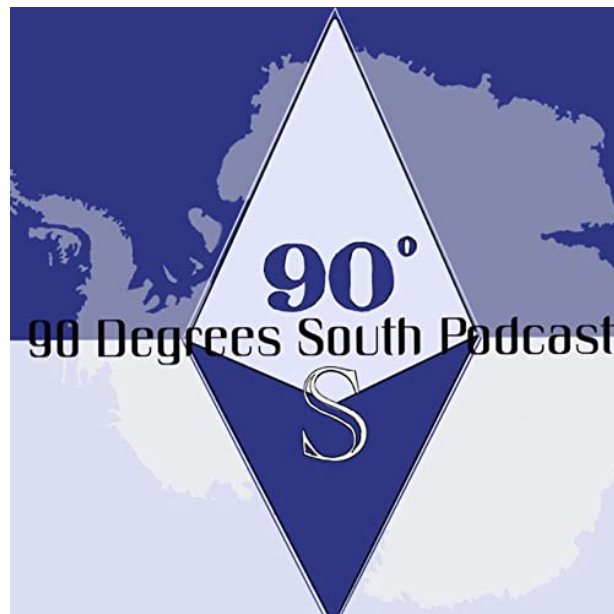


90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE
EPISODE TWO: PIERCING THE VEIL

DRAFT 1: AUG 18, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

MUSIC INTRO
ACT I

BASS' BODYCAM: RECORDING STARTED

WE'RE IN THE ARCHES / LOGISTICS. IT IS A FLURY OF ACTIVITY
AS CARGO TEAMS ARE HAULING OUT SUPPLIES AND HEADING OUT TO
THE SKIWAY. FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.

ZEKE

[ANNOYED]

...and if I have to tell you one more time to log
out the materials we shippin', I'm gonna smack
you so hard your mama will be calling me for
pointers on how to go upside yo' head so
perfectly! This is shit I taught you on day-one!
Now get out my sight Keenan. Damned chucklehead!

Oh hey! S'up Lawman?

BASS

Hey buddy. Was just stopping in to check on the
construction supplies being shipped out along
with the canisters and our tracking devices.
What Keenan do this time?

ZEKE

Not taking inventory of cargo heading out and
heading in to be stored.

BASS

Isn't that a job for the L.O. workers?

ZEKE

Most times, but I've always told my team to
double check what they be loggin in and out. Not
saying they make a lot of mistakes or nothing,
but. . .actually no, that is what I'm saying!

BASS

Not going to tell you how to do a job you've been
doing longer than I've been down here but isn't
that a lot of pressure on Keenan.

ZEKE

[HUSHED TONE]

Okay look. . .and I ain't telling you this and will say you made it up it ever gets out. . .but Keenan is smarter than he look. Boy has some serious smarts and book learning. My man ain't the dummy I make him out to be. He just. . .
.[THINKS HOW TO PHRASE IT PROPERLY] You know how there be some people who are just so book smart, but have absolutely no common sense?

BASS

I work for the U.S. Government Zeke. I'm very familiar.

ZEKE

Keenan has a good head on him, but if I didn't tell him the stove is hot, he'd burn the damn station down!

SOUND OF A LOADER BACKING UP

BASS

He's a good kid. Just hasn't come into his own yet. [BEAT] How's the offloading going?

ZEKE

The um. . .supplies with the cracker-jack surprise inside will be loaded up to the C-130 out on the skiway by 13:00 today. It's scheduled to hit McMurdo tonight and then offloaded to a cargo crate going back to Christchurch. The hidden supplies in Mudtown will be put in a separate container and everything heads out end of the week.

BASS

Did your ex-wife confirm the supplies from Palmer were slated to be picked up?

ZEKE

Yup! The Laurence M Gould arrives tomorrow and will be loaded up. The canisters they have will head out to the Falklands first, then Sao Paulo and finally hit Miami in two weeks.

BASS

Sounds like everything is going smoothly then.

ZEKE

For a change! Don't get me wrong. . .I love when summer comes back to the station, but all these new DeWalts and workers mess up my schedules. Then you add the scrubs in . . .Pisses me off!

BASS

Scrubs?

ZEKE

Yeah! Not the T.L.C. kind. . .specialized electricians sent down by Beau-Lo to repair the breakers in the ice caves. The ones we fried when we got Fred out of the Halen-jumps.

BASS

[CONFUSED]

Why not just have Patrick do it? He's the station head electrician, isn't he?

ZEKE

He got shut out by your scary British assassin lady. Part of the new security procedures. Waynewright knows better than to let them mess around with my arches, but inside the power relay room that feeds. . whatever they is doing in the tunnels, he gave them the green-light to work.

BASS

[SHOCKED]

And you're okay with that?

ZEKE

HELL NO, I'm not okay with that, but shit lawman, we all got people we have to report and answer to. I'm not happy about it, I don't like it, and they best not try to overreach and do anything outside that room I don't approve. . .but ain't nothing I can do about it.

TWO BEAT

BASS

[Deep Sigh] We knew we'd face resistance the more we dug into Atlas and everything they're doing. I guess we shouldn't be too surprised about everything going on, especially after we took out their power generation.

ZEKE

Other thing that concerns me. . .I didn't get provided any plans or diagrams for anything they're installing. Just the connection feeds that go into the room from my arches. We all saw the new breakers coming in. . they're so big you can't really hide them. But the number of crates that had no markings on them. . .they installing more than just replacement breakers in there.

BASS

Maybe Mr. Kelley has some idea of what it could be?

ZEKE

Nope! That was my first thought too. Tommy said all the paperwork he'd normally get and have to process is being withheld. . .by

BASS & ZEKE TOGETHER

Joyclyn!

BASS

No surprise there. Okay... have your team continue to watch these Beau-low electricians as closely as they can. Tell them don't be obvious about it, but the more we can get familiar with whatever they're doing in there..

ZEKE

The more we'll be able to plan for it. Yeah, already told them that. They on it.

BASS

Good man!

TWO BEAT

BASS

I have a call-in with my new Marshal later this morning and then have some paperwork I need to catch up on. Oh, and I keep meaning to talk with Franklin. Want to get some lunch after that?

ZEKE

What you need out of that P.O.S -sessor?

BASS

Got some background files and data on somebody and there are court sealed documents referenced. Need somebody. . . somebody not on the outside with legal experience to help me understand what might be going on.

ZEKE

Yeah, well good luck with that! Would love to do lunch with ya, but these scrubs going to be working all day on whatever it is they doing. I don't want to be too far away in case they try something. Bring me something anyway?

BASS

Yeah! No problem, buddy. I'll radio down once I know what they're serving, and you tell me what you want.

ZEKE

Appreciate ya! See you later lawman.

FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY.

ZEKE

KEENAN! WHERE YOU AT YOUNGBLOOD? MY STRESS LEVEL IS GOING UP SO I KNOW YOU OUT THERE DOING SOMETHING STUPID!

RECORDING STOPPED

ACT II

STATION PA CHIME

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

CHERYL-LYNN:

(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Summer try-outs for the Ice-picks volleyball team will be held this coming Tuesday at 17:00 Hours. Coach Glenn has announced all matches against the McMurdo Mudbirds and Palmer polar bears will be broadcast LIVE on Ice F.M. this year. How exciting ya'll! Unfortunately, games against other nation research station teams may be . . . complicated. More on that in a bit.

Any ya'll interested should chat with team captain Fred Fergusson and sign up for the Co-ed teams.

CHEESY FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN:

(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

The ARO and Clean Air sector beyond will be off limits to all non-scientific staff from 08:00 to 20:00 Hours tomorrow to allow for recalibration for sensitive atmospheric sampling equipment. All science staff should remember to take a bagged lunch and supper with them, which will be prepared and available for pickup at 06:00 tomorrow morning. Chief Meteorologist Topper Hunt asks that ya'll. . .hrmm. . okay, he says. . . If you're ready, let's do it. Ride it, my pony, my saddle's waitin'. Come and jump on it. (SIGH) Haveta get our new HR person over there!

CHEESY FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN:
(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Jack Cushingam and Larry Blake will play Frank de Notta and Mike Cohen for the pinochle championship of Amundsen-Scott. (CHUCKLE) Well that's a fix if I ever heard one! All those interested in watching should meet in the B-4 Lounge Thursday evening at 19:00. Point spreads are yet to be announced.

CHEESY FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN:
(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Oh, my word! Buckle in kids. . .the next Antarctica has talent competition will begin in two weeks. This year's celebrity judges will be our own custodian Mikhail.

MIKHAIL
(VO/ OVERHEAD SPEAKER AT DISTANCE)

JANITOR!

CHERYL-LYNN:
(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Doctor Karl Jovac from the MAPO lab, Keenan Drexler, assistant station engineer and Julia Chipperfield, our Human Resources leader. Get your musical acts, magic acts, your comedy skits or polish off whatever ya'll want to showcase. Don't know how we'll top last year's accordion solo, but I for one can't wait!

FOOD TRIANGLE BELL

CHERYL-LYNN:
(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Lunch lady Alice updated her weekly schedule and we have so many new meal options since the summer resupply! So today, for her lunch specials, she'll be rusling up some hearty beef stew, chicken Caesar salad or hot Ruben sandwiches. Vegetarian specials will be Elbow macaroni in tomato sauce or Mexican rice and bean bowl. For supper tonight, they're fixin to make beef wellington, Linguini in marinara sauce or Hamburger casserole. Vegetarian meals will be Sesame-Garlic Ramen noodles or Kung Pao tofu.

CHEESY FANFARE

CHERYL-LYNN:
(VO / OVERHEAD SPEAKER)

Finally, we've been given some new directions and rules from the N.S.F. & the Office of Polar Projects.

MIKHAIL
(VO/ OVERHEAD SPEAKER AT DISTANCE)

I'm down with O.P.P.; yeah, you know me!

CHERYL-LYNN

From - Director Sethuraman Panchanathan to all United States Antarctic research stations. October 28th, 2022. I have been asked by Congress to provide instructions to all research base administration and regional managers; enacted by President Campbell and executive order 14034.

The ongoing emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 arises from a variety of factors, including the continuing effort of foreign adversaries to steal or otherwise obtain United States classified and proprietary data. That continuing effort by foreign adversaries constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. To address this threat, the United States must act to protect against the risks associated with connected software applications that are designed, developed, manufactured, or

supplied by persons owned or controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of, a foreign adversary.

Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that:

As of January 1, 2023...All Access to federal, military, infrastructure and research facilities funded by congress or taxpayer monies will be restricted to non-US-citizens. Any visitation, for any purposes must first be documented, reviewed, and cleared by the appropriate oversight review committee. Access from this date and until January 1 will be permitted, but visitation logs must be obtained and provided to the Department of Homeland Security... .and. .[PAUSE] anyway, he just keeps carrying on and on for a while.

Well. . .not exactly rolling out the welcome mat anymore, are we? Any planned visits by other stations here on the Ice should be sent to Mister Kelley to ensure we remain compliant.

So, there you go! You take care now my polies. Keep an eye on one another and get them final visits in while you can! You have a wonderful and blessed day! Thank youuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!

PA CLOSE CHIME

ACT III

CONSTRUCTION NOISES. WE FADE IN AND FIND OURSELVES IN A CLOSED ROOM. A LOT OF NOISE AND COMOTION FROM INSTALLATION OF THE NEW ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS POWERING ATLAS.

JOYCLYN

So, in essence the only way anybody can interrupt the power distribution from this room will be. . .inside the room?

WORKER

Exactly that. You see those large units over there? Those are UPS battery backups. Ten units each with an hour run-rate capacity. Even if there is an interruption from the power generator; these batteries will instantly kick in and provide backup energy for at least ten hours; possibly up to twelve!

JOYCLYN

The handoff from generator to the batteries...

WORKER

...Will be instantaneous. Other than fail-over alarms and notification that will sound, anybody inside. . .well wherever these units are providing power won't even know anything happened.

JOYCLYN

How along until installation is complete and the unit begin...charging?

WORKER

[Quick contemplation] At this rate, we should be done in another two days. We could probably wrap up quicker if I could have my whole team in the actual facility to assist rather than just me...

JOYCLYN

[Cuts him off] Unacceptable. National & OP-SEC come first. Everything else takes a back seat! I don't want this done fast...I want this done correctly.

WORKER
You're the boss!

KNOCK ON THE DOOR. SOUND OF BOOTS WALKING OVER. DOOR OPENS

JOYCLYN
[Put Out]
What?

WORKER 2
Ma'am: Doctor Waynewright wants. . .

LARRY
[FROM OUTSIDE, PERTURBED]
I am the area manager of this station and have access to all portions of it. . .creatin!

JOYCLYN
It's alright mate, let the good doctor in.
Cheers!

LARRY ENTERS THE ROOM, SMUGLY

LARRY
I thought you said I'd have full access and updates to all your...enhancements?

JOYCLYN
Spot on! I did indeed say that Waynewright, full updates and full access, when I say it's appropriate.

TWO BEAT

JOYCLYN
Before that vein in your forehead explodes from frustration, obviously the new biometric & X-10 locks haven't been installed yet, we haven't uploaded your finger or retinal prints. So, until such time, I have one of these lads restricting access to anybody other than their own team or myself until after the locks are installed and activated. So, rest assured, when everything is completed, you'll have the full access you expect.

LARRY

How long before the systems are restored, and we can resume our work? It's been almost five-weeks since we've been able to conduct any further tests or [ADD BLEEPING SOUND] on the Canadian station.

JOYCLYN

It should be another seventy-two hours and your power will be restored. All the security safeguards I need in place will also be completed by that time as well. Now. . .was there something specific you wanted doctor, or can we go back to repairing your infrastructure systems rather than having a chin wag?

LARRY

[ALMOST TO HIMSELF]

This is . . .simply insufferable. How am I expected to perform to the workload and reporting goals Beauregard-Lowing has set down if I'm constantly being. . .interrupted.

JOYCLYN

Your performance notwithstanding. . .
[chuckle to herself] cracker of a pun that!
Waynewright, I'm more than happy to stand here, blocking these lads, who are replacing all the damaged & sub-standard Fermilab technology with more advanced Beau-Low upgrades, further delaying your repairs, or do you want to go ahead and sod-off and let us do what needs doing?

LARRY

Not sure which is more appalling, your lack of decorum or free use of vulgarity. I expect as much from the DEPUTY Marshal with his . . .rural upbringing; but you Agent Fowler. . .you're from the mother country!

JOYCLYN

Oh of course you're correct Waynewright! In great Britannia, we all gather for our tea and crumpets with Queen Lizzy each afternoon, we all root for Manchester united football club, everybody eats bangers and mash and drink our pints of bitters each evening while throwing darts.

[BEAT]

JOYCLYN

I hold three citizenships and don't consider myself a Brit! I despise tea and don't even know what a crumpet is, I detest the queen mum and have punched three members of the royal family in the past ten years. Football is inferior to rugby, I don't get pissed on beer, I drink whiskey, straight. . .now, if my language offends you (faux apologetic) then I do indeed apologize Doctor Waynewright. Rather than sod off, allow me to say. . .fuck off and get out of my hair, tosser!

LARRY

[SIGH begins walking away] Absolutely unbelievable, the amount of distractions and unprofessional demeanor we're expected to

JOYCLYN

Well, I think I'm frightened him off for a while. Now, what did you need to see me about again?

WORKER 1

Uh. . .[REMEMBERS] oh right! We'll be ready in about two hours to run a cross-connect with some of the upgraded Beau-Low equipment and to the stations power feeds. . .[Hesitant] but. . .

JOYCLYN

But. . .the station's chief engineer isn't providing you the access that you need.

WORKER 1

Exactly. Wants to look over the M.E.P. drawings for the equipment and infrastructure. Said he didn't want to connect anything to his station that he isn't completely familiar with. Kept talking about. . .his lady. . .it was odd.

JOYCLYN

I was briefed to expect something along these lines. Start getting everything you need in place and get the cross-connects established. I'll deal with the chief!

**FOOTSTEPS WALKING OFF
JOYC RECORDER - RECORDING HAS STOPPED**

ACT IV

BASS IS IN HIS NEW OFFICE, ON THE PHONE WITH MARSHAL MURPHY BACK IN THE STATES.

BASS
[Confused, Surprised]
Nothing at all?

ANNE
No traces nor signs of the waste pallets. If there were canisters of drugs inside, they hauled them out intact. Best guess was due to everything being frozen and the time it would take to extract them.

BASS
Easier to thaw out in your own facility where there isn't a clock running. Makes sense. I almost feel bad for whoever they had extracting those canisters. Just like the escape scene from Shawshank!

ANNE
The N.T.S.B are still evaluating the wreckage and going through the normal steps of their investigation, but with the pallets and canisters not there any longer, the FBI are taking a knee on this one.

BASS
The funding and resources somebody shelled out to have a team travel to the Antarctic Mountain Range, at the worst conditions of the year and get the items out. . .we're not talking street level bad guys here.

ANNE
We came to the same conclusions. Nobody on this side even imagined somebody would be brazen enough to attempt this at all, let alone in the middle of the winter season. We should have kept satellite-eyes on the area to monitor.

BASS
Chinese government?

ANNE
They're the logical first suspects; but. . .

BASS
Marshal?

ANNE
It' just. . .it's not the P.R.C. style.
Everything I've ever seen or read concerning
Beijing is always . . .overly complex. Deception,
distractions, counter measures, guile,
misdirection. According to the FBI on scene,
this was a get in, haul-out, no finesse
operation. Elbow grease & brute force. Too low
brow for Beijing.

BASS
[To himself but aloud]
So. . .then we have a new player on the board?

ANNE
Pardon?

BASS
[regains focus]
Sorry! Something; something [BEAT] Charlie always
used to say.

ANNE
Good analogy, nonetheless. We have feelers out
with the other US Antarctic stations and those of
our allies to see if anybody noted anything
unusual over the winter. With no tracks left, no
indication who was on-site after rescue and
little evidence to go on. . .

BASS
[CONFUSED]
Little. . .so there is *some*, evidence?

ANNE

Perhaps. There was an old-style pry-bar that was found. It's typical of the models sent to Amundsen or McMurdo, it stood out. The local FBI agents bagged it for evidence before they bowed out and it will be flown to Quantico to be checked for prints.

BASS

Doesn't sound like any of the tools we use down here, but I can chat with our resident engineering chief to see what he knows. Anything else you can tell me about it? Help him ID?

ANNE

Um yeah. . .where was it. . .

PAPERS SHUFFELING OVER THE PHONE

ANNE

Here we go. . .they took a snapshot with their phone, some kind of a . . .maker's stamp or hallmark on the shaft of the bar. I'll send a copy down, but it looks like. . .2130, then the letters P.L.V.M.B.O. There is what looks like maybe a star symbol and then D.E. dash 1.7.3.

SOUND OF WRITING IN NOTEBOOK

BASS

. . .got it. I'm supposed to helicopter back to McMurdo tomorrow to catch up with Special Deputy Culligan and get caught up on some reviews of staff. Our resident pilot said he could detour and put us down at the crash site for an hour to pick up personal items left behind. I could get a first-hand look at that pry-bar then.

ANNE

I'll call the lead agent on site to let them know; but I believe they may have already shipped the bar out to Quantico.

BASS

No problem if they did. Since we wanted to hit Mount Markham anyway; Mactown requested we drop off some items to the crash investigation team to

help keep them warm and safe. Propane heaters, solar chargers, fresh food vs. the emergency rations they're probably sick of by now.

ANNE

How long are you scheduled to be at McMurdo?

BASS

Only two days. Culligan wasn't briefed on the dream wax shipment and not working that case directly, so isn't aware of the operation. I'm heading down to make sure there aren't any wrinkles when our contraban or McMurdo's gets picked up and shipped out. Officially, however I'm just up there for a tour, performance evaluations and filling out paperwork.

TWO BEAT

ANNE

Any more problems with the Defense Intelligence Agent?

BASS

[SERIOUS, ANNOYED]

Oh, I have multiple problems with Joyclyn being down here. Call it muscle memory, but every time I see her in the hallways, my gun hand twitches. Everybody looking into Charlie & Janet's homicide and her alibi are telling me she wasn't in Hawaii when they were murdered.

She's well documented by more than a dozen eyewitnesses; as well as being seen on live television at the same time they died, almost half the globe away. Reluctantly . . .I have to admit. . .

ANNE

That's she's innocent.

BASS

She's far. . so far away from being anything CLOSE to innocent, but. . . its looking like she wasn't involved in the murders.

PA SYSTEM CHIME OPEN

ANNE

I'm not getting any complaints or concerns from NSF or Washington, so it sound as if things are calm, at least for the moment.

CHERYL-LYNN OVER PA

Bass darlin, Zeke needs you down in the arches. Can ya'll head down there quickly? Sounds like there may be a tusslin' going on! Thank you shug!

PA SYSTEM CHIME CLOSE

BASS

For the moment; yes. I apologize Marshal, I'm being paged.

ANNE

I heard, and it's no problem. I'm actually needed myself in another meeting. Take care deputy and let's chat when you return from McMurdo.

BASS

Yes, ma'am. Good day Marshal.

PHONE DISCONNECT. SOUND OF CHAIR SLIDING BACK AND FADE OUT WITH BASS HEADING OUT

ACT V

FADE IN. WE'RE OVERHEARING EVERYTHING FROM JOYCLYN'S BODYCAM. WE HEAR BOOTS ON METAL DECKING, APPROACHING AN ARGUMENT. ZEKE IS OBVIOUSLY WORKED UP.

ZEKE

[WORKED UP]

. . .Don't care if you got orders from Yahweh himself! Ain't nobody installing nothing or connecting anything into my distribution units and inside of my power generator room unless I know what it is, and I clear it.

[TWO BEAT]

Sorry for addressing you common lord, damn fools trying to get me to loose my religion up in here.

JOYCLYN

What's the row about this time?

ZEKE

[WORKED UP]

You said all they wanted to do was set up a parallel circuit connect in my P.D.U. to get juice for whatever evil hoodoo ya'll be doing in your . . .secret squirrel room. I was hesitant, but I wanted to be a good neighbor and help out my fellow man. Now I see they trying to be installing some remote connection device on my power distribution unit.

WORKER

We tried explaining ma'am; it's simply a Fluke thirty-five-forty-three phase. . .

ZEKE

[WORKED UP]

Now just how stupid do you think I am? We use those here at the station and I know exactly what they do! I also know how you can modify them to adjust power distribution loads over the internet. Nice try lady, but not happening while I'm here!

JOYCLYN

How long you want that to be?

THREE BEAT

ZEKE

[CONFUSED]

I don't get ya.

JOYCLYN

Mister Bustamante, you're here as a contract worker, right, through the NSF.

ZEKE
[CONFUSED]
What's your point?

JOYCLYN
I'm fairly positive we can have your contract
revoked for insubordination!

ZEKE
[AMUSED, GETTING MORE PISSED OFF]
Oh! Oh, you gonna threaten my job now? Threaten
me? [BEAT] Lady. . .I don't work for you; I don't
work for Beauregard-Lowing. I don't got to take
direction from any you all!

[DEEP BREATH]

But even all that said. . .you go ahead and
install your little spy box. Hell, I won't stop
you. I won't even move from this here spot.

THREE BEAT

JOYCLYN
[SMUG, THINK SHE'S INTIMIDATED HIM]
Install it.

**WE HEAR THE WORKERS FOOTSTEPS, THE CREAKING IF THE POWER
PANEL OPENING, TWO SECONDS LATER THERE IS A LOUD POP AND
ELECTRICAL ARCHING SOUND.**

WORKER
[SCREAM IN PAIN; RECEIVED ELECTRICAL
SHOCK]

JOYCLYN
[FURIOUS]
What did you do Bustamante!

ZEKE
[AMUSED]
What you mean? I've been standing right here the
whole time. You was watching me with your own
eyes! Just standing here, arms folded. [BEAT]
DAY*UM! Looked like that was a 220 jolt what just
lit you up.

JOYCLYN

You booby trapped the box?

ZEKE

Like I said, I ain't done nothing. Hand to Jesus!
try any of the other PDU's if'n you want!

DOOR OPENS

JESUS

You okay Chief?

ZEKE

We still doin' this huh? Yeah, do me a solid
here hey*sus! Butterfingers here just got him
self a jolt. Go grab the first aid kit, one with
the burn gel! They go lay hands upon him and
heal.

FOOTSTEPS HEADED OFF

JOYCLYN

Fine! I'll do it. Walk me through the procedure
to install.

WORKER

[minor pain]

First open the panel and find the main input
connection. Should be an 8-pin set up.

CABINET DOOR OPENS AND WE HEAR A POWER DOWN SOUND

JOYCLYN

The hell, it just lost power.

**CABINET DOOR CLOSES. BOOTS TO THE NEXT PANEL. THAT DOOR
OPENS AND THE POWER GOES DOWN WHILE THE PREVIOUS ONE POWERS
BACK UP.**

JOYCLYN

[ANGERED, THROUGH CLENECHED TEETH]

Do you like playing games Bustamante, cause I
know some games too!

ZEKE

I ain't doing nothing! My lady. . .on the other hand; well. . .I don't think she like you all that much.

STATION RUMBLE - LUCILLE RESPONDS

ZEKE

Calm down now Sugar! That ain't no language for a lady!

JOYCLYN

You what? You're seriously off your rocker!

STATION RUMBLE - LUCILLE RESPONDS

ZEKE

Oh, Lawman's here!

BASS' RECORDER - RECORDING STARTED

DOOR OPENS

BOOTS ENTER THE ROOM

DOOR CLOSSES

BASS

[CAUTIOUS]

Zeke? Everything alright?

ZEKE

Oh, we all peachy as pie Lawman.

BASS

Then, why is that guy on the ground holding his hand, Joyclyn at a distribution panel that's turned off and Waynewright screaming over the walkie that his and the A-1 births just had a power flicker?

ZEKE

[MATTER OF FACTLY]

Oh, that's cause these clowns tried to pull the okey doke on me and install some spy stuff in my power room.

BASS

[STILL NOT CLEAR}

Okay. That doesn't explain why . . .[HE GETS IT]

Lucille?

ZEKE

Yup!

BASS

Gotcha. They get the power they originally wanted?

TWO BOOTSTEPS FURTHER INTO THE ROOM.

ZEKE

Oh, they all good on that front.

BASS

Time to cut your losses Joyclyn.

JOYCLYN

[ANGRY]

Stay out of this Marshmallow!

CABINET DOOR CLOSSES. BOOTS TO THE NEXT PANEL. THAT DOOR OPENS AND THE POWER GOES DOWN WHILE THE PREVIOUS ONE POWERS BACK UP.

BASS

You can keep on going all day with trying to install. . .whatever the hell that thing is; but unless Zeke gives his blessing; the station won't allow you or your team to do it.

CABINET DOOR CLOSSES. BOOTS TO THE NEXT PANEL. THAT DOOR OPENS AND THE POWER GOES DOWN WHILE THE PREVIOUS ONE POWERS BACK UP.

ZEKE

[REMEMBERS}

Oh hey. . .what are they serving for lunch today, you find out?

BASS

Oh um. . . .Beef stew or hot Ruben sandwiches.

ZEKE

[CLAPS HANDS , NOW HE'S HAPPY]

Rubens? HOT DAMN! Melted Swiss cheese, Russian dressing. . .I'm gonna get me TWO! Here I

thought I'd be dealing with shit all day. .
.[LOUDER SO JOYCLYN CAN HERE] Excuse my language,
Mary Poppins!

**CABINET DOOR CLOSSES. BOOTS TO THE NEXT PANEL. THAT DOOR
OPENS AND THE POWER GOES DOWN WHILE THE PREVIOUS ONE POWERS
BACK UP.**

**JOYCLYN GETS FRUSTRATED, THROWS THE METER ON THE FLOOR AND
STORMS OUT.**

BASS
You good here now?

ZEKE
Yeah, gonna have . . . hay-sus put some burn gel
on butterfingers here and take him up to club-
med. Then, mmmmm-mmm; gonna get my Ruben on!
You comin?

BASS
I'll be up in a bit. I need to chat with Franklin
first.

BEGIN FADEOUT

ZEKE
You say so. . . [REDIRECT ATTENTION TO WORKER]
The hell you waiting for butterfingers? Didn't
you hear my boy say 'RUBENS?' Get you're crispy-
critter ass up and we'll go find Jesus.

ACT VI

WE FOLLOW BASS' BOOT STEPS ACROSS THE POWER ARCH, AND TO THE SPARE FUEL ROOM WHERE FRANKLIN LIVES. DOOR OPENS AND WE HEAR BASS APPROACH THE METAL TUBE. FROM INSIDE THE SOUNDS OF An OVER-PRODUCED, SACHRIN SWEET, K-POP SONG ECHOS THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

BASS
Counselor...?

THREE BEAT

FRANKLIN
[SINGING ALONG TO SONG]
*♪ You know I'll eat you all night long
I wanna taste everything you got
Come on and make my tootsie pop. ♪*

BASS
[LOUDER TO BE HEARD]
FRANKLIN!

MUSIC PAUSES

FRANKLIN
Oh! I'm sorry Inspector Javert! I didn't smell you coming in.

BASS
You. . .like boy bands? You?

FRANKLIN
Pssst! Boy bands? Hardly, and by no means anywhere as embarrassing Deputy Marshal. I'm a grown demon with refined taste, after all. That was K-Pop.

BASS
The hell is 'K-Pop'?

FRANKLIN
Korean Pop Music. . .K-Pop? What all the kids listen to now-a-days, grandad!

BASS

Cute. I'd like to pick your brain on a legal matter, need somebody with court experience to help me understand.

FRANKLIN

More pro-bono work I assume? Any chance we might trade a 3-day excursion out of the tube in exchange?

BASS

Doubtful! Not sure Zeke would be amenable and all that.

FRANKLIN

Hard for Franklin to SHINE when he's stuck in this iron cylinder, but that's my cross to bear.. . wow that's a weird analogy! Okay Javert, you caught me in a good mood today. What would you like to know?

BASS

I'm conducting enhanced background checks on a few people here on station. All in relation to the crash and sabotage of the plane. Also, the station. One individual's file had. . . information which look odd to me, Items which I couldn't seem to reconcile, regarding court proceedings. So, I sent a formal request for the actual records; only to be told those were sealed and unavailable.

FRANKLIN

Court records can be a real labyrinth sometimes. What's the general information you originally received?

BASS

One of the people on station was called to testify in a criminal court matter. He wasn't being accused of anything, but the prosecution believed he would be a key-witness for the state, based upon multiple other people saying he was an eyewitness to a homicide.

He was summonsed to appear, didn't show up; had a bench-warrant issued for his arrest; contempt charges to be filed. We. . .the Marshal's service were sent to pick him up; and then . . .same day were told by the D.A.'s office to stand down. Warrant was rescinded, maybe a misunderstanding or something. . .don't know.

When I requested the court documents on why the bench-warrant was called off and to see what happened; I was told those documents were sealed and not available by order of the chief magistrate.

FRANKLIN

Court documents can be sealed for various reasons, typically to protect sensitive information or individuals involved. It could be anything from witness safety to the privacy of individuals involved in the case. If there is a court seal in place; there should be a listing of who ordered it and their court.

BASS

Um. . .I did see that, hang on a second. . .

PAPERS FLIPPING

BASS

Ordered by my hand, 12-November-2002. The Honorable Shamus O'Halloran ; United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

FRANKLIN

[IRISH IMPRESSION]

Sure'n, there be nary a more Irish name in all the city of Boston; east of blackrock.

PAPERS FLIPPING

BASS

[HALF PAYING ATTENTION]

Yeah, don't do that. . . I seriously want to know more about why this guy was cut lose so quickly; but without having this unsealed. . .

FRANKLIN

[SHIFT TO DEMON]

Hrm. Tell me more about the murder case.

BASS

Pretty straight forward. Two in the morning. Small handful of people in a dive bar in South Boston called Shannon Tavern. One guys said something the other didn't like. Started with pushing, then fists were thrown, and ended when one guy took a broken beer bottle to the throat.

FRANKLIN

[DEMON]

[SIGH] Only YOU could make something as delicious as murder taste so. . .blah, bland. Uh, who was the stab-ee? A cop, a politician, some elected official?

BASS

Um. . no, nothing like that. He was a dock worker from what I remember.

FRANKLIN

[DEMON, CONFUSED]

What? That doesn't make sense. Was anybody else killed, or seriously hurt by the accused murderer?

BASS

Not. . .no, other than a woman who tripped on a bar stool trying to get out of the way, nobody else was hurt that night?

FRANKLIN

[DEMON, TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS]

Okay. . but when he was arrested, he fought the officers and one of them was hurt? Badly?

BASS

Nope. When they found the murderer, he was so drunk they were able to take him in and get him processed with no hassle. Guy shit his pants, literally. . .but other than that; nothing.

FRANKLIN

[DEMON, EVEN MORE CONFUSED]

That. . .something really is off. Flip to the front of the document to recall the Bench Warrant. It might be called Motion to Quash Warrant. What's the name of the presiding judge and their court?

BASS

Um. . .

PAPERS FLIPPING

BASS

Same judge as who had the documents sealed. . . . Shamus O'Halloran, United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

FRANKLIN

[HUMAN]

Whose court was the Murder trial being heard in?

BASS

It was Court Room 7 Case number 0203CR001026 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Superior Court. Hon. Jennifer L. Ginsburg

FRANKLIN

[HUMAN VOICE]

So, a Federal Court Judge, ordered documents sealed on a case being heard at the state level. Wait. . .you said the Marshal's service were given the bench Warrant? For a state level offense? Who signed that?

BASS

Yeah. . .that's another weird thing. The signature and printer name has been redacted.

FRANKLIN
[HUMAN VOICE]

You have something I've never seen in all my time! A federal judge typically doesn't have authority to seal documents in a state court case. State courts and federal courts are separate and distinct systems with their own sets of rules and procedures.

In a state court case, the judge presiding over that case is responsible for making decisions regarding the sealing or unsealing of documents. Federal judges have jurisdiction over cases that fall under federal law or involve federal parties, and they do not have authority over state court proceedings.

In theory. . .its possible a federal judge's order or decision could impact a state court case indirectly, but this isn't anything I've heard of before.

BASS

Any instances where it would have been remotely possible?

FRANKLIN
[CONSIDERING]

It would have to be an extreme instances. Potential harm to a massive intellectual property, maybe. Risk of direct potential harm to a high-ranking government official. . .or risk of breaching sensitive or highly classifi [SNIFF, SNIFF]

BASS

What?

FRANKLIN
[DEMON]

Wow! Haven't smelled that in a while! And never so pungent!

BASS

Smell, what exactly?

FRANKLIN

[DEMON]

The veil has been pierced, [SNIFF] and close by Too! Normally the smell only carries 50-yards or so. [SNIFF-SNIFF] Yep! That smell is absolutely from purgatory or could be from St. Louis. They smell the same. Frightening place Missouri! Smells like a death Omen is moving about.

YELLS FROM FRIGHTEND MEN AND RUNNING FROM THE HALLWAY.

BASS

Thanks for the help, Franklin! I need to see what that's all about.

FRANKLIN

Always happy to help.

K-POP TURNED BACK ON AS BASS LEAVES THE ROOM AND ENTERS THE HALLWAY. DOOR SHUTTING BEIND HIM. THE ECHOING SOUND OF FLEEING FOOTSTEPS NOW DISTANT, WE HEAR ZEKE APPROACHING, ODDLY CALM.

ZEKE

Oh hey, happy to see you still around. You want to go tare up some Rubens?

BASS

[CONFUSED]

Zeke? The hell just happened down here. Why did all special staff Beau-low bring in to repair the breaks just take off running and screaming?

ZEKE

Oh that. . .yeah! So, I'm helping my boy Jes. . .Hay-sus get the one worker who got zapped back to his feet, put an ice pack on his hand and ask . . .my boy to take him up to medical for me.

They take off, I radio into my team, you know. . .making sure they all set to be okay for an hour or so, and somebody keeps there eye on Keenan. Anyhow, back in comes Joyclyn with some other of her workers, she tells to wrap up with the connections and forget the monitor. That's when the lights inside start flickering and. . .

.whoosh. Doctor Rodney's appeared. Damned Beaker looking all pale and bloody from his murder and what not, and he says that thing you said he said back on your birthday. [Spooky voice] *'I may be the first, but not the last!'* Pointing his boney ghost finger at the workers and fading in and out.

That's when they panicked and ran!

BASS

Zeke? You okay? You hate scarry stuff. When we all gathered to watch the Shining at the start of Winter, you left in a hurry!

ZEKE

Oh, I still won't be watching that anytime soon. And not just for the scarry stuff neither, but for how Kubrick did ScatMan Crothers dirty like that! My man flies 15 states on a plane, through a blizzard, hops on a snowcat for another six hours and gets an axe as soon as he steps foot inside? That shit messed up. R.I.P. Scatman!

BASS

[CONFOUNDED]

A ghost on the screen terrifies you, but one pops up in front of you in-person and you're all cool?

ZEKE

[CLARIFYS]

A. I'm cautious, not terrified! Best check yourself there lawman! B. Punk-ass beaker didn't intimidate me in the least when he was takin' in air. I'll be damned if his necro-American, see-through ass gonna change that. C. .It's RUBEN day man! Nothing, and I mean ab-so-lute-ly NOTHING gets in the way of me getting my Ruben on!

BASS

You are a strange and complex man Zeke Bustamante!

THE SOUND OF HEELS APPROACHES SLOWLY. JOYCLYN APPEARS, FROM AROUND THE CORNER

JOYCLYN

[MILD SHOCK]

That . . .that was a ghost. That was an honest,
according to Hoyle . . .ghost I just saw. [THREE
BEAT] What the hell is going on down here
Marshmellow?

FOOTSTEPS WALKING DOWN THE HALL

BASS

[FROM A DISTANCE, ON JOYC'S RECORDER]

It's not something in the water. . .I checked!

OUTRO