

# Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO  
EPISODE FIVE: THOMAS NOAH KELLEY

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by  
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BMB PRODUCTIONS  
**INTRO SONG**

**FADE IN, STATION HUM. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY. BASS, ZEKE AND THOMAS GATHERED AROUND A TABLE. MODERATE LUNCH CROWD IN THE BACKGROUND.**

THOMAS

. . .but for the most part. . .gee, I guess it could work.

ZEKE

[Thinking Aloud]

Gonna need to restage some equipment down in the L.O. Arch.  
May need some of my crew to put in a bit of overtime. . .but  
yeah, I think Tommy here may be onto something.

BASS

So, any damage these. . .bumbles cause can be repaired in  
about half the time with half the effort. Remind me. . .what  
are these things again?

ZEKE

Ice-Foot

THOMAS

Bumbles!

THOMAS

[Confused]

Zeke. . .you have to let it go! Everybody knows how hard you  
lobbied, but. . .well. . .gee the votes just weren't with you.  
'Bumbles' won!

ZEKE

[Stubborn, dug-in]

I accept it! But I'll be damned I use some cartoony name for  
them things out there.

BASS

[Confused]  
How is it. . .cartoony?

ZEKE  
You never see Rudolph Claymation when you a kid, lawman?  
Damn! Everybody knows that flick. A\*bom\*nable, Snowman.

THOMAS  
HermeY just called him bumbles for short.

ZEKE  
Wait wait wait, hold up. I thought it was Yukon Cornelius what  
named them?

THOMAS  
Nope. Pretty sure it was HermeY.

ZEKE  
You sure? Who was the lumber-jack dude with the stash and  
the pickaxe?

THOMAS  
Oh yeah, that was Yukon Cornelius for sure, but still not the  
one who named the Bumbles.

BASS  
[Obviously Annoyed]  
Guys! Seriously? Does it really. . .

***LOUD COMMOTION OFF TO THE SIDE. GLASS SHATTERING AND THEN THE  
SOUND OF GRUNTING AND PUNCHES BEING THROWN. TABLE IS KNOCKED  
OVER. THE BIGGS BOYS ARE AT IT AGAIN. CHAIRS AT BASS' TABLE GET  
PUSHED BACK***

ZEKE  
[Panicked]

Why the new people moving in to. . .OH SNAP! NOBODY TOLD  
'EM!!! [Beat]. DO NOT GET IN BETWEEN THEM! DO NOT. . .

***PUNCHS AND COMMOTION STOPS. THEN WE HEAR A FIERCE BATTLE CRY.  
MORE PUNCHES START UP.***

ZEKE

Too late! Lawman, help me with this!!!!

***We hear Bass and Zeke get up and their voices get distant in the digital  
recorder left on the table. The fight slows down. People are restrained.***

BASS

[Scolding]

Perfect, looks like you managed to break your nose for a sixth  
time this season. [sarcastic] One more you get a free sandwich  
right Dan????

ZEKE

C'mon boys. Let's go see Ambrose. Get you cleaned up, then  
you both can get started on scrubbing out the diesel tanks in  
the fuel arch for the next three weeks. Bunch of dumbasses!  
Don't go eyeballing' ME youngblood! You all bring this on yo-  
selves every time!

***Galley returns to normal, just Thomas at the table. Footsteps approach.***

LARRY

[Indignant]

Mister Kelley! Just what on planet Earth happened in here?

THOMAS

Oh! Doctor! Um. . .yeah. . .the Biggs Boys. . .

LARRY

[Cuts him off]

Enough! [huffs] I should have seen their. . .buffoonery handprints all over this mess. Why Mr. Bustamante insists upon keeping those. . .ragamuffins' season after season is frankly beyond. . .

THOMAS

[Cuts the Doctor off]

Doctor! I almost forgot. You wanted to get an advance copy of the National Geographic report after they discovered the Endurance. I've been asking for updates from one of the workers on the Agulhas. They got *incredible* photos of the shipwreck and they haven't been published yet. I downloaded three dozen and printed them up. They're on your desk.

LARRY

[Almost, boyish glee, excited]

It was really discovered, upright? Perfectly preserved?

THOMAS

It was incredible to see. Didn't. . .don't I recall hearing you say one time you had a family connection to Earnest Shackleton?

LARRY

[Proud, Happy]

Well. . .some records do have his brother, Frank who had a very brief. . .*[defensive]* but one hundred percent illegitimate marriage for just six-months! During that time, a son was born to his then-wife. Oh, she re-married and the young lad was raised in his new stepfather's stately manner house in Vermont. *[deep breath, regains his bearings and where he is]* Mmm, Mister Kelley, do call our custodian and have him come up here to help clean up this. . .frackus. I um [trying to contain excitement] I will be in my office!

***FAST WALKING AWAY FROM THE TABLE. A FEW MOMENTS AND THEN THE SOUND OF THE RECORDER BEING PICKED UP.***

THOMAS

[Concern]

Oh dear! Deputy Marlow left his. . .oh boy, I hope he doesn't need to. . .

***CHAIR SCRAPE***

THOMAS

I should find him. Return this. . .right away!!!

***WALKING ACROSS THE GALLEY. SOUND OF DISWASHING BECOMES LOUDER AS THOMAS APPROACHES, HOLDING THE RECORDER. AS HE DROPS HIS TRAY IN THE DISH-PIT WE HEAR:***

LUNCH LADY ALICE

Well, hey there, hi there Thomas! How was your waffles this morning? Didja get enough of that syrup there-now?

THOMAS

Oh, they were great Ms. Alice! I can't thank you enough for making them with extra butter.

LUNCH LADY ALICE

[Happy]

Awww jeeze louise! I'm just fer sure happy to find a feller who likes blueberry syrup as much as I do!

THOMAS

Oh yeah! By the way. . .we had the cargo teams revalidate the fuel stores they tallied last week when updating the winter count. They found 12 more gallons of cooking fuel they overlooked. I'm having it separated and stored in the Galley's staging area in the arches.

LUNCH LADY ALICE

[Ecstatic!]

Oh now, you just made my day Mister Kelley there. Not only can I take my time and cook the custard filled donuts to perfection, I'll be able to slow cook the nacho meat in my special Owatonna Minnesota Nachos this season. Oh, how I could just kiss you! *[Beat]* You know. . .woulda, coulda, shoulda!! . . .You lean over that counter there young man and give me that cheek!

***SWEETEST, MOST WHOLESOME MOTHERLY KISS EVER RECORDED ON A PODCAST.***

***'WHOOO-OOOOOO' COMING FROM THE BACKGROUND***

THOMAS

*[Slightly embarrassed]*

Miss Alice!!!! Not in front of the fire crew!

LUNCH LADY ALICE

Oh, you go on now and don't worry about them. Who do ya thinks kisses them people's boo-boo's when they get ding-dong dented shins, now? Yeah? *[Faux concern]* Ope! I hope I didn't go embarrassing you strong manly Paul Bunyan people in front of Mister Kelley now, did I? You all go on; I'll get you your flapjacks for ya. You tell the rest of the Dexter's I says hi!

***Sound of the galley begins to fade behind us as Thomas walks down the hall, still carrying Bass' digital recorder. We hear a door suddenly open.***

KARL

[Excited, distracted]

Oh! Oh there you are Mister Kelley. I just got told that Doctor Hunt is planning to send up some of his ridiculous weather balloons for sampling tomorrow at 2PM. Why. . .everybody KNOWS, Thursdays at 2PM, station time of course, the S.P.T. refocuses based on telemetry recorded by the James Webb telescope. Him, floating his weather balloons will interrupt our signals and scans!

THOMAS

Not to worry Doctor. I took the liberty of checking the forecast first thing this morning after getting up. Data suggests there is going to be higher than average winds all day tomorrow. I ran into chief Meteorologist Topper Hunt just before breakfast and told him. He's already rescheduled for fourteen hundred, day after tomorrow.

KARL

[Confused]

Breakfast? What time is it?

THOMAS

9:45 Doctor.

KARL

[realization]

Oh. OHHHHH! It's waffles this morning! You will excuse me won't you Mister Kelley. [walking away] Hope Alice has some sugar smacks left too. llllllllll DIG 'EM!

***Continuing to walk down the hallway. We hear the slow approach of two voices. Chris and Emery are in one of their patented sci-fi dork debates.***



THOMAS

OH, HEY GUYS!

EMERY

You know what Chris, I've heard some pretty moronic and Orou-kai style thinking coming from you in the past, but this. . .Here. Let's ask Tommy! Hey. . .Tommy?

THOMAS

[Uneasy, doesn't want to take sides]

Um, I really need to get to my office. Not only do I have paperwork I need to return this to. . .

CHRIS

Yeah, good Idea Em! Tommy will be straight with us and not be OPINIONATED by the unwashed Roddenberry masses. Picard is an android now, indeed. So stupid!. . .SOOOOO. . .Tommy. . .Gandolph and Obi-wan Kenobi step into the octagon. Mano a' Jedi....O. Who wins?

EMERY

[Pshhhhhhhhh] So obvious! Even a bothen would survive bringing this data back!

THOMAS

[Resigned that he's gonna have to get involved]

[Deep breath] Fine, I can spare a few. . .um. . .are we talking Gandolph the Grey, or white?

**THREE BEAT**

EMERY

We. . .um, we never really clarified that. . .

CHRIS

Huh. I kinda see where he's going with that.

THOMAS

And Kenobi? Which one, young Jedi Knight Ewen McGregor or combat hardened and wise Jedi Master Obi-Wan Sir Alec Guniess?

CHRIS

I, . . .WOW! so many variables we didn't consider.

EMERY

The combat probability matrix is all over the place. Does Kenobi have the original saber from Phantom menace or the one from New Hope?

CHRIS

Has Gandolph already killed and died by the Bal-Roc or is it Hobbit's tale Gandolph?

THOMAS

[Hurried]

Well, regardless. . . seems to me they each stood for more or less the same thing. Nobility, standing up for the weak and innocent. Just trying to be the light in the universe and stop the darkness. I don't think they'd be fighting one another; more likely they'd want to team up.

EMERY

[Loud Gasp] Vader and Sauron!

CHRIS

[Nerdgasm]

Imagine the combined power. The force and the one ring!

EMERY

The combined might of the Empire. . .AND MOORDOOR!

THOMAS

I'm. . . I'm going to let you two figure this one out. I need to get back to it. Okay, bye guys!

**FADE OUT AS FOOTSTEPS GO DOWN THE HALL**

**FADE IN. THOMAS IS IN OPERATIONS / ADMINISTRATION**

THOMAS

But well. . .gosh! The last thing I want to do is disturb him, especially if its important!

CHERYL-LYNN

He's on the line with his new Marshal Boss. Looked like he was busier today than a cat burying poop on a marble floor!  
[Lower voice] Now. . you didn't hear this from me Shug, but. .  
.Gladys said that she heard his new boss was a piece of work!  
Heard him cussing, and both hootin AND a hollarin!  
[confusion] Said that he wasn't able to expense something. . .  
or they wouldn't fund. . something? I don't know. Gladys didn't have her hearing aid in that morning!

THOMAS

Well, if he's going to be in his office for a while on important Marshal business, I best just hold onto this thing a while longer!

CHERYL-LYNN

We need to put that boy in one of the offices down the hall here where I can lean back and see him when his door opened. Doctor grumpy-pants wants him still to use the HR and finance

office on the other side of the copy room. Of course, the office furthest away and only one that I can't see from here!

THOMAS

Oh hey. . .that reminds me. I remember last week how you mentioned that the galley was too loud and disruptive for your Bible study group. I think I found an alternative for you! I moved some scheduling around and had the winter bands move their practice sessions from Saturdays to Tuesdays. That allows for the fire crew to move their training drills from Thursday to Mondays in the gym. The chess team didn't want to renew their game nights in the B-one lounge after all, so the Friday night movie group can take back their space in the TV lounge. This means the ARO scientist don't need to hide out from Doctor Hunt any longer and frees up the quiet reading room for your group!

CHERYL-LYNN

[Ecstatic]

You got us the Quiet Reading Room?

THOMAS

Every Tuesday night from Six to nine just like you needed!

CHERYL-LYNN

Well now Thomas! Bless your heart when I said I wanted a quiet space for us to study the good book, I didn't mean for you to get us \*the\* most secluded, quiet place on the whole station!

THOMAS

Happy to do it Ms. June. It's yours for the rest of the Winter season!

CHERYL

Oh, thank you shug! I can't wait to tell the rest of the group that we'll have the quiet reading room. Now we can raise all sort of Caine debating King James vs. New Living! Not to mention swapping tails of what's happening around the station.

THOMAS

[Chuckle] I heard that you all like to keep up to date on the comings and goings on-station. Listen to the scuttlebutt and rumors.

CHERYL LYNN

It's not gossip Thomas, if it's a prayer request mentioned in Bible study! Like that time my neighbor back in Savanna, . . .Haleigh's daughter Tiffany didn't get accepted to University of Georgia. Haleigh is sorority legacy where she, her mama and her mama's mama all pledged and were members, is gonna come to an end! Bless 'er heart! Them girls have all been Georgia Bulldogs their whole lives! Make matters worse, [Stern, lower tone] we think Tiffany is sleepin' with her boyfriend. None of us knew who he is or what his daddy does! So. . .we pray about it, not gossip about it!

THOMAS

[Apologetic]

Of course! Of course! My mistake. I've put everything in place for you and your group. You can have your first meeting in there this Tuesday night if you like. I . . .already took the liberty of asking Ms. Alice to have tea and coffee, cucumber sandwiches, lemon bars and peanut butter cookies brought in just before and left for you.

CHERYL LYNN

You know, for a young Jewish fella, you understand us old southern gals and godmothers better than most our own do!

THOMAS

Oh I'm just happy to help out and make things go smoothly.  
[BEAT] Operations Manager! It's in the job title.

CHERYL LYNN

Well, I think this is above and beyond, but I'll make sure we  
sneak in a prayer for you too Mister Thomas. Whatcha need?  
Any health problems, family problems [fishing]. . . lady. .  
.problems?

THOMAS

[Deflecting]

Ohhhh no! I'm all good Ms. June. Tell you what, why don't you  
put me down for a . . . 'hopes the station keeps on running  
smoothly' prayer.

CHERYL LYNN

Aren't you just sweeter than stolen honey baked in a cherry  
pie! Tell you what. . .you leave it to us; we'll reckon you up a  
good prayer! We just LOVE being the old fairy godmothers  
now!

THOMAS

Oh yeah! You did hear that Doctor Claire-Austin had her  
babies, right?

CHERYL LYNN

[GASP] SHUT.THE.FRONT.DOOR! Did you say. . . 'babies' as in.  
. .more than one?

THOMAS

Oh, yes ma'am! She and her Husband sent word early this  
morning. Doctor Claire-Austin delivered two baby girls. Both

children and mom all doing well. Doctor Austin on the other hand. . .Well I didn't think he knew it was twins. Doctor Claire-Austin must have wanted to surprise him!

***CLAP CLAP CLAP FROM CHERYL-LYNN***

CHERYL-LYNN

OH MY WORD! I want to see photos of them babies as soon as you can get them. It doesn't surprise me one lick that she didn't tell David about twins! That girl always did wear the pants in that relationship! You know I introduced them when they was both down here right?

THOMAS

Yes ma'am, I recall.

CHERYL-LYNN

[Remembering fondly]

Oh, he was just so smitten with her from the first day they met! She wouldn't give him the time of day and given his manners back then, I don't blame her! [Content sigh]. All it took was a bit of magic from this godmother and HALLELUJAH. . .now we have twin babies to coo over. [TWO BEAT] When I get my baby pictures now Thomas?

THOMAS

Already requested! We'll have them as soon as Lifeline eight crests tonight at six PM. I'm having them sent to you as well. They um. . .they named the girls Cheryl and Lynn. . .after you since you introduced them. It was my idea!

CHERYL LYNN

[THREE BEAT] [Starting to sob] Thomas Noah Kelley. . .WHEW. . .you are going to make my mascara all runny now. . . [SNIFF] They really named them babies after me? [SNIFF] Oh imma about to have a come apart! [SNIFF]

THOMAS

[SUDDENLY REMEMBERS]

Oh! I forgot! I'm supposed to get the updated duty roster list for this week from Zeke. I'm sorry Ms. June, need to run! Excuse me, won't you please?

CHERYL LYNN

[Starting to cry]

Oh of course! You go run along now Shug! Don't nobody need to see me ugly cry and mascara running down my face. People gonna think I'm suffering a stroke over here.

**FOOTSTEPS DOWN ECHOY HALLWAY AND D.A. STAIRCASE. ONE OF TWO SLIGHT CONVERSATIONS OFF IN THE FAR DISTANCE. WE HEAR ZEKE'S VOICE AS THOMAS GETS CLOSER WITH THE RECORDER**

ZEKE

. . .but I know! Ain't nobody been paying proper attention to you. Respecting you! But Zeke is here now baby! You just show me where it hurts now girl. We'll get you loosened up, slowly. . .let me lube up and I'll start working your. . .  
.[Angry/EMBARRASED] TOMMY! Don't be go sneaking up on people here now! What you want son?

THOMAS

Gee, sorry Zeke, it's just that. . .well I was actually about to come see you in the VMF . . .about. . .

ZEKE

[ANGRY/EMBARRASED]

'Bout what?



THOMAS

[Two beat] Zeke. . .who were you talking to?

ZEKE

You never mind that. Don't know what you THINK you heard, but you DIDN'T hear it right!

THOMAS

Sounded like you were talking to a girl.

ZEKE

[ANGRIER]

SHE AIN'T NO GIRL! [Calms down] This here. . .is a proper lady!

THOMAS

[two and two together]

Ohhhhhhhhhh! The station! Right! Sorry, I forget sometimes!

ZEKE

Now you gonna tell me what you wanted see me about or are you gonna make me come down off this ladder?

THOMAS

Oh! The duty roster for the week! That was it! You mentioned you wanted to switch some people around on shifts. Wanted to make sure the logs got updated to show it.

ZEKE

Next to my tool bag. Clipboard with the pad of yellow paper in it. Not the one with the Marvin Gaye sticker. . . That's the one for my lady here. [Seductive] For when we about to [singsong] get it on! Gonna give me some sugar ain't ya baby? Naw Tommy. You want the one with Luther's photo on the back.

THOMAS

Got it!

***FLIP FLIP OF PAPERS ON THE CLIPBOARD***

THOMAS

Wow! You really are shaking things up down there. I guess that's. . .What's going on, right?

ZEKE

Um, tell ya what Tommy, you just leave the Marvin Gaye puns to me, okay? Got to give it up! Hey. . .long as you down there, hand me the channel locks, will ya? Keenan was down there helping me but went on a pee break. That was twenty minutes ago. [under his breath] Damn fool probably got lost looking for his own damned micro-pecker!

***LOOTING THROUGH BAG***

THOMAS

Here ya go!

ZEKE

Appreciate ya!

THOMAS

What are you doing in here anyways?

ZEKE

Well. . .

***SOUND OF WASHERS TIGHTENING***

ZEKE

For some reason. . .this one hydronic heater ain't running like it should. Others operate just fine, but for reasons we can't still

figure out. . .for four months this one unit is under performing. Also having contamination issues.

THOMAS

Sounds complex!

ZEKE

Now. . .were this a gas heating system, I could have fixed it right away. This here is a hydronic system, uses glycol as the heat-transfer medium, water from the boiler, keeps the hot air running through the station. Glycol systems are a pain in the ass! But having too many systems running on combustible gas. . .N.S.F. don't like taking too much a risk, so they just make my life more difficult!

THOMAS

Um. . .flat head, for that access panel there?

ZEKE

[Surprised]

Yeah! Was about to ask for that! Not bad Tommy. See, right now we suffering from what they call 'High head pressure'. Inside this panel there is a manual reset switch. It'll get the system back running again, but it's a band aid fix, not a repair. Keeps happening and my lady. . .she don't like being teased. . .she wants a full meal, not some little appetizer!

THOMAS

Huh. Um. . .hey Zeke? Is the. . .Glycol or the water considered. . .overly hazardous?

ZEKE

Naw. . .I mean, the water \*is\* heated and the glycol \*is\* antifreeze basically that keeps the pipes from freezing up in the Antarctic. . .but for what we consider Hazardous, nah. . .not really. [PAUSE][STOPS WORKING/CURIOUS] Wait. . .why you ask?

TOMMY

Well. . .it's just. . .down here, by the meter box where you have this section open. . .over here on the vertical pipe with the upward flow, it looks like this is a back-flow preventor. If this isn't hazardous, shouldn't this be a double-disc check valve? Seems to me the problem isn't so much contamination, but over performance and pressure buildup.

ZEKE

[Surprised]

Say what now?

#### **SOUND OF CLIMBING DOWN THE LADDER AND WALKING OVER**

ZEKE

Well, I'll be. . .DAMN TOMMY? Now how the hell you figure that out just by looking?

THOMAS

[Modest]

Ohhhh it wasn't that big a deal. I just hang around you so much and after so long, I just pick up things I see you do or say. I mean, gosh it was just a lucky guess. . .you would have figured it out too, you were. . .just being thorough!

ZEKE

[Still in shock]

Damn thing was staring me in the face the whole time! Why you got to play hard to get baby? You know all I want to do is just to keep you satisfied!

THOMAS

Well, thanks again for the updated Duty roster. I'll make sure I get my activity logs updated too before I send to Beauregard-Lowing this week. Make sure everybody gets their proper pay. [Remembers again] Awwww shoot, um. . .what time is it?

ZEKE

It's four twenty-two exactly! Also, time to figure out what the hell happened to Keenan! Swear to big man above if that boy is on the smoking deck again with one of his reefer-sticks, flyin' high, my boot is going to elope with his ass!

THOMAS

Whew! I have to make a phone call at Five. . .thought I missed it. I'll catch up with you later on at dinner Zeke, won't miss it for anything. . . [Start Singing] Ain't no mountain. . .

ZEKE

[Cuts him off]

Nu-uhh! You don't get to do Marvin puns till you get more hair on your bit and tackle. You go on now. . .leave me and my lady here to swap that preventor for a check value. She loves it when I check out her valves. . . [Sing] THAT'S. . .the way love is!

**WALKING DOWN HALLWAY AGAIN. WE START TO HEAR An UNFAMILIAR BEEPING COMEING FROM THE DIGITAL RECORDER.**

THOMAS

Low Battery? Why didn't you say anything Deputy Marshal?

**BEEPING GETS FASTER**

THOMAS

It's no problem at all. I have more than enough double. . .

**POWER DOWN SOUND.**

**POWER UP SOUND**

THOMAS

. . .and the old ones into the recycling bin for batteries. Wow! Thing still recording. [Considers] Best not to shut it off. Don't know if that might erase his older. . . .Wow, I guess having this thing around. . . \*does\* make you talk to yourself and narrate your life! [Chuckle] Okay. . .ooooh! My call!

**HURRIED STEPS DOWN THE HALLWAY  
WE HEAR A “oooofffff” AS THOMAS COLLIDES. . .WITH BASS.**

THOMAS

Oh! My apologies Deputy Marshal! I wasn't watching where I was going. My mind is all over the place today it seems.

BASS

Tom. . .Mister Kelley, no problem at all. I'm uh. . .

THOMAS

Oh hey! I have your digital recorder here. You left it in the galley when you and Zeke went to break up the Biggs fight. I was going to bring it to you earlier, but Ms. June said you were in a confidential conference call. I like that shirt by the way!

BASS

Um. . .Mister Kelley, I need to visit. . .need to use the little Marshal's room. I shouldn't take that in with. . .HEY! Why don't you just hold onto that for a bit. Drop it off on my desk after you finish with. . .

THOMAS

Need to call the states. New Rochelle in New York.

BASS  
[Thoughtful]  
Right! I forgot about your mother!

THOMAS  
[Surprised]  
Did I tell you. . .oh right, I must have at the New Year's Eve party when we were talking about growing up.

BASS  
[In a hurry, Bass moving down the hall]  
Just. . .drop it off in my office after your call Mister Kelley. Appreciate it, really do! See you. . . later.

**QUICK JOG UP THE STEPS, PAST OPERATIONS. HE CLOSSES HIS DOOR AND THEN SITS DOWN AT HIS DESK. WE HEAR THE SPEAKER PHONE ACTIVATE, DIAL TONE AND THEN 10 DIGITS. PHONE OTHER END RINGS AND IS PICKED UP**

MIRIAM  
Hello? Is this my Tommy-kins?

THOMAS  
Hi Mom!

MIRIAM  
Oh bubbula! You never miss a Sunday night call to your dear mother! So. . .how are you doing? Are you eating enough, you sound thin!! Are you using that special medicated lotion I sent you a few months back?

THOMAS  
Geeze Mom! You can't gauge weight over the phone! I'm eating just fine; I promise and yes. . .the dry skin problem went away.

MIRIAM

Ugh, how you can stand that Icebox of a place is way beyond me! It's cold when it should be hot, it's colder when it should be cold. What about socks? Do you have enough socks down there? Cause Estelle's son said there was a sale at the store around the corner from him on really really warm socks. 10 dollars for twenty-pairs. Can you believe that? You want me to call him for you?

THOMAS

No mom, I'm doing just fine on socks. I called to check in on you! How are you doing?

MIRIAM

[Starting to sob]

Oh! Now you see this is exactly what I was telling Mister Morton last week. Sons are so much better at caring for their mothers than daughters. It's like your sister Angus who never calls. . . unless she needs money or gets herself in one of her. . . predicaments!

THOMAS

Mom! Let's not talk about Aggie. How are \*YOU\* doing?

MIRIAM

Me? Oh bubbula, I'm doing fine. I have no complaints! Sure, none of my hips are original, I have arthritis every time I hear rain, even on the television and I wake up four times a night to use the W.C. Other than Temple, the only thing I have going for me [sniff] is a son that still loves me enough to ask! Unlike



your sister! Ugh. I gave my life to you and your sister.  
Everything I did. . .

THOMAS

Yes mom, you did for us. . .I have never forgotten. How's Mrs. Trasellas? You and she still doing your morning walks?

MIRIAM

Oh. . .only when the weather isn't too hot out. Or when it's not too rainy. . .or too cold. We stay in and play Mahjong mostly!

THOMAS

Jeez Febreze ma! You live in Westchester County New York. Arguably one of the most beautiful places on the East Coast. The weather is gorgeous half of the year! You should be outside enjoying the weather more!

MIRIAM

With all the crime. . .and street gangs?

THOMAS

MOM! How many. . .there are NO street gangs in New Rochelle. It's one of the safest areas in the Bronx. You aren't downtown anymore!

MIRIAM

Soooo, what's new on the grandchild front? Have you met any young ladies yet?

THOMAS

[Embarrassed]

Mom!

MIRIAM

Well, I'm sorry mister bigshot for wanting to make sure you meet somebody who can take half as good care of you as I did.

[Pause] You know. . .if you're gay, you can just tell me. . .cause in this day and age it's really alright to be gay now.

THOMAS

[frustrated]

I'm still not gay mom, same as last week. I didn't happen to go gay over the course of one week.

MIRIAM

Julia's son Daniel, he decided to go Gay! His husband is Jewish too, a doctor even!

THOMAS

MOM! You don't just . . .decide one day to. . .[sigh] Mom. .I promise. . .as soon as there is a woman in my life, you'll be the first to know.

MIRIAM

At my age, and I was telling Julia this last week. . .at my age, I'd even take a shiksa!

THOMAS

How's your medicine mom? Is it still giving you stomach issues?

MIRIAM

Who? Me? No! That's stopped weeks ago. Of course, I take so many pills I had to get one of those. . .organizers things, looks like an ice tray for pills! I sort those while I which the wheel each night. You think Pat Sajak is Jewish?

THOMAS

Well, I never really thought about it. But let's go back to your medicine. What did the doctor say to you?

MIRIAM

Which doctor? Who we talkin' about now?

THOMAS

YOUR Doctor mom. Doctor Renwald. About your medicine?

MIRIAM

Oh him! He said everything was good. I'm adjusting to this new Exelon pill just fine. They took me off Aricept after the muscle cramps.

THOMAS

Glad to hear it, Mom.

MIRIAM

Oooh, I just heard the door. That's Connie and the girls. We're going down for dinner and then get in another game of Mahjong. How about I call you back tonight? What time is it there?

THOMAS

You just go have fun, okay mom. Before you go. . can you get Jilly for me?

MIRIAM

[YELLING TOWARDS THE DOOR]

Just a sec Hon, I'm on the phone with my son! He's in Antarctica! [Beat] How do I do that again? Is that on The Facebook, cause I don't have that you know!

THOMAS

At the bottom of the phone, you see the button that says. . .Transfer to Jilly? Push that.

MIRIAM

Ohhhhhhhh! How clever! Alright bubbula, I'll send the call there.

THOMAS

I love you mom!

MIRIAM

Oh, I know you do Thomas. I love you too, with all my heart. I was lying about the shiksa though. You find yourself a good Jewish girl or you'll put me in an early grave!

THOMAS

Mom. . . .

MIRIAM

Okay Bubbula. [kissy sound kissy sound kissy sound] You be good! Eat. . .eat more at dinner time! Love you!!!!

**CLICK ON THE PHONE AND RINGING SOUND. PHONE IS PICKED UP**

JILLIAN

United Hebrew this is Nurse Jillian Speaking.

THOMAS

Hi Jillian, it's Thomas.

JILLIAN

[Warmly]

Mister Kelley, hello!! How are things at the pole?

THOMAS

It's business as usual. Winter season, so not much going on. How's she been doing?

JILLIAN

She's been having a very good week! The doctors feel confident they can slow down the Parkinson's dementia with the new Exelon prescription. She's having a bit of issue keeping weight on, but we're trying some new dietary options that should help.

THOMAS

I'm glad to hear that. She had me worried a couple weeks back.

JILLIAN

She's been doing much better since then Mister Kelley. I also wanted to say again, how sorry we were for the mix-up. We were breaking in a new person in billing, they were just learning the ropes. . .but we put several double checks in place now. . .your payments shouldn't be held up anymore.

THOMAS

I took your advice on that too! I had my direct deposit information with the N.S.F. modified. Rather than recurring EFT's, I'm just having 60% of my monthly pay wired directly to her account in the nursing facility.

JILLIAN

Even better! But. . like I promised you last time, at the first hint of an issue, I'll send word immediately.

THOMAS

Thank you, Nurse Jillian!

JILLIAN

Oh, it's my pleasure! All the nurses and staff here ADORE your mother. [laugh] Last week. . .she found out I was Jewish. She's trying to marry you off to me!

THOMAS

Please. . .forgive her! She's. . .

JILLIAN

Not to worry Mister Kelley! I'm happily married already. But she's still very sweet! She is so popular here!

THOMAS

Please. . .if she needs anything. . . .

JILLIAN

You're my first call Mister Kelley, I swear to you, as if she were my own mother!

THOMAS

Thank you. . .Maya. Goodbye.

**HANG UP SOUND. A FEW MOMENTS OF JUST THE OVERHEAD HEATER  
AND THEN KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

THOMAS

Come in.

RANDO

Hey Thomas,. . .have you seen. . .

THOMAS

It got unloaded last night. I told Bill and Ted to put in on the bottom shelf of the do not freeze part of the LO storage unit. It's there.

RANDO

Oh perfect! Thanks Tommy, you're the best!

THOMAS

Just happy to help.

**FROM DOWN THE HALL, WE HEAR DOCTOR WAYNEWRIGHT.**

LARRY

Usually. . .a 'pardon me' is customary when you need to squeeze past another body in the hallway.

RANDO

[From a distance]

Sorry Doctor Waynewright

LARRY

[Under breath]

Creatin! [Normal Tone] Ah, Mister Kelley! Have you finished filing the daily report?

THOMAS

Yes, about an hour ago.

LARRY

Updated N.S.F on Doctor Bremmer settling in?

THOMAS

Yesterday, Doctor.

LARRY

Reviewed the Inventory manifest?

THOMAS

Yes, on Monday. As I suspected, we were under on Gas, but over on non-flammable consumables. I had the logistics team double check their numbers and reverify. Lists are accurate now.

LARRY

Updating the April transmission schedule for data uploads to granting universities on science operations?

THOMAS

Yes Doctor. . .got the preferred transmission order verified from Doctor Jovac and update email addresses and Shared-drive folders to upload data too. It's all in the weekly updates.

LARRY

[Smug, finally got him]

I wanted a copy for myself and on my desk. Did you put one. . .on my desk?

THOMAS

Oh gosh! I don't remember you asking for that Doctor Waynewright, but I can certainly. . .

LARRY

Don't bother, Mister Kelley. *[Starts walking away, from a distance]* If you want something done, one must do it themselves!

THOMAS

[Under Breath]

Know exactly what you mean doctor.

***COUPLE MOMENTS OF SILENCE, JUST THE OVERHEAD HEAT  
BOOTS APPROACHING FROM DOWN THE HALL***

BASS

Hey Mister Kelley, by chance did you. . . .you DID find it! My digital recorder. I seem to lose this thing at least once a month! Thank you so much for caring for it!

THOMAS

No problem, Deputy Marshal. Just happy it's back in proper hands!



BASS

Was. . .that Doctor Waynewright I just saw turn the corner?

THOMAS

[Nervous]

Yes, but PLEASE don't ask me to let you into his office again! He already suspects that it's me stealing his 'W' key from the keyboard! He took my spare key to his office just to be sure.

BASS

[Chuckles] No. . .not that Mister Kelley. I want to talk to him About the bill for damages, he submitted to the US Marshal's service over . . .my office last month. I told him I'd pay for that out of pocket.

THOMAS

Oh, I'm sorry Deputy Marshal! I told him the same thing too! Even reminded him at the beginning of the fiscal year that you had already sent funds. I think he just. . .well. . .is trying to stick it to you.

BASS

[Sigh] I shouldn't be surprised, I guess. [Taps Thomas' desk twice with his fingers] Thanks again for keeping the recorder safe!

THOMAS

Oh no problem, Deputy Marshal. Oh, and sorry again for running into you earlier!

BASS

Pardon?

THOMAS

For running into you. Downstairs by D.A. stairs. You were heading to the restroom, and I was coming up here. It was about 10 minutes ago!

BASS

[Confused]

I've been. . .down in the Arches working with Reno on a Summer list of goods for at least. . .keep forgetting my watch broke. . well don't know exactly how long. . .but at least ninety minutes.

THOMAS

Deputy Marshal. . . .eh, never mind. Sorry! Been working too hard, I guess.

BASS

Mister Kelley don't ever apologize for doing your job! People around here may not see it. . .but this place wouldn't run anywhere as smoothly if you weren't around. I mean that!

**FADE OUT AND OUTRO**