

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE SIXTEEN: GROUNDHOG'S NIGHT

DRAFT 1: May 12, 2022

by
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BMB PRODUCTIONS

INTRO AND SONG

BASS

Diane, it's Monday August 29th, 2022, Amundsen Scott and 0492 investigation. Current time is. . .hold up, damn I need an eye exam! It's oh six-twenty hours according to the clock on the galley wall and I'm going to be conducting. . .

FOOTSTEPS RUNNING DOWN THE HALL

FRED

Enhanced background analysis into the possibility that one of the winterovers may have forged credentials! [Deep Breath] Nope! Not doing this shit for the ten thousandth time here Boss. We still ain't no closer to figuring out how I got here, why I keep coming back here and how we get me to stop whooshing back.

BASS

Okay Mister Ferguson. Let me start off with. . .

BASS

A: How did you know what I was going to dictate and
B: What the hell did you have last night that is causing. . .this.

Stop that! No you Stop that.
No, I'm being serious now!

FRED

A: How did you know what I was going to dictate and
B: What the hell did you have last night that is causing. . .this.

Stop that! No you Stop that.
No, I'm being serious now!

FRED

Look Deputy, I can go on doing this all day long. I've actually done it, all day long somewhere in the twenties, but I'm sick of this. . . Groundhog Day shtick!

THREE BEAT

FRED

[Frustrated]

AGHHH! Right now you're thinking about having Doc Bremmer do the head shrink thing and Doc Ambrose give me the ol' high hey howdy! Let me spoil that one for ya. Bremmer will tell you I believe what I'm telling you and that I seem to predict what people will say. Ambrose will tell you I'm the most fit forty-year-old he's ever seen (I'm fifty-two by the way) but WHY he has to keep giving me a prostate check never makes sense. Nothing up my ass is causing me to jump back in time! He keeps saying 'hole in one' all the time!

BASS

Mister Ferguson. . .I'm sure

FRED

This isn't agitation or going stir crazy due to isolation. Every day I wake up in my Berth, it's six AM and every day at exactly five twenty-seven, there is a super strong wind, a bright light from outside and I go RIGHT BACK into my rack, it all happens all over. . . [calms down, confused] Seriously Boss, you never seen Groundhog Day before to know how all this works?

BASS

Never saw it. I don't like. . . .

FRED

Yeah yeah, Bill Murray! Never forgave him for What about. . . .
[LOUD CLAP!]

FRED

SHIT-FIRE, I forgot! Sometime. . .I don't know. . . jump forty something. I had everybody tell me something private to prove that I'm on the level. You! You picked your wife up at a bar!
[PROUD] Oh yeah, there it is! TOLD YA!

BASS

[calmly]

Mister Ferguson, lots of people meet their spouse in a bar.
That proves nothing.

FRED

Oh right right [thinks] okay. . .you love cheese on Pizza, but
otherwise you hate it on anything else; [low voice] weirdo!

BASS

Loosing me here! How about we go see Doctor Bremmer
anyway. . .

FRED

Just. . .Just. . . .okay. In eight seconds, Thomas is going to
come through that door and say, "Hey guys!" "Great morning
and fruit loops" Three, Two. . .one. . . .

DOOR OPENS

THOMAS

Oh hey guys! Gee it's turning out to be a SWELL morning, isn't
it? Think I'll have the fruit loops today!

BASS

You're on the level here, aren't you?

FRED

[Dismissive]

Bahhh, you're always the easiest one to win over. Once you
put me in front of any of the egg heads, the Poindexter's or the
DeWalts. . .they take hours of convincing. [TWO BEAT] Tell
him you haven't seen it.

THOMAS

Oh hey Deputy Marshal, Fred. . .have either of you seen my lucky pen?

FRED

[Worst innocent routine]

Nope, no. Have no idea. . .what you mean there little buddy. Just repeating time here. Not taking stationary.

THOMAS

[Confused]

Um. . . .alright.

BASS

I haven't seen your pen mister Kelley, but I promise I'll keep an eye open for it.

FRED

[Low voice, whisper] Now is the part where he licks your taint.

THOMAS

Well OKAY THEN! With a seasoned investigator on the case, it's as good as found. Later Guys!

FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY

BASS

Alright mister Ferguson. You're actually catching me at a unique point with everything else going on. I'm inclined to help you. Just. . .one thing. . .

FRED

Yeah, the pen. Need it for an experiment later on, just. . .it's a thing I'm batting around. Let's walk and talk. . I'll fill you in on what's what.

**FOOTSTSPES LEAVING THE GALLEY. MUSAK FADES INTO THE DISTANCE
AND WE HEAR THE HOWLING WINDS, WORSE THAN BEFORE.**

FRED

Okay. . so like I said, I wake up every damned morning and it's the same day. Everything happens, exactly like the day before, more or less. As soon as it hits five twenty-seven P.M.; flash, boom I'm back in my Berth. I've tried to get help from beakers, from Waynewright, the spastic old dude head scientist. Zeke thinks I've been drinking or hitting up the Greenhouse guys stashes. . .which I have but that's not connected. I've tried to radio McMurdo and some of their eggheads. Nothing.

BASS

How. . .how many times. . .

FRED

Jeez I don't know. I stopped counting after like, fifty. It's been like. . .A LOT!

WALKING STOPS

BASS

We're talking like more than a month. . .almost two months of the same, everything?

FRED

Wash, rinse, repeat, boom, in my bed and can't find my boxers anywhere. I've been free balling this whole time.

BASS

Okay. . .some details just, yeah no! No thanks! [DEEP BREATH]
Look. . .I might know. . . .somebody who could help. He's, been going through some stuff past few months, but I think for this. . .he may be able to help.

FRED

I've hit **ALL** the science nerds Boss. Even the piece of . .
[catches himself] the. . .Pièce de resistance of all scientists on
station, your girlfriend!

BASS

She has a name, Mister Ferguson.

FRED

Right! Right! Doctor Jennings. Even she thought this was some
scheme to get into her panties. Nothing she said helped.

BASS

You said before, I was always the easiest to convince. In all the
past times you've solicited my help. . .I never took you to her.

FRED

No you did, day-repeating-science wasn't her thing. She went
into some Einstein long words explanations. I don't know I
started to tune out when it got too nerdy. What about this
scientist person you know. . .?

RESUME WALKING.

BASS

He's not one of the beaker. Just knows a lot about. . .this kinda
stuff. We're heading there now. [TWO BEAT] And Mister
Ferguson. A bit of advice. . .don't reference Doctor Jennings
panties ever again!

FRED

Psssst! That's nothing! Give it a couple hours and you'll deck
me good in the face. Always do!

BASS

[Deep Sigh] Why can't I just go back to hunting murderers and
transporting prisoners.

**A FEW STEPS AND THEN ELECTRONIC VOICE RECORDING STOPPED:
FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE COMPUTER IT OFFICE. STANDARD STATION HUM
BUT NOW WITH SERVER CABINET NOISES. WINDS LOUD OUTSIDE.**

IT CHRIS

[Depressed / half energy of what he normally has]
Huh. A temporal causality loop. Pretty simple stuff to understand and break down actually . . . when you look at the core material, we have on it.

FRED

What, you mean like science stuff, books and the internets?

IT CHRIS

Uh. . .no. I'm talking Star Trek, Star gate, Dark Matter. .
.basically any sci fi show produced out of Canada really!

FRED

[frustrated]

This? This is your subject matter expert? Dweeby Sci-Fi-guy #2?

BASS

HEY! Let's try to remember we're here to ask for help Mister Ferguson. Don't be an ass!

IT CHRIS

Wait. If you were in a causal loop. . .you should have known not to say that!

FRED

This part ain't never happened before. I never did come in here to ask you about Ner. . .about the stuffs you know.

BASS

He's. . .predicted things and events all morning with 100% accuracy. I witnessed it myself.

IT CHRIS

Butterfly zone then.

FRED

[Frustrated] WHAT . . .[composed] What, would you mind telling me is that?

IT CHRIS

The butterfly effect. It means that everything would happen as it has for you before. Except if you were to take a particularly different action. Even a subtle one. . .would slightly change the future events you experience before. [TWO BEAT] oh, but don't worry. . .time has a tendency to self-correct and return everything to the pre-destinate path. At least in the Star Trek versions. Not so much Hot Tub Time Machine though!

FRED

[Fond memory]

DUDE! EPIC*FUCKING*MOVIE! You have hot chicks, Mötley Crüe, the whole soundtrack is a slice of eighties awesomeness!

IT CHRIS

[Whispers] Great
White Buffalo!

FRED

[Whispers] Great
White Buffalo!

BASS

Happy you too made a connection. Now, how can we end this Mister Todd?

IT CHRIS

[pondering]

What is the last thing you recall, before the temporal loop starts over again?

FRED

Oh right! Doesn't matter what I do, or don't do. . .or change. .
.just before five thirty there is this blinding white light and
strong gust of wind. The light suddenly is gone, and I'm back in
my bed. Wondering where my shorts up and gone off to?

IT CHRIS

Hrm. . .can you remember, where were you the first time it
happened?

FRED

Aw man. . .I'm not no good with remembering things unless
they matter! Number of sets, current best time for the mile
round around the gym. Boob size of the ladies on station from
bazongas to mosquito bites. [Sigh] um. . .first time I noticed. I
think. . . [ponder] hey. . .HEY THAT'S RIGHT! I was doing a
fire-safety check on the gas lines in the Ice Tunnels. The uh. .
.new Fire Chief . . .Penelope Cruz gave me the shitty
assignments. I was in the tunnels, section C. I'm going down
the checklist . . .yeah. . .I remember this. . . feeling like ants
crawling on my arms. The hairs on my body was all standing
up. I . . .picked up my radio and then BOOM, back in my rack. .
.have the worst case of ball itch each time too!

BASS

[Suspicious]

Ice Caves. Isn't section C by that Gravity well sign.

FRED

Yeah! That's the one. So when I . . .time travel , DeLorean
jump. . .whatever. . .

IT CHRIS

[Factual]

Time loop, not time travel.

FRED

What's the difference there Poindexter?

IT CHRIS

If you were time traveling, you'd have run into yourself already. The fact that you haven't, tells us it's a causality loop, not . . .hrm.

BASS

Mister Todd. . .you have something?

IT CHRIS

Maybe. . .just maybe. . .I need to do some research. Check some old episodes and VHS tapes. Come back. . .what time do you loop back again Firefighter Fred?

FRED

Five thirty.

IT CHRIS

It's seven AM now. Come back in a few hours, if what I'm thinking is correct. . .we may have a way, to break the temporal reversion cycle event!

FRED

What?

IT CHRIS

To stop you going back in the loop.

[TWO BEAT]

IT CHRIS

[Sad]

Feels like that should have been. . .[sigh] more dramatic or somebody telling me to tone it down inserted right there. Eh, never mind. Come back at nine.

FOOTSTEPS WALKING OUT AND THE SOUND OF THE SERVER CABINET DISSAPATING. ONLY WIND AND THE STATION HUM

FRED

Little Nerdy gut always look that. . .unkempt?

BASS

He's. . .going through some things right now. Just needs time.

FRED

Dude needs a shower and a weight routine. . .oh SHIT! Did he say it's seven?

BASS

Yeah?

FRED

DAMN IT! We're going to be late. Come on!!!

RUNNING DOWN THE HALLWAY AND FADE OUT

FADE IN. IN THE HALLWAY JUST OUTSIDE THE BIG GYM. WE CAN HEAR A GROUP OF PEOPLE INSIDE DOING CALISTHENICS.

BASS

What does the gym have to do with. . .?

FRED

No, no, no boss. This ain't about the time shuffle. . .two step or whatnot. This. . .this is for me. Took me three weeks to get the timing just perfect

FROM INSIDE, WE HEAR FIRE CHIEF SANTIAGO

SANTIAGO

Okay, now we are going to run laps. One mile to get warmed up. Twenty Lap inside the gym.

WHISTLE BLOWS

Let's go already! *¡Gente Floja!*

PEOPLE SLOWLY BEGINNING TO RUN. WE HEAR THE CLICK OF THOMAS' PEN

FRED

I tried so many things getting this just perfect. Golf balls, pencils, metal rods, popsicle sticks, white board markers. The kid's pen is the only thing that works. . . .Here we go!

SANTIAGO

[From a slight distance]

Mi Abuela. . .she can run faster than all of you. Do I have to run with you to set the pace?

FRED

Three, two, one. . . .bowling with pens!

SLIDE OF A PEN ACROSS A WAXED HALLWAY FLOOR. IT SLIDES A DISTANCE AND WE HEAR A 'WHOA' FROM SANTIAGO AND 'URFFFFFF' AS HE HITS THE FLOOR. LAUGHING FROM INSIDE THE GYM

FRED

[Laughing]

I swear. . .that will never get old!

BASS

You've spent months, repeating the same day. . .and . . .THIS is what you're doing with it?

FRED

[Still chuckling]

This? Oh this was nothing. Wait till two O'clock!

BASS

Somehow. . .in most ways I know I shouldn't be surprised. .
.Mr. Ferguson, I've. . .

FRED

Right right! Now we go see your lady-friend scientist person who goes into a bunch of math and words I ain't understand the meanings of. Always a hoot!

**THE TWO START WALKING AS THE LAUGHING FROM THE GYM DIES
DOWN AS WE GET DISTANCE. THEY START UP THE D.A. STAIRS.**

BASS

So, in all this time, the. . .looping. Did you ever do. . .anything you wouldn't normally do? I mean if every day at five thirty you go back to the start of the day and nobody else but you remembers. You could do whatever you wanted.

FRED

Yeah, no consequences. You ask me that same question each time and each time my answer is the same. No! I'll show up the young Latin kid to make sure his head don't get too inflated. I'll put hot sauce in Waynewright's oatmeal when he turns his head to look at the monitor in the galley. I'll unscrew and loosen every sugar container on station. But I ain't sneaking a peak when one of the hotties is in the shower or go snooping through their underwear drawers! I may be a . . .
.what do the little punks call it. . .a Dude.Bro. But I ain't no sleaze or creep! As my grandma used to say. . .it ain't about

the lay. . .it's about wanting them to GIVE YOU the lay themselves. That's the sport sonny!

BASS

[SIGH] I was almost there! It swayed to surprise and respect for just an instant . . .then back again. I was so close, just needed you to go a bit harder!

FRED

[chortle] That's what she said! Am I right? Heh?

BASS

Here we are. Small conference room.

DOOR OPENS. WE HEAR THE HUM OF THE STATION AS WELL AS THE EXTERNAL WINDS.

KENDRA

Hi boys. I have to admit. . .the call I got this morning was a bit confusing. You want to know about. . .causal paradoxes?

BASS

Yes. . . .Doctor Jennings. . .

FRED

Oh c'mon Boss! Why the pretending? Ain't nobody on the station who doesn't know you too are . . .an item! [two beat] see! Told you last time I wouldn't use 'Kanoodling' to describe it!

BASS

[frustrated]

Fine. Fred. . .seems to be repeating the same day over and over again. Events are repeating and he has. . .already demonstrated an uncanny ability to know what is going to take place, before it happens.

KENDRA

[Dubious]

I see. . .

FRED

You loved Groundhog's Day, thought it was a cute movie but there wasn't much. . .science real truth in it. Yes Doc, we understand that. No doc. . .this isn't Bass playing a trick on you and no doc. . .my motivation ain't. . .that. . .this time anyway if you catch my drift.

KENDRA

[Confused]

How. . .did you know. . .

FRED

Time. . .jumping. . .looping. . .time door!

BASS

No, that's something different. Kendra. . .we're on the level here. Assuming the points Mister Ferguson brought up were indeed what you were about to say. . .just goes to highlight the current predicament.

KENDRA

Guys. . .time travel itself is. . .still purely hypothetical.

FRED

From what Bass told me. . .a few weeks back, different loop. . . for several days he and some others were in 2045 a few months back. I'd say all this is less hypothetical and more . . .'thetical'.

KENDRA

I thought that was highly classified. We were under DNA's?

BASS

[Confused]

It is. We are and I have no memory of every telling you anything about that. . .event Mister Ferguson.

SITS IN A CHAIR, HEAD IN HIS HANDS. WIND PICKS UP.

FRED

Previous jump, loop. . .[sigh] really just need to pick a name and go with that. Ooohhhh! Halen-Jump!

BASS

What?

FRED

Jump, by only the third best rock group of the 1980, Van Halen! When I was a kid, I had that record. I'd play it all the time and on the record player I had. . .it was start skipping on the 'Jump' lyrics. Thought it was the funniest thing! THAT'S what I'll call this thing I'm in. Halen-jumps.

TWO BEAT

KENDRA

Okay. I'm still not ruling out practical joke here. . .but seriously, even with Fred here being aware of. . .the Canadian station incident; tests were conducted upon everybody returning.

FRED

We considered in another Halen-jump. Anything powerful enough to transport an entire station back in time or you forward in time would have left an Entropic decay signature on their clothing and equipment. Waynewright and Lorenz ran those experiments. Nada!

TWO BEAT

KENDRA

[A bit shocked]

Entropic decay? What. . .did Waynewright and Lorenz do?

FRED

Oh my god. . .this always leads to a dead end! Fine! [DEEP BREATH] Larry took several samples of clothes from him and whatshername, the dust cover from a book he brought with him. A wrench, something else. . .I always forget. Anywho. . .He Used entropymetry measurements on each item vs. other items that didn't go to. . .I don't know. . .Narnia or wherever. He cooled each one almost down to absolute zero, so the entropy also approaches zero. Then, small amounts of heat are put to the item, and he records the temperature, until it hits 25 °C.

That data allows him to use it in a calorimetric equation to make up his damned mind.

STANDS UP, UNCAPS A MARKER AND STARTS WRITING ON THE WHITEBOARD.

UGH, you're all killin' me. Look. . . $T \dots$ equals $A.U.$ over $A.S.$ with V and N being the constants from the cooling experiment doohickey and uses the definition of temperature in terms of entropy, while limiting energy exchange to heat. That takes us to how entropy changes . . . $D.S.$ when a small amount of energy $D.Q.$ is introduced into the system at a certain temperature or. . . T .

FOUR BEAT

BASS

Kendra?

KENDRA

I'm more confused now than ever. Everything. . .he's correct.

A bit more. . . .colorful than I'm used. . . .[confused] when did you study quantum mechanics and thermodynamics Fred?

FRED

Halen-jumping! You said it so many times. . . .the first few dozen I just sang the George of the Jungle theme song in my head as you went on. Over the past month I started paying attention. V.H. also did Hot for Teacher! Just sayin'.

BASS

So assuming you're willing to entertain the notion that Mister Ferguson didn't suddenly . . .osmosis your quantum. . .science. . . that stuff on the board, and early 80's rock analogy not withstanding. . .can we assume he's possibly time looping.

FRED

Halen-Jumping. I discovered it. I'm naming it!

BASS

[Reluctantly]

Halen. . . .jumping. Whatever. Kendra. . .can you think of any way to stop it?

KENDRA

To stop it. . . .I have to better understand it, and what the genesis was to begin the process. The causal event that prefaced the anomaly.

STANDS UP, FOOTSTEPS ACROSS THE ROOM. VOLUME LESSENS AS HE GETS DISTANCE ON THE MICROPHONE. SOUND OF TISSUE EXTRACTED FROM BOX. WALKS BACK

FRED

Like I was telling the Deputy Marshal here. Five twenty-Seven every time. There is a flash of bright white light from outside. There is a tremendous burst of wind and then BOOP, might as

well JUMP! Back in my rack. [TWO BEAT] Here ya go.
Gesundheit!

KENDRA SNEEZES

No boxers to be found anywhere. [perplexed] Still can't figure out where they went. Those were my Thursday set of drawers! . . .Just. . .woke up and was letting my chain hang low!

BASS

Also, we determined the first event, the first. . .Halen jump was when he was doing checks for Chief de la Cruz in the Ice Tunnels. Section C by the Gravity well.

KENDRA

[Realization] Oh! Alright then. [Breath] Okay. . .first, thank you for the tissue. Second, good luck with your underpants but. . .eww. You mention a bright light each time. From, which direction?

FRED

Depends on where I am when it goes all kaboomy. Looks like it comes from off in the distance. The end of the Skiway in the Downwind sector.

KENDRA

There aren't any structures. Any buildings out that far. There is a small operational hut at the Spreso drill site. But that's eight kilometers and not in that general direction.

FRED

Look. . .not being rude, but we've been through this . . .I've been through this several dozen times. It's not Spreso. We. Ruled out the buried LC-130 at the end of the Ski-way. It's not the super-Darn, everybody said that I was a moron thinking it was them gray big head aliens with the black almond eyes. .

.little fuckers still creep me the fuck out with their butt probes and skinny arms. Get free-weights you little anal lovin. . .

BASS

[CLEARS THROAT]

Focus, Mister Ferguson.

FRED

[Shivers] Look. Boss, Doc. . .I appreciate ya's both for helping out and tossing around the old hot science pa-ta-ta. Now. . .I need to be over by the D.Z. staircase so I can stop one of the beakers from tripping down it and breaking her leg, subsequently getting a date for tomorrow night I never get to make. . .and then start putting items in motion for three P.M. when Chief De la Soul. . .eh, better not to spoil it!

BASS

I'll check back in with Mister Todd at noon to see what he came up with. Meet me back in the Galley for lunch at twelve thirty.

FRED

Whoa! Normally it's at noon we eat. I guess introducing the kid. . .the. . .computer nerd autoboot. . .whatever introduced them butterflies! Okay. . .see you at twelve-thirty.

STANDS BACK UP AND WALKS TOWARDS THE DOOR

FRED

Yes, you're still on for eight tonight boss, but she wants to stay in her berth tonight because she has a report to file early in the morning. Also. . .Ask around! Everybody in A-1 section of berths knows what you too are up to at night. Unless Doc Jennings really *is* praying to the lord! Paper.Thin.Walls!

DOOR CLOSSES
THREE BEAT

KENDRA

I'm not sure which I'm more concerned over. The fact that Firefighter Fred just described Entropic Decay calculations using doctorate level scientific theorems. . .and correctly . . .or. . .that perv and half the station knowing about our love-life!

BASS

One crisis at a time. With all the science he described . . .any thoughts?

KENDRA

Well. . .[ponders] and. . .I have to preface with. . .all. . .very hypothetical. . . let's assume the flash of light he described is. . .whatever the causal event is. Coupled by the fact that he was near the door to. . .Doctor Waynewright's super-secret. . .this Atlas project. . .It's not too far off to say it's related.

BASS

I had the same thought. But. . .wouldn't that mean that Doctor Waynewright and whomever is running the experiment at Five twenty-seven would also be. . .Halen-jumping?

KENDRA

It's. . .possible. Not knowing what experiment is being conducted down there and with what equipment, I can prove or . . .disprove it. Did. . .has Doctor Waynewright, Van Zandt or the others claimed they're. . .repeating the day.

BASS

Not that I'm aware. Seems to me if Fred really is. . .repeating the same day for two months, that would have come up. Another. . .Halen-jumper.

KENDRA

I'll. . .check with Jovac and the others. . .quietly. [Two Beat]
We're still on for tonight sweetie, but let's . . .be more aware
of the surroundings!

BASS

[Joking]

Hey. . .who you want to worship is nobody's business other
than your own! Freedom of religion! Or. . .I guess you could
say freedom of. . .expression!

KENDRA

[Embarrassed]

Bass!

BASS

See ya tonight.

KISS

ELECTRONIC BEEP: RECORDING STOPPED.

PA DING, CHERYL LYNN ON ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHERYL-LYNN:

(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Good morning, Ya'll and I hope all my poleies are doing
wonderful this morning. Today is Monday, August 29th, and
it's 09:00 on the tick. This is Ms. Cheryl-Lynn here with your
South Pole daily announcements!

CHEESY FANFARE

Buckle in ya'll! Chief Meteorologist Topper Hunt says this
unprecedented wind gust is only intensifying. We're seeing
sustained winds of thirty to forty miles per hour and it's
growing every day! Scientist and workers traveling to and
from external buildings in the Dark and clear air sectors need
to check in upon arriving. Additionally, a zip line has been

erected between stations and each employee will need to connect so ya'll don't blow away. Especially you skinny minni's and beanpoles that need more meat on your bones!! Let's all make sure we science. . .safely!

CHEESY FANFARE

After the full week for the contest, we have a winner for the jellybean jug guess Lunch Lady Alice put out. The winner, who correctly guessed the amount of jellybeans. . well look at this not only did they get the number exactly on the nose. . .but also at the 7:30AM cut off time. . .is Fred Ferguson! Next closest was our new Fire chief, Santiago who had 1280! Congratulations to Fred who gets a special seven-course dinner for him. . . hrm. . .and a date served by the Galley team in the B-two lounge with scenic and romantic views of the Southern auroras. To whomever agrees. . .we'll put human resources on standby!

WILD BLUE YONDER FANFARE

As a reminder, this afternoon we'll be getting emergency refresh supplies for the station medical bay and critical life safety items. Airmen from the 62nd and 446th airlift wing operations group will fly a C-17 over us at around sixteen hundred hours. Cargo teams 2, 3 and DeWalt emergency operations should have all snowmobiles fueled and be on standby. Remember ya'll. Have to get them before the bumbles do!

TRIANGLE FOODS ON FANFARE

Today's lunch and dinner selections. . .well I don't think I've ever seen this happen before. Huh. Due to a supply shipment snafu this morning. The rabbit and chicken Paella Valenciana for lunch and Tapas with Spanish beans and rice for main entrée at supper has been canceled. As a replacement, Lunch

Lady Alice will have burgers, veggie burgers and Fenway franks for lunch, along with lobster mac & cheese or Boston Clam chowder. For dinner, they'll be corned beef and cabbage, Boston baked beans, fried clams with scallops. For those vegetarians, Cesar squash salad or veggie pizza. Hrm, I may be country, but even I don't wanna think about eating no little cute bunnies!

CHEESY FANFARE

And finally ya'll. . .I'd like to give a special. . .what do the kids all say. . .a 'shout.out' to a very wonder guardian angel. I don't know who it was what left me the epi-pen on the ops desk but THANK YOU so much! I swear I didn't know I picked up a peanut butter cookie this morning. With my allergies. . .that could have been nasty! Doctor Ambrose said if not for that injection, I could have been laid up for weeks. Ya'll have to listen to somebody else doing my morning announcements for a spell. Here I thought I was the fairy godmother! Thank you, little angel, whomever you are! Your timing was perfect.

CHERYL-LYNN:

(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

So there you go! I want each of my poleies to be careful and safe and mind your manners with one another! Remember he's always watching! Have a wonderful and blessed day. Thankkkkkkkk yooooouuuuu.

PA CHIME OFF

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE COMPUTER IT OFFICE. STANDARD STATION HUM BUT NOW WITH SERVER CABINET NOISES. WINDS LOUD OUTSIDE.

BASS

Okay. . .most times I wouldn't be going with non-scientific sources; but this is new ground for me here. Run me through this one more time?

IT CHRIS

Based upon everything you and Fred have told me to date, coupled with the facts at hand, and the assembled works of dozens of GREAT sci-fi works. . .I have a plausible theory!

Recall, how Fred mentioned he was in the ice tunnels, in the general vicinity of where you said there is a hidden chamber. Coupled, with the fact that of all the instances of power interruption last season. . .to this season, the only unexpected factor. . .are you and Fred!

BASS

That's pretty much where you lost me last time.

IT CHRIS

The only people who are not supposed to be here, but are here at the station this winter. . .are you and Fred. Doctor Timms was in the process of picking up medical items from McMurdo to restock us for the season. The pilot, Traeger sometimes stays on station over the winter depending on the flight schedule in and out. I checked, both were assumed to be winter-overing. You and Fred. . . .not so much.

BASS

So. . .Mister Ferguson, or myself. . .are causing his . . .Halen-jumps?

IT CHRIS

[Confused]

[TWO BEAT] A what?

BASS

It's. . . .never mind. Causing the looping effect.

IT CHRIS

Not directly! For this part, we need to dip our toes into horror science fiction. Not. . . .really my forte, was more of Emery's

but. . .[deep breath] the needs of the many. . . . Let's now look at the Final destination series as the next factor! Ironically, it was all due to something Fred said early, and how I remarked that time finds a way to course correct.

In the film series, a teen has a vision, of him and his friends dying in a plane crash as it explodes mid-flight. He and some friends get off the plane, and it indeed explodes. They were all supposed to die, but them getting off messed up the grim reapers plan. So one by one they start dying in chain-line series of events. It's death. . .fixing the planned series of events.

BASS

[Worried]

So we should have died in that plane crash?

IT CHRIS

No. no no no. Death isn't doing this. Trying to. . .fix the plan, but it shows us the pre-determined series of events; WAS interrupted. My theory is that Fred's looping is indirectly cause by whatever is going on in the tunnels, and that experimented by Fred being in such close proximity. It's the reset mechanism if you will. . .trying to establish a new set of parameters to fix this plan.

BASS

Lost me again.

IT CHRIS

Okay. . .as a kid. . .you ever get one of the mazes, where you have to draw a line to get through the maze without dead-ends?

BASS

Of course!

IT CHRIS

What was the starting point?

BASS

[Guessing]

Um, the beginning of the maze. The entrance?

IT CHRIS

What was the ending point?

BASS

The exit point, the opening at the end.

IT CHRIS

And if you were like most kids, you did it in pencil so when you came to a dead end, you could erase and try again. Every time Fred resets the day, that was . . .whatever is doing this hit a dead end and erased back to this morning for Fred. The goal. . .is to get him to the exit by going down pathways. . .events on station not tried. He said before in all his loops, he never talked to me about it. Today was the first. A new situation. . .we're finding the right pathway through the maze.

BASS

Alright. . .you got me back again. But. . .[remembers] you. . .also said that *I* wasn't supposed to be here. Why aren't I experiencing this Halen-Jump?

IT CHRIS

Seriously? What is this Halen Jump?

BASS

It's what Mister Ferguson calls it. Because of the song. . .by Van Halen.

IT CHRIS

Oh. . .yeah okay. . .I get that. Hagar was still better though.
Can't beat the Red Rocker!

BASS

I was always partial to David Lee Roth myself.

IT CHRIS

Running with the Devil? Bluck! Please!! David Lee PUKE
more like!

BASS

Can we get back. . .please??

IT CHRIS

Right right right! Okay, yes you too were also not intended to
be here for the winter season. I think that just as Fred may
hold the key to the bright explosion, you may hold the key to
the wind!

BASS

Back to lost again. The Wind?

IT CHRIS

Things around here maybe. . .off, weird to the outside world
Deputy, but in that same sense, we have our normal routines
just like almost every other place. You and Fred. . .you're off!

BASS

Huh. . .come to think of it. . .Mikhail said something exactly like
that to me a couple months back. Just . . .just after I returned
unexpectedly! It wasn't me. . .that had to get used to
everything. It was everything around here getting used to me.

IT CHRIS

[Impressed]

Wow. . .that is a REALLY good analogy. It's us. . .and our routines that have to get used to you being here, which you weren't suppose. . .you said Mikhail come up with that? Wow! Smart guy. Great voice too. Not just the accent!

BASS

Yep, man has a great voice and many talents. Now. . how do I tie into the wind?

IT CHRIS

Every year, we get some strong winds. . .yes. . .but never have I heard. . .or read of winds continually THIS strong and building in intensity. That's new, or another way of saying it. . .unprecedented.

BASS

[Thinking]

Okay. . . Sydney told me. . .there was a balance. Things here on the station, depended on a balance. Franklin said my. . .my, because of. . .my guilt. The scales were tipped unfavorably.

IT CHRIS

Yin and yang. The force and the dark side. Even and odd Star Trek sequels. All equate to. . .a balance. [Proud] Everything is starting to come into sharp focus. Deputy. . .the last remaining piece. . .the. . .factor I can't reconcile with. . .it's the explosion. I know the what, I think the 'who' is pretty clearly you and Fred, the why is because you're here and not back in the world, when is at five twenty-seven he said. . .where is here. . .obviously. . .but the 'why' I can't logic out the why.

What happens around 5:30 today? What is supposed to happen.

BASS

I. .I don't have. . .dinner got switched around, they'd start serving around that time.

IT CHRIS

That was obviously Fred's doing. You'd notice how many of those food selections were New England based. Pretty obvious he's taking advantage of his forward knowledge. No, gastro-intestinal distress isn't the why. What are we missing?

BASS

Breakfast, meetings, tripping Santiago, lunch, dinner, there is a staff meeting at 4:30 in the big conference room. Air drop of supplies at 5PM. That's close, but not five thirty.

FIST SAMMED ON DESK

IT CHRIS

Close, but I don't see how medical supplies would be causing this.

TWO BEAT

BASS

[Hesitant]

Um, Mister Todd. . .in all your. . .science Fiction. . .tales and stories. TV movies. . .what would, a decaying radio Isotope due to explain a . . .why?

IT CHRIS

[Laughs]

Now I know how Em always felt! [Regretful sigh] Nice try Dept-Marsh. Yes, radio Isotopes are scary, but their fairly common. An energy wave that could cause a temporal rift or wormhole. . .a radio isotope wouldn't even phase it. Decaying. . .ok, getting better, but still. . .[ponders] . .

BASS

What if it was concentrated Radium-226 Isotope?

IT CHRIS

Not bad. . .highly radioactive, for sure! but that doesn't occur nationally down here. Plus, it would have to build up so much energy potential. . .then, MAYBE. . .

BASS

The isotope is in a miniature shield container meant to act as a tracking device to monitor movement, power enough to be picked up by Satellites.

IT CHRIS

Radium. . .giving off alpha particles. . .contained in a small, shielded environment, mixed with an external energy source powerful enough to loop somebody. . . I'd have your doctor Jennings confirm. . .but that's going to cause a fairly powerful boom. Maybe even enough to cause a temporal loop event! What the hell is the U.S. Air Force putting in those crates?

BASS

That's classified Mister Todd. Needless to say the shielding was meant to act as a safety measure for the short time it would be at this station. Again. . .an event that would not have been triggered, had I not been here.

PA DING

CHERYL-LYNN:

(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Sorry for the late notice Ya'll, but due to the higher than anticipated winds. . .the emergency drop will be delayed to 5:30 today. Cargo and DeWalt emergency teams still to be on your toes!

PA OFF DING

BASS

Well done Mister Todd. Now. . .how do we stop it from happening?

IT CHRIS

Deputy Marshal. . . I have an idea about that too. . .but. . .you may not like it!

FADE OUT WITH MUZAK AND WIND NOISE

DIGITAL RECORDER BEEP

STRONG WINDS OUTSIDE ARE ALMOST OVERPOWERING THE STATION HUM. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY. THE GANG HAVE GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE PLAN.

BASS

Okay everybody. That's the stuff we can't talk about officially. Needless to say, it's something that Mister Kelley, Zeke and I have been researching since my return to the station. Given the events involving Mister Ferguson, it's become necessary to include the rest of you in our. . .activities. Please understand, many of you were purposely kept in the dark up till now to ensure no retaliatory steps would be taken against you. That said. . .Mister Ferguson, Kendra, Mister Todd. . .that's everything we know to date in regard to Project Atlas, as well as the events with. . .the station anomaly where. . .Mister Waterman currently is.

FRED

You know. . .if not for this Halen-jumping, I'd think you all was some of the most paranoid bunch of Nerds in all nerddom. But hell. . . . three minutes. . .but hell, this is starting to become a blast!

KENDRA

I'm astounded at the . . . amount of funding Thomas said.
being funneled into their secret project. That much money,
whew. . . . could provide so many additional research grants. It
would really benefit the stations works we perform.

BASS

If I thought it was taxpayer money or funds being
misappropriated, I could act and make arrests. But from
everything we've seen it's all directly coming from several US
corporations which are no doubt fronts for Beau-Low.

THOMAS

Oh they absolutely are. I may not have many detective skills,
but from all my years of working in a cubical and dealing with
data and crunching numbers, I can follow a money trail. It's
funding coming in from sources indirectly associated. It's a
Beauregard Lowing funded project alright!

ZEKE

Well we may know that it's them. But does anybody know
what the hell they doing down in the Ice tunnels?

TWO BEAT

KENDRA

Doctors Lorenz, Waynewright, Van Zandt and Jovac are all not .
. . . not in their usual places today. Not in their offices not um. .
. . in the labs. Stands to reason, they're working on Atlas.
Especially. . . well, given what Mister Ferguson says about
leaping.

FRED

Halen-Jumping. One minute.

THOMAS

[Curious]

One minute. . .to what?

FRED

[coyly]

You'll see.

ZEKE

So what's this plan you all come up with?

IT CHRIS

We'll be effectively, for the most part ending the recurring temporal loop Fred has been experiencing. To do that. . .we need to recreate, the original series of events by having Fred. . . in the tunnels where he was during the first initial event.

FRED

Oh, I'm about to be assigned to inspect the pipes again alright. . . just a few moments more.

BASS

Okay. . .seriously Mister Ferguson. . .what is about to happen.

FRED

Oh, so glad you asked. If I can have everybody focus their attention to the rear entrance to the Galley in three. . .two. . . .one. . .

THOMAS

Why is there a bucket perched above the doors? Is that. . .oh no! It's Santiago!

**SOUND OF A METAL CLANK AND THEN LIQUID POURING ALL OVER
SOMEBODY AND THE FLOOR**

FRED

[LOUD LAUGH] Hey! Looking good there new Fire Chief! Most people put milk on their cereal, not their head! [Content laughing]

SANTIAGO

[Angry, from a distance]

Oh. . you find this humorous piche gringo?

FRED

Uh. . .yeah!

SANTIAGO

Well, then you just volunteered. . .

FRED

Yeah yeah, inspection on the gas and sewer lines in the Ice tunnels. You want the report by the end of the evening. You got it Milkman! [Laughing]

SANTIAGO GOES OFF MUBLING. SOPPY FOOTSTEPS GOING DOWN THE HALLWAY.

KENDRA

[disappointed]

Seriously. . .you're like a big. . . .bully, Fred!

FRED

It's okay Doc, trust me. He gives as good as he gets!

KENDRA

What's the rest of the Plan Mister Todd?

IT CHRIS

With Fred in position, at precisely five twenty-seven. . the energy created by this. . project atlas will first interact with Fred, then go on to interact with the Uranium Isotopes that are in the containers being parachuted in by the Air Force.

KENDRA

Wait. . what is. . . why are uranium isotopes being delivered? They're highly radioactive.

BASS

[Guilty]

Look. . I knew they were part of the incoming shipment, but I am not at liberty to explain what their intended purpose is. They've been contained in a secure storage and containment environment. There isn't . . well, there was not expected to be any negative effects, nor anything expected like Hagar-Jumping.

FRED

[Insulted]

Whoa! Its Halen-Jumping. Sammy Hagar had no business being in VH! It's Van Halen, not Van-Hagar. Stick to making tequila, bud!

THOMAS

[Nervously]

Um. . . Deputy Marshal, the Antarctic treaty is very specific about the materials to be brought onto the continent. Radioactive materials for non-scientific purposes are not typically permitted.

BASS

This is an unusual situation Mr. Kelley. Again, not able to go into details. Sufficed to say the materials will be taken off the continent within 60-days of arriving. The US government is

aware and has authorized the activity. I can't say any more than that. Mister Todd, please continue!

IT CHRIS

The energy released by whatever Project Atlas is, coupled with Fred's interaction as well as the interaction of the Alpha radiation build up in the shielded containers would normally cause the massive explosion Fred describes. However. . .if we have the Deputy Marshal, situated at the base of the drop zone. . .i theorize that it will counteract the modification of Fred's presence. . .making the interaction, inert!

KENDRA

Look. I mean no offense Chris. . .but. . .this. . .this has almost no base in science. I can't even describe how. . . .dangerous this plan is! What is your source materials Mister Todd?

IT CHRIS

Only the crème de la crème of top Science Fiction writers!

KENDRA

Guys. . .please. . .understand I'm not. . . .I'm not trying to . . . dampen anybody's plan. But. . .as a scientist I'm trained to look at everything . . .the lens of logic.

ZEKE

Belief begins where science leaves off and ends where science begins. Look. I ain't saying I get what the science says. . .or the. . . .whatever it is Mister Todd here is on about. What I do know is that I've seen Fred here predict things that are about to happen. And they do. Not just simple things. .

KENDRA

Well. . .he did properly describe Entropic Decay Calculations.

ZEKE

I don't know what, or who is doing all this. . .Halen-jumping.
But I've seen enough to know it needs to stop. Fred needs to
stop reliving the same day.

THOMAS

I know I'd not enjoy the same routine over and over again.
Living on the station over the Winter can be difficult enough.
Living the same day. . .I can't even imagine.

RICHARD JOHNSON THEME
STRIKE OF A MATCH

RICHARD

Your space man plan is interesting kid.

ZEKE

[Unnerved]

GAH! How the hell somebody so big able to sneak around.
And with Fozzy bear on his hand?

RICHARD

Easy Zeke. I'm here to help. With all dime store story and
funny book tales, sounds like you need it.

BASS

How long where you standing there?

RICHARD

Long enough to know you only got half the picture. The kid
with the thick set of peepers here said there were two of you
not supposed to be here. You got two and two right kid, but
that don't add up to three, which is what the answer is. Me!

THOMAS

But. . . .you were supposed to be here. Lars is on the official
manifest from the NSF, well. . .an NSF if you believe in the
alternate reality theory.

RICHARD

I'm not talking about the moose here. I'm talking about yours's truly. If this little soirée of yours goes into action. . .you'll need all three of us, and if what I'm thinking is right. . .I get a one-way bus ticket back to where I belong!

ANNOUNCER

TO BE CONTINUED

OUTRO AND CREDITS