

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE ELEVEN: LOVE BITES, LOVE
BLEEDS

DRAFT 1: APRIL 20, 2022

DRAFT 2: APRIL 28, 2022

FINAL DRAFT: JUNE 1, 2022

by
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SONG INTRO

ELECTRONIC BEEP / ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED.

BASS

US Deputy Bass Marlow. Today is Saturday two July twenty twenty-two. Oh seven thirty hours. Investigation of flight 0492 and Amundsten Scott Sabatoge. Received updated instructions and data from Drug Enforcement Agency and Federal Beureau of investigation in regard to the cache of drugs and cobtraband discovered in the L.O. Arch.

D.E.A. have been tracking movement from drug labs in the middle east and western China, moving this new designer strain of opium which is called Mèng là in native Chinese. I'm told it translates to 'Dream Wax' or simply 'wax' as it's called on the street.

I spoke at length with an DEA Agent, Rene Austin with overseas / international interdiction. She mentioned that for two years now they've been aware of an extended pipeline operation originating in the middle east, traveling through Asia, and the Balkans. As they would track the drug shipments through the region and they hit Kosovo, the shipments would fall off the radar.

It wasn't until we discovered the wax in the shipment down here that they were able to connect the route from Kosovo to Amundsen and the stops along the way. With that unknown route better defined, they were able to determine additional individuals who handle the shipments and are stops along this pipeline.

There has been a taskforce established, based out of Washington DC which are putting together data and metrics to determine the extent of this operation, but more importantly; how the drugs are getting from Antarctica and into the United States. Once they have established the full route, they intend to close in and start making arrests.

I've been told to return the drugs into the containers and re-hide them in the construction materials delivered to the station. Once the winter season has ended and flights begin to return, they'll send us a tracker we can hide with the materials so the shipment can be followed, and the US port of entry identified.

As of now, the only two individuals on station aware of the drug shipment are Mister Mactaggart & Zeke. Both have been sworn to secrecy and told not to discuss with any other station residents. Should the outside individuals contact Mister MacTaggart again, he will let me know so we can keep the charade of the drugs being undiscovered.

The more perplexing aspect of this, is who on station would have wanted to sabotage the plane and station systems to disrupt or destroy the pipeline? If, as the DEA and FBI are convinced of, there were also shipments of Wax in the plane I was on, simply alerting the authorities would have resulted in having the smuggled drugs confiscated. An attempt to have them destroyed in a crash. . . suggests a rival operation which may have wanted to take advantage of a supply chain disruption.

Everyday I'm understanding more and more why a full time Marshal was requested to be on the continent. Having hard, designer drugs being routed through US research stations is not the exact sort of press the NSF would want, let alone Beauregard-Lowing. No Diane. . .I think this may only be the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

With all initial investigation completed and a motive starting to take reasonable shape, I've turned to looking at all shipments in and out of the station over the last five years. Looking for anything that might resemble an anomaly such as unexpected and unrequested construction materials. While Zeke is a meticulous keeper of his arches and operations; he's not much of a paperwork filer. Thankfully. . .we have Mister Kelley! He's arranging to have a database assembled of all manifest inventory in and out by Monday morning. I told the kid he didn't have to take time out of his weekend to work on this. I honestly think he just likes being as helpful as possible.

Okay Diane. . .today is a lite day for me. Need to draft and upload four reports. Conduct a re-interview of one of the new DeWalts. . .Santiago. . .Santiago. . .

FLIPPING THROUGH PAPERWORK

BASS

. . . .de la Cruz! Fill out my weekly report to Charl. . . to Marshal Murphy, and then onto something. . .[chuckle]. . .I've been looking forward to for months. Not going to go into details right here and now. Walls are paper-thin around here. After a conversation I had after returning to the station, I started putting plans. . .in motion. After this plan is put into application, I'll give you the details.

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. . . Saturday two July twenty
twenty-two. Oh seven thirty-six hours. Investigation of Flight
0492 and Amundsten Scott Sabatoge. . .Update completed.

ELCTRONIC BOOP: RECORDING STOPPED.

***FADE IN: GREENROOM. BACKGROUND AMBIANCE IS SUCH THAT WE
HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE. BASS IS RECEIVING AN UPDATE***

PATRICK

Oh man, yeah. Came in even better than I anticipated! When
you first asked, dude I didn't think it could be done. But. . .
.here we are!

BASS

Okay. . .where is it?

PATRICK'

Oh right! Right! Duh!! Over here. Check it out. I took strains
of Dendrubium and Cymbidium and cross-pollinated. Had
them get all freaky-deaky like! Took several months and in the
Antarctic. . .well, let's just say any other grow-master would
have fooled you! But not old Patsy! I can grow any strain, in
any temperature, and in any PH balanced soil!

BASS

You'll have it ready for tonight?

PATRICK

Oh it's ready. Just going to be a shame to watch her grow up
and move out man. Was here since she was a seedling! [sniff]
aw man, I told myself I wouldn't do this again! [Sniff-sniff]

BASS

You. . .need a minute?

PATRICK

I'm. . .I'm sorry Deputy! I just get.[Deep Breath] I'm good, I'm good! [Sniff]. She'll be ready for you to pick up this evening. Just want to take a few photos for my scrapbook.

BASS

How long you been running the Greenhouse down here Mister Dobbins?

PATRICK

Aw man. What month is it?

BASS

July

PATRICK

Close to three years now. Been growing fruits, veggies, flowers and we. . .stuff for better part of three years. Find me another grower who can boast they operated in sub-zero temperatures. Aw yeah. . .awesome name for a strain! Sub-Zero!

BASS

I think that may have already been taken Mr. Dobbins.

PATRICK

Damn! Should have moved faster! Them's the breaks. So. . .when you coming back around?

BASS

I'll stop by around 7PM. Pick it up and going to continue to. . .look the other way with the . . . stuff!

PATRICK

Telling you. . .purely medicinal! Don't sell nothing and I'm not making any profit.

BASS
Uh-huh. Seven O'clock then.

PATRICK
See ya later, Investigator!

WALKING DOWN HALLWAY. PAST ANNIE.

ANNIE
Hey Deputy!

BASS
Ms. Kinley.

CONTINUE WALKING. OPEN DOOR TO HIS OFFICE.

BASS
[Surprised]
Mr. de la Cruz? I thought our discussion wasn't scheduled until
Three PM today.

SANTIAGO
Si, However, I was hoping we could *como se dice*? Knock it out
sooner?

BASS
Um. . . .okay, sure. Actually works fairly well for the rest of my
day. Let me just grab a seat and my notebook. Get my digital
recorder. . .

**ELECTRONIC BEEP
FEEDBACK FROM RECORDER AND BODYCAM NOISE**

BASS
WHOA WHOA, HOLD ON!

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STOPPED.

BASS

Sorry about that! Been a while since I made that mistake, running them both at the same time. Okay. . .just so we're clear, this is 100% a voluntary interview. You have no obligation to stay or to talk to me at all and if you want to have legal counsel with you, that is your right. You are not under arrest nor am I detaining you. You may end this discussion at any time you wish. Do you understand?

SANTIAGO

I do.

BASS

Okay then [AHEM] this is US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow, Today is Saturday two July twenty twenty-two. Fourteen-oh-Five hours. Investigation of Flight 0492 and Amundsten Scott Sabatoge. This is reinterview of Station Engineering and fire-fighter support staff, Santiago de la Cruz.

SANTIAGO

Thank you Deputy Marshal, I am happy to be here!

BASS

Again, not a radio interview Mr. De la Cruz. Now, I just had a few items I wanted to cover and clarify with you after the initial interview.

SANTIAGO

Of course, whatever you need!

BASS

You mentioned during your first interview that you had suspicious as to the possible sabatour of the plane's systems as well as the station's monitoring hardware.

SANTIAGO

Si! It is a matter I have given no small amount of attention to. I think I may have a name for you to focus in. . .on. Fred Furguson!

BASS

[incredulous]

Mister Furguson?

SANTIAGO

Si! I suspect it was him!

BASS

[confused]

The man, who was on the plane that was sabatouged. Did it himself, almost causing his death. . .why?

SANTIAGO

Jelousy! Plain and simple.

BASS

Okay. . .and why do you believe that. . .mister Furguson is the culprit?

SANTIAGO

Because. . .he could not admit Santiago de la Cruz is twice the bombero and four times the man he is! Also. . .Ten times the lover!

BASS

.So now.[Can't believe what he just heard] what?

SANTIAGO

[Proud]

Is true! In the four months I worked for him, he knew I was taking over as the head of station's fire prevention team. [Tap Chest, proudly] **EQUIPO de BOMBEROS!** He knows, that as soon as he leaves the station, Santiago will break every record he has. In the gym, in practice, in squads. . .in the bedrooms!

BASS

So. . .he decided to sabotage his own plane, just to. . .

SANTIAGO

Protect whatever little manhood he has left. And Deputy, when I say. . . 'little' manhood. . .that is no a euphemism. He wishes to hold onto his old glory!

BASS

Alright, let me just make sure I'm. . .Mister Ferguson, after finding out you would be replacing him. . .

SANTIAGO

Si.

BASS

Decides he can't deal with the competition. . .

SANTIAGO

Well, let's be honest here Deputy, there is no real competition with Santiago de la Cruz! . . .

BASS

So in order to maintain his pride, his dignity, his. . .

SANTIAGO

We call it. . .machismo!

BASS

He decides to crash a LC-130, potentially killing everybody and himself on-board. HOPING, that he'd survive, and be rescued.

SANTIAGO

I did not say he was a mastermind. There are holes in his plan, this I agree.

BASS

Well, obviously I'm going to need something to back up your . . . theory, some evidence.

SANTIAGO

He tried to take back control over the fire crew when he got back!

BASS

He's trying to make himself useful over the Winter, not just sit around.

SANTIAGO

Questions everything I do as *El jefe!*

BASS

Obviously, you and he don't see eye to eye, but that isn't anything that even closely indicates involvement with the crash. And he wasn't even at the station when the computer virus was introduced.

SANTIAGO

He is in the way!

BASS

Look, Mr. De la Cruz, this sounds. . .to me. . .more like a professional rivalry than anything more. . .sinister. I understand, very plainly that you and he do not mingle well.

SANTIAGO

I am not the one who is having trouble adjusting, it is he. .
.who acts the child. Who cannot see that somebody younger. .
.has taken his place? It is very much the Fonzie situation.

BASS

[Sigh] I'm afraid to even . . .you mean when Chachi took over
as the cool guy for the Fonz on Happy days? Have you been
chatting with our station's Janitor?

SANTIAGO

The Fonz was old, past his prime. I am, as you say. . .Chachi!

BASS

Mr. De la Cruz, this is REALLY more an issue for station human
resources than it is for a federal officer!

SANTIAGO

[Ignoring Bass]

And. . .if he believes he will steal away the beautiful Catalina . .
.he is in for a fight!

BASS

Doctor Timms?

SANTIAGO

Si. I have declared my affections and intention to pursue
her. Despite that. . .New England hockey pucker trying to get
in the way. To steal *MI AMOR*!

BASS

Again. . .Mr. De le Cruz; this is not something the US Marshal's
Service or Department of Justice really intervenes in!

SANTIAGO

This. . .is no over. Before this season has ended, there can only be ONE station love machine, and it will not be [mocking] Fred Ferguson!

BASS

Well then, I wish you luck sir. Now. . .if you'll excuse me.

CHAIR SLIDES BACK, HE STANDS AND OPENS THE DOOR

SANTIAGO

[Muttering as he leaves the office]

El viejo blanco maloliente debería haberse ido cuando tuvo la oportunidad. Ahora lo haré quedar como un tonto

DOOR CLOSSES

BASS

Damn I hated West Side story!

DIGITAL BOOP.

FADE IN. WE'RE IN OPERATIONS. Ms. JUNE's STATION AT THE SWITCHBOARD. SHE AND BASS ARE TALKING

CHERYL-LYNN

[Beyond excited]

[happy happy clapping] Dear lord please don't let me faint, that is THE most romantic thing I think I've heard in a donkey's age! And I get to tell people?

BASS

With the understanding that she isn't to know ANYTHING about it!

CHERYL-LYNN

Oh. .Bass Marlow you may be the sweetest man on this planet. [Considering] If I were twenty years younger and Mr. June; lord rest his soul. . .hadn't been around, I'd want to pour sausage gravy ALL over the biscuits you have in them jeans!

BASS

WHOA! OKAY!. . .I appreciate the compliment Ms. June, but. . .

CHERYL-LYNN

[Pretend feigning]

Whew! I need to sit down here and fan myself. I thought I was all done with the hot flashes. . . .oh lord, don't let this be a relapse! Oh my word! When you two start havin' them babies. . .and I know it's gonna happen: I best be one of their adopted mee-maws!

BASS

[Laughs]

Let's just focus on the here and now Ms. June. I made a list of a few odds and ends that I think would. . .

CHERYL-LYNN

NOPE! Nuh-uh. You focus on that little angel Deputy, and leave all this planning to me. You just consider me that sweet girl's Fairy Godmother! I'll get all this taken care of and in place without her being none the wiser. You keep focused on her. [clapclapclap] Oh my goodness I haven't been this excited since 2009's Kentucky Derby!

BASS

You .sure you don't mind?

CHERYL-LYNN

Um, did I mention, Fairy God Mother? This is what we get put here to do Shug. You just get back to. . . .

DOOR OPENS APRUPTLY

LARRY

WHAT is all this commotion and Ruckus. . .oh! Why didn't I know better? DEPUTY Marshal Marlow, surely there is a quieter way to conduct your ongoing investigation into the most recent attempt on your life?

BASS

This isn't part of the official investigation doctor. I'm having a discussion with Ms. June on a separate matter.

LARRY

Well then, as this is more social than it is a professional matter; I'm going to ask that you wait to hold your. . . .social discussions for when we aren't observing working hours. Unlike the Federal Government, our Saturday hours are nine AM until 3PM. Why don't you come back after that for your. . .social hour?

BASS

Actually Doctor, since I'm here and as you obviously have nothing else pressing rather than admonishing people, why don't we conduct our follow up interview; now?

LARRY

I assure you I am quite busy, DEPUTY Marshal and the reason I'm having this little tete-et-tete is because of the distraction. I've been dealing with email requests all morning.

CHERYL -LYNN

[Clears her throat]

LARRY

On top of that, I'm filling out station progress reports for Beauregard Lowing

CHERYL-LYNN

[Clears her throat louder]

LARRY

And of course. . .professional and academic correspondence to be completed.

CHERYL-LYNN

[HRRRRUMP]

LARRY

More to add. . .Ms. June?

CHERYL-LYNN

Not from me. I'm just going to run down to the clinic to get something for my throat. Maybe make sure that our fire extinguishers are fully charged. You know, in case the good lord wants to communicate through another burning bush, or somebody's pants about to catch on fire!

CHAIR SCOOT BACK AND HEALS OUT THE OPS CENTER

BASS

So. . .shall we Doctor?

LARRY

[Perturbed]

FINE, very well then! Let's do get this over with so I can resume my normal duties. Do come into my office. . . .DEPUTY Marshal.

FOOTSTEPS INTO THE OFFICE AND DOOR CLOSING BEHIND HIM. CHAIRS ARE SLID OUT.

LARRY

Now, what is it that you want to know?

BASS

On the day in question of the plane crash. As you woke up. . .

FLIPPING NOTEPAD

BASS

. . .after being up twenty-eight hours doing 'science experiments' with the other four at. . .at the same time; do you recall anybody who seemed overly anxious or overly. . .excitable?

LARRY

DEPUTY Marshal. . .have you ever known me to pay attention to how people are. . .feeling?

BASS

Hrmm. Good Point. Did you notice any specific drop in station efficiency or productivity?

LARRY

[Almost Impressed]

Adaptation, improvisation. . . rapid pivot to new directional vector of exploration! Perhaps I have been underestimating you and your resolve. When you phrase it like that; for the next two days the samples being collected from the ice shelves were markedly behind. I had to caution Mister Bustamante and his staff for becoming too distracted, I presumed it was due to the flight having gone missing.

BASS

So after your cautioning, things improved?

LARRY

Unlike previous chiefs of engineering Amundsen Scott has had, Your . . . pal. . . is one of the most dedicated and focused individuals. . . in his own field. I respect Mister Bustamante very much. If I instruct him to improve upon something, he always does it. I've never once had to double check to ensure he was addressing the issue.

PAUSE TWO BEAT

BASS

Did. . . . did you just pay. . . somebody a compliment?

LARRY

I respect efficiency and dedication, DEPUTY Marshal. Anything that helps the smooth operation and function of this research station.

WRITING IN NOTE PAD

BASS

Last question for the day doctor. Have you heard from anybody in Beauregard-Lowing since we returned from. . . .

LARRY

The chronological anomaly? No. I haven't. According to station logs, nobody has.

BASS

And you don't find that. . . unusual?

LARRY

I find it. . . exceptionally troublesome, DEPUTY. Now, I've answered your questions, I've given you my additional insights, I've tolerated your distractions.

CHAIR PUSHES BACK AND LARRY WALKS TO THE DOOR, OPENS IT

LARRY

It's now time that I wish you good day.

CHAIR SCOOTs BACK, BASS WALKS OUT

BASS

. . . .Good day. . .

DOOR CLOSES ABRUPTLY

BASS

Doctor Waynewright. . . .

**WALKING DOWN HALLWAY. OPS CENTER SOUNDS, NO RADIO CHATTER.
DIGITAL RECORDING: ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STOPPED.**

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED

**WALKING ACROSS ICE AND SNOW. WE HEAR A DOOR OPEN AND
WALKING ON GRATES INTO THE VMF BAY.**

ZEKE

S'up Lawman? What brings you down here on a Satur. . .oh
SNAP! I almost forgot. The big plan! Everything going the way
you need it?

BASS

Yep, so far so good. Even managed to get Cheryl-Lynn involved.

ZEKE

[Laughs]

What it take? Promise to produce babies or cat photos?

BASS

Oh I think she did mention something about being a grandma again. . .typical Ms. June. You gonna be there?

ZEKE

For this? You dammed right I'm going to be there. Other than fire watch, all of us going to be there. Shit, in the winter, somebody could be bouncing a ball and half the station would show up just for something to do. In the winter, you look for ANYTHING not the same routine. We play cards. Mikhail does arts and crafts, weird-ass Beakers make puppets like Richard Johnson

RICHARD JOHNSON MUSIC

ZEKE

Keep telling myself to build a cage around that Ice shrine. Keep them freaky Fraggles locked up.

RICHARD JOHNSON

[Quiet and in background]

You missing me Zeke? Found me a new Dummy! Soon Zeke, VERRRRYYYYYYYYYYY Soon!

BASS

Well then just consider this all doing my part to help provide distraction for the station's crew. Oh hey. . .just left an impromptu interview with Waynewright.

ZEKE

You taking his 'W' keys from the keyboard again?

BASS

[Chuckle] no, not this time. I was asking him about anything he may have seen or considered as off after the plane went down. Trying to focus in on anything he noticed from his prospective about the station not operating smoothly during the first two days.

ZEKE

Well, not to inflate that cowboy hat wearing head of yours, but lots of people were worried. About you, about Fred, Doctor Timms, all of you. Not surprised if work suffered during them few days.

BASS

Larry mentioned something very specific. An incident where core samples being stored on the outside ice shelves weren't being brought in quickly.

ZEKE

Huh. I had forgotten about that. Well, he ain't wrong! Round the first few hours after we heard your plane had gone down, a pack of samples were supposed to be taken to Cargo Hutt nine for evaluation. Of all the stuff around here that can't fall off schedule, that's one of four or five.

BASS

Why's that?

ZEKE

I don't know hundred percent. Gets down to some real Beaker science stuff. Basically, they got some kind of special microscope or scanner or something that they only get access to from some university to tell them about the samples. The microscope or. . . whatever it is, can't be in too cold an environment. The Ice samples. . . well they can't be in too warm an environment for long or their sample get contaminated. So. . . in my terms. . . you can only mix the

chocolate and peanut butter together for thirty minutes a day, or else you mess up the reeses peanut butter cup. My boy was eating into that 30-minute window by being late.

BASS

You remember who that was?

ZEKE

Sure do. Sabean. She was moving cargo that morning. Couldn't keep her head in the game. Didn't fault her for it given. . .well we all thought you might have been. . .but still, needed to give her extra attention. Focus on the job and work at hand. Woman is a good loader! Good worker. When Waynewright started making his noises, wanted to make sure I had her covered.

BASS

Sabean. . .Greer?

ZEKE

That's her.

BASS

Hrmm. I remember her interview. Fairly routine, nothing sticks out too much. May have to chat with her again.

ZEKE

Waynewright still giving you the business?

BASS

He never stopped! Did compliment you however!

ZEKE

Say what now?

BASS

Serious. Used words like confident, dedicated, reliable.

ZEKE

This Waynewright we talkin bout? About this tall gray hair. Looks like he always sucking on sour lemon candy. Said that. .about ME?

BASS

I was there. Heard it myself.

ZEKE

Well Damn! Guess now is the time to argue for a raise!

CHUCKLES

ZEKE

How Chris hanging in?

BASS

Roughly. I stopped by the IT center earlier this morning. Convinced him that he needed to shower. It was getting RIPE in that room.

ZEKE

He still eating?

BASS

Barely. I checked with Doctor Ambrose. He can't tell me anything about Chris' condition; but said he was keeping an active eye on him. Sydney been spending extra time with him too.

ZEKE

I'll check in on him before the thing tonight. He's family. One of us. See if he need anything. Now, can't help but. . . . Sydney huh? Not. . .Doc Bremmer?

BASS

Must admit. For as much hesitation I had, Syd is an alright guy. I still won't sit down with him in a professional sense, but I don't mind just us chatting about cars, about food, bourbon and oh hey. . .turns out he likes and knows a lot of the old cowboy crooners!

ZEKE

[Laughs]

BASS

[Confused]

What?

ZEKE

Lawman, you have to be one of the DUMBEST smart people I ever met. You know you are seeing him professionally, right?

BASS

Uh. . .no I'm not.

ZEKE

Okay. Feel me. . . you show up, talk about ALL the stuff you like. Maybe about how you got interested in it? What you like, don't like and why. Cat's REAL good at what he do. You think you're the only thick head stubborn guy ever been on this here ice? Hell, half the DeWalts I got have something against head shrinks. That's how he got the job. How he's so successful at keeping our clocks clean and not jumbled.

BASS

Does seem to know a lot. . . .nah, I'd know if I was Zeke.

ZEKE

Okay, okay you go on doing you then. [chuckle] What time things start tonight again?

BASS

Want everybody in place around nineteen hundred.

ZEKE

I got ya. Speaking of needing a shower. . .[sniff] you smell like ass. You go wash it up! Don't go picking her up all smelling like four-day old unwashed booty.

BASS

Yeah, good call.

ZEKE

Hey, Lawman?

BASS

Yeah?

ZEKE

Mention how much I love having you back on the ice?

BASS

[Chuckle] Yeah, a couple dozen times! See you tonight.

ZEKE

Play on playa!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE B-4 LOUNGE. IT IS ABSOLUTLEY EMPTY. ONLY THE HUM OF THE STATION.

KENDRA

[Confused]

Bass? You in here?

BASS

Kendra. Hi.

KENDRA

Bass. . .why did you. . .is that. . .are you wearing a tux? Where on earth?

BASS

Remember when I got back from being rescued. Some of my clothes are still on the side of that mountain. I went through the Skua piles from the summer crew that left items. Found a tux. Thought it would be good for tonight.

KENDRA

Well, I must admit. . .you do make that tux look good. Surprised it fit so well.

BASS

You and me both. I appreciate you meeting up with me tonight. I know that Saturdays. . .you tend to like to keep for just you and to unwind. Especially with having to pick up the work slack from Van Zandt being so reclusive.

KENDRA

Bass, I have no problem . . .I'm happy to get to spend time. . . [DEEP BREATH] I always enjoy seeing you.

BASS

Still. . .I know, from our many chats that you tend to focus in on work. That you seldom carve out time for just ***you***.

KENDRA

Sometimes. . .when you have issues with social anxiety and interactions. . .you find solace in solitude.

BASS

Well, all the baby steps you've been taking are absolutely paying off. Meals in the Galley. Attending movie night. .phenomenal. I just wish. . .that you hadn't missed out on experiences from your youth.

KENDRA

What? . . .I'm not sure I understand what you. . . .mean.

BASS

Remember when I first returned to the station. We would take morning walks up and down the A and B pod hallways to P.T. my knee. I remember you saying you weren't ever able to attend any concerts, or plays, or . . .well any school activities in general.

KENDRA

Yeah, back when the SAD first manifested, I was so afraid to be around more than two people at once. The thought of a larger gatheringno way. It would heighten my anxiety.

BASS

I can't even imagine, what that must have been like. How brave you had to be.

KENDRA

[Chuckle] Brave. . . not an adjective I get very often.

BASS

Well, if you ask me, it's long overdue. I'm just sorry that you didn't get to experience more grammar and high school experiences.

KENDRA

Bass. . .that was a long time ago! I'm who I am and while . .
.well sure there are things. . . I wish I could change. . . I'm
happy and proud of what I. . . all my accomplishments. I tend
to look forward sweetie, not in the rear view.

BASS

[Faux shock]

Oh! Well then. . . I guess you won't want this!

KENDRA

That's. . . Is that a. . . corsage? Bass; what. . . what is all this?

BASS

Doctor Jennings. Would you go to the prom with me?

KENDRA

[Indistinct words. Stammering to focus on words to use]

**FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE HALLWAY AND TO THE GYM DOORS. BASS OPENS
THEM TO SOFT DANCE MUSIC PLAYING. ALMOST ALL 50 WINTEROVERS
ARE HERE IN ATTENDANCE. BALLONS, STREAMERS, FLOWERS, DANCE
LIGHTS ALL SET UP.**

KENDRA

I can't believe you did this. . . for me!

NIC

Ladies, Gentlemen, Non-binary buds. I give you; the king and
queen of Amundsen-Scott's senior Prom; 2022.

APPLAUSE

NIC

While it's tradition for the King and Queen to lead us in a dance, the royal couple have request that we all, take that honor. As such, it is my very special honor to introduce you all to our music director for the evening. Doctor Corey Gray of the South Pole Telescope Project!

APPLAUSE

BASS

May I have this dance, majesty?

KENDRA

Of course. [sudden nervousness] I'm not going to have to sing.
.am I?

BASS

uh, no. I learned my lesson on that. All you are expected to do is have a dance or two. Wave at people and enjoy your first prom.

SUGAR (Cover) BY COREY GRAY BEGIN PLAYING. LOOPING THE OOPENING CHORDS UNTIL HE'S READY TO START.

COREY

Alight everybody. I'm happy to be here this evening, able to stretch the old vocal cords as opposed to stretching the limits of known science. I'd like to play you all a song, it's one I remember from my youth. It was a top chart hit back then. It's also one, I'd like to share with you now, and dedicate to Doctor Kendra Jennings, from Deputy Marshal Marlow.

BEGIN SIGNING SUGAR

BASS

Hey. . .if this starts to be too much, too much people exposure. You let me know and.. . [chuckle] you know what. . .this is where I need to take some lessons. I'm not here to save you. You don't need a prince charming, and I need to stop trying to be one. We'll go when you're ready to.

KENDRA

Leave? Are you kidding? This is the most wonderful thing anybody has done for me. We're going to dance to every song they play. Even the slow sappy 80's metal ballads!

BASS

[Laughs] Sounds wonderful to me. It's been a LONG time since I've been on a dance floor. So we may have a competition as to which become issues first. Anxiety vs. knees!

KENDRA

[Joking] Well then, if this night becomes too much for your old-man knees, you let me know and Princess Charming will swing into action!

SONG CONTINUES

KENDRA

Wow, you pretty much got the whole station out here tonight!

BASS

I can't take all the credit for this. Ms. June helped. All the decorations, the banners. . . . amazing what she can do with very little notice.

KENDRA

How many . . .how many children from us will she be expecting?

BASS

[snicker] She is baby-crazy, isn't she! Mister Kelley has told me a story or two about how she'll zero in on any conversation where babies are mentioned.

KENDRA

I just. . . I'm still speechless Bass. You have no idea how. . . just how incredibly sweet this is. Here, I was just expecting to spend an evening reading a book in the cozy corner of my room.

BASS

Hey! Nobody puts Kendra in the corner!

KENDRA

[Laugh] Finally, I get one of your references!

MUSIC CONTINUES ON AND ENDS.

KENDRA

Hey, Chris just walked in the room. I'm going to go tell him hello and make sure he's okay. Will. . . nah, you'll be fine with all the looks you're getting from the ladies over there! Be right back.

WALKING OVER TO THE TABLE.

FLIRTY HELLOS

Doctor 1
Hi Deputy!

DOCTOR 2
Hiiiiii

DeWALT 1
Hello Bass

DeWalt 2
Hi Deputy.

BASS

Ladies. I hope you don't mind, and I apologize for interrupting. I wanted to ask you for a dance!

LADIES

Me? No wait, me or her? Oh I will!

BASS

Actually, I was asking Ms. June in the back there. Ms. June,
May I have this dance?

CHERYL-LYNN

[Excited]

Ohhhhhh! The cute boy wants to dance with me, the cute boy
wants to dance with me!

LADIES.

Awwwwwwwwww (sweetly)

CHERYL-LYNN

Okay. . . .whoa there young man! Let's keep a few inches in
between us for the spirit of the lord now!

BASS

Yes Ma'am. I am nothing if not a gentleman.

CHERYL-LYNN

So. . . .how she doing? Was she surprised?

BASS

Oh I'd say so. She is having a wonderful time. Anxiety
notwithstanding, she seems to be coping with everything very
well. Have to admit, I was a little nervous.

CHERYL-LYNN

And the decorations, those all came out. . .

BASS

Incredibly! The fact that you were able to get everything
arranged in just a handful of hours. Ms. June. .it's nothing
short of. . .

CHERYL-LYNN

Magic? Well. . .like I said. . .it's what fairy Godmothers do.
Which reminds me. . .

BASS

Yes ma'am. I think it's still a bit soon for us, we only just. .
.became an item. That said. . .I'm hopeful. For now, we're just
taking everything one day at a time!

CHERYL-LYNN

That is always a good plan! I still can't get over the
transformation in her Deputy! This time last year we would
have been lucky to see her twice in a given season. Now, she's
over there. Mingling, chatting with Mister Todd. She's become
a real member of the family down here, not just a wall fixture.
You sure you have no fairy magic there Deputy?

BASS

She deserves all of the credit Ms. June. It was her that
approached me on the first day I arrived. She took that first
step out of her shell. Everything that has happened since then.
. .she's worked hard for. In a lot of ways, [huffs] nevermind, it's
silly.

CHERYL-LYNN

No, no. You go on now. You were saying. . .in a lot of ways. . .

BASS

In a lot of ways, it's like this place has, helped her.

CHERYL-LYNN

Well now I'd agree with you there Shug. There is just
something bout our Ice down here isn't there?

BASS

[suspicious] Indeed.

SONG ENDS, EVERYBODY CLAPS

BASS

Ms. June, I thank you very much for doing me the honor of a dance.

HEELS APPROACHING

KENDRA

You aren't trying to steal my man away now, are you Jolene?

BASS

Hey, I got THAT reference.

CHERYL-LYNN

OH MY WORD You too are just the most darlin' thing down here. Oh . .I'm gonna go shuffle off so you two kids can dance more.

SHE HURRYS OFF

CHERYL-LYNN

[gets distant as she hurries off]

Remember, Six Inches Deputy. He's always watching!

BASS

How is Mister Todd?

KENDRA

He's. . .doing as well as can be expected. Doctor Brimmer convinced him to come out together and just be around people. Even if he isn't up for chatting about anything just yet.

BASS

I'm really worried about him.

KENDRA

We all are sweetie. But. . . .he's one of us, and we'll keep watching after him for as long as he needs it.

BASS

Very well saidyour majesty!

KENDRA

Oh stop! No corny jokes! Not tonight. Not on the best night I've had. . . .well pretty much in ever.

BASS

I'm glad I could do this for you. I' just sorry that the night will have to end.

KENDRA

Um. . .I think after all this you did for me. . . .you're going to like the way this evening ends . . .!

OUTRO AND MUSIC

EASTER EGG

FADE IN. WE HEAR THAT OLD FAMILIAR CART ROLLING ACROSS THE FLOOR. WE HEAR COUNTING.

MIKHAIL

Twenty-Five. Twenty-six. Twenty-seven. This Gym is like crime scene of spilled soda and floor scuffs. Is going to take Mikhail all night to clean up. Why can't Smarty-Pants people just hold their boogie-disco events in Arches for once?

CART ROLLS ALONG

Twenty-eight, twenty-nine, Mustard stain, Thirty, thirty-one. Why so much shredded paper thrown on floor? What is happy about dropping little paper circles from ceiling. How does this make happy?

CART ROLLS ALONG

Thirty-four, thirty-five. . .huh. . .Tovarisch leaves voice recorder box thing on chair again. He needs one of those stretchy cord things keep on his person. MEH, I'll give to him at Breakfast tomorrow. Going to be up all night cleaning these floors.

SCRUBBING STARTS, RYTHMICLLY

MIKHAIL

I said a scrub mop,
Scrubby to the scrubby,
The scrub, scrub a mop, and you don't stop, a clean it
To the wash wash Soapy, say, up jump the Soapy,
To the washing_of the Soapy, the floor.

Now, what you hear is no a test – Mikhail is cleanin' to the score,
And me, the soap, and my Tovarisch are gonna try to clean the floor.
See, I am Jan-a-tor Mikhail, and I'd like to say *privet*,
To the black, to the white, the beakers and the DeWalts,
The purple and Dexters.

But first, I gotta
Wash Wash, the Soapy to the Soapy,
Say up jump the Soapy to the wash wash Soapy,
Let's clean, you don't stop,
clean the washing that'll make your floors clean.
Well so far you've heard me speak but I bring two friends
along,
and the next on mic is my man Igor,
C'mon, Igor, sing that song!

SILENCE

MIKHAIL

Oh da. . .[Sigh] Mikhail has no other staffs.

GENTLE MOPPING

MIKHAIL

Alllllll byyyyy myyyyyselfffff. I gonna mop, all by myselfffff.