90 Degrees South

SEASON FOUR

EPISODE FOUR: Beneath the Glare of Ice, Where Time Fades to White

*RETURN TO BRIGADOON Part II of III*

DRAFT 1: FEB 23, 2025



by

Brian M Bradley

**BMB Productions LLC**

**ACT I**

**WE PICK UP IN THE VMF BAY, WHERE THE LAST EPISODE LEFT OFF. EMERY, IN A THICK ROBE WITH A HOOD, STANDS BEFORE THE NEW ARRIVALS.**

 SHEPARD

 Forty-two years, you’ve been here alone?

 PATRICK

 Dude! That’s harsh!

 BASS

 [DISTRAUGHT]

Mister Waters! Emery. . .if we had known…known..[STRUGGLING TO FIND THE CORRECT WORDS]

 CHRIS

 [SUSPICIOUS]

Are you Lando’ing us right now, Em?

 EMERY

Is that…is that Christopher I hear? These old eyes. . can’t [SNICKER]

 LARRY

What is ‘Lando’ing’?

 CHRIS

Lando Calrissian. Empire Strikes Back. Emery’s favorite movie. Han, Leia and Chewy travel to cloud city and Lando pretends he’s mad at Han, when in reality…

 EMERY

 [CHUCKLES]

 CHRIS

You son of a bitch!

 EMERY

 [GIVES UP THE OLD MAN RUSE]

I almost had you all! I almost had you!!!

**SOUND OF FABRIC HITTING THE FLOOR ALONG WITH THE CANE.**

 EMERY

 It’s great to see you all again! What’s the date?

 BASS

 [ANNOYED]

 April 12, 2023.

 EMERY

Yep, as I suspected, time moves inside the Brane the same as in our dimension. It’s only been a year. Sorry, but how often does this situation present itself?

 CHRIS

 [ELATED]

Get over here you big Nerf-Herder!

**FOOTSTEPS FORWARD AND A HUGE HUG!**

 CHRIS

[THROUGH TEARS]

I MISSED YOU SO MUCH EM! [SNIFF] For a while there we thought…

 EMERY

I’m fine Chrissy, I’m fine!

 PATRICK

 [ALSO EMOTIONAL]

Ah man. . .[SNIF]… Who brought onions with us? I’m getting choked up over here.

 JEMMA

 [WIPING TEARS]

Good! Didn’t want to think Keenan and I were the only ones.

 JOYCLYN

Touching as all this is, we are on the clock people! Have a job to do and all that!

 LARRY

Exactly this. Mr. Drexler, if you’re done with your emotional reaction; do please begin offloading the materials we brought with us.

 BASS

Doctor Dobber, you mind giving Keenan a hand? Then you two can get the little stuff we brought.

 PATRICK

Yeah. [SNIFF] yeah. Needed a good cry none-the less. Let’s go Keenan. I love Rom-Coms!

**FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE DECK**

BASS

Um…Misters Waters and Todd. Why don’t the two of you [AHEM]…go get reacquainted. We have another hour before Kylie gets the station back to full power.

 EMERY

Wait. They know?

 BASS

Yes Emery, we all know. Chris told us you two were an item a few months back.

 JEMMA

I think everybody on station knew it. Not that it matters in the slightest.

 BASS

Gentlemen, please. Go enjoy your reunion.

 EMERY

Don’t worry Deputy. An hour isn’t necessary. Chris only needs ten minutes!

 CHRIS

I haven’t seen you in a year, so I’m going to let that one slide.

**MORE HUGGING AND THEN THE TWO SLOWLY WALK AWAY**

LARRY

While we await power restoration, why don’t you, Agent Folwer and I have a much-needed conversation, DEP-U-TY Marshal?

YOU! Artificial Intelligence little girl.

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

LARRY

Yes….how wonderful. Show us the closest conference room we can use?

 KYLIE

 [MONOTONE]

I am sorry Doctor Lawrance Emerson Waynewright, but you do not have authorization. Access is denied.

 LARRY

Not this trite again!

 BASS

Kylie?

 KYLIE

 [HAPPY}

Yes, US Marshal Bass Wyatt Marlow?

 BASS

Can you please direct us to a conference room?

 KYLIE

That’s why I like you US Marshal Bass Wyatt Marlow. You are such a gentleman with great manners. Of course I can. Please follow the lights as they turn on. I’ll direct you to conference room; ground 018.

 JOYCLYN

I can already tell I’m going to be getting a cavity for how sweet and chipper this lil’ bird is being.

 BASS

Doctor, She-devil, shall we?

 JOYCLYN

Go fuck yourself Marshmellow! The rest of you get whatever gear you need, and we’ll start after Waynewright and I get back.

**THE SOUND OF LIGHTS SWITCHING ON IN THE DISTANCE, CRATES BEING SAT ON THE GROUND AND FOOTSTEPS AWAY. WE FADE OUT.**

**ACT II**

**BASS’ RECORDER**

**RECORDING STARTED**

**A DOOR IS CLOSED AND WE HEAR A LOW HUM OF THE STATION’S HEATER.**

 LARRY

Before we get started here, I will politely ask that if you two; Vulgarians intend to engage in Gunplay, you’ll warn me beforehand. I have no issue with you…busting a nut in one another; but keep me out of the line of fire.

**TWO BEAT**

JOYCLYN

 [DISGUSTED]

 Ugh…What?

 BASS

 A cap, Doctor. The term is busting a…

 LARRY

I do not care what the proper term is! Kill one another if you so desire, but keep me out of it. [INTERNAL REFLECTION] Although, your cap busting might actually save me from several headaches with one ill-timed action…

 JOYCLYN

 [IMPATIENT]

Can we please just get on with it! **COME ON ALREADY!**

**SITTING IN CHAIRS**

LARRY

Patience and decorum, Agent Fowler!! Please. Now, DEP-U-TY Marshal, please do explain how you and your colleague managed to be out here just as the station returned; oh…and do please dispense with the absurd falsifications of Doctor Hunt making such a request.

 BASS

Alright, let’s put all our cards on the table Doctor. You’re happy to check the research requisitions which were submitted several weeks ago to the NSF. You’ll note our update to them with Doctor Topper Hunt’s request and our intention to head out. They agreed and left the location and distance from station up to our judgement.

 JOYCLYN

Weakest cover story I’ve ever heard. Don’t you have a senate confirmation hearing coming up shortly, Marlow? Breaching national security, breaking non-disclosure agreements; not good for the old C.V. now is it?

 BASS

Hrmm. I doubt Beau-Low nor the D.O.D. are going to take any action over me being here.

 LARRY

 [SCOFF]

Not a wager I’d be willing to make were I you!

 BASS

Think so Doctor? Please, let them make an issue of all this and threaten my career. Have them put me on that stand before congress and I’ll testify all about this station. About Project Atlas and activities observed at Amundsen Scott. I’m sure the American people; hell, the WORLD would love detailed specifics about the Indonesian flight we discovered and subsequent cover-ups. You recall, the most famous aviation mystery since Earhart!

 JOYCLYN

With that kind of threat, I wouldn’t expect that you’d make it to the stand TO testify.

**CREAK OF THE CHAIR LEANING FORWARD**

 BASS

Try me. Which leads me to my second point. You have no leverage here.

 LARRY

Oh, I’ll quote the great Archimedes; *“Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it…”*

 JOYCLYN

And I’ll use it to bust your kneecaps! Was always a favorite of mine as well.

 BASS

 [UNPHASED]

No.leverage.at.all How quickly you forget that only two people here have access to Kylie. Emery and me! Isn’t that correct Kylie?

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

KYLIE

Truth it up, US Marshal Bass Wyatt Marlow. [PSHHH] Take it hard, minimal! Yup-YUP!

**THREE BEAT**

BASS

Don’t understand the slang but sounds like our little Kylie is going through her pre-teen phase! I’ll admit I have no idea what your specific mission is this year; other than retrieving the station of course. What I do know is we don’t intend to standby and idly watch as you attempt to pervert the situation to benefit Beauregard-Lowing and only them.

 KLYIE

 [FRASTRATINGLY AMUSED]

**OH MY DEAR GITTY AUNT!** Always the boy scout! Always the moral compass, never strays from the path, is a good lad and eats all his greens. I am SO sick of listening to this holier than thou rubbish, Marshmellow! How about we go back to pointing guns at one another! This is pure bullshit!

 LARRY

As much as it pains me to state such. The DEP-U-TY marshal is correct. Shooting him only serves to make our task here more difficult. Although I agree with Agent Folwer on her evaluation of your antiquated sense of values; I have to admit this is something of a stalemate.

 JOYCLYN

 [HEADACE. HEAD IN HANDS]

My head hurts with all this talk, talk, talk. . .What is it you’re proposing Marshmellow?

 BASS

I assume just like last year; you have sensors or …whatever detectors you’ll be gathering and replacing with new ones.

 LARRY

 [CAUTIOUSLY]

Correct.

 BASS

SO long as they don’t interfere or attempt to modify station systems, I don’t see any reason NOT to allow you to deploy and collect them.

 LARRY

 [INDIGNATE]

Allow?!?!

 JOYCLYN

 [QUICK CUT OFF]

Next?

 BASS
Nobody will make any attempt to access any station scientific or critical systems without myself or preferably Emery present.

 LARRY

 [ANNOYED]

You state that as if there were an alternative. As you, yourself just stated…we don’t have authorization rights. Agreed.

 JOYCLYN

You finished laying your cards on the table yet?

 BASS

I’m done. Don’t even need to look at mine. I’m confident that whatever cards I’m dealt, will be the winning hand.

 JOYCLYN

Cavities, Headache and now nausea. I’ve hit the trifecta.

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

 KYLIE

Final internal diagnostic complete. Restoration ETA now revised to fifteen minutes. [WARNING BEEP] recommend shifting resources to…uh-oh.

 LARRY

UH-oh?

 KYLIE

Scans of the exterior station show enhanced and accelerating structural damage of the metal alloys. I need to conduct additional and enhanced diagnostics, but structural collapse is a statical likelihood when I next travel back through the bulk. Well, that blows! I should alert Father…[DIGITAL BEEPS] EW EW EW! When he’s alone, WHEN HE’S ALONE. Oh, ick I’m so embarrassed!!!! Old people were at it! BLUCK. I can’t erase my own memory files. US Marshal Bass Marlow, can you do me a HUGE solid, please!

 BASS
I got you Kylie. Do me a favor and tell the others to meet us up in operations when power is restored. 15 minutes. Hold off on notifying your father for a bit longer.

Well, looks like our vacation plans will be changing!

**BASS’ RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED.**

**ACT III**

 **FADE IN.**

**STILL IN THE SAME GROUDN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM. WE NOW HEAR THE HEATERS AND STANDARD BACKGROUND NOISE FROM THE BRIGADOON OPERATIONS CENTER.**

PATRICK

No no no. It’s so much more advanced than our operations room. This is like. . .star trek bridge enterprise stuff.

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

KYLIE

 [Nervous]

Shhhhhhhhhhhh! Don’t say that, especially around father! I had to remind him for almost four months to not refer to operations center as ‘the bridge’; and that I am NOT a starship! Father kept calling me the U.S.S. Roberta Bondar. He is Sooooooooooo embarrassing me! I hate that!

 PATRICK

 [NERVOUS]

Um, okay right. Still not used to my laptop talking back to me. Gonna need some of Jimmy’s shit….[CATCHES HIMSELF] when we get back to our station. Yeah.

 SHEPARD

This really is a truly sophisticated artificial intelligence. Simulated emotions, unique personality, inter-personal subroutines. I’d love to get my hands on the operating software.

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

 KYLIE

 [ICKED-OUT!!]

Okay. Who’s the pedo, and why isn’t he hanging outside high school cheerleader tryouts with a trench coat on? Perv anymore?

 SHEPARD

 [IMPRESSED]

Truly remarkable!

 BASS

Right! Right! I forgot. Last year she needed to be informed who everybody was. Make sure they had authorization…

Ahem

Kylie.

**KYLIE RECOGNITION TONE**

BASS
You of course remember Doctor’s Waynewright and Lorenz?

KYLIE

Of course. Hi again!

 JEMMA

Hi again Kylie.

 LARRY

 [SARCASTIC]

Charmed as always.

 BASS

This is our head of electrical and botanical research; Doctor Patrick Dobber.

**KYLIE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TONE**

BASS

This is Doctor Shepard Delham, Astrophysicist with the South Pole Telescope lab.

**KYLIE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TONE**

BASS

Over there looking sternly is Agent Joyclyn Folwer, United States Defense Intelligence Agency

 BASS

Down in the VMF is our…well… acting chief of engineering really, Mister Keenan Drexler.

**KYLIE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TONE**

 KYLIE

Wow, he’s cute!!!!!! [REALIZATION] [GASP] Oh no! What happened to chief of engineering Ezekiel Francis Bustamante? Oh, please tell me he’s…

 BASS

Oh no no no no no! Zeke is just fine. Doing better than ever. He’s been promoted in fact.

 LARRY

 [HRMPH NOISE]

 BASS

Yeah, he’s running Amundsen Scott Station Now.

 KYLIE

 [RELEIVED]

Oh good. I liked him, he was nice as well.

 BASS

Finally, there is our head of station internet technologies, Mister Christopher Todd. [AHEM] the individual with your father. His Boyfriend.

**KYLIE ACKNOWLEDGMENT TONE**

 KYLIE

Eww! I don’t need to know about Father’s love life. [SHUDDER NOISE]So…Keenan. Ummmmmmmm. Does…he have …is he seeing anybody on your station?

 JOYCLYN

 {AGITATED, ON-EDGE]

Would somebody **PLEASE** remind me why I agreed to jump into this teen romance nonsense? Why? **WHY!**

 LARRY

ENOUGH! Where are Mister’s Todd and Waters? Don’t they understand…

**ELEVATOR OPENS, FAMILIAR ELEVATOR MUSIC. FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING THE MAIN GROUP**

CHRIS

But he kept jumping back to that same morning. Fred called it ‘Halen Jumping!’ We had to figure out a way to get him outside…

 EMERY

…of the causality loop! Oh wow, Wish I could have been there for that. So out of morbid curiosity, where were his boxers after all?

 CHRIS

Don’t know? Even that final jump he said he was going commando. To my knowledge he never found them!

**FOOTSTEPS STOP**

 JOYCLYN

Serious Marlow…you have my permission to put one through me brain-pan! Put me out of my misery!

 BASS

Oh 100% raincheck on that one Joyclyn! Count on it!

 EMERY

This must be Agent Folwer. [LEANS IN] You know…Chris says you’re a bad Mutha-

 LARRY

 [IMPATIENT]

WE HAVE MORE PRESSING ISSUES MISTER WATERS.

 EMERY

Shhesh. Just talk’n bout Joyclyn.

 PATRICK

 [FROM BACKGROUND]

I can dig it!

 EMERY

Kylie said there was an uh-oh. I don’t really like Uh-oh’s on my starship.

 KYLIE

 [QUICKLY, EMBARRASSED]

FATHER!

 EMERY

Station. Station, I meant station! What’s the full story sweetie?

 CHRIS

 [CONFUSED]

How would I…

 KYLIE

 [JEALOUS]

He’s talking to me! [PSHHHHHS] Okay, so like…I’m finishing up diagnostics after leaving protected standby, and I noticed 42% reduction in the exterior fiber carbon enforced panels. The self-healing polymers in the aerogel insulation and Vacuum insulation Panels have also been compromised.

Assuming this was only an isolated issue, I conducted an additional and more intense diagnostic on this station and adjacent buildings nearby. It is not isolated. The printed Carbon nanotube composites show similar ware and damage. I can repair these damaged spots, but the appearance of them is growing exponentially. Soon the ability to stay ahead with repairs will be even greater than I can keep up with. Massive suck! I know!

 BASS

So…That’s bad. I get that. How do we..[Sigh] can somebody un-science this for me?

 EMERY

This ship

 KYLIE

FATHER! SERIOUSLY!

 EMERY

Station, this station was built with technology and construction methods only NOW being conceptionally drawn up in our time. Roberta Bondar is able to take more extreme temperatures, more wind damage and for longer durations, and still come out smelling like a rose.

Kylie, Do we know what is causing the damage?

 KYLIE

All evidence points to electromagnetic & gravitational fluctuations due to the multiple entrances and egress’ through the Bulk; from one brane to another.

 PATRICK

Dude! Cousin Jimmy called this like YEARS ago! We’re all part of an imagination in somebody else’s brain!

 JEMMA

No, no. ‘Brane; B.r.a.n.e. It’s short for membrane. It’s a fundamental object in string theory and M-theory that generalizes the concept of a particle to higher dimensions.

 PATRICK

YES! That’s ***exactly*** what Jimmy said while we were high! We’re in another brain dimension!

**THREE BEAT**

 SHEPARD

 How many times have you traversed the bulk?

 KYLIE

 Father?

 EMERY

Go ahead sweetie; you can answer their questions while we’re all here.

 KYLIE

 Nine trips from this Brane to the other.

 SHEPARD

 [THINKING]

One entry and exit point per trip: eighteen exposures to intense electro-gravimetric energies! I’m surprised this station lasted as long as it has! Go Canadian engineering!

 JEMMA
Kylie? What happens if you head back through the bulk?

**PROCESSING SOUNDS**

 KYLIE

The station will suffer significant damage when it returns through the aperture of the Bulk in 138 hours, fifty-three minutes.

 JOYCLYN

Significant, but you said you could keep up with it for a time, no? *[SLIGHT GROAN FROM HEADACHE]* So not entirely unrepairable? How many more of these…bulks can you go through before it’s not fixable.

 KYLIE

Yes Special Agent Joyclyn Eleanor Folwer, you are correct. Assuming we were able to shield this facility from the electrogravimetry damage; I can assist in the repairs to the station. It will take five weeks. However subsequent trips will simply return us to this same point; but deterioration rates will accelerate with more instances of unprotected exposure.

 CHRIS

Why are her systems and memory core not being impacted by the same damage?

 EMERY

It’s due to protected shutdown she initiated seven years back. Keeps he higher functions and critical drives safe throughout the transition.

 LARRY

Obviously the loss of this complex is not an acceptable outcome. However, given this new information…

 JOYCLYN

 [CURT]

We’re not leaving Waynewright!

 BASS

Can’t believe it, but I agree with Joyclyn. We’ll do whatever we can to come up with a solution up until we have no more time.

Should that happen, we’ll all head back and try to come up with a permanent fix. I’m sure Beau-low will divert all necessary resources…

 EMERY

 [SOLOMN]

I can’t leave.

**TWO BEAT**

 CHRIS

Emmy! We know how much you love this station. How much you love your A.I. This isn’t the time you belong to… You belong…

 EMERY

No, you don’t understand. I physically CAN’T leave the mile radius around the station.

 CHRIS

 [ALARMED]

What? WHAT DO YOU MEAN…

 JEMMA

His internal entropic decay signature, of course!

 LARRY

Ah yes! After prolonged exposure to the localized entropic environment, his own internal signature would adjust to correct for the imbalance.

 BASS

 Okay, now can somebody ‘un-science’ *this* for me?

 EMERY

Because I’ve been here for a year; my internal entropy signature…my…fingerprint in time if you will…is now adjusted to the 2060’s vs. 2020’s. It’s like taking a fish from one tank to another. You slowly have to introduce it to reduce chance of shock or changes to ammonia, nitrates & nitrites in the water. For the first three weeks I was sick as a dog on the other side. Heck, this last trip back I got woozy during the crossover and had to nap.

 CHRIS

 [CONCERNDED]

So, if the station gets damaged more…You’d…you’d be…

 EMERY

 Yeah. Pretty much that.

**THREE BEAT.**

 CHRIS

 Well screw that, we’ve got to do something!

 SHEPARD

I may have an idea. Rather, Doctor Jovac may have inadvertently found a solution for this problem. We have a two way connection using a repeater.

 LARRY

We’ll have to drive outside of the event horizon surrounding the complex. One mile out to transmit. Radio and ….oh I see where you’re going Doctor Delham! Not a bad suggestion; I would have deduced myself if not so distracted.

You and I can head out and consult with Doctor Jovac.

 JOYCLYN

I’m sure you won’t mind if Jemma and I come along! Cold air may help with this bleeding headache!

 LARRY

 [SMUG]

If you must.

 PATRICK

I’ll head down there with you. Want to fill Keenan in on what’s going on and then get a bite to eat with him.

 EMERY

 [SURPRISED]

Keenans here too? Now I feel worse for you than I do about problems with station damage. You had to sit in the Noddy with him for eight hours?!?!

**FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS THE ELEVATOR. DOOR OPENS AND AGAIN WE GET ELEVATOR MUSIC.**

PATRICK

Okay Doc Waynewright…here’s what I don’t get with the entropy Emery time travel thing.

 LARRY

Oh goodie!

**DOORS CLOSE AND BASS’ RECORDER SHUTS OFF.**

**ACT IV**

**WE’RE IN THE ELEVATOR, LISTENING TO MUSIC.**

PATRICK

So…Emery and the station, have come back to the past.

LARRY

[EXASPERATED SIGH]

Must I reiterate the fundamentals of temporal mechanics yet again?*No, you insufferable simpleton! For the last time, we traveled through a spatial anomaly which only exists for a short window. Right now, we are in the future. 2061 to be exact.*

PATRICK

So, the station never really came back in time?

LARRY

Yes, that’s correct, we traveled to it, it didn’t travel to us. This is an elementary distinction, yet you continue to flounder in conceptual quicksand.

PATRICK

So then, just like my favorite movie, Back to the future; we could find out who wins every Superbowl from 2023 to 2061 and get like, stupid rich.

LARRY

No.

PATRICK

But we’re in the future. Every Super Bowl has already happened. We know the results!

LARRY

Yes… but only while we’re here. The moment we go back to 2023, those games haven’t happened yet.

PATRICK

But we know it WILL happen.

LARRY

[SCOFFS] Oh, the hubris of the uninformed! . The first wager you place, sure, you’d win. But after that… Look, time is like a straight line. Right now, we’re outside of it. The moment you act on information from this timeline, you change it. Once we return to 2023, it won’t be the same timeline anymore.

**THREE BEAT**

PATRICK

Say what now?

LARRY

That wealth allows you to purchase, say an exotic automobile. That automobile, coincidentally, was intended for another buyer. Because he no longer obtains it, his plans shift—he misses a crucial business meeting. As a result, a key player trade in professional sports never occurs. That alters the rosters, which alters game strategies, which alters the outcomes. Congratulations! Your "infallible" knowledge is now **completely worthless.**

PATRICK

AH-HA! But if we went to the future, got the information and then came back, and made that bet, then it would have already happened and would be part of that future where we got the winners and score.

LARRY

This is the future, yes, but not for us. We’re in what should be the future, but since we’re here now, it’s our present. However, if we go back, everything we do here may not hold. It won’t be the future until we go back to the past, which then ALSO becomes our continuing present. If you make that bet, you would have altered up the older timeline, creating a new, unprecedented and non-finite one. Retrieving the information and acting on it exist in separate timelines, meaning the act of bringing back the info itself disrupts causality.

PATRICK

But…like, how would we know the timeline was messed up, if what is going to happen, happens when we got to that future. This future we’re in right now..

 LARRY

ARGH! You’re thinking of time like it’s a fixed recording. It’s not. The moment we interact with the past differently, the recording changes. It’s quantum uncertainty—multiple possible outcomes, instead of one inevitable future. [SIGH] Why am I constantly burdened with dullards?!

PATRICK

Hrm, okay. . .I think I have a bead on this. Okay so, right… check it …this is our present, right?

LARRY

Yes.

PATRICK

But it’s also the future.

LARRY

Yes, depending on the observer, it can be either.

PATRICK

But not for Emery.

LARRY

[ANNOYED] What do you mean?

PATRICK

Well, okay. You said the past or the future is dependent on the observer.

LARRY

Yes

PATRICK

So, for all of us, including Emery, it’s really our present.

LARRY

Yes!

PATRICK

But Emery and you guys said he isn’t able to go back. His quantum, gravity. . .thingy is melded with the future …futureness. Entropic signature, so if he can’t go to the past, he has no present or past after April 12, 2022, when he got stuck.

**LARRY**
[INHALES SHARPLY]

Yes, obviously! What is your point?

PATRICK

Well then, how does he program and create the world’s leading artificial intelligence in the 2050’s?

**FOUR BEAT. . .**

LARRY

 [HONESTLY SURPRISED]

Huh. I never considered that.

PATRICK

 [CONTENT]

Huh, indeed.

 **DIGITAL RECORDER SOUND START.**

**ACT V**

**FOOTSTEPS, CLIMBING UP STAIRS. LISTENING TO THE GROUPS CONVERSASTION THROUGH A SLIGHTLY CRACKED DOOR AND THEN HEADING BACK DOWNSTAIRS AS THEY ARE DEPARTING.**

**INTERNAL STATION COMMS ACTIVATES**

BASS

Keenan, Patrick is heading down to see you while the others head out to make a call.

**INTERNAL STATION COMMS RESPONSE**

 PATRICK

Yep! Already down here Deputy dudder. Have Keenan with me and we’re heading up to the gally to get our grub on! Emery said you guys would meet us on level two. Hey, Keenan says there’s a bag of food and some….stuff that’s missing. Swears he remembers packing it. You guys take anything up with you?

**INTERNAL STATION COMMS RESPONSE**

 BASS

No. As far as we know everything is still staged on the VMF deck.

**SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING AND THE NODDY STARTING UP AND HEADING OUT**

PATRICK

 Okay, not a thing Deputy Duder. We’re coming up.

**COMMS TURNED OFF.**

PATRICK

Don’t worry Keenan, I always keep a small amount with me for strictly emergency purposes.

**CHUCKLING AS THE ELEVATOR CLOSES AND WE HEAR JOGGING ACROSS THE VMF FLOOR AND DIALING OF KEYS.**

**A GREEN DING SOUND AND A DOOR OPENS. SOUND OF SOMEBODY DRINKING WATER.**

**DIGITAL RECORDER OFF SOUND**

**ACT VI**

**FADE IN. WE’RE INSIDE THE NODDY. THE ENGINE IS IDLING AND WE CAN HEAR THE WIND OUTSIDE. THE TEAM ARE TALKING THROUGH THEIR INTERNAL CB RADIO.**

JOVAC

..but I wouldn’t have suspected that he would have survived all this time. You say he’s been living in another membrane this last year?

**SQUELCH**

**PPT**

 LARRY

Apparently so. However, the concern with more urgency is how to protect the station as it transverses the bulk from one bane to the next? The station’s …Artificial Intelligence indicated it may have one, perhaps two more trips before the damage is irrevocable and the station is destroyed.

**PPT**

 SHEPARD

Doctor Delham here Doctor Jovac. After we spoke with Emery and his A.I. and the details were provided, I thought more about what you said regarding artificially created differential envelopes.

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

Hrm oh yes. YES that was a bit of a brain buster idea wasn’t it? So, you’re being told the structural damage to the station is directly related to the passage within the bulk; not from the other reality it’s sitting within?

**SQUELCH**

**PPT**

 SHEPARD

 Yes.

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

Did the station record any data? Data around the **gravimetric energy** of the station transitioning through different branes? Hrm, we’ll need to consider the **warped extra-dimensional metric**, the **energy density distribution**, and the **brane-localized gravity effects**. [PAUSE] FOUND HIM! Nope, Nope, that’s a dentist pole!

**SQUELCH**

**PPT**

 LARRY

We’d need to get the rest mass of the station, position of the station in the extra-dimensional coordinate over time, the velocity in the extra-dimensional direction…

 JEMMA

The warping parameter, the bulk cosmological constant and the effective brane potential!

 SHEPARD

I knew this would work. With the proper data we can modify the Beau-low compact OTHR & Deep space network beacons we brought with us to create a. . .well. . .a shield I guess it would be called?

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

More proper to say electromagnetic cushion.

**SQUELCH**

**PPT**

 JOYCLYN

Must be the cold air and lack of station noise but my headace is clearing up and I almost understood what you lot were on about! Whatever the plan you all dream up, but may I remind you we’d only have a little over four days left to implement it.

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

Assuming that A.I. has useable telemetry recording of the electromagnetic signature left and assuming power can be provided to the four units you brought. You just need to adjust the operating system to use a modified **hybrid of and Linux. Why with Mister Waters there helping you and the AI to reprogram each one. . .I’d estimate no more than 36 hours required. [MUMBLE] Less time than finding this punk-ass Waldo in an airport!!**

**SQUELCH**

**PPT**

SHEPARD

 [ELEATED JOY]

But much…MUCH more than that; the output of energy used to create that cushion from within the base’s full complex a mile wide in diameter through Null space. Please do the honors Doctor Waynewright…

 LARRY

[MATH IN HIS HEAD CHECKS OUT AND IT’S A RARE GLIMPSE OF A HAPPY-LARRY]

Dear Lord! An electromagnetic signature of that magnitude would give us a detectable signal all the way, back through the bulk and into the other reality. We could track…[MENTAL ORGASM] we’ll be tracking the relative location of the station in near-real time.

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

By the great Gonzo’s nose! It’s the answer to everything we’ve been searching for! Other than Waldo.

 **SQUELCH**

 **PPT**

 JEMMA

Well then before we lose any more time; we should head back in and get that recorded data so we can begin work on the calculations!

 SHEPARD

Assuming we convince the others to give us that data.

 JOYCLYN

Saving the station and their Mister Waters is their first priority. I don’t think we’ll have any problem with that. The real challenge. What I’ll need to figure out is how to use this information and take advantage of it to our benefit!

 JEMMA

Carl, we’ll be back in contact in 12 hours to update and run whatever numbers we have past you.

**NODDY IS PUT INTO DRIVE AND STARTS BACK TO THE STATION**

**SQUELCH**

 JOVAC

Hear you loud and clear on this end. Don’t worry. I’ll be here. Searching for this godless, motherless dog of a……

**SQUELCH**

**JOYCLYN’S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS CONCLUDED.**

**ACT VII**

**BASS’ RECORDER**

**RECORDING STARTED**

**THE GALLY OF ROBERTA BONDAR. BRAND NEW ENVIORMENT. USE BRIGADOON HUM.**

EMERY

I bet you all could use a good meal after the trip out here!

 BASS

Yeah hey, we were all wondering about that. How did you manage to locate food to keep you alive?

 EMERY

This station has 3-D food printers! Much better than the basic 3D food printers we have in 2022! The station had bioengineered proteins, fats, and carbohydrates gels stored to support a station of 800 for three years. These printers can make any food item from basic organic building blocks. I was so happy to find that! [SHUDDER] I was worried I’d have to eat Ice Spider meat.

 CHRIS

 [IMPRESSED GASP]

Star trek food replicators!

 EMERY

Pretty darn close. Just tell Kylie what you’d like for your meals and in an hour or so. . .*DING*, hot food! Tastes just like the real thing. Heck: soft foods like pancakes, oatmeal, and mashed potatoes can be ready in 2-5 minutes.

 CHRIS

Oh wow, I have to check this out!

**QUICK FOOTSTEPS OVER TO THE COUNTER**

 EMERY

 [SOMBER, VOICE LOWERED]

Deputy, why didn’t you leave the station before winter started? Didn’t you get my message?

 BASS

 [MATCHES HIS LOW TONE]

We got it Emery, but it arrived after the last plane for the summer already left. And even then ops center was empty, so we didn’t hear the message until weeks later. Either way it was already too late. [PONDERS A SEC] what do the records say happen?

 EMERY

 [UNEASY]

Oh man! I really can’t say. The temporal prime directive is very strict!

 BASS

The tempura what?

 EMERY

Tem\*por\*al. Prime directive. . .another Star trek thing. Look deputy, I REALLY need to be super careful not to say too much. You learning about your own future never works out well. Even with the best of intentions, your actions could have unforeseen negative consequences and disrupt the natural timeline.

 BASS

Emery, we’re talking about over 40 people here. People you and I know well! People we love for Christ’s sake! Now, I can’t make you tell me, nor would I ever try. . .but if the timeline originally said most of the station survived; but now you’re saying everybody dies, isn’t the timeline already impacted?

 EMERY

I considered that already, trust me! Originally it was only a few people who died.

 BASS

Me included, I remember.

 EMERY

Yes. Now it’s the entire station that’s being affected. What if I give out information and then it’s the whole continent?!? I’m worried that I’m compounding the damage. Path to your hell, paved with my good intentions!

**DOOR TO GALLEY SLIDES OPEN. PATRICK AND KEENAN ENTER.**

 BASS

I understand your concerns Emery. Just…let’s chat about this later.

 PATRICK

Okay…so like; I thought you guys said this station was all falling apart and damaged due to the energy spiders and being empty so long? This place looks brand new!

 EMERY

When you need something to occupy your time, repairing a station from the future is a great way to do it! Over the last year I got a lot of the common areas all patched up. The halls, and all the berthing quarters in the north tower are fixed up and ready for guests. I’m half-way through the west towers as of last week. Hey, why don’t you two go get something to eat. Refrigerator has some leftovers sitting inside. The meal printers can also have a pretty diverse menu! Help yourselves to whatever. [DISTRACTED] Huh, I don’t remember leaving that other door open. Weird!

 PATRICK

Dude, you said the magic words! Munchies! [CHUCKLE] C’mon Keenan. Let’s get our grub on.

 CHRIS

 [FROM BACKGROUND]

Hey guys! You have to try this printed chocolate pudding!

 **FOOTSTEPS OVER AND THE REFRIGERATOR DOORS OPENING**

 BASS

Hey Kylie, are the others still outside of the station complex parameter?

**WHOOSH OF A HOLOGRAM APPEARING**

 KYLIE

Hi-ya! That is correct US Marshal Bass Wyatt Marlow, the others left my detection grids exactly eight minutes ago. I’ll notify you when I see them again. I don’t like Doctor Shepard Luis Shepard. He gives odd pedo vibes! Real glitcher!

**BASS PUSHES HIS CHAIR BACK**

 BASS

 [SURPRISED]

She has a body?

 EMERY

Oh, sorry Deputy. So much to bring you all up to speed on. With her help I restored her ability to project an avatar in the Gally, Movie theater Operations and the primary data center complex. Also a few random hallways and rooms in the North tower. Projecting an image consumes power that I don’t want to risk using until I know my Hydrogen power reactor is stable.

 KYLIE

I’m…I’m sorry I started you US Deputy Marshall Bass Marlow. It wasn’t my intent.

 **BASS SITS BACK DOWN.**

 BASS

That’s okay Kylie. No harm no foul. It’s just…I’m not used to having people suddenly appear. [UNEASY] Shes..shes still a hologram, right?

 KYLIE

Yes silly! I’m still a hologram.

**VIDEO DISTORTION SOUND AS SHE PASSES HER HAND THROUGH THE TABLE TO DEMONSTRATE.**

 KYLIE

Hey, that’s Keenan over there. [SHY] Did…did he ask about me at all?

 EMERY

No honey, he only just came in. He and Patrick are getting something to eat.

 KYLIE

Oh, poor baby! Let me go help him find something good and I can make it for him. According to research, best way to his heart is through his stomach!

 EMERY

He’s too old for you sweetheart!

 KYLIE

 [SARCASTIC AS SHE LEAVES THE TABLE]

Thank you for not smothering me parental unit!

 EMERY

[SIGH] My adolescence was bad enough. Her’s is going to destroy me!

 BASS

Emery, going back to what we were discussing before. We have a few days left before the station …moves back or whatever. Give it some thought and let’s talk again. Just you and me.

 EMERY

Alight Deputy.

 BASS

Also, I think we’re at the point where you should start calling me Bass. I appreciate the respect in using my title, but after all we’ve been through…

 EMERY

I appreciate that Bass.

**HANDSHAKE**

BASS

I could use a little bite myself. When the Atlas team gets back we’ll compare notes and get a plan to protect the station before the next…movement or whatever it is.

 EMERY

So, you trust them.

 BASS

No. I don’t trust them in the slightest. However, the protection of the station is at least a common goal that we share. I think if there is anything we can be sure of, is that anything they do towards that end will be sincere.

Just…let’s continue to restrict full access to you and me. If you want to bring Mr. Todd into that fold as well, I’ll defer to your judgement on it. Your call. Let’s just make sure we keep them monitored, especially around the Nodwells!

I don’t want any mysterious vehicle issues to crop up before we’re ready to leave. I wouldn’t put it past Joyclyn to try and strand us here as well. Thankfully, I have a contingency plan set for that eventually.

 KYLIE

 [FROM A DISTANCE]

[FLIRTY GIGGLE] Oh my GOD Keenan, you are SO funny!

 BASS

“She has access to the whole station and futuristic simulated female teenage hormone programing. [SIGH] We’re all going to die.”

**BASS’ BODY CAM: RECORDING STOPPED.**

**ACT VIII**

**FADE IN. STILL IN THE GALLEY. THE ATLAS TEAM HAVE RETURNED AND EVERYBODY IS AROUND THE TABLE. EATING AND REVIEWING THE SITUATION.**

 LARRY

…is the plan that has been proposed. Depending on your….station having reliable data recording of **gravimetric energy** whilst trasversing through various bulks between realities. We surmise a solution can be devised and implemented to protect this complex during the passage.

 EMERY

Hrmm. It’s an interesting theory alright. Kylie, your thoughts?

 **THREE BEAT**

 EMERY

 Sweetie?

 KYLIE

Hrm? Oh, sorry I was distracted. [A BIT OF EMBARRASMENT] Running a statistical analysis and simulation now.

**HIGH TECH CALCULATION ANALYSIS SOUND**

 KYLIE

It’s an interesting hypothesis and according to my initial simulations; the modules brought by Doctor Lawrence Emerson Waynewright could be reconfigured in the manner they describe.

We need to reprogram their software and make some technical adjustments. Provide each with a power feed and strategically deploy them. Total time required based on data sheets for the 20’s era technology you brought and factoring time to adjust and deploy.

**CALCULATION**

 KYLIE

It’s flux! We have everything set up in two days.

 LARRY

Will it protect the entire complex? All structures in the area?

[CALCULATING] If we’re willing to sacrifice a few of the external storage buildings, I can provide strategic placement locations which would protect a majority of the complex, including main station, power generation, external research buildings and the circular collider.

 PATRICK

[SPITS OUT FOOD]

 LARRY JEMMA EMERY

Disgusting. PATRICK! I’m not cleaning

 that up!

 PATRICK

 [GETTING EXCITED]

Hold the phone, or whatever future thing you duders use. . .did the little-one just say…circular collider? Like…as-in Large Hadron Collider?

 LARRY

 [ANNOYED]

Yes. This complex has a collider.

 PATRICK

Emery, you have your own particle accelerator, dude?

 EMERY

Well, technically it belongs to the Canadian people but, yeah.

[EXCITED NOISE FROM PATRICK]

 PATRICK

Can I play with it?

EVERYBODY

NO!

 PATRICK

Oh come-on! What’s the worst that could happen?

**PREGNANT PAUSE**

 BASS

Look around you! We’re all sitting, it the worst that can happen, Doctor! I like to call it…exhibit A.

 EMERY

Anyway, it’s not even operational presently. The accelerator tunnels are filled with the carcasses of around 60 thousand energy draining ice spiders. I’ve been removing as many as I can a few hours every day hauling them to a burn pit I dug. With just me and my progress rate. I should be done in 27 more years.

 JEMMA

 [EXCITED]

YES! Let me know if you go out while we’re here. I’d love to bring one back to dissect it before we go!

 JOYCLYN

You…little bird. We need you to provide all the information you recorded while you…[WHISTLE] **OI!!!** over here luv!

 KYLIE

Sorry. What is it you need Special Agent Joyclyn Eleanor Folwer?

 JOYCLYN

…data. Data you recorded during the trip through the looking glass dear, come on with this one, honestly!!

 EMERY

You can provide them that data Kylie, it’s allowed.

 KYLIE

Transferring data to your tablet now.

**DIGITAL NOISE**

 KYLIE

Transfer complete.

 JOYCLYN

Surprised you can do that all while making goo-goo eyes at Keenan.

**CHUCKLES FROM SOME OF THE TEAM**

 KYLIE

 [EMBARASSED]

 I’m so blink-locked right now!

**KYLIE SHUTS HERSELF OFF**

EMERY

 [SARCASTIC]

Thank you Agent Folwer. I’m going to be dealing with THAT one for the next six weeks!

 SHEPARD

I’m going to start reviewing these logs and come up with the adjustments necessary to generate the localized electromagnetic output. That should influence brane tension fluctuations and create a stabilization effect. Doctor Waynewright, would you assist me?

 LARRY

I believe you meant, would I guide you and the answer of course is yes.

 BASS

We have just under four days now. From experience, I’d suggest we all get at least six hours sleep as soon as is possible. Fatigue is not going to help our situation.

 EMERY

There are very comfortable rooms close by in the North tower. Everybody can have their own room. All the showers and lounges on that floor are working.

 BASS

Okay it’s…17:00 right now. Why don’t we synch back up right at midnight?

**AUTOMATED ANNOUNCEMENT: FULL POWER HAS BEEN RESTORED, ALL SYSTEMS NOW ONLINE.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT DING**

KYLIE

US Marshal Bass Wyatt Marlow and Doctor Lawrence Emmerson Waynewright. Was there anybody else in your parties I have not been introduced to?

 LARRY

No!

 BASS

No Kylie. We told you about everybody and we’re all in the galley still.

 KYLIE

Over the last two hours I’ve monitored several doors and maintenance hatches accessed. I had believed this to be a sensor error in coming out of protected mode, however all my diagnostic have been completed, and I cannot account for the random location access.

 EMERY

Are there any anomalous heat signatures or motion hits?

**DIGITAL COMPUTING**

 KYLIE

No Father. I’m not seeing anything but people in the Gally.

 CHRIS

Is it those Ice spiders, back?

 KYLIE

No. There has been no associated drain of power from any location, only doorways opening and closing.

 PATRICK

Aw! Don’t tell me this place has a ghost too!

 JOYCLYN

I don’t believe in ghosts, mate. I believe in intruders. We got some.

**OUTRO AND CREDITS**