

Let's do it, and when either of you see the outbound traffic, notify me on the radio. I'm on the 901 talk group frequency. When you see it, just tell me; (thinks) tell me my spreadsheet is ready.

**IT CHRIS** 

(determined)

Can do!

**BASS** 

Thanks again, fellas.

## **DOOR OPENS AND THEN PAUSE**

**BASS** 

Oh hey, I've been asking others if they know, I wanted to ask you both

## PAPER BEING UNFOLDED

**BASS** 

Either of you know what 'Jotar' means?

'You-Tin'

**CHRIS & EMERY** 

(together)

Troll

2SP

**BASS** 

You're positive?

**IT CHRIS** 

Hundred percent. It's Norwegian for Troll. You're looking at the only two recognized Middle-Earth rangers entrusted with protecting the frozen south. We can say Troll in forty different languages.

IT EMERY

Plus eight created languages!

**IT CHRIS** 

Give it a rest three-p-oh!

**BASS** 

Figures.

**IT CHRIS** 

Where did the word come from?

**BASS** 

Science Experiment over in the telescope lab. Ken...Doctor Jennings was showing me an experiment to translate distant light energy to words.

**IT EMERY** 

(excited)

You mean it worked?? Is it translating the patterns from M87? I told Doctor Patani it would work! (catches himself) I mean..... sounds neat.

## BASS SIGHS AND FOLDS THE PAPER BACK

**BASS** 

Thanks again, gents.

## DOOR CLOSING

#### IT CHRIS

(muffled from behind the door) I told you to let ME do the talking!

#### **IT EMERY**

(Jar-Jar Impression)

Oh Meesa muy muy sorry Chris. Meesa hope we's still nitenite fwends!!!!

## <u>ELECTRONIC VOICE – RECORDING STOPPED</u>

2SP

## **ELECTRONIC BEEP**

#### **BASS**

(VO, formal)

Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow, Amundsen-Scott Station. November 4, 2021. 1620 hrs. Evidence supports the motive for homicide connected with extortion or blackmail. Forensic accountants found recurring monthly payments to Doctor Rodney's personal accounts.

## CHERYL-LYNN (VO, PA, OVERHEAD)

Beau-Low LC-130 flight nine arrival has been delayed to 1730 Hrs. Cargo crews to remain on yer toes. Thank youuuuuuuu

#### **BASS**

(VO, Formal)

Station IT staff continue monitoring for attempts to export the file off station and mainland New Zealand. We believe we have a way to actively block these attempts while not alerting the suspect of a trap and locate them. End.

## (VO, Informal)

Diane; it hasn't escaped my notice of Waynewright wanting additional staff to be released from the station. If he were wise, he'd limit the transmissions to one attempt per individual who had left the station. Hence the need for more to go to increase his opportunities to re-transmit the data. I'm going to continue to keep a close eye on him.

## CHAIR SCOOT BACK AND STAND UP

#### **BASS**

How this computer program they're calling 'KECK' after an old retired project can predict minuscule future events all ties in... I couldn't say. It knew the Trolls would arrive a day before it was even mentioned on station. Then again, a machine that uses local slang to reference a group in the native language of those people being referenced, could be a simple coincidence.

#### **BASS**

But for now, I need to see our station's Janitor. I'm told he's teaching a class in the craft room.

### **ELECTRONIC BOOP.**

2SP

## <u>ELECTRONIC VOICE – RECORDING STARTED, WALKING DOWN HALLWAY</u> AND DOOR OPENING. MIKHAIL ACTIVELY TEACHING

#### MIKHAIL

(instructing)

.... Transfer mash liquid, only liquid, to fermentation bucket. Keep sludgy mess out, is **NO** good. Use the ah, the metal pasta bowl with the holes in bottom. After this, put yeast starter mix into bucket. *(beat)* Ah, Tovarisch! Come and sitting down. Learn how to make potato vodka in your berth!

**BASS** 

I'm okay, Mikhail I...(slight inhale) what? (regain focus) Anyway, can I borrow you for a couple of moments?

MIKHAIL

(happily)

Da! Da, of course. You! Smartypants with Putin receding hairline, come and stir in bucket!

## **FOOTSTEPS OUT TO HALL**

**MIKHAIL** 

What you wish to know, you ask! Mikhail tell.

**BASS** 

In the week or so before Doctor Rodney was murdered, did you notice anything strange in his lab or inside his berth?

MIKHAIL

(correcting)

Mmmmm, Neyt. Janitors do not go into people's Berths. Is big no-no. Something goes missing; who always gets the blames?

**BASS** 

Janitors!

**MIKHAIL** 

(surprised)

No; Russians! We are bad guys of America's stories. Why would Janitors. . .does no matter. For cleaning berths, each person responsible for their own cleaning. I call them house mouses. They scutter around, trying best to clean.

How about the labs?

MIKHAIL

This, we do clean. Mapo lab Monday, Wednesday & Saturdays. Weatherman's lab on Tuesday and Thursdays. IceCube Lab every weekday and DSL lab. . .MEH, when needed.

**BASS** 

(inquiring)

Anything strange in MAPO, in Doctor Rodney's office?

MIKHAIL

(Ponders a bit)

...mmmmmm, there was burnt papers. Several times, when cleaning in mornings I find pieces of burn paper in bottom of trash can in office.

**BASS** 

(clarifying)

Sheets of paper?

MIKHAIL

Neyt. After burning, was just scraps. Happened two or three times. I remember, day before scientist was murdered I find burned paper in trash that morning.

## WRITING IN NOTEPAD

**BASS** 

(talking while writing)
Anything else you remember finding?

MIKHAIL

(Thinking)

Not finding, but was odd. Off. Not right. Most smarty-pants doctors, they are messy. Do not clean their messes. Leave for Janitors to fix. This not the case with dead smarty-pants. He was...was, em. .(asking) when you must have everything, same all the time, only way you want it or is wrong? Pens all in straight line on desk, papers in perfect piles, will spend hours getting right and repeating is called...?

BASS

**Obsessive Compulsive** 

MIKHAIL

Da, this! Am convinced dead Smarty Pants doctor has this thing. After you come to station, look at office and say is okay to clean, I went in and everything was wrong.

**BASS** 

(interested)

Please explain.

## <u>WRITING</u>

MIKHAIL

Dead Smarty Pants office was always clean. Trash in trash can, da, but otherwise, spotless. Was easiest room on whole station to clean. When I go in after you say is okay...pens in wrong place, papers not perfect stacks, phone was turned wrong way. Computer keyboard not at edge of desk and exact middle. Desk was wrong!

## **WRITING**

**BASS** 

That is great, Mikhail. Thank you for that.

MIKHAIL

(stresses each word, trying his American slang)

It ain't not no thing! (breath) How hunt for killer going?

**BASS** 

I really can't talk about that while investigating.

MIKHAIL.

Ahhhhhh! My papa; he was great hunter. Grandfather too! They take me sometimes. Into forest hunting deers. They see signs and trails deer use. We would track for hours. Now deer, deer knows is prey, is...

1SP

### **MIKHAIL**

(loudly and directed inside craft room)

## **KEEP STIRRING MASH, SMARTY PANTS!**

#### MIKHAIL

Where was.... ah, deer! (almost whispering) They walk quiet, always looking around. Hide well to not be prey. When they know they are in danger, when being chased, they get desperate. Making mistakes until; (imitate rifle shot) Is now deer flavored stew in bellies.

## **STOPS WRITING**

**BASS** 

(Considers)

I should make them think I'm close. Lay a trap.

MIKHAIL

DA! Is how I tracked down poop bandit.

**BASS** 

(Confused)

......Pardon?

#### MIKHAIL

Poop bandit. Person who making mess of toilets and not flushing. Spent four months tracking! DeWalt was shocked when I found him. Don't leave that mess for janitors!

BASS

(wrapping up)

You'll have to tell me the story another time Mikhail, I have an interview I need to get ready for.

MIKHAIL

(proud)

Happy to tell you later, Tovarisch! But now, I must teach vodka making before smartypants catches arm on fire for third time.

DOOR TO CLASS CLOSES, FOOTSTEPS WALKING DOWN HALL FADE OUT

<u>2SP</u>

FADE IN. INTERVIEW IN PROCESS. ARCHES OVERHEAD BACKGROUND.

**RENO** 

(sincere)

...and that's the God's honest truth, hand to heart and all that jazz.

**BASS** 

(Serious)

So then, after you finished unloading cargo with Daniel Biggs, you went back to your berth for the night?

RENO

I got there about 10:15 or so, listened to some old Willie Nelson, and then went to bed.

## SOUND OF PALLET TRUCK BACKING UP IN NEAR DISTANCE

**BASS** 

(Curious)

Always unload cargo that late at night?

**RENO** 

We got behind on stacking for the winter. We would have knocked it out earlier, but that's our poker night. Zeke said we could play but only if things got done that night; so no, not always.

#### FLIPPING PAPERS

**BASS** 

(poker face, deadpan)

So tell me about your past, Mr. Brewster.

**RENO** 

(nervous)

What do you want to know?

BASS

(poker face, deadpan)

Well, let's start with Reno. How'd you get that handle?

**RENO** 

(relieved)

Oh! Grew up bouncing between the Rockies and Sierras. My old man was in the Army, so we'd move every few years. After he got out, we just stayed in the area. Some buddies growing

up had another 'Dave' in their crew, so I became 'Reno Dave,' and he was 'Santa Fe Dave'.

## WRITING IN NOTEBOOK

**BASS** 

(poker face, deadpan)

So what brought you down to the Pole?

**RENO** 

(slightly anxious)

Just... I needed a change. Saw a posting for cargo loader and signed up. Musta been, five years ago?

**BASS** 

Change from what?

**RENO** 

(Deep breath)

Look, Deputy Marshal, I've been on this side of the interrogation table enough to know when you already have the answers to your questions.

**BASS** 

(poker face, deadpan)

You've been in trouble with the law before?

**RENO** 

(anxious)

A homicide takes place, and everybody gets background checked. You probably had mine checked and came up with my file from when I was younger and what I didn't tell the NSF.

## FILE FOLDER GETS TOSSED ON THE TABLE

**RENO** 

(resigned)

Not that it matters anymore; he probably already told them anyway.

**BASS** 

Who told what, to who?

**RENO** 

Doctor Rodney. He found out about my police record back in February. (thinks) Still have no idea how he found it, but he told me it was unsettling to have somebody with a lengthy record on the station. Said he'd have to think what he should do?

**BASS** 

(interested)

So he started blacking mail you?

**RENO** 

(denial)

No. He never asked for a penny. Didn't ask for favors or anything brought in.

**BASS** 

What do you mean 'brought in'?

**RENO** 

You've seen my record. Theft, robbery, trafficking in stolen goods, possession, unlicensed firearms. (realizes what he's saying) Hey now; but keep in mind that was all in the past! I'm 100% legit now. My nose is clean!

**BASS** 

So you're a fence?

**RENO** 

Was. Was a fence. Now, I guess you can call me a scrounger. I can get anything from the world down here and much faster than regular channels. But nothing that's known to be stolen. I also don't do drugs or guns.

**BASS** 

(sarcastic)

How; enterprising.

## PALET TRUCK BACKING UP

**RENO** 

(Sincere)

Look, Deputy, I made my mistakes and paid for them. \*Believe me\*. My wife left me; I have two kids who hate me. I heard I may even be a grandpa now. My folks died, considering me a disappointment. I had nothing left.

**BASS** 

Mmm hmmm

**RENO** 

I don't know; something just said in my brain, head for the ice. Go there and start over. Heal. (Beat) Aw man, I know that sounds all looney toons, but, that's what I did. I got down here, and in that first season, I see all these kids. Well, adults, I guess, but to me, they're kids. Isolated and away from everything they know. Prison is exactly like that.

**BASS** 

(sarcastic)

So you related to them?

**RENO** 

No. I helped them. Helped them cope.

**BASS** 

(Not the answer he suspected)

How?

**RENO** 

It's always different. Some kids miss a specific meal that I can get ingredients for by trading with other stations. Some kids just want to be able to call home. I can get, limited use of Iridium sat-phones when needed. (Beat)

**RENO** 

Candy, fruit, old cartoons on VHS, fresh-cut flowers; now that one was tricky. I even got one little ma'am, an electric cello. Her's was damaged on a Herc when she was flying down from Christchurch. Her cello was her favorite thing in the world and her primary connection to civilization. Took a few trades, but in 72 hours, I had a brand new, in-the-box black electric cello. She hugged me so hard I thought she broke a rib for a couple of days.

**BASS** 

(dubious)

And you do all this for, what price?

## INDISCRIPT BANG FROM OUTSIDE

**RENO** 

Nothing. I trade things the station has, and we don't need for stuff that makes the beakers and contractors happier. The property isn't mine, so I won't profit off it.

**BASS** 

(sarcastic)

And all because the ghost of Christmas future, helped you see meaning in the world.

### SLAMS NOTEBOOK ON THE TABLE

**BASS** 

## (Serious)

I'm a US Deputy Marshal! One of the primary things we do is hunt down fugitives and transfer prisoners. Do you know how many sob stories I've heard in 20 plus years of doing this? How many times they found Jesus or Buddah or realized what they did was wrong, or how... whatever.

#### **RENO**

(Calm)

I'm not trying to play you, Deputy. Everything I've told you is the absolute truth. Ask around. Ask some of the new kids who got here last month. I'll give you names and what I got for them right now. Check it out. Call some of the old kids who have gone through here. They'll tell you I'm on the level.

## <u>3SP</u>

#### **RENO**

I'll be fifty-nine next month. Close to Forty of those fifty-nine have been in trouble, in jail, or on the run. I'm done with all that. (sigh) But here, on the ice; I'm doing good. I'm trying to make up for all the stupid-ass things I did. I don't want to lose that. It's why I don't deal in stolen stuff, drugs, or guns. I don't want to leave the station. I have to stay on the ice! There is . . . there is just something about the ice!

#### **BASS**

(direct)

Enough to kill for? To make sure you get to stay?

#### **RENO**

Look, I have no alibi, and I know that's not good. I have a record, but you've seen it. None of it is for violent crimes. I didn't kill Doctor Rodney.

(pause a beat)

I'll reach out to those on station and those who left to verify; as you say. In the meantime...

## SLIDING PAPER ACROSS THE TABLE

**BASS** 

Please sign and date at the bottom of the page, re-affirming you provided this interview freely and voluntarily.

PEN SIGNING PAPER

ARCHES HUM FADES OUT

2SP

**ELECTRIC BEEP** 

**BASS** 

(VO)

So yeah Diane, took the pen and signed with his left hand. He's only the second of two individuals who used their left hand. Waynewright is the other. Sufficed to say, my list of likely culprits is becoming better defined. Funny thing, nobody I spoke with can honestly remember seeing King-Almighty Waynewright at the wine tasting event the night of the murder.

## TAP TABLE WITH PEN A FEW TIMES

**BASS** 

(VO)

'There is something about the Ice.' That seems to be a common phrase down here. A lot of people I've spoken with,

been talking to; all seem to have this...'draw' isn't the right word. 'yearning, maybe? I don't know how to put it into words. It's really....

## **DESK PHONE RINGS; PUSH TONE ANSWER**

**BASS** 

(VO)

**Deputy Marshal Marlow** 

MALE VOICE

(Speaker)

Phone call, sir, Washinton DC.

**BASS** 

(VO)

Thanks, I'll take it here.

**MALE VOICE** 

(Speaker)

Patching through now, sir.

## **CLICKING SOUNDS**

**CHUCK** 

(Speaker, static)

Bass?

**BASS** 

(VO)

I'm here Charlie.

**CHUCK** 

(Speaker, static)

Good. Listen, I only have a minute. I've just had some exciting meetings up here on Capitol Hill.

(VO)

Good or bad?

**CHUCK** 

(Speaker, static)

Yes! I also was able to pick you up that book on gardening, but I'll leave that as a surprise. Good seminars on gardening, unexpected even.

**BASS** 

Sounds, like a productive trip.

**CHUCK** 

(Speaker, static)

Unexpectedly productive. Say, I put a rush on an item you requested a few weeks back. It should be to you early next week. Once you get it, let me know.

**BASS** 

(VO)

Not sure I get what you mean, Charlie, I didn't...

**CHUCK** 

(Speaker, static)

We're going to have to end our game of Poker. Time to pick up chess. Okay, have to go. You keep warm down there, copy?

**BASS** 

(VO)

Copy all

CHUCK

(Speaker, static)

That's my boy!

## **CLICK**

**Outtro and Credits**