

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE THREE: NEW INVESTIGATIONS

DRAFT 1: MAR 27, 2022

DRAFT 2: APR 21, 2022

FINAL DRAFT: MAY 18, 2022

by
Brian M Bradley

INTRO SONG

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED

BASS

Deputy Bass Marlow. Amundsen Scott Station. Unassigned duty. Today is Sunday, February twentieth . . .damn it, my watch broke in the crash. Um. . .according to the clock on the wall it's oh-six hundred hours. Diane, wish we could be trading Chuck stories like we used to. I was happy to hear you were able to come out of hiding and heard Chuck and Janet's service was wonderful. I'm sorry I couldn't be there. I really wanted to be there for them. . .Ahem.

You've no doubt seen my transfer was officially conducted and am now Antarctica's first full deputy Marshal permanently assigned in-country. Acting Marshal Matt Torrez didn't put up any resistance. He and I have never gotten along so I'm sure he thinks having me down here is a punishment. Asshole! Don't. . .put ass hole in the official record Diane! Make it, Pompous Asshole. Want to be as accurate as possible.

[SIGH]

So, in the week since the rescue, I've been diagnosed with a sprained knee. Based upon the crash they honestly thought it was a break, but I lucked out. They have me using a cane to walk around and help keep weight off when I walk. Makes me feel even older than I am around all these kids. Everybody else: Mister Ferguson, Doctor Timms, Captain Trager; all given clean bills of health. With the winter season in full effect, they're going to be with us another 7 months. Mister Ferguson is NOT happy about that!

Only person who didn't make it, is Mister Nichols. *[Hesitation]* Don't want to talk about that now D. Hey! Quick question, O.T.R. What was that hole in the wall diner we went to just before Cincinnati? The place with the thick, full pound buffalo burger patties? They had an impressive topping bar. I got wrangled into a conversation last night at supper about what was the best greasy-spoon diner we've ever been to. Couldn't remember the name. . .been racking my brain since last night!!

If you remember it, shoot me an email with the name, will ya? *[two beat]* Okay, back to the record. Have been in communication with Deputy Marshal Bill Culligan in McMurdo, along with the two special deputies assigned to Palmer station. Nothing significant to report. Minor drunk altercations, harassment, the typical knuckleheads trying to bring in weed as if any of us really cared anymore!

[introspective, recalling from memory] There was one thing, unusual. . .well, by most standards it would be unusual. For this place, it's pretty much routine. A larger than usual number of construction materials were delivered. Plaster, paints, mortar, sand and various sheetrock and wood. Zeke said it wasn't on his formal supply request list for the winter. Wasn't a replacement for supplies used and nobody else on station would have a need for it.

He's storing it in the L.O. Arch for now, but the amount of room it's taking up is making him grumpier than normal. The other, pending mystery was the sabotage of the ops center monitoring stations and the plane! According to the description Captain Traeger provided, the N.T.S.B. believes the crash was a result of a JATO bottle. . .sorry Diane, that's Jet Assisted Take Off bottle, fuel for the engine to help the plane get off the ground with limited runway. That the bottle didn't eject properly, despite sensor indication. It ejected during the flight, striking one of the engines and the remaining fuel fumes caused an explosion, knocking out electronics.

Seems there are multiple safeguards in place to prevent that as it happened one time before in Antarctica. The only way it would be possible was if somebody by-passed all five safeguards. Hence. . .they call it "suspicious". We're calling it deliberate sabotage. Somebody didn't want somebody on that plane making it out alive. I'm the obvious target people are thinking of but must admit that Mister Nichols. . .had an interesting enough background where he's also a likely target. That or somebody is serious about getting Mr. Ferguson's season Bruins tickets! [chuckle].

Alright Diane. I have a long day ahead of me. Have to walk laps around the station hallways to exercise the knee. Thankfully. . .I have a very good mall-walking partner!

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Twenty February twenty-two. Oh Six. . .uh. . .Oh five hours. Chat soon Diane.

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STOPPED.

**PA CHIME
OVER THE LOUD SPEAKER**

CHERYL-LYNN

Good morning ya'll and I hope all my polies are doing wonderful this morning. Today is February 20th and its oh nine hundred on the tick. This is Ms. Cheryl-Lynn here with your South Pole Daily announcements.

TAPE RECORDER BUTTON CHEESY FANFARE HORNS

During the Winter season, Doctor Bremmer our station psychiatrist wants to remind everybody they are welcome to schedule any visits they may need outside of the twice monthly check in. Let's make sure we keep all the attics in good shape people! More than anywhere else, Mental health is important to us all.

TAPE RECORDER BUTTON CHEESY FANFARE HORNS

Okay, this is exciting! Tonight, at Twenty-Hundred; the South Pole Billiards Open will begin. All interested contestants should register with coach Glenn for rankings and to establish the elimination rounds in August. As a reminder, any physical contact to include bumping, pushing, kicking, or biting will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disqualification. Let's not have a repeat of last season!

TAPE RECORDER BUTTON CHEESY FANFARE HORNS

As a reminder, we are still observing code white conditions over the next week due to higher than anticipated winds. All those walking to and from external stations are encouraged to travel with a buddy, and have radios with them. Also, Doctor Ambrose STRONGLY discourages any of ya'll getting all naked, sitting in the sauna and then running your naked backsides outside for the 300 club. That goes double for Ya'll in the Fire crew. With those, toned muscles. . .the tummys I could bounce a quarter off of. . .them tight little tushies that. . .whew, dear lord I apologize for where I was going there. [WHEW]

TAPE RECORDER BUTTON CHEESY FANFARE HORNS

Give me a second here ya'll. [Clear throat] wow it's hotter than the devil's armpit in Ops now! Starting this Saturday evening, there will be a new 30-minute recorded program that will air on our internal station entertainment feed. Every Saturday night for the next eighteen weeks, you'll be able to watch

PAPER RUSTLE

Cooking Continental Cuisine Program, with our own Custodian Mikhail

FROM OFF IN THE DISTANCE

MIKHAIL

How many times. . . .JANITOR!

CHERYL-LYNN

Join him as he shows you how to prepare station personal favorites such as. . .Goulash! Potatoes Slices in Pie. Rukat Krumpli, Goat and Sheep Stew surprise and. . .baked Alaska. So don't forget to tune in, Each and every Saturday evening at nineteen hundred hours to C.C.C.P. with Mikhail!

TAPE RECORDER BUTTON CHEESY FANFARE HORNS

And finally, a word from our own Station Manager, Doctor Waynewright. Dear colleagues and station workers. It is during these dark and bleak winter months that it becomes ever so important to conserve and reduce the amount of energy consumed on station. Turning out lights as you exit a room, Not recharging your portable devices every evening, limiting use of laundry and hot water consumption all aid in ensuring there is sufficient power available for . . . critical station operations. Please keep this in mind as we see to our weekly routines.

Now, just so we're clear . . . I did ask and no, he is not suggesting ya'll sin by showering with a buddy; Mister Ferguson!

So there you go! You take care now my polies. Make sure you get your exercise in, drink plenty of fluids and keep yourself entertained! You have a wonderful and blessed day!
Thank youuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!

PA SOUND END

FADE IN. ALTHOUGH WE HEAR THE FAMILIAR STATION HUM, THERE IS ALMOST NOBODY AROUND IN THE WINTER SEASON. THE HALLWAYS ARE VOID OF ANY PEOPLE, OTHER THAN THE RANDO WHO WALKS BY. THE SENSE OF TRUE ISOLATION AND REMOTNESS IS THICK IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

KENDRA

You. . . you get used to it after a while.

BASS

It's just so quiet. I remember being up late at night over summer; two or three in the morning and the hallways were so quiet, so still. But to be like this all the time? Its eerie!

KENDRA

I enjoy it more. Less people around. Less. . . chances to get anxious over. . . over something small.

BASS

How many Winter seasons will this be for you again?

KENDRA

Six. The first one . . . first winterover there were even less of us. Thirty-two I believe. One of the smallest winterover teams on record. I mean, you do everything you would normally do in the summer season, just. . . not so many others around.

WALKING STOPS, A FEW SECONDS OF SILENCE

BASS

It's so strange. All I hear is the hum of the stations heating system and the wind outside. No people in the halls, no sound coming from the galley. No plane engines on the iceway.

KENDRA

Bit of advice?

BASS

Please.

KENDRA

For most people, the persistent hum without any other background noise can be louder than a concert after a while. Not. . . that I've even been to a concert. Hell, haven't even been to a dance. But. . . um. . . Music! That's where I was going. Music softly as you sleep, or earbuds in while you work. It helps.

BASS

Makes sense. Like drowning out the jet engine noises when you're flying. I'll give it a shot. Now, you never been to a concert? Like . . . ever?

WALKING STARTS AGAIN

KENDRA

You've known me for a while Bass. Can you *honestly* see me going anywhere near that many people. All crammed to. . .[shiver] just even. . .thinking about it. Ick.

BASS

[deep breath] Yeah, I guess that would be true. Nothing like seeing a group live however, like Klymaxx, Soul 2 Soul, Richard Mar. . .you don't know a single one of those groups, do you?

KENDRA

[snicker] No. Probably a bit before my time.

BASS

[Imitate old man] Hrmmm, sorry sweetie, can ya speak up? I'm Deef in this ear.

KENDRA

[slaps shoulder] You're not THAT old Bass! Knock it off!

BASS

Okay. So, never attended any concerts. You had to have attended school dances?

KENDRA

Nope.

BASS

Homecoming? Sadie Hawkins? Themed dances?

KENDRA

None of it.

BASS

Okay. But what about Prom?

KENDRA

Never went. Was too busy. . . . studying. Too busy trying to get out of that. . . . adolescent factory full of testosterone, fake school pep and two-faced. . . . I just wanted to get on with my own life.

STOP WALKING AGAIN

BASS

Sorry if I. . . I didn't mean to touch upon anything. . .

KENDRA

[Reassuring]

You didn't but could we. . . please change . . .

BASS

[Quickly]

Absolutely! Not a problem! *[TWO BEAT]* How are things going in the DSL. No problems after, the incident with Waynewright in ops?

KENDRA

So, you heard about that?

BASS

[chuckle], yeah. Zeke filled me in a few days ago. For as angry as Waynewright was at the time, he's more embarrassed about the incident and with nobody actually seeing what happened or who had the tazer. . . .

KENDRA

Oh! [sigh] Yes, I'm still getting the cold shoulder. Both from Doctor Van Zandt and from Doctor Waynewright. While nobody 'officially' saw what happened, and nobody is stepping forward to comment. . .well, they may be arrogant egotists with their secrets, but they're not simpletons either. Waynewright knows it was me.

BASS

Well. There is what he suspects, and then there is what he can prove. Given his; popularity on station and in general, I don't think there is anything for you to worry about.

KENDRA

[Teasing]

So then, I don't need to worry about the 'Ice Sheriff' coming to question me. Lock me up and interrogate me for hours upon hours?

BASS

[Surprised]

Well, I'm sure if you play your cards. . . .

KENDRA

[BLURT OUT]

I LOVE YOU TOO!

AWKARD SILENCE

BASS

What. . .brought that on?

KENDRA

[Quickly trying to explain]

Last week, before. . .before you left the station you told. . . told me you loved me. Wanted me. . .there were so many, so much. WHEW! I tried to say it several times, but something ALWAYS seems to. . .with this station. UGH! So, the best way to get it out is to do something unexpected. Something the station. . .doesn't expect. I .LOVE.YOU.TOO!

BASS

Well, nothing got in the way. Nothing stopped us. Hrm, you took quite the gamble there Doctor Jennings!

KENDRA

Well, the reward was worth it now wasn't it, Deputy Marshal Marlow. . . .

BASS

[Playful]

Come here you. . . .

SOUND OF FABRIC AGAINST THE BODY CAMERA'S MIC. THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TO LOCK LIPS WHEN. . .

THOMAS

HEY GUYS! Zeke asked. . .oh. . . .OHHHH! I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. . . .

BASS

[Half-Joking, have surprised]

Seriously? The Ice can't just let us enjoy each other for TWO SECONDS?

KENDRA

That's okay Thomas. What's going on?

THOMAS

[Confused , then on-task, urgent]

I'm. . .uh, Zeke asked me to find the Deputy Marshal. Said he didn't want to use the radio. Wanted this to be off the record.

BASS

No problem. Tell Zeke I'm on my way. Might need some help going down the Beer Can steps with this banged up knee!

THOMAS

Oh, I'll help you down there Deputy! Let me grab my cold weather gear and I'll meet you at the Beer can doors. Sorry again for. . .the. . .um. . .please, smooch away!

FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY

BASS

You ever notice how you never hear him approach? He's like a Ninja! The world's most considerate, childlike innocent, Jewish Ninja.

[Kendra Laughs]

KENDRA

We still on for dinner and a movie?

BASS

Number 5 on my list of things to scratch off after I was rescued. Kept me focused after we crashed and my mind busy. Gave me me reason to go on and motivation to get off that mountain.

KENDRA

That is so sweet, Bass! [Sly giggle] So. . .what was number one?

BASS

[Embarrassed laugh]

Umm.

KENDRA

[Faux Shock and Offense]

[GASP] Deputy Bass Marlow! I am a LADY who must be courted and properly wooed! A woman of fine moral character.

BASS

[Plays along]

And as an officer, as a gentleman, and a son of Kansas I would absolutely NEVER insult the honor or presume the virtue of such a lady could ever be. . .

SOUND OF A SUDDEN KISS

KENDRA

[Teasing]

You better go, your boyfriend is waiting on you!

BASS

[Joking as she walks away]

YEAH, WELL HIM I'VE SEEN NAKED!

KENDRA

[Walking away, over her shoulder]

Well, if you play YOUR cards right tonight, Deputy Marshal Marlow . . .

TWO SECONDS, CANE ACCIDENTLY DROPS

BASS

Son of a bitch, she did it again!

SLOW FADE OUT!

ELCTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STARTED

SOUND OF WALKING SOWLY DOWN STEPS. WE'RE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BEER CAN AND ABOUT TO GO THROUGH THE CARRY-OVER GANG PLAN TO THE ARCHES.

THOMAS

. . . Just how great it is to have you back with us?

BASS

Several times now Mister Kelley. It's good to be back. Guess that kinda makes me an 'ungone' huh?

THOMAS

[chuckles] back with us one week and already you're picking up our lingo again! [Careful] Okay, last flight of steps Deputy.

BASS

Appreciate the help Mister Kelley. For what it's worth, stay young and healthy for as long as you can manage! This getting old thing isn't like it was in the catalogue.

SLOW STEP PROGRESS, GRUNTING AND EASING DOWN.

THOMAS

Okay, the eagle has landed! Mind if I come with you? Need to catch you up on everything that has been going on this last week.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING FROM THE DISTANCE

BASS

No objection at all Mister Kelley. After we chat with. . .speak of the devil!

ZEKE

Sorry about that lawman. Keep forgetting you on the D.L. Would have come up to you had'n I remembered, but since you made it this far!

THOMAS

What's D.L.?

ZEKE

Baseball term. Disabled list. They changed it to Injured List or I.L. last year. Keep forgetting that, should use the less offensive word! Let's walk and talk!

BASS

What's so important or sensitive that you'd send Mister Kelley to get me vs. the phone or radio?

A FEW MORE STEPS

ZEKE

Yeah. . .okay then, let's just get a little further in and past. . .

THE BOYZ WALK PAST TWO PEOPLE CHATTING OUTSIDE THE L.O. ARCHES

ZEKE

Okay. So, remember when we kept having all them power flickers?

BASS

[Chuckle] Zeke, I was only away for 1 week, not the whole season. I remember.

ZEKE

Well, after the last one and after going almost a month without another one. . . .

THOMAS

Until yesterday. . .

ZEKE

Right. Until the one yesterday, we had no idea what was going on. Well. [whispers] now. . .we do.

SEVERAL UNEASY MOMENTS PASS

BASS

[Extremely curious]

And???

ZEKE

Uh-uh, not here. We goin inside for this one. [joking] You. . .you need me carry you, Lawman? Cause, damn sure wouldn't be the first time!

BASS

Just point the way, I'm good.

ZEKE

Yeah, you look it! Need me get yo walker Grandpa?

BASS

Seriously! Can still wrestle you to the ground if I have to!

ZEKE

Okay, okay! Respect! Tommy. . .get the door. We're going to the VMF bay.

WALKING THROUGH THE AIRLOCK AND DOWN THE HALLWAY. SOUND OF THE SHOP IN FULL SWING.

ZEKE

ALRIGHT PEOPLE, YOU ALL TAKING A FIFTEEN MINUTE ON ME! GET THE HELL OUT! KEENAN! Boy, I find just one more roach at any of your workstations, we gonna have us a summit. President boot is going to meet ambassador dumbass' ass! NOW GET!

THOMAS

Ambassador dumbass?

ZEKE

Was only half-trying. Low blood sugar today. Anyway. About a month back, we put sensors on all the primary station electrical panels. They called 'E-MON sensors. Records and shows you the electrical draw on any box in 15-minute blocks for up to 2 months. After yesterday's flick, had my crew pull them all for review.

BASS

What they tell you?

ZEKE

Seconds before the flicker, there was a massive draw of power coming from the panel that feeds the lights and ducting inside the Ice Tunnels. It was eating up so much energy. . .

THOMAS

[Finishes for him]

That it draws from the rest of the station which is why we're getting flickering when it happens.

ZEKE

That it exactly! I'm having the EMON sensors put back so I can verify when it happens again that it's the cause. Not just a fluke.

BASS

[Thinking out loud]

So whatever Waynewright, Van Zandt, Jovac. . .and whoever they got to replace Doctor Rodney. .

THOMAS

Doctor Jemma Lorenz. Came on station a few days after you did last season Deputy Marshal. Replaced Dr. Rodney in the Ice Cube lab as well as on Project Atlas.

BASS

Okay, then so whatever they're. . .*[suspicious]* How are you aware of project Atlas mister Kelley?

THOMAS

Oh, I don't know what that is exactly, just that it's some hush-hush project Beauregard-Lowing is funding, and nobody is supposed to know about. *[Whispers]* My guess, is that they're working on a renewable energy engine!

BASS

So. . .this entire time. . .you've known the project exists? You never mentioned in our interviews!

THOMAS

Well, it isn't really a 'secret' project if I go around mentioning it. Besides, there isn't much that happens on the research facility I'm not in the know about. It's why they made me operations manager! I see supply requests, financial analysis, budget reports, departmental updates, grant details. I mean heck. . .the funding that Atlas is receiving could pay for three Amundsen-Scott stations to be run year-round.

ZEKE

Also, one of the reasons Tommy is the only Dexter I let down here from topside. No sense keeping him out. He knows everything we're doing down here anyway, and he respect the rules.

THOMAS

Oh yeah, new copper tubing for your still came in with the last supply drop!

ZEKE

[Embarrassed]

Yeah, yeah. . . .later for that Tommy!

BASS

[Frustrated]

Is there anything else. . . ANYTHING, Mister Kelley that you should bring to my attention now about the power flickers, the murder of Doctor Rodney or the attempt on my life?

THOMAS

Which one?

BASS

What?

THOMAS

Which attempt on your life. The soaked chemical rag or the plane crash sabotage?

BASS

[Gives him a 'seriously' look]

EITHER!

ZEKE

Easy Lawman, you do currently hold the station record for murder attempts on his life. My man had a valid question!

THOMAS

No. Absolutely nothing else I can think of that would be relevant Deputy Marshal, Scouts honor!

BASS

And you have *NO* idea what Atlas is all about?

THOMAS

Just what it costs to run and maintain, that's it.

TWO SECOND PAUSE

BASS

[Thinking Aloud]

Okay. We have a 'who'. We have a 'where'. We have the beginnings of a 'what'. Need to continue baking that and develop the 'why'. *[Clicking thought sounds]* Zeke, you share the sensor finding with any of your crew?

ZEKE

Only figured this out myself an hour ago. Wanted to talk to you first. Nobody but us knows.

BASS

Perfect. For now, let's not bring anybody else into the fold. I need to figure out next steps. Mr. Kelley, continue to watch for anything that might be of interest to us on Project Atlas. Anything that might tell us what they're doing in there.

THOMAS

[Excited]

Oh boy, It'll be just like Harriet the spy!

BASS

. . . .Could have said James Bond or Simon Templar. . but okay, you got it Harriet. Zeke, after the next event, if it's still the tunnels causing the draw, have your team think you're shutting down the monitoring due to it not working. Don't need anybody getting too ambitious and checking themselves.

ZEKE

Copy that!

BASS

I'll see what I can do on my end to vet out this Doctor Lorenz and see if I can get anything additional from Jovac or Van Zandt. With Sabotage being all but confirmed with the station's ops center and the LC-130 out. . .I just landed two new investigations! Will need to question people.

SLOW FADE OUT

***ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STARTED
BACKGROUND HUM OF THE STATION***

BASS

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Twenty February twenty-twenty two. Seventeen Forty-Five hours. Diane, this is Day one, Amundsen Scott Sabotage investigation / LC-130 Flight ANG-0492.

[Sing] 'Back in the saddle, again. '

With direction from the Marshal's service, the NSF along with the Air National Guard & National Safety Transportation Board I've been officially tasked to lead this investigation and review of factors which led to the crash and presumed attempted murder of 5 individuals, myself amongst them.

Official orders transmitted an hour ago, along with a personal intimate request from Acting US Marshal Torrez which. . .I don't think is even medically possible. [snicker]

Best thing about this Diane, is that I don't have to run Jack, nor shit past the gatekeepers at Beau-Low any longer. Always feels good when I don't have any pencil pushers other than our own looking over my shoulder!!

Initial reports submitted and analysis from the A.N.G & N.S.T.B are being sent electronically this evening. Given the remoteness and weather, on-site crash analysis won't be possible until the summer season returns. That said, and just like last year, our suspect pool and the responsible party is still on the station. Other than one individual who. . . .[Beat] who didn't make it back to Amundsen Scott, somebody here is the saboteur.

Tomorrow I'll begin with interviews of Station Area Manager Doctor Lawrence Waynewright, Station head of Operations Mister Thom. . . .*de ja vu!* Mister Kelley and Captain James Trager, U.A.G. End Formal report, US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Twenty February twenty-twenty two. Seventeen . . .fifty hours.

Alright Diane, just like old times. Everything following is OTR, just us chatting. Zeke confirmed that whatever project Atlas is, it's most likely the cause of the station's power flickers. What Waynewright and the Science all-stars having going on in the Ice Tunnels is responsible.

Do me a favor and get me a full background dossier on a Doctor Tamara Lorenz. I met Doctor Lorenz briefly a few months ago. Had no idea she was Rodney's replacement. *[snicker]* Wonder how they old boys felt when they had to let a girl in their secret boyz club? **Woman!** Sorry Diane. . .I can already see that raised eyebrow of yours. . .we say 'women' now, not girls. Sorry! I swear one day. . .yeah, no I won't!

Had to let Mister Kelley into the fold. He was around when Zeke and I started talking. Honestly, I'm at the point now where I think he can be fully trusted. *[Beat]* HA! I just realized something *[beat]* that for the moment. . .I'll have to treat them like suspects until I can officially clear them of the sabotage. Oh, that's going to go over super well.

It's. . .really quiet here in the Winter Diane. In the summer there is always people chatting in the halls. Zeke's crew on the Ice, Cargo loaders getting materials set up. It's busier than you'd think. Now, with only 50 people and change and in the station. This silence is going to get to me. Going to need to find a noise machine or something. While I was able to salvage the pack with my clothes and personal effects. Everything else. . .work equipment, files, tools, Old western playlist on my phone is still on the side of Mount Markham.

Had to visit SCUA for toiletries and grooming items. Right. . .um, Scua's are these little scavenger birds on the coast of Antarctic, around McMurdo. They pick up stuff laying around or they find out and gather it all together in piles. When a summer worker heads back to the world, they have to travel lite, so they leave anything they don't need and the brought with them in a pile that is free to anybody who needs it over the Winter. They call it SCUA piles. Clothes, necessities, snacks, booze. The works. Even found a Tux my size. Why somebody on station needed a tux, I don't know. . .but it was my size so I'm having it cleaned; have a great idea for it. More on that later.

[Sigh] I could really use some of Chuck's advice right now. Tell me I have way too much Donkey Brains to be partial in another investigation where I was almost the victim. Tell me I'm [does a chuck impression] *in over your head, son*. I miss that old man! What is it they say Diane? With the passing of the last of the elders, we become them.

Alright, enough of that. I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep. It's Chow time, D! Ms. Alice has Sirloin, rice and veggies on the menu tonight. Afterwards, we have back-to-back monster movies in the B-One lounge. Wolfman 1941 vs. Wolfman 2010. Chaney vs. Del Torro! Catch up soon.

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STOPPED

FADE INTO THE MOVIE LOUNGE. ITS JUST BASS AND KENDRA IN THE LOUNGE. UNLIKE IN THE PAST, IN ADDITION TO THE STATION HUM THE OCASSIONAL GUST OF WIND IS AUDIBLE FROM OUTSIDE. WE HEAR THE CLASSIC MOSTER MOVIE SCORE ON THE TELEVISION, ANNOUNCING A TENSE SCENE.

KENDRA

[Confused]

How is this scary? It's an old guy with make-up and fur glued to his face, running on a movie set?

BASS

Blasphemy! This is a classic. You have to remember this is 1940's. Nobody really had TV back then. Everybody went to the theaters for visual entertainment and back then, the make-up effect artists were absolute Picassos, Rembrandts of the movies. Yeah, the actors played the parts but the makeup. . . sold it! It's the sizzle you're buying, not the steak!

KENDRA

I liked the first Werewolf one more. With Anthony Hopkins and the guy from the Matrix movie.

BASS

Hugo Weaving. It's a good film as well. It's a stunning remake; but side by side against the original and viewed through the lens of their day. . .still doesn't measure up. Want more popcorn?

KENDRA

No Thank you. I'm okay. How are you doing?

BASS

I'll probably have a bit more.

KENDRA

[Serious]

No. I mean. With the crash, with . . .everything that happened, while you. . .were on the mountain?

FEW MOMENTS SILENCE, JUST THE SOUND OF THE MOVIE

BASS

[Deadpan]

I'm fine.

KENDRA

Oh. . .okay then. I just want to . . .just want to make sure that. . .um. Have you thought about talking to Doctor Bremmer?

BASS

[Deadpan]

No.

KENDRA

Okay. I'm . . .oh-oh okay.

BASS

Look, I. . .appreciate your concern. No lie! It's just. I'm not sure that. . .

MOVIE PAUSES

BASS

Kendra, I. . .remember, bits. Not, everything. I mean, up until Nichols hit me in the back of the head, all that I remember perfectly, it's just. . .between that and returning to the station. It's hazy.

KENDRA

Well, you did say that. . .Doctor Ambrose said you suffered a concussion. For the first day you were back with us. . . you were. . .um. . .it was difficult to understand you for a bit.

BASS

[Distant]

Yeah, I remember you telling me that. It's not until a few days after being back that things got better. That the fog lifted.

KENDRA

Hey! Look at me Bass. Look at me! We don't have to deal with this right now. When you're ready. I think if we BOTH learned ANYTHING up to now. . .it's that rushing too soon is a horrible idea. Yes?

BASS

[Chuckle]

Ain't that the truth!

QUICK KISS SOUND

KENDRA

Do you want to finish the show? I . . .didn't mean to ruin your movie night!

BASS

[Mind wandering]

Hrm? No. *[Back to present]* No, NO! NO.No.No you didn't Kendra. You didn't ruin anything. I am exactly where I want to be! No doubt in my mind.

KENDRA

I mean, don't get me wrong. . .I wish you did get some time back on the mainland before you had to come back down here, but having you back at the station. It's. . . .well, I like having you here too!

BASS

I wasn't talking about the station Kendra. I was talking about you and me. Us. The relationship. *This*, right here, you and me. This is exactly where I want to be.

SILENCE FOR A FEW MOMENTS

KENDRA

[Serious, taking charge]

Okay! You may just be the most romantic man that ever walked the face. . .

HOWLING COMING FROM OUTSIDE

BASS

I thought we paused the movie?

KENDRA

Ignore the bumbles! This is our night!

BASS

What are Bumbles?

PA SIGNAL

CHERYL

[Over PA]

All right ya'll; you know the drill! Spotlights out and scanning the area, let's flush them back. New winterovers, grab yourself a strong flashlight and stick with a buddy. Deputy Marshal, come to ops please will ya hon? [loud whisper] Sorry about your date night, Shug. Oh good gravy, them babies is gonna be sooo cutttteeeeeeee!!!

OUTTRO AND CREDITS