

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE TWELVE:
MARSHMELLOWS & NACHOS

DRAFT 1: APRIL 28, 2022

by
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STATION HUM. WE'RE IN BASS' OFFICE. WE HEAR THE FAMILIAR PA CHIME FOR THE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

PA CHIME

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; CHEERFUL]

Good morning ya'll and I hope all my polies are doing wonderful this morning. Today is July 16th and its oh nine hundred on the tick. This is Ms. Cheryl-Lynn here with your South Pole Daily announcements.

CHEESY TAPE RECORDER BUTTON AND HORN FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; SERIOUS]

Due to the number of abnormal injuries from last month's knittin', Stitchin' and Gos*ip'n; this week's meeting has been canceled. I think we all know who we have to thank for THAT one ; don't we Gladys! Next month's meeting will be up for debate during the activities manager's next review.

CHEESY TAPE RECORDER BUTTON AND HORN FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; SERIOUS]

Icepicks Volleyball tryouts will be from 10Am to 1PM this coming Saturday in the big Gym. Coach Glenn asks that everybody please in mind, no scouting the talent this season and absolutely no betting on the games will be tolerated.

CHEESY TAPE RECORDER BUTTON AND HORN FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; SERIOUS]

A friendly reminder that attempting to stream Netflix shows while the lifeline satellites are above. . . [serious] especially Bridgerton is against station policy. We'll all get season two during the first cargo trip run of the summer season and watch it at the same time. But Imma warn ya'll now. . .any of you start talking about spoilers you've read online, especially about my Sweet Eloise; and Imma hunt you down and jerk a knot in that tail so hard your own toilet seat won't recognize you no more! ! [Through clinched teeth] DON'T .MAKE.ME.LOSE.MY.RELIGION.NOW!

CHEESY TAPE RECORDER BUTTON AND DINNER TRIANGLE

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; SERIOUS]

Come and get it ya'll! Lunch Lady Alice. . . .uh oh! Okay. . .Lunch Lady Alice has been asked to prepare, tonight for dinner her famous Owatonna Minnesota Nachos; with special Wisconsin State prize winning cheese. Dinner will start at Eighteen hundred tonight. She promises a large enough batch to make sure people get thirds and even fourths this year. People, we only get these one time a year. Let's remember we are all civilized and not push, punch, or kick while in the line. Unless it's spoilers about Eloise! Then go for the throat! Watching you Gladys!

CHEESY TAPE RECORDER BUTTON AND CHEESY FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN

[OVER PA SYSTEM; SERIOUS]

Now, a word from our station and area manager. . .Nobel Prize nominee; Doctor Lawrence Waynewright. Friends, Workers, and Scientists. We are well into the latter half of the winter austral season, and we could not be prouder at how everybody has been weathering the preverbal storm. I know that the extended cold and darkness can present. . .feelings and emotions in particular people, which is why we encourage you, who need to. . .to visit Doctor Brimmer and take advantage of his specific crafts.

There has been an uptick in reports around animosity, confrontations, minor verbal altercations and the occasional fisticuffs. . .other than those Hockey brother hooligans. Even more confusing given the guardian we were all assigned . . .oh not by myself or my request, but the head of NSF when they hired DEPUTY Marshal Marlow to provide peace and order to the station. Wonderful Job indeed.

PAPER CRUMBLLED

CHERYL-LYNN

I may have to read the news, but I ain't have to be the parrot for acting all ugly! I'll just paraphrase what Doctor Waynewright meant to say. We're like an extended family down here. We holler, we can dust-up, maybe squabble and throw the occasional haymaker. . .but we also need to make sure we're here for one another.

Okay. . .well ya'll heard enough outta this ol' chatterbox this morning. So, there you go! You take care now my polies. Keep an eye on one another and help out! You have a wonderful and blessed day! Thank youuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!

PA CLOSE CHIME

***SPEAKERPHONE DIALTONE
AUTODIAL 7-DIGIT SEQUENCE AND RINGING***

WILLIAM

McMurdo Station, Special Deputy Culligan.

BASS

Bill, it's Bass.

WILLIAM

Hey Boss, how are things down in the freezer?

BASS

Boring! It's Nothing like being back in the states where you're buried in new assignments and running down fugitives. I'm keeping myself busy with paperwork and this new investigation into the crash.

WILLIAM

Sorry to hear that but trust me. . .you get used to it. So, what warrant's the call?

BASS

I'm putting together my summer requisition list to have ready to send down when the lines re-open. Also, looking at provisions for each of the US stations. Seeing if there is anything listed that we may want to horse trade back and forth. Had our operations lead contact yours in Mudtown and in Palmer. Looking through the list of winter items.

WILLIAM

Surprised you don't have your boy Reno doing the horse-trading. Guy could trade ice to Innuits and get back change!

BASS

Oh trust me, he's working other angles.

PAPERS FLIPPING

See you got a larger than normal shipment of canned fruit including Cantaloupe, Pineapple, pears and watermelon.

WILLIAM

Whoa! No can-do Bass. Fruit down here is more precious than gold bars. Yeah, we have it, but not sure you'd have anything we'd want to rival it.

BASS

Alright. . .we'll put that on a back burner.

PAPERS FLIPPING

Looks like you got an abnormal amount of cold weather equipment just before winter started. Coats, Hats, Boots, pants. Don't see who requisitioned it however.

WILLIAM

[Thinking]

Yeah. . .I remember hearing about that. Some screwup in O.P.P. They sent us three hundred sets of cold gear. We just updated the year before. We're going to just ship them back in the summer, but you think you want them.

BASS

Possibly! The stuff most people have up hear is on the south side of old. Might just be the thing to perk spirits.

PAPERS FLIPPING

I see a few other things on the list hear. Deep cycle batteries, ooh! A Pizza oven! That would be good for movie nights. A few other things as well. Tell you what, I'll have our Mister

Kelley coordinate with your Operations person and have them iron out the trades. Sound good?

WILLIAM

Sounds good Boss. Hope your settling in gets easier.

BASS

Thanks Bill. Talk soon.

SPEAKERPHONE HANGUP

BASS

[Contemplating]

[Deep Breath] That makes us here in Amundsen-Scott, Palmer and now McMurdo; all who received large volumes of mysterious items that nobody can account for. I'm willing to bet if McMurdo's cold Weather gear and Palmer's stove woodchips were to be searched, those same canisters of drugs would be discovered.

ZEKE

So. . .what's your plan then?

BASS

Well, can't really do anything till October when supply routes start going. I was told both Palmer and McMurdo get supplied with cargo from Ice breakers cargo ships as well as planes once summer restarts. I'm worried we may not have enough time.

ZEKE

Palmer gets supplied by a ship called the Laurence M Gould. The . . .uh, first officer of the Maritime crew and I go way back. I can ask her if she can give us heads up on loading and unloading if'n you want.

BASS

I may take you up on that. At the moment; the number of people who are aware that we caught wind of this drug operation are only about a dozen. You and me included. I want to make sure I don't do anything to louse this up and bring somebody in who may be connected. How well do you know this. . . .X.O.?

ZEKE

[Laugh] Well, I slept with her for about three-years while we was married.

BASS

[Surprised]

You were married?

ZEKE

Hey. . .we all make mistakes! She and I, we kept in touch. My pops loved her more than he ever loved me. She still calls him 'Dad'. Her moms. . .thinks Jesus brought me into her life and still blames her for the split up. Tries to call me every Sunday still. Woman loved my cookin'

KNOCK KNOCK ON THE DOOR, IT OPENS

JESUS

You want me chief?

ZEKE

Damn it! How you always. . . no HEY*SUS. Go help Keenan finish up with inventory. If you smell anything around him that smell like old socks and woodchips burning, let me know. Gotta remember keep him and Patrick separated!

JESUS

Sorry chief, on it.

DOOR CLOSES

ZEKE

Anyway. . .[confused] where was I?

BASS

Uh, the part where you **NEVER** mentioned to your best friend. .
.you were married?

ZEKE

It was. . .damn lawman, it was like three lifetimes ago. I was
young, dumb. . .full of. . .anyway; I got married cause I thought
that was what was supposed to happen. Not cause I wanted it
to happen. [uncomfortable] Aw man, it's all mushy-mush
stuff. I'll tell you all about it some other time. Meanwhile, You
want me to call her?

BASS

Damn right we're getting back to that! For now, just make
sure she'd take your call if things get hectic. Let her know. . .oh
I don't know. New Deputy Marshal that got assigned is digging
around and trying to learn the landscape. Not asking you to lie
to your Ex. Just. . .foot in the door stuff.

ZEKE

I feel ya.

BASS

[Contemplating]

We could probably get one of the two shipment sent up here
under false pretenses. We'd get whosever attention it is to
handle the drug shipments, may even reveal themselves but
trying to interject. Trying to move both. . .that would be a

dead tip-off that we're on to them. They'd panic, go to ground and we'd lose any chance to. . .

DESKPHONE RINGS

BASS

Deputy Marshal Marlow speaking.

THOMAS

Deputy, we need you down in medical. We've had. . .an incident!

BASS

Heading over now.

HANGUP TONE

BASS

I'll catch up with you later Zeke.

ZEKE

I'll start making some calls on the low-low. See what I can find for you.

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STOPPED

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STARTED

WALKING DOWN THE COORDIOOR, DOOR TO SICK BAY OPENS

WE HEAR ARGUING BETWEEN FRED & SANTIAGO

FRED

. . .and it's not my fault that Rico Sauv  over here can't react fast enough to a spike! That he isn't the athlete I am.

SANTIAGO

You see? You see right there! He uses terms nobody under thirty-five understands. Nobody can *no comprende* a single

thing he says! [Louder} Nobody gets your lingo *Viejo Tio!* Join us in this century or admit it's time for you to go to pasture!
¿Tú entiendes?

FRED

I was humpin' and bumpin' when you were still in Menudo kid! I had it then, I have it now and I'm not one whose going to get a boo-boo and whine about it!

BASS

What is it this time Gentlemen? Work, women or general lack of social appropriateness?

FRED

Not MY fault Marshal! This Bozo. . .

SANTIAGO

Este viejo está a punto de que le entreguen el culo. . .

BASS

Enough! Suficiente! Now. One at a time. Mr. De La Cruz, what happened?

SANTIAGO

[Deep Breath] It was morning. This morning! The local volleyball coach wanted men to try out for his Ice-Picks team. Of course. . .Santiago leads men into danger, into action, why not, lead them to victory on court! So. . .I try out. A formality for sure.

BASS

Uh huh. So you're trying out.

SANTIAGO

Oh, no just trying. . .doing! Entrenador Glenn sees Santiago's Toned muscles, Ripped abs and absolutely perfectly styled hair. How could he not. . .the light above hitting the sweat glistening off my shoulders.

FRED

Yeah, In English we call that 'Flop sweat'!

BASS

Enough Mister Ferguson, you'll get your turn!

SANTIAGO

Anyway. . .the other players. They are scientists, a few of the . .
.how do you say. . .DeWalts also try to make the team. They
are thinkers, not athletes. Older, their bodies soft and doughy
like the uh. . .Pillsbury Doughboy over there!

The day goes in favor of Santiago. As we play matches against
one another that morning, I see . . . [passionate] Mi Amor! Mi
corazón! Mi. . .Catalina! She comes into the gym to watch. To
see her man, Santiago win this competition of manhood.

FRED

Catherine! Her first name is Catherine, and she isn't even INTO
you. Her panties only get steamy for me!

SANTIAGO

Gringo ciego estúpido!

FRED

I'm smart enough to not stop a ball with my face. . [chuckle]
guess you're used to balls in your face huh. . .ese?

CHAIRS SLIDE BACK

FRED

You wanna go?

SANTIAGO

I will end you old man!

BASS

[Authoritative]

ENOUGH! MISTER FERGUSON, GO INTO DOCTOR'S AMBROSE OFFICE AND WAIT FOR ME. [Beat] NOW! Make ANY comment on your way, I'll lock you up for disorderly!

FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY FROM MIC. DOOR CLOSES

SANTIAGO

You see? You see what I deal with. Santiago is a patient man Diputado Marlow, but with that baboon, he is going to get hurt!

BASS

Just. . .continue with what happened, *por favor!*

SANTIAGO

SO. . .with Mi Catalina there to support, I know I can no lose! One by one. . .I demonstrate how I am the best man, to lead the Ice-Pick volleyball team into the FIRE!

BASS

We typically don't have fire in Volleyball. How about you tell me what led to you and Mister Ferguson to fight?

SANTIAGO

There was just one more opponent, one more challenger for me to beat, to prove there was no one better, nobody, more manly more. . .Santiago, than. . . SANTIAGO! To be team leader. El Capitán!

BASS

Mr. Ferguson.

SANTIAGO

The Baboon, si. We each choose a partner and then, the match. . . it begins. Best of three points. I score the first. His tired and feeble body not able to keep up with. . . all this!

The next point, he tipped the ball while the coach was no looking. Was four touches and he scores. Of course with cheating! The next point. . . would say who is leader. Old moldy bread man, or Santiago. . . DE LE CRUZ!
We serve, they return! We block the first spike, they return. . . we are much younger, the sweat that pours from the heads and bodies, it was a lot! They were tired. There is another serve. . . again, they try to spike but they cannot get past Santiago's reflexes. Am like a jaguar, a true jungle cat! I look over to Mi. Catalina. She smiles and blows me . . . a kiss. Time slows. Our eyes lock and her love. . . makes me feel, warm. . . down inside mi. . .

BASS

[Cuts him off]

Entiendo! Entiendo! Qué pasó. . . next?

SANTIAGO

That. . . is when the baboon spikes the ball at my face. Winning the game. CHEATING, Making me look like a fool, [angry] in front of Mi Amor!

BASS

You were distracted by Doctor Timms, and got hit in the face with the volleyball?

SANTIAGO

Well, if you want to be simple in explaining. . . si, BUT THAT MAN, THAT TALKING APE, CHEATED!

BASS

Okay. Let me go talk with him now. You stay here and let Doc Ambrose tend to that cut.

FOOTSTEPS TO THE DOOR, OPENS AND CLOSSES IT BEHIND HIM.

BASS

Mister Ferguson. Recalling our discussion on the side of Mount Markham after the crash and your confession and lying to a federal agent. . .how about you tell me what happened, from your prospective?

FRED

[PISSSHHHH] Dude think he's this. . .hot Latin lover who is like the first dude to ever do anything noteworthy on this station. Shit! I see young punks like this all the time. Has no respect for those that comes before them or the shit we been through? Is all about them.

BASS

I meant during Ice-Pick Tryouts!

FRED

Symptomatic of the larger issues he has there Boss! But yeah, okay. . .heres how it went. . . So I'm there, representing the Fire Crew! You got all these beakers who can't serve for shit, FUCK, half the time that can't even get the ball to the net! You have the Dexters. . .don't even get me started there! Pencil pushing weenies, so. . .that leaves the Firecrew and Select DeWalts!

So, just like last year and year before that, I BRING IT! I'm in it to win it BAY-BEE! Then, here comes Ricky Ricardo! [Chuckle] dude, dude. . .what was the name. . .that WWF wrestling dude from the 90's. . .Razor. . .something. Reminds me if that dude, just more Weasley.

ANYWHO. . .so I'm killin' it, as always. Showing up these chumps with the big pythons here [Kiss sound x2]. Advanced to the final knock-out elimination to see who is gonna be team captain. Leader of the pack. Me. . .or Santa Clause.

Mano a' Mano. We face each other down. Here comes Cath. . .I mean Doctor Timms into the Gym. Shes watching the tryouts. No doubt getting more fertile just watching how I move. . .

BASS

FOCUS, MISTER FERGUSON!

FRED

Right, right. Game, fricken point. Next shot is for all the marbles. Catherine looks over to me, blows a kiss and. . .fuck, that's all I needed. Leap up on the return, spike Wilson into Santa Anna's FACE. BOOYA! I'm top dog and he's. . .whatever that pocket mutt dog thing is they have. . .a chalupa or whatsit?

BASS

Okay. Come with me.

ROLLERCHAIR SOUND AND FOOTSTEPS. DOOR OPENS.

BASS

Gentlemen. I've taken both your statements. It's my professional opinion as a US Deputy Marshal that you are both Class A morons! This entire thing is all over which one of you is more masculine than the other, and fellas. . .this is that 'Toxic Masculinity' thing they talk about that makes the rest of us look bad! So, I'm going to put this to bed right now.

Mister Ferguson! You are no longer fire chief on station. THAT, is Mr. De la Cruz. You left that position to head back to the world. Yes, things went sideways, but that doesn't change the

fact the position went to Mr. De le Cruz. You need to respect that.

SANTIAGO

Gracias Diputado!

BASS

And Mister De la Cruz. You got distracted during the try-outs. Mister Ferguson won. Sportsmanship notwithstanding, it was by the rules and legit. He's team leader on the court. As for the fire crew. . .you and I have some shared heritage. Had a saying I remember my Grandma would say. . . 'Respetar a los mayores, ellos saben más que tú. No?

SANTIAGO

[Half-interested]

Suppose.

BASS

Now, as far as Doctor Timms, I can't speak for her, what her feelings are. . .I suggest that one if not both of you chat with her to get this cleared up. That said. . .Gentlemen, this. . .whatever this cockfighting game you boys have going on between you. . .stops! NOW! Clear?

FRED

[Grumpily]

I hear you.

BASS

Claro?

SANTIAGO.

Entiendo.

BASS

Bueno! Doc. . .I'll leave these two. . .Gentlemen in your capable hands.

WALKING OUT THE DOOR TO THE HALLWAY.

SYDNEY

BASS!

BASS

Hey Sydney. How you doing?

SYDNEY

Fine, fine! I was just heading down to the infirmary. I heard Popeye and Bluto got into again.

BASS

Just coming from there myself. Got them settled down and hopefully to some sort of resolution. What the hell happens around here in Winter Syd?

SYDNEY

Actually, its not all that unusual. This is the most remote part of the planet. It's easier to get people to and back from the international space station this half of the year than it is to Amundsen Scott. Oh they have there events, their classes, there dances and distractions, but people are funny. You get enough of them in a stressful state with very little outlets, there is bound to be a flare up or two.

BASS

I get flare ups Sydney, but recently. . .the flares have turned to bonfires!

SYDNEY

Bass. . .I get the impression you've seen a thing or two in your day. The. . .hostility and brutality that man can vist upon man?

BASS

You'd be right there.

SYDNEY

Now, consider down here. Some pushing, some shoving. Somebody takes a sports ball to the face. Verbal arguments. Not counting our favorite hockey twins, there has only been one punch thrown this season. I'd call that a win!

BASS

[Surprised]

How can you excuse it? You? We've had a Knitting circle knock out; there was the science monitoring pushing fest. We had people grappling in the Galley and last week damn near had a brawl during the beer tasting. Plus Bratwurst.

SYDNEY

I'm not excusing it Bass, I understand it. That's part of the reason I'm here. Why there has been other doctors before me during the winter months. To help act as that. . .pressure valve for people's emotions. Why do you think we're having Nachos tonight?

BASS

How are Nachos going to calm everybody down?

SYDNEY

That's right, I keep on forget. . .tell me, was there ever a food you had, as a kid or adult where even just the thought of it made you happy? A real comfort food?

TWO BEAT

BASS

[Chuckle] Yeah. My Mom's Christmas mashed potatoes and mushroom gravy. I remember having the warmest feeling sitting at the table and eating. How whatever problems there

were, just went away for an hour or so while I had those potatoes with gravy.

SYDNEY

Don't ask me how she does it, or what it is she does to the meat and cheese; but you'd be hard pressed to find anybody on this station who doesn't DREAM about those nachos. I promise you Deputy, tonight. . .will be one of the calmest nights this station has had since the season started. It will help morale and give us some time to get people to deal better with their anxiety!

BASS

This was your idea? The Nacoes?

SYDNEY

Well, not just mine. It was actually Thomas that came up with the idea. Smart kid. So, about the two in the sick bay. You think I still need to see the Volleyball boys, or is it settled?

BASS

They quieted down for now. Will it last; we'll see about that. Gotta go get ready for an interview Syd, but we still on for tomorrow?

SYDNEY

My shingle is always out. Stop on in and we'll keep on chatting where we last left off. And hey, do me a favor. . .stop calming these situations down! You'll put me out of a job!

MUTUAL LAUGHING

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDED VOICE – RECORDING STOPPED.

FADE IN. BASS' OFFICE. STATION HUM FROM ABOVE AND WE JOIN A RE-INTERVIEW IN PROCESS

BASS

. . .but then again I'm not saying I'm anything close to being an authority on the topic. So, can you help clarify. . .what took you aboard the plane that morning?

CHAZ

Happy to. So normally any pre-flight checks are conducted by the pilot him, her or themselves as well as a Senior systems maintenance & diagnostic specialist. Acts as a check and balance just in case one set of eyes misses something, the other should pick up on it. The senior specialist is Marco Green; but the night before, they said he caught a stomach bug and he was sick that morning, so as the backup; I was called in.

BASS

So. . .Zeke called you in around oh five hundred?

CHAZ

No, it was. . .Ms. June as I remember it. Asked me to head down to Pax to clear your flight out. I suited up and started the checklist around 5:45 that morning. [Nervous] But HEY! Just remember like I told you the first time. . .that ejector indication system for the bottle was cleared by both taggart and myself!

BASS

[Reassuring]

Like I said. . .not looking to place any blame or accuse anybody of anything. All I'm doing now is making sure I have and understand all the facts. So your primary role is still . . .

PAPER FLIP

Logistics and Operations?

CHAZ

Right. We calculate the current consumption rate of consumables and various supplies. Make sure we're on track to not run out of anything over Winter. Gauge the need to ration, if any and estimate any overages we may be facing. It's mostly number crunching and analytics forecasting.

BASS

Interesting. . .so based on the first interview, after completing the preflight check. You signed off on Tragger's check; him on yours. Nothing stood out? Nothing new you recall since the first interview.

CHAZ

Ummmmm, nothing comes to mind at the moment.

BASS

Then you. . .went down to Logistics arch to update Winter stores for an hour or so.

CHAZ

Correct

BASS

You and . . .Rene Kellogg.

CHAZ

Yes.

BASS

You two. . .together the whole time.

CHAZ

Uhhh. A bathroom break notwithstanding, yes. I stepped out for. . .10 minutes.

BASS

Down in the arches, they still only have the one bathroom in the Power arch?

CHAZ

That's right. We always petition the plumbers to whip up another so at least we have two down here, but they never go for it.

BASS

Guess that means you really need to time out when you need to go. Avoid any accidents!

CHAZ

Eh, doesn't take that long to get used to it. Just gets you better at managing your trips to the commode! Not like it is up here in the EI-Station, where you have bathrooms in every pod!

BASS

Later on in the day?

CHAZ

Um. . .lets see. Came up here to help with diagnostics on a meteorology system in the science lab. Had Lunch around. . .1PM. The news of your plane's disappearance first came out around 1:30. I was walking between the station and IceCube lab to help out with calibration of some of the new DOMS we received. First heard about the disappearance at 2:#0 when somebody radio'd the news over to us. Dinner was kinda somber that evening. There was. . .um something that was scheduled in the large gym that was canceled.

A lot of us just hung outside of the Ops center, hoping for news.

BASS

Okay. . . .how about anybody. . .acting off, or out of sorts that evening into the next day.

CHAZ

I'd say that was more or less everybody Deputy Marshal. Everybody was upset about you and Treager, Fred and Doctor Timms. Even Josh! I don't think anybody was themselves over those few days.

BASS

But, no. . .one things stands out?

CHAZ

[Considers]

Not that I can think of.

THREE BEAT

BASS

Okay. I think I'mmmmm. . . .good for now. I'll keep chatting with people. Will come back if anything new pops up. Thank you for coming in.

CHAZ

Not a problem at all. That's Deputy!

CHAIR SLIDE OUT, WALKS TO DOOR. OPEN AND CLOSES IT BEHIND HIM.

BASS

He is clearly hiding something Diane! I won't say it's outright lying. Not yet anyway. May be nervousness over the pre-check flight he performed. May be guilt about the crash. Could just be defensive. But what is clear is he is absolutely holding back and not telling me everything. Mister Wilford is now officially a person of interest!

Pause Interviews.

DIGITAL BOOP

FADE IN. BASS' OFFICE. WE HEAR WRITING IN NOTEBOOKS AS KENDRA IS SPEAKING

KENDRA

. . . wait and is always going to be here when you get back! Seriously sweetie, you will NOT believe this nachos. Back before. . . before I became more comfortable. . . I'd only come out in public like this a few times over winter. These Nachos. . . were one of the reasons.

BASS

And I don't doubt that. I just like making sure I have things squared away where I like them before I step away for the day or for chow time.

KENDRA

I could. . . always bring some in to you from the Galley. After that first bite, I'm pretty sure you'll come around!

BASS

I'm. . . I'm guessing I'm around fifteen minutes away from a stopping point. That's only . . . hold on where is. . . that's only five minutes after they start serving. I'm fairly sure I'll get there in time.

KENDRA

Alright Mister work-a-holic! I'm going to head down then to get in line. I'll make you a plate so you'll have yours ready. Don't work too long, please!

BASS

Seriously, fifteen minutes. I'll be done very soon.

SOUND OF A KISS ON THE CHEEK.

KENDRA

See you down there then!

FOOTSTEPS TO THE DOOR, OPEN AND THEN CLOSE. WE HEAR THE PENCIL WRITING IN THE NOTEBOOK AGAIN. PAGES TURNING AND MORE WRITING.

DESK PHONE RINGS.

ANSWERING TONE

BASS

Deputy Marshal Marlow Speaking. If this is about the Nachos, I already know!

JOYCLYN

Deputy Nacho? No. . .no I don't like that at all. I think I'll keep with Marshmallow. S'up Deputy Marshmallow.

ROOM AND BASS' BLOOD GO ICE COLD. BASS GOES FROM WORK MODE TO SUPER DARK IN 0.02 SECONDS.

BASS

[Icy calm. In that place]

So did you do it? You kill Chuck? That was you, wasn't it?

JOYCLYN

You honestly think that I cared. . .

BASS

[Slight losing it] NO LIES! NO STORIES! [Regain composure, back in the place] Just tell me that it was you, so that when I see you next and put a bullet into that void where your heart should be. . .I'll know it's honest to God justice, not just vengeance.

JOYCLYN

Not to deflate your plans Marshmallow, but no. I didn't kill your sweet Charlie. . . Daddy.

BASS

[FURY, losing the place]

Watch. Your. Tongue. you murdering whore! [Compose, through clinched teeth] You lost all right to ever speak his name. So why'd you do it? Cause he knew about Atlas? Cause of the placement of me down here? Everyday Joyclyn. . .everyday I get one step closure to what Atlas is. . .and trust me, when I find out. . .

JOYCLYN

KNOB HEAD! I didn't Murder your Father-in-law! Now, if I wanted him dead, you don't think I would have called before now to brag about it?

BASS

Who knows how that diseased brain of yours works! This has all been some sick game of yours since we first met. You attacked a team of US Marshals.

JOYCLYN

And how often do I brag about it? All.the.time! [Taunting laugh] You sorry sots were SO easy to ambush. Took your toy out of your own pram didn't I!

BASS

You couldn't just be content with killing him. What, was Janet just collateral damage?

JOYCLYN

[Angry]

MARLOW, I DIDN'T KILL HIM!

BASS

[Angrier]

YOU LIE!

JOYCLYN

HE WASN'T WORTH THE BULLET! HE WAS A FEEBLE OLD MAN WHO WAS BEING PUT OUT TO PASTURE. OH I WANTED HIM TO SUFFER MARSHMELLOW. . .[deep breath] Deteriorating away, fading into nothingness, his legacy to be forgotten in a few years. . .that would have been better than any revenge I could have provided him. To watch him slowly suffer day, after day. . .

BASS

Careful. Almost sounds like you're having feelings for him again!

THREE BEAT

JOYCLYN

[Knife to the heart]

[Deliver line slow, methodical, Icky]

At least. . .I had feelings enough to make it to the funeral service. Even managed to louse that up huh. . .Donkey Brains!

THREE BEAT

BASS

[No emotion. In the place]

Joyclyn. I promise you this. Right here, right now. The next time you see me. You'll see the barrel of my Glock first. You'll have a gun in your hand. You'll have every chance you never afforded others. And when it's said and done. When you're on your back. . .where you always do your best work. . .I'll be standing above you, and make sure I get you that one-way ticket to hell you deserve. In Chucks name.

SLOW CLAP OVER THE PHONE LINE

JOYCLYN

Oh Bravo marshmallow! Here I thought your Yank cowboy and Indians movies weren't good for anything at all. It gave you the worst intimidation lines. Seriously, you made my sphincter pucker out of fear. I'm all a quiver! [Beat] You have some big things heading your way. Atlas is only the tip of the iceberg. You put yourself on the gameboard you twat. Now. . .in for a penny and all that. Best thing. . .will be getting to watch what happens!

BASS

[No emotion. In the place]

One round. One shot. Five point four pounds of pressure on the trigger. The last thing you'll hear, is the echo of blood and your heartbeat stopping in your ears.

**SATELLITE CONNECTION LOST. SATELLITE CONNECTION LOST.
PHONE HANGUP. DIALING FIVE DIGITS**

THOMAS

We got her. Trace went through. You kept her on long enough.

BASS

Where is she?

THOMAS

Uh oh!

BASS

What do you mean. . .uh-oh.

THOMAS

Wellington. She's calling from an Antique Store, called Memory Lane. It's on Tinakori Road in Downtown.

BASS

'Memory Lane. . .that's her. One of the things she'd use to taunt me with when we'd spar. She loved to take me down Memory Lane. But uh. . .I still don't get the 'Uh oh' part?

THOMAS

Deputy Marshal, it's one block down from the same Chinese Embassy. . .

BASS

Where Mister Nichols was sending the encrypted data batches. That bitch! [Sigh] I hope these Nachos are as good as everybody says!

DIGITAL BOOP

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON ,IT'S PRETTY FULL. WE HEARD LOW TALKING. MUSAC AND PEOPLE JUST HAVING A GREAT TIME!

PATRICK

[High, and Introspective]

You ever have a recurring dream where like, Harriet Tubman breaks into your home and eats all your Mayonnaise? I used to think it was because she was mean, but I think she really just despises a dry sandwich!

ANNIE

(Confused)

Okay, I don't even know where to begin or how to respond to. . .that!

BASS

[So relaxed, HIGH]

These Nachos. . .are BETTER than what everybody says. I'm hoping seconds are even better than firsts! I can't believe I've never had these!

KENDRA

[High]

How could you have? She only makes them one time a year,
for all the. . .the winter people. It's a special treat!

TWO BEAT

BITING INTO A CHIP

BASS

[High]

Oh my GODDDDDDD! Second time around is even better!

KENDRA

[Teasing] [High]

Like last night, huh?

BOTH LAUGH GIDDLY

BASS

[High]

And I thought. . .you were the shy type!

FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

THOMAS

[High]

Hey. . .um guys! How's everybody? Bass? Kendra?

BASS

[High]

Doing great, Mister Kelley! You guys. . .have REALLY good
Nachos!

THOMAS

[High]

RIGHT? Lunch Lady.ALICE! Lunch Lady Alice has been making these for like. . .years. Everybody loves em. Even old Grumpy Larry, and he hates EVERYTHING!

BASS

[High]

I have got to get this recipe!

KENDRA

[High]

Goooooooood luck with that one. She's from my home state! We don't give out our recipes alllllllll. . .what's the saying? Nilly nilly?

THOMAS

[High]

No no, that's. . .um. . .nilly Chilly?

BASS

[High]

Oh Chilly Willy! That was a GREAT Cartoon on woody woodpecker!

KENDRA

What? No. Sweetheart! I'm talking about. . .the Nachos. It's The recipie. . .hold on, hold on. . .Willy. . .Nilly! She won't give out the recipe Willy. . .wait. . .Who the fuck is Chilly Willy?

BASS

[High]

[Fake Gasp, Giggling] KENDRA SAID A SWEAR!

EVERYBODY LAUGHS

LUNCH LADY ALICE

Well now I love seeing everybody being giddy and enjoying my cooking!

BASS

[High]

Ms. Alice. . .Hold on. . .I have to. . .

CHAIR PUSHES OUT

BASS

[High]

Please! Join Us!

LLA

Oh no no no! You just go ahead and sit right back down there Mister. Although I do enjoy seeing some old world manners around here!

TWO BEAT

KENDRA

[High]

Missssssss Alice. Please sit! He's just gonna keep standing there until you do. Those manners of his! Such a [cutsey talk] tall strapping manly man's man! [Normal voice] Plus. . .have you SEEN his forearms? Those are like. . .FOREARMS!!!

LLA

Yes dear, he's got the Manley shoulders. Well now you know, after cooking all day. . .I guess I could take a load off the dogs here for a spell.

SITS AND RELAXES

Now, how are you kids all doing? Enjoying the Owatonna Minnesota Nachos?

BASS

[High]

Miss Alice, I have to tell you. I've been eating nachos like. . .for 50 years and I have NEVER enjoyed any nacho like this now!
[TWO BEAT] What's. . . .is this a family recipe?

THOMAS

[High]

This is. . .the best food down here! Like everything is chicken, except for this which is. . . .heaven.

BASS

[High]

The cheese is. . . .[TWO BEAT] well now I can't describe it right now, but I would bathe in it!

LLA

Well now David Copperfield don't go telling how he works his magic there Deputy, but. . . .well I guess I can tell you this much. The cheese is an award winning infused Cheese I have picked up and flown down all the way from Madison, Wisconsin. Those Packard fans know how to make some great Cheese don't ya know! Patrick told me about this little place he knew of. They make all sorts of special treats from rice crispies, brownies, gummies but their specialty is infused dairy items. Patrick said I should get the Ogkush Indica. It must be made up there in Oshkosh!

TWO BEAT

BASS

[HIGH]

Wait. . .what. . . what was the name?

LLA

Ogkush Indica!

BASS
[HIGH]
O.G. Kush? Letter 'o' letter 'G'?

LLA
Well as much as you're traveled for sure you'd have seen it
before Deputy Marshal!

BASS
[HIGH]
Oh. . .we're very familiar with it.

LLA
With how much everybody has had the grumpy-grumps
around here of late. . .this is always the perfect time to break
these little devils out! Makes everybody just relax and enjoy
the quiet!

BASS
[HIGH]
You know. . . Miss Alice. . . .These nachos and the cheese. . .

THREE BEAT

BASS
[HIGH, RECONSIDERS]
Should be submitted in a contest, or a competition, or as
evidence they are SOOOOOOOO good!

LLA
Well now I know you already have a best gal. . . .but you're
getting a old smooch on the cheek for that one Mister!

SMOOCH ON THE CHEEK
VARIOUS 'WHOO-HOO'S FROM THE CROWD

LLA

That's enough from the rest of you there by golly! Now. .
.anybody want some to take home with them.

SOUND OF EVERYBODY'S HANDS GOING UP

LLA

Well THAT'S what I like to see now. No food going to waste
around here!

FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY

KENDRA

[HIGH]

Is. . .is that?. . .somebody call the news. . .I see. . .a SMIRK on
Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow's face! What's the joke
sweetie?

BASS

[HIGH]

It's. . . .[DEEP BREATH] nothing! These things really are so
good. You going to finish those Mister Kelley?

THOMAS

[HIGH]

Hrm? No. . .I'm so full and just feel like taking a nap. Here you
can have them.

KLANKING SOUND

THOMAS

[HIGH]

Whoops! Napkin dispenser thingy in the way. I'll pass these on
the left hand side!

OUTRO AND MUSIC