

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE FOUR: OLD ROUTINES

DRAFT 1: MAR 30, 2022

DRAFT 2: APR 21, 2022

DRAFT 3: MAY 15, 2022

FINAL DRAFT: MAY30, 2022

by
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SONG AND INTRO

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STARTED

BASS

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Four March twenty-twenty two. Oh Nine Oh Four hours. This is Day twelve, Amundsen Scott Sabotage investigation / LC-130 Flight ANG-0492 Crash. In my office is Chief of Facilities Ezekiel. . .**FRANCIS** Bustamante.

ZEKE

[Annoyed]

Told you I don't like my middle name lawman!

BASS

[Teasing him]

Yes. . . .yes you did.

BASS

Mister Bustamante, for the record can you confirm I've explained all your rights, you understand this is a voluntary discussion and you are free to leave at any time?

ZEKE

Oh yeah. . .you can say I've seen this movie a few times in my day.

BASS

[Friendly serious]

C'mon Zeke, we talked about this. . .you gotta take it seriously!

ZEKE

Oh, okay okay lawman. *[Clears throat, leans into the digital recorder]* Yes, Deputy.Marshal.Bass.Marlow. You.Have.read.me.my.rights. I.am.clear.upon.this.fact!

FEW SECONDS SILENCE

BASS

. . . .interview suspended.

RECORDING STOPPED

RECORDING STARTED

BASS

Interview Resuming. . . Now, Chief Bustamante, when did you first discover the ops station radar and communications panels had been tampered with?

ZEKE

[Overly dramatic]

So, there I was. . . keeping the station running like a well-oiled machine, when I saw the most suspicious thing. It was like an evil shadow, came out of the north and started to act all up.

BASS

. . . .interview suspended.

RECORDING STOPPED

RECORDING STARTED

ZEKE

. . . .and not only that, it's kinda insulting Lawman if'n I'm being honest! There was twelve different people with me all day loading winter Cargo when the planes systems log showed the disconnection. It was six thirty AM. Hell, that's almost the EXACT time you came down to tell me goodbye! Shit Bass, you the best witness I could have!

BASS

And the bypass of the bottle system on the Herc?

ZEKE

My crew inspected her after she landed the day before. All systems checked out. Cross checked by the flight deck stand-in and Captain whatshisname hisself! The only time somebody could have gone into the cockpit to bypass the safeties and lock her in diagnostic would have been just before takeoff. Same as with ops, I was in VMF with my crew after Kendra sang. We had all gathered to listen to her country song.

BASS

That's all I was looking for. Just needed it to come directly from you, with no prompting from me and . . .you know. . .
.ACTUALLY being serious.

TWO SECOND PAUSE

ZEKE

Why that thing flashing? You recording?

BASS

This is US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Four March twenty-twenty two. Oh Nine Forty-five hours. Chief of Facilities Ezekiel. . .FRANCSIS Bustamante officially cleared as suspect.

ZEKE

Now turn that thing off so I can come over there and put my Size 14 up yo. . .

RECORDING STOPPED

RECORDING STARTED

BASS

This is US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Four March twenty-two. Eleven -Ten hours. I'm in Conference room B Two Two Four. This is the Amundsen Scott Sabotage investigation / LC-130 Flight ANG-0492 Crash. Gentlemen, I need you to understand, right out of the chute. . .this is highly unusual as Interviews are typically conducted one on one. That said, may I have your names for the official record.

IT CHRIS

Christopher Shannon Todd

IT EMERY

Hi Deputy Marshal!

IT CHRIS

Dude! You have to give him your full name before we chit-chat!

BASS

We're not chit-chatting fellas. This is a formal and official documented conversation. But Mr. Todd is right Mr. Waters. . . I need *you* to give your full name.

IT EMERY

Emery Bad-Ass Waters

BASS

[Sighs] For the record and as established in the Rodney Homicide investigation, Mr. Water's actual, legal middle name is; in fact. . . Bad-Ass.

IT CHRIS

You'd think having that as a middle name would have prevented you from being picked on in High-School. Not the case at all from our time there!

IT EMERY

What can I say? I'm more the snuggling panda type than crouching tiger!

IT CHRIS

That was Hidden Dragon, not Snuggling Panda, Wu-Tang clan! Anyway Deputy Marshal, you get us as a pair or not at all. Always two there are. One master, and one apprentice.

IT EMERY

Oh let me guess who 'The Master' is in your analogy there, Obi-NONE!

IT CHRIS

Please. . .ignore the young Padawan, Deputy Marshal! We're a duo team, like Batman & Robin; Felix & Oscar. Bert and Ernie!

IT EMERY

OH MY GOD! Can you do or say anything more obvious to make us sound like a progressive suburban couple?

IT CHRIS

Siegfried & Roy!

IT EMERY

THAT'S EVEN WORSE! EXECPT NOW CAROL BASKIN'S CROUCHING TIGER MAULS ME AS ROY! KIRK AND SPOCK. . . THAT WOULD HAVE WORKED! HAN AND CHEWBACA, NOBODY READING ANYTHING INTO THAT ONE! JOEY AND CHANDLER. . . COULD YOU *BEEEE* ANYMORE DIM-WITTED?

BASS

GENTLEMEN! I am not interested in anybody's personal lives or inclinations. What you do behind closed doors is none of my or the US government's business. This is an investigation about the station and plane's sabotage.

IT CHRIS

Frodo & Sam!

IT EMERY

[Pause] Okay! The judges are going to allow that one. Hobbits Rock!

IT CHRIS

For Shizzle My Shire-Dizzle!

BASS

[SIGHS LOUD, then under his breath] Water tested out fine, so I know it's not that. *[Clear Throat]* Okay fellas, I have a great idea. Let's play. . . 'I ask the questions, you give concise, meaningful answers' How's that?

IT CHRIS

See? Told you you'd piss him off!

IT EMERY

ME? YOU'RE THE PERSON. . . .

BASS

Question one! According to the systems diagnostic, which was run on the ops station panel, the data showed a virus being downloaded at precisely. . . Twelve thirty-two PM. Introduced from a thumb drive into one of the USB slots in the communication's tower drive. Also the exact time of the engine explosion on the LC-130.

IT CHRIS

That's not a question Deputy. It's a statement.

BASS

. . . Because I haven't gotten to the question part yet. I was pausing for effect.

IT EMERY

Very good, setting the tone and tenor of the conversation.
Kudos to youdos sir!

BASS

Where were you guys at six thirty-two that day?

EMERY

Galley!

CHRIS

IT Office!

BASS

You two want a moment to pool your memories?

IT EMERY

Uhhhhh, don't need to. The 11th of February was a Friday.
What do we do EVERY Friday at breakfast Chris?

IT CHRIS

Huh [Beat]. . .he's actually right Deputy Marshal [*Under
breath*] for once. [*Normal Voice*] Every Friday at breakfast
time we debate the merits of Johnny Quest being the best
Hanna Barbara Cartoon of them all. .

IT EMERY

For once? Whatever! You got lost inside a Target once

IT CHRIS

I was distracted by the Xbox games!

IT EMERY

For nine hours?

BASS

OKAY! So you were in the galley at six and for breakfast. Do
you remember seeing anybody and would they remember
seeing you?

IT EMERY

Oh yeah! Absolutely. Lunch Lady Alice and Betty were there. A couple of the new DeWalt's. Jesus and. . .whathisname?

IT CHRIS

The big, tall German guy. Never talks. Lars!

IT EMERY

Lars! Whooo yeah! He is a big'un!

BASS

Okay. in your expert technological opinions, how hard would it have been to tailor and create the virus that took out the ops systems?

IT CHRIS

From what we saw on the hard-drive Zeke brought us, the program wasn't all that complex. It targeted and interrupted radar and communications programs, but nothing else. We could have whipped something like that up fairly easy!

IT EMERY

We?

IT CHRIS

Yes Em, we!

BASS

So, the program. . .could be put on any thumb drive and it would . . .activate. . .go on its own after being inserted?

IT CHRIS

Correct.

BASS

Did. . . either of you see anybody acting; um, unusual? In an overly anxious state or seem overly-rushed that morning.

IT CHRIS

[Trying to recall]

Not *[beat]* that I can remember. Well, except. . . .

BASS

Except what?

IT CHRIS

When Doctor Jennings needed Em here to play pirate radio and break into the PA system.

IT EMERY

ALLEGEDLY! Allegedly, break into the P.A. system. Not that I'm admitting to anything!

BASS

Not the subject-matter I'm investigating Mr. Waters. You're all good there.

IT EMERY

[Frustrated]

This! This is what we mean Chris, when we say, 'fold under questioning'.

BASS

Hrmm. *[Beat]* Alright gentlemen. Just like last time I'd appreciate if you two didn't discuss the conversation we had with anybody else or what we talked about today.

IT CHRIS

You got it Deputy!

IT EMERY

Kiss-ass! Johnny Quest is NOT the best Hanna Barbara cartoon. What About Space Ghost? Crime fighter, mysterious, has power wristbands!

IT CHRIS

Has two teen twin sidekicks and a space monkey. Gee, never heard of that combination Jan and Zanna from the Superfriends. Gleek the monkey indeed. Plagiarist!

IT EMERY

Superfriends was Hanna Barbara too. You can't plagiarize from yourself Chris; but guess YOU wouldn't know that huh!

IT CHRIS

[GASP] Well I don't know what you mean by THAT insinuation, but it can also be said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. But not for Space Ghost.

IT EMERY

Whose insinuating? I'm flat out saying that you're taking way more credit out of this partnership than is appropriate, unlike Space Ghost who is due everything he earned.

IT CHRIS

And HOW am I taking too much credit for being the primary inspiration for 99% of the systems and solutions that come out of this office?

IT EMERY

PRIMARY????? You still have to read the instructions on the side of the pop tart box before you cook them! They're pop-tarts Chris! There hasn't been an upgrade in toaster technology in our entire lives. The instructions have never changed.

BASS

THIS IS U.S. Deputy Bass Marlow. Happily ending the conversation at eleven twenty hours. Not sitting through another one of these debates. IT boys are cleared as suspects.

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STOPPED

DIGITAL RECORDING BEEP

BACKGROUND HUM OF THE STATION

BASS

US Marshal Bass Marlow investigation continuance. Initial interviews continue this week. Have completed 70% of the first-round interviews of station staff present during the attempt made upon life or lives of those on flight 0492.

No single suspect has floated to the top as of this time. I have multiple individuals who cannot recall or cannot provide verifiable alibies during the window identified when the virus was introduced nor when the plane's systems were impacted. While motive is leaning toward murder of one of the individuals, the true reason why. . . is alluding me.

There was nothing to indicate that Josh Nichols was working with a partner while on station and in the murder of Doctor Rodney. Nobody to attempt to silence him for naming them as an accomplice. Neither did Mr. Nichols infer such at any time.

I would be the next logical target of a murder attempt, but again. . .for what purpose? If there was an accomplice, that would be a viable reason. [Pause] Of course. . .being familiar with a top-secret defense contract project and probing into that project is also not an unreasonable motive.

Captain Traeger was not a resident of the station and only transports supplies and passengers to and from the station. There would be no reason for him to be the target.

Mr. Ferguson & Doctor Timms? I'm set to talk with them late next week. Determine if there might be any reason for somebody to attempt to crash a plane they were on, but I'm doubtful of such.

Something more is at play here Diane! *[TWO BEAT]* I know, that is normally the case at this station, but I don't feel that either Josh Nichols nor myself were the true intended target. More to come on this.

I've started to put together a supply list of items and personal affects that I'll need now that I'm living down here. Once the winter season ends, I plan on flying out to Honolulu for a few weeks. Collect some of my personal effects. Pay. . . my respects to Chuck and Janet. I'd also like to catch up with you as well Diane.

This. . .this whole assignment, the past 8 months is not something I ever suspected would have happened. I'm getting up there in years, I thought I'd been through all the surprises that life could throw at me. Yet, here I am. At the South Pole. The only formal Deputy Marshal ever officially assigned, and back in. . .ah hell. . .I'll say it. I don't believe in Jinxes. Back in love again.

Oh! I didn't mention. . .How could I forget!. . .so, in addition to having a demon, a time door portal, a receiver that picks up future prediction messages from a distance galaxy, an individual from an alternate reality, a super-secret lab facility that gobbles power and a station of. . .unique individuals. . .we haveYetis!

Well, not Yeti exactly. probably easier to just have you listen again. . .it's the recording from. . .

PAGES IN NOTEBOOK FLIPPING

From twenty February at right around twenty-two thirty hours.
The locals. .[chuckle] the locals call them, 'Bumbles'; still not
sure why.

FADE OUT BEGINS

Have a listen and tell me if you don't think this is one of the
more absurd. . . .

***ELECTRONIC BEEP; NEW BEEP SOUND – RECORDED VOICE: FILE PLAYBACK
ZERO TWO. TWENTY TWENTY TWO. TWENTY TWO TWENTY TWO HOURS.***

***DOOR TO OPS OPENS, STANDARD RADIO CHATTER AND BACKGROUND
NOISE OF PEOPLE WORKING***

BASS

Alright, I'm here. What's going on?

LARRY

[Smug]

Ah! **DEPUTY** Marshal Marlow. So. . . .happy to see you up and
mobile once again. As usual, you're coming in LATE to events,
already in progress.

BASS

[Half-Listening]

Good evening to you Doctor Waynewright. Please take this as
me inserting my typical witty retort to your thinly veiled insult
and let's accelerate to the part where you tell me what has
people on edge?

LARRY

[Huff] Ah sarcasm, the normal response from the intellectually
challenged!

BASS

Right. Okay! . . .Mister Kelley, Sit-Rep?

THOMAS

Bumbles Deputy Marshal! The Bumbles are back earlier than we predicted.

BASS

What's a 'Bumble'?

THOMAS

They're. . .*[Beat, thinks]* Well, only three people have ever really seen one. Unless you count that super grainy digital photo, somebody took two years ago. Too dark really.

LARRY

[Cuts In]

The creatures Mister Kelley is having problems classifying are said to be large. Two and a half meters tall. About 8ft. Very muscular, extremely hairy and resembling artistic representations of what we know as Homo Neanderthalensis.

BASS

Neanderthals? They went extinct almost fifty-thousand years ago!

LARRY

[Faux impressed]

Well now, looks like our *DEPUTY* Marshal managed to stay awake through a biology class or two. Very good Deputy! They seem to have a strong aversion to light, hence why we only ever encounter them in the winter season. They ransack the Jamesway huts, the exterior cargo huts and anything stored on the ice berms. They're scavengers mostly. We can scare them off with high powered spotlights we have at our disposal.

THOMAS

They tend to make a mess of things. They swipe random bits and haul them off to. . .wherever they come from. Other than the mess they leave we only ever find footprints and. . .well. . .pee.

BASS

Pardon?

LARRY

They urinate on our buildings to mark what they think of as their territory DEPUTY Marshal. Not unlike the domesticated male feline.

BASS

Wait wait wait. Are you saying these things are. . .Bigfoots?

THOMAS

Oh. . .it took several weeks to come up with a name everybody could agree with. For a while, we were using 'Wampas!'

RANDO

[Cough, Cough] COPYRIGHT! *[Cough, Cough]*

THOMAS

Exactly! Why tempt the mouse, right? Best to avoid legal entanglement. We tried Sasquatches, Yeti, Zeke REALLY wanted 'Ice-Foot' . . .there were Ice-Bears *[snickers from background]* but in the end. . .'Bumbles' won out!

BASS

Okay. Sure. *[Beat]* Why not. Giant, snowmen creatures that roam the tundra and only appear when there is no light. . . urinate on the external buildings and take things. The 'Bumbles'.

THOMAS

That's more or less it. You're all caught up! We were hoping you could help go out and make sure they're all scared off. You have that police high powered pocket flashlight. The one with the strobe! It's more powerful than most the battery powered spotlights we have.

LARRY

Plus, you have the stations only firearm, which. . .we will need to address at some point. . .soon. How you smuggled it onto the station without formal authorization!

BASS

I'll be sure to pencil it onto my day planner Waynewright. Of course, I'll help out Mister Kelley. Where are the people to drive them off gathering?

THOMAS

Down in the VMF bay. Zeke will lead out a team of ten or so people to sweep the grounds. Assuming we find them all, and run them off, they should stay away for a few weeks at least. I'll call ahead and let Zeke know you're on the way.

FADE OUT, OPS CENTER AND STATION HUM DISAPATE

FADE IN. WE'RE OUTSIDE. WIND IS HOWLING AND GUSTS ARE COMING IN AND OUT. WE ALSO HEAR FOOTSTEPS IN THE SNOW. EVERYBODY HAS TO SPEAK LOUDLY TO BE HEARD OVER THE WIND. TENSE AND DRAMATIC SEARCH MUSIC PLAYS.

ZEKE

WHAT YOU MEAN YOU NEED TO INTERVIEW ME AGAIN?

BASS

JUST THAT, WITH THE NEW INVESTIGATION, EVERYBODY IS BACK TO BEING A SUSPECT AGAIN. I NEED TO ESTABLISH TIMELINES, WHERE PEOPLE WERE WHEN THE STATION AND PLANE WERE TAMPERED WITH.

ZEKE

AWW NOT THAT SHIT AGAIN!

BASS

IT'S THE SAME AS THE FIRST TIME. I'LL JUST ASK YOU QUESTIONS, WHERE YOU WERE? WHAT YOU REMEMBER SEEING? LOOK, I KNOW THERE IS NO WAY IT'S YOU, BUT I STILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS. WOULD HELP IT GOES FASTER IF YOU TAKE IT SERIOUSLY TOO!!

ZEKE

[Thinking] SERIOUS. . .OKAY YEAH. YOU KNOW, HOW COME ANYTIME THERE IS SOMETHING GOES ON THAT I'M THE FIRST. . . .HEY. . .KEENAN! YOU GETTING' TOO CLOSE BOY, FAN OUT MORE. JESUS! HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO. . .

JESUS

YOU NEED ME CHIEF?

ZEKE

WHAT? NO! JUST STICK WITH ANNIE, SHE'LL SHOW YOU HOW THIS WORKS.

[TWO BEAT]

BASS

YOU KNOW IT'S A COMMON LATIN MALE NAME RIGHT

ZEKE

OH I KNOW, JUST EVERY TIME I'M TALKING ABOUT THE BIG MAN, HE POPS UP. LIKE HE ALWAYS THERE. ALWAYS LISTENING.

BASS

WE TALKING ABOUT THAT GUY OVER THERE, OR THE FAIRY TALE!

STOPS WALKING

ZEKE

HEY! WE TALKED ABOUT THIS BASS. I GET YOU DON'T BELIEVE NO MORE, AND I RESPECT THAT. BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT MAYBE I STILL HAVE FAITH. NOT ASKING THAT YOU AGREE, BUT I DON'T NEED YOU DISRESPECTING THAT!

BASS

YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE RIGHT! I APOLOGIZE, I TAKE IT BACK!

START WALKING

ZEKE

ALIGHT THEN. I'M SURE THEY BOTH FORGIVE YOU!

BASS

SO WHAT DOES JE. . THAT GUY OVER THERE DO AS A DeWALT?

ZEKE

RUNS THE WINTER CARP-SHOP!

BASS

HE'S A CARPENTER? SERIOUSLY. JUST LIKE THE OTHER GUY?

ZEKE

HAND TO HIS DAD, WHAT HE WAS HIRED TO DO!

DISTURBANCE CLOSEBY. SOUND LIKE MATERIALS FALLING. AS THEY APPROACH, PLAY GRUNTING NOISES.

BASS
YOU HEAR THAT?

ZEKE
YEAH, I DID.

ZIPPER SOUND AND HANDGUN UNHOLSTERS.

BASS
ZEKE. . .

ZEKE
I AIN'T GONNA BE THE FIRST ONE TO GET IT! NOT THIS CAT!
I'LL STAY BEHIND YOU. I KNOW THE DRILL!

BASS
STAY TIGHT BEHIND ME. ON THREE. ONE. . . .TWO. . . .
.THREE!

SLOW FOOTSTEPS. MUSIC SLIGHTLY GETS LOUDER, UNTIL IT QUICKLY FADES OUT

BASS
OK. ALL CLEAR! THINK IT WAS JUST THE WIND THAT KNOCKED
OVER THE TOOL CHESTS.

TWO BEAT, NO NOISE BUT THE WIND

ZEKE
LAWMAN.WE DON'T STORE TOOLCHESTS OUTSIDE
THE JAMESWAY HUTS.

LOUD, LOW ANIMAL GROWL. COMBIND THE GROWL OF A LION, GORILLA, TIGER AND HIPPO

BASS

THERE! LIGHTS!

ROAR AND THEN HEAVY FOOTSTEPS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE. HOWLING AS THEY MOVE OFF. LOUD YELLING OF THE OTHERS IN PURSUIT!

BASS

[IN SHOCK]

THAT! THAT WAS A. . . .A. . . .

ZEKE

YEAH! WE COULDN'T REALLY SETTLE ON A NAME EITHER. PEOPLE WANT TO BE CALLIN' EM BUMBLES. I THINK THAT'S LAME! TOO KIDDY-CARTOONY. I LIKE. . . ICE-FOOT!

BASS

[SNIFF SNIFF]

THE HELL IS THAT STENCH?

ZEKE

WHOA WHOA! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE LAWMAN. THAT THERE IS PISS! GET ON YOU IT AND IT TAKES WEEKS TO WASH OFF! WORSE THAN SKUNK SPRAY! MIKHAIL HAS A SPECIAL FORMULA WHIPPED UP THAT DE-STINK-AFIES IT. ONLY TAKES THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

BASS

BUT THEY. . .THEY EXSIST?

ZEKE

WHAT? ICE-FEET? THIS IS THE WEIRDEST THING YOU'VE SEEN DOWN HERE? SERIOUSLY?

RANDO
[OVER RADIO]
THEY'RE HAULIN' ASS PAST THE A.R.O. LAB CHIEF. I THINK
THAT ONE WAS THE LAST. YOU WANT US TO DO ANOTER
LOOP?

ZEKE
NAH, ALL THIS RACKET AND LIGHTS, THEY'D NOT BE STICKING
AROUND. GO AHEAD AND ROUND UP THE GANG, LET'S HANG
IT UP FOR THE NIGHT.

BASS
[STILL NOT UNDERSTANDING]
BUMBLES EXSIST.

ZEKE
ICE-FEET MAN! DONE TOLD YOU ONCE ALREADY. TELL YOU
WHAT. AFTER YOU COME TO GRIPS ON THIS, I'LL FILL YOU IN
ON THE ICE WOLVES!

FOOTSTEPS AND WIND DIES AND WE FADE OUT.

***ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED
WE'RE IN THE GALLY. ONLY MUZIK AND THE STATION HEATER HUM IN
THE BACKGROUND. IT'S LATE AND THERE ARE ONLT TWO PEOPLE HERE.
DISTORTION NOISE AS SANDRA APPROACHES***

SANDRA
I'm about to clock out for the evening deputy Marshal. You
sure I can't whip you up a sandwich or midnight snack?

SOUND OF CHAIR BEING PUSHED BACK

BASS

No thank you Ms. Derecha, I'm all set with my coffee and slice of warm apple pie. [Sip] This is a FINE damn cup of coffee If I do say so!

SANDRA

[Chuckles] You remind me of. . .a character I remember seeing on TV when I was little. My dad was fascinated with the show. I think the main character was an FBI agent now If I remember properly. Don't remember what it was called. Quirky little town. He also said DAMN fine cup of coffee!

BASS

Yeah. Television likes to use us in the Justice Department as main protagonists. [Beat] Ms. Derecha, do you mind if. . .let me describe something to you that I recorded on my body cam a few months back. You tell me if this sounds familiar.

I was walking in the arches. In one of the elevated storage bays. Anyway, when I was walking through, I didn't see or hear anything. When I played back the camera's footage, there was. . .well I think it was your blue and purple swirling mist that you described after the power flickers.

SANDRA

Well, mine looked like. . . .hrm, you know that chemical they put in lava lamps. You heat it up and it moves very fluidly?

BASS

Yes. It was like that, but smokey. Wispy. Translucent near the edges but solid towards the center.

SANDRA

With purple sparkles that would twinkle then disappear as they detached from the main body. [excited] That's it exactly! You have it on camera? Can I see it?

BASS

Absolutely. I'll bring it in with me when I come in for breakfast tomorrow morning. Are you still seeing it after the recent flickers?

SANDRA

Every time! [SIGH] oh deputy Marshal, you have no idea how happy this makes me. I thought I was. . .well, when you talk about being from an alternate reality and seeing things. . .WHEW. Doctor Bremmer will be happy to know about this!

BASS

The psychiatrist? You have sessions with him?

SANDRA

We all do! It's a requirement for anybody who winterovers. You have to see him once every two weeks just to make sure you don't. . .have problems adapting or maintaining. Surprised you haven't been called down!

BASS

I don't. . .yeah. I don't do head medicine. . .feelings.

SANDRA

[Defensive chuckle] It's the twenty-first century Deputy. There is no stigma around seeing a psychists anymore! Even the mafia embraced it in the Contraltos!

BASS

Here, it was called the Sopranos.

SANDRA

Tony.Soprano. Actually, that does sound cooler! Anyway. . .I think I'm going to turn in for the evening. Looking forward to seeing that recording tomorrow. I'll leave some chocolate chips cookies out for you under the glass if you want some. Just come around the counter. Ms. Alice doesn't mind. She likes you.

SNEAKERS WALKING AWAY AND DOWN THE HALL

BASS

Goodnight Ms. Derecha. I'll see you in the morning.

SOUND OF WRITING IN A NOTEBOOK. WE HEAR THE FAMILIAR SQUEEKING CART ROLLING DOWN THE HALLWAY, ENTERING THE GALLEY. IT'S MIKHAIL, HE'S WHISTLING THE THEME TO DIFFERENT STROKES

MIKHAIL

Ah! Tovarich. Burning the oil of midnight at both ends I see!

BASS

Midnight came and left an hour ago Mikhail. I couldn't sleep, so I thought I'd come up to the Galley for some coffee and a piece of apple pie. Catch up on some paperwork.

MIKHAIL

Ah! How is living on station over winter standing with you?

BASS

Honestly? [DEEP BREATH] I can't get used to it. It's so. . .silent. I mean, you have the wind constantly outside, but there aren't as many people. Not enough. . .

MIKHAIL

Noise in the back of ground. You are not first person on station to have problem with these things! It takes time to adapt to new situations Tovarich! [SNAP FINGER]. Just like boys from Harlem. The eh. . .the tall one and little one. They move to big penthouse on New York's Parking Avenue. Move in with skinny rich man, girl who became robber and Charlotte Rae! Oh I have biggest crush on Charlotte Rae when I was little janitor!

BASS

Differen't Strokes? You mean that show?

MIKHAIL

Da! This! Is same situation for you at station this season. This is what I think.

BASS

Okay, I asked the question. . .only right. [Deep breath] How is it like that Mikhail?

MIKHAIL

Glad you asked! So. . . in show, children's mom passes. She used to be housekeeper for Rich bourgeoisie white man. She make him promise to raise boys correctly. It is big life change for all. Boys living in the poverties, now suddenly in a D-lux apartment in the sky.

BASS

That was the Jeffersons, not Different Strokes.

MIKHAIL

Mikhail does uh. . .Mash-up analogies! Anyway. . . rich man who only has daughter, now must raise two boys for first time in life. There is also difference in race. Everybody must find way to adapt to new situations and make best of it! It may take time, but everybody does get used to this new life. Except Charlotte Rae. She gets spin-off show on Facts and Life.

BASS

I hear you Mikhail. Just be patient and I'll adapt to winter life at the station.

MIKHAIL

NEYT! Whatcu' talk'n bout Tovarich! That not it at all. New situation introduced here is *YOU* Tovarisch. It is we, that need to adapt to *YOU* being here. There is one of you not at ease. There are ehhhhhhh 20-25 of us, used to year-round life that is different with you here now.

BASS

. . . [chuckle] I'm not the only person having difficulties adapting.

MIKHAIL

Now you has it. [DEEP BREATH] Okay. It is now half-one in the morning. This concludes our janitorial broadcast day! I now will be becoming a pumpkin and go sleep. You should do same Tovarisch.

BASS

Not far behind you Mikhail. Good night.

SOUND OF CART ROLLING OUT OF GALLEY

BASS

Oh. . HEY MIKHAIL?

MIKHAIL

Stho?

BASS

I was. . .not 100% clear headed that night I returned to the station. But Zeke and Kendra said. . .that as the Norwegians were dropping us off and refueling. You were standing on the observation deck. Had your hands to the sky just as the winds were being held back from the station. Allowing the copter to refuel safely and all of us to be evacuated.

MIKHAIL

Meh! Excitement outside. Mikhail wishes to see for himself. I stretch to make muscles keep warm in cold outsides. It not any magic. I have learned much art in all my time, but control weather. . .not yet. Do not know what that was Tovarisch. . .the uh. . .winds held back exact time needed. Maybe somebody just needed to remind Ice, importance of big pictures!

BASS

[FRUSTRATED]

You know more than you're letting on Mikhail!

MIKHAIL

[Playful]

Chto-to yest' vo l'du. There is just. . . something about the Ice.

Chto-to yest' vo l'du.
Shtoe two-yeast-vol-doo

OUTRO & CREDITS