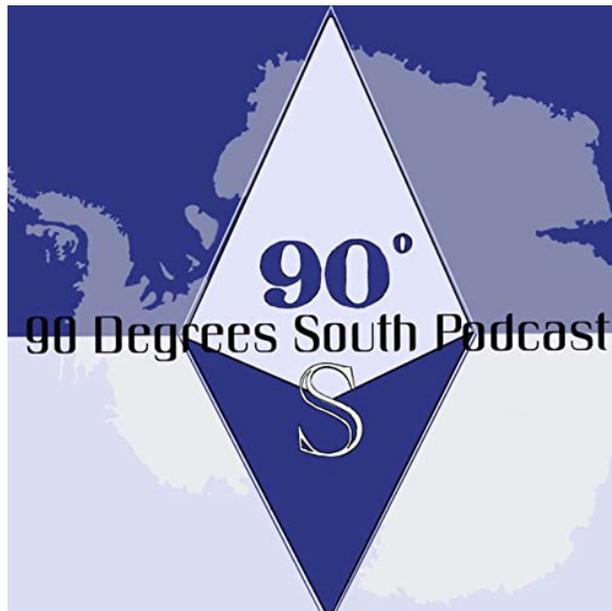


# Ninety Degrees South

SEASON THREE

EPISODE FIFTEEN: **Blue Detective**

DRAFT 1: DEC 16, 2023



by  
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**INTRO MUSIC**

**ACT I**

**WE'RE IN BASS' OFFICE, LISTENING TO KEYBOARD TYPING. THE SLOW HUM OF THE STATION HEATER ABOVE HIM. A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.**

BASS

It's open.

**DOOR SQUEEKS A BIT, WE HEAR THE INTO MUSIC OF RICHARD JOHNSON, PRIVATE DETECTIVE.**

RICHARD

Tried to use the blower to get you, but I still don't get these fancy Ameche horns! Have a second to jaw with an old elbow?

BASS

[FOCUSED ON TYPING]

Come in detective. Shut the door please and have a seat.

**DOOR CLOSES, HEAVY FOOTSTEPS AND A CHAIR SLIDES BACK**

RICHARD

[EXHALE] Appreciate the hospitality G-Man. These dogs are barking something bad! Don't know who came up with flatfoot, but it was a real wise head!

BASS

[STILL TYPING]

How can I help you?

**STRIKES A CIGERETTE AND INHALES**

RICHARD

You need to get yourself a young tomato for the secretary work Marlow! It would free you up for the important stuff. No wonder you always look like you need a bicarbonate!

BASS

[TYPING STOPS]

We should bring you up to speed on how things work in the twenty-first century. Now, what's the station's most famous shamus doing in my office? Looking for a freebie?

RICHARD

I've been hitting the bricks on a job for about a week now, and the client is starting to tighten the screws on the lettuce holder. Being tighter on his wallet than a businessman in the 30's. Thinking a fresh set of peepers might be the pep this step needs.

**FEW KEYSTROKES AND THEN A DEFINITIVE HIT OF THE 'ENTER' KEY. CLOSSES HIS LAPTOP.**

BASS

Johnson, you've caught me at a very fortunate time. I have no interviews today. I just caught up on all my paperwork. Zeke has inspections all day, Mister Kelley is going to be working late this evening helping the A.R.O. scientist on grant reporting and Ken. . . Doctor Jennings has performance reports to finishing filling out and won't be free until tomorrow. For the first time since I got down to the station. . . there is nothing for me to do at the moment. So. . . why not. Why don't you run what you have past me.

RICHARD

That's aces! Sounds Jake to me. Okay. Last week the kid Tommy. . . .real go-getter of a fella with too positive of an outlook came to me with a job he found on the station's bulletin board. Must have picked the card right off the cork!

**TWO BEAT**

BASS

We don't have a message board on station. Just flyers people put up with upcoming events.

RICHARD

Kid said he pulled it off the message board for the station.

BASS

[REALIZATION]

He's talking about an internet message board.

RICHARD

Oh! So now you all put job classifieds in a net? Seems a loop-d-loop way to ask for wanted-gigs.

BASS

No, it's . . .part of the internet, people go to. . . .Never mind. So, what's the. . . .caper you're working on?

RICHARD

A Bo back in the states think's his Frau is stepping out on him. Riding the ponies when she has a stallion parked back home.

BASS

Yeah. Infidelity isn't always that uncommon down here. They call it having an 'Ice Husband' or 'Ice Wife'.

RICHARD

Hey, I ain't no father Flanagan! I'm not here to read from the good book or throw an ing-bing on what these Joes and Janes do when the door closes, and the music starts playing. But a case is a case, and my client paid my fee for a week up front as a retained. A hundred a day and expenses!

BASS

Probably want to look into inflation rates since the 40's Johnson. What's the wife's name?

RICHARD

Kellogg. Rene Kellogg. She's works with Chief Crescent wrench down in the arches. Real Rosie the riveter type. Roll up your sleeves type of Betty.

BASS

(SIGHS) We really need to get you up to speed before somebody complains to Ms. Chipperfield in H.R. Rene is associated with a suspect in one of the cases I'm working. I happen to know a lot

about her and her life, not just here, but back in the world.

RICHARD

I knew coming here would be like hitting the trifecta at Louie's dog tracks! What's the skinny on the broad?

BASS

Woman. We call. . . (ANOTHER SIGH). Alright. Normally, we keep cases we're working on confidential for as long as the investigation is ongoing. Department policy, you understand.

RICHARD

Oh, I savvy Marlow! But I ain't no newshawk or fish wrapper writer. I'm just a regular mug who knows how to keep the trap tight. Think of it as one set of buttons chatting up another. Checking leads.

BASS

Not sure what's more alarming. That you're picking up how inter-agency information sharing works in the 21<sup>st</sup> century or that I'm starting to understand what you're saying without subtitles!

She's married, no kids. A couple of misdemeanors from when she was younger. Nothing unusual this day and age. No banking irregularities, no substantial debt. Get's decent reviews from Zeke the past three seasons and keeps her nose clean in general.

RICHARD

Know who she pals around with?

BASS

Not really. Who her friends on station are; really isn't too important to the investigation I have going on; the sabotage of the plane that crashed or the station.

RICHARD

[PONDERING]

Hrmm.

BASS

What?

RICHARD

Been tailing Mrs. Kellogg the last week. She and the moose here both work the cargo lines, so it's not too difficult during shifts. When they're off she's more cagey.

BASS

Cagey? Like how?

RICHARD

She hoofs it across the station like she needs to put out a fire. Not sure how she did it, but the dame managed to shake me twice. A clean sneak. You don't tend to dust somebody unless you're up to something, and I'm willing to bet that something requires slow music, low lights, sentimental Journey on the old victrola and no dress code. So, whatta say Marlow? We partner up on the case?

BASS

[ACCEPTING THE RIDICULOUSNESS]

For at least today, I'm free and I'll help if I can.

RICHARD

Swell! Most of my cases usually only take a day or two to solve. Why this one has me taking it on the chin! Taking way too long. [TWO BEAT] Alright, first thing we need to do is get you to pin some decent diapers on.

BASS

Diapers?

RICHARD

Diapers! Clothes, Rags. Marlow, if you're going to be working a case as a private dick; you have to wear a dark suit and hat. Now go change and I'll wait in your office. Maybe have a gander and look-see around.

BASS

I don't have a suit down here and the only hat I have is an early 1900's Stetson.

RICHARD

No suit? How do you get anything done when you stand out like a Rockette at Sunday Service?

BASS

Lars is six foot eight, always wears a bright orange work jumpsuit. You're a two and a half foot, blue plush puppet that lives on his right arm. I think one of us stands out a BIT more than the other.

RICHARD

Alright G-man. Have it your way. Not going to win any beauty pageants today, but at least you'll drawl their fire for me! Let's get the gate downtown to a little speakeasy I know. See a little songbird that likes to tweet in my ear every so often. By the way. . .I don't split my fee!

**FADE OUT**

**ACT II**

**BODYCAM: RECORDING STARTED**

RICHARD

That thing on now?

BASS

It's on.

RICHARD

Aces! (CLEAR THROAT) So the Fed and I went downtown to a little gin-joint that recently opened. The proprietor was an old con I heard about, a fence who always had one ear to the street, and another ear on the needs of the locals, ready to scratch any itch. Old timer; went by the moniker. . .Reno.

BASS

The hell are you doing?

RICHARD

Narrating what's going on.

BASS

Narrating? To whom?

RICHARD

You don't record your actions or daily routine for paperwork later?

**AWKARD SILENCE**

BASS

[REALISES JOHNSON IS RIGHT]

Can we just go in already?

RICHARD

I hear this place can get a bit rough. People dancing on tables and breaking chairs on others.

BASS

It was ONE chair, and it was a Troll that did it, not me! As for the Dancin. . . JUST GO IN!

**DOOR OPENS AND WE HEAR PIANO MUSIC AND A THROATY LOUNGE SINGER. A FOOTSTEPS APPROACH THE COUNTER AS THE GUYS LEAN AGAINST THE BAR.**

RENO DAVE

Afternoon fellas! Here to wet your whistles.

RICHARD

Howsit goings pops! Wanted to have a few words with the gams sitting on top your Steinway!

RENO DAVE

Sure thing Rick. Just do me a favor will ya? When you leave this time, I best not see any waterworks! She's a sweet kid, and don't need getting her heart broke over a two-bit gumshoe and a glass of empty promises.

RICHARD

Just here for some info pops! I ain't here to dust up nothing. No third, no graveyard roses or used 54 **gauges**. Just a chat.

RENO DAVE

Well then that's fine. What about you Deputy Marshal?

BASS

I'll just have a coffee. Black.

RENO DAVE

Coming up!

RICHARD

IRISH IT UP FOR HIM POPS!

**[TWO BEAT AS SONG CONTINUES]**

RICHARD

Coffee? [DISAPPROVING NOISE] Marlow. We're on the job. Working the case. Need to order a snort of the local eel juice pops has in the back.

BASS

It's ten in the morning!

RICHARD

[DISAPOINTED]  
I've got a lot of work to do with this one.

**SONG WRAPS UP**

RICHARD  
Okay. Practice time is over. Let's see what the  
dame knows.

**FOOTSTEPS OVER**

RICHARD  
Heya dollface! Pipes sounding good as ever.

BASS  
Doctor Lorenz! Wow! Your voice on stage is . .  
.unexpected.

JEMMA  
Take five fellas. [TWO BEAT] Well well well, I  
didn't hear a baboon escaped from the zoo this  
morning! What brings you here Ricky? See ya got  
a new partner. Maybe this one will last more  
than a week before you drive him away for trying  
to get too close! That's your usual!

BASS  
[TO HIMSELF]  
What the hell happens around here when I'm gone?

RICHARD  
Now now baby. I told you from the start. We come  
from different worlds. This. . .you and me. .  
.it's fire and gas. [SHIFT TOPIC] Look, I'm not  
here to pour salt on wounds. I'm here to. . .ask  
your help.

JEMMA  
Oh now that's rich! The great Shamus, Richard  
Johnson needs the help of a . . [TWO AND TWO COMES  
TOGETHER] . . You're being straight with me! No  
flowers, no promises of dinners and dancing as  
the wind up. Just direct to asking the favor.  
(LAUGH) Now I know you're in a pickle. What's the  
grift?

RICHARD  
No grift toots! Just need a few answers.

JEMMA

Well then, go on! You stand there much longer  
Reno Dave gonna start charging you rent on the  
space!

RICHARD

See you down in the arches quite a bit.  
Sometimes coming down from the beer can,  
sometimes through the Logistics Arch from outside  
and the IceCube lab. Always soft shoeing it to  
the ice alleys.

JEMMA

[NERVOUS]

I um. Well. . .

RICHARD

Relax baby! Don't care about what's inside those  
ice alleyways. Just what those beautiful baby  
blues saw on the way there. Maybe. . .yesterday  
around four in the afternoon.

JEMMA

I just finished my shift in the IceCube lab,  
wanted to take my mind off things, so I went for  
a walk.

RICHARD

Go on!

JEMMA

Well, I walked back from the dark sector. Cut  
through the logistics arch on my way. . .inside  
to the station.

RICHARD

I know. I was outside the L.O. arch when I saw  
you walk out. I also saw Rene Kellogg walk in  
about 30 seconds before you brightened up that  
doorway.

JEMMA

Hey, that's right! She had just come in and  
rounded the corner as I was heading toward the  
front door. She was. .heading upstairs.

BASS

To the L.O. Arches office?

JEMMA

Yeah, that's right Deputy.

RICHARD

How many times a week do you hoof it down the route on your way. . .to other places?

JEMMA

Two, three times a week. And come to think of it; Rene is around most times.

RICHARD

Thanks dollface! You're helping an old flatty and as much as I'd like to give you the old up and down a bit more. . .

BASS

[SHOCKED]

JOHNSON!

JEMMA

[CHUCKLES]

It's alright Deputy. He means he'd like to look me up and down some more, not. . .sexual copulation.

BASS

Maybe I will have that spiked coffee after all!

JEMMA

[ACTING]

Oh Rick, be careful! I couldn't stand it if. . .if. . .

BASS

Chin up baby. It'll take more than a gaggle of mugs with roscoes and garlic on their breath to keep me down. See you around, kid.

MARLOW, GRAB THAT TIGER MILK TO GO! I HAVE AN INSIDE MAN WE NEED TO SEE!

**FOOTSTEPS OUT THE DOOR, A FEW PIANO KEYS BEING PLAYED. A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

BASS

[COMPLETLEY CONFUSED]

What. . .in the ever-loving world is happening?

JEMMA

[CHUCKLE] It's okay Deputy Marshal. I grew up watching old 40's noir films and listening to radio shows from even earlier. My dad and brothers were all obsessed. So am I! It's really fun every couple of weeks or so, we get to play off Detective Johnson and it's like. . .almost being BACK there!

RENO DAVE

And remember Mister Marlow, I was born in the early 40's and still remember the late parts quite well! While Doctor Lorenze may have seen the reruns, I was there for the originals! I feel like a kid again playing Sam Spade or Dick Tracey, even if I am stuck being 'Pops' the shifty but well-meaning bartender. Oh! Your Coffee Deputy. . .[LOWER] I didn't put any booze in it. Just strong black coffee, the way you always drink it, but for his sake. . .play along.

BASS

Okay. . .Pops.

***BOOTSTEPS OUT THE DOOR AND WE FADE OUT***

**ACT III**

**WE'RE IN THE BIG GYM. WE CAN HEAR THE SWECK OF SHOES AND ABALL BEING HIT. IT'S THE ICEPICK PRACTICE SESSION. BASS AND RICHARD ARE LEANING UP AGAINST A WALL, WATCHING, WAITING.**

BASS

Johnson, we've been here since they started their practice an hour ago. What if this contact of yours doesn't show?

RICHARD

Entirely possible they won't. Like I said, you stand out like a sore thumb and might rattle a cage. They ain't no thug snitch or mob rat

looking to climb a ladder. Seal is in a position to know everything that takes place around this icebox. Can give you the inside track on the next ball game, has dirt on which palooka took a payoff to a K.O. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. Even who is associating with who, between bedsheets. Has an information network J. Edgar Hoover could only dream about!

BASS

However, because I'm here with you. . .

RICHARD

The seal may have swum off. They're a rare bird Marlow. Hard to understand sometimes.

BASS

HA! That's funny coming from you Johnson!  
[PAUSE] And your contact's nickname is. . .Seal?

#### **A FEW SECONDS OF QUIET WHILE THE ICE PICKS PRACTICE**

RICHARD

Wait. Over there. [PAUSE] The back door. It's cracked. [PAUSE] Someone is waving a pocket square through the opening!

BASS

Only thing back there is. . .equipment storage. . .[THINKS] and. . .

RICHARD

The back way out onto the ice. Bet they saw you with me and couldn't afford to be seen cahooting. Let's go check it out Marlow, but uh. . .you have your heater with you? Just in case?

#### **FOOTSTEPS START TO THE BACK**

BASS

I'm armed.

RICHARD

Okay, me too. Let's be careful.

BASS

[ALARMED]

WAIT!

RICHARD  
SHHHHHHHHHH, don't make 'em rabbit!

BASS  
[LOWER]  
Where. . .HOW did you get a firearm?

RICHARD  
It's square G-man. Have a license for it, all proper and kosher.

BASS  
It would have expired 75 years ago! Plus, if you're a puppet how did. .

RICHARD  
[LOW]  
Marlow! Cork your hole for now. We can discuss later. Here we go.

**WE HEAR THE SLOW SQUEEK OF A DOOR IN NEED OF OILING. THEN THE FAIRY GODMOTHER DUST SOUND**

CHERLY LYNN  
[MUFFLED VOICE]  
Shut the door boys.

**THE DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND THEM.**

BASS  
[CONFUSED, SHOCKED]  
Ms. June? You're the inform. . .[TWO AND TWO PUT TOGETHER] Seal. . .C. . .L for Cheryl Lynn. Who has all the inside info and gossip. . .I should have seen that one coming a mile away. I'm losing it down here.

CHERYL-LYNN  
You cute little blue devil, you didn't tell me you was palling around with the Deputy Marshal. You boys havin' fun today? Hope you're playing nice with one another and not causing a rumpus. Two peas in a pod now, right?

RICHARD

Uh. . .yeah. We drink out of the same bot. .  
.eh, makes no never mind. Need you to sing all  
about Rene Kellogg, Cargo loader on the big guy's  
crew, Seal.

CHERYL-LYNN

I don't know Mister Johnson. This ol' gal and my  
reck-a-leckin has been as Shakey as a drunk with  
the DT's during an earthquake.

RICHARD

No joke, I need a Websters to get what you're on  
about sometimes sister!

CHERLY-LYNN

Maybe if. . .something were to *JOG* my memory?

RICHARD

Oh, you need a palm greased. Some scratch for  
that itch. Why didn't you just say so.

BASS

[IN HIS OWN WORLD]

Cheryl-Lynn. It was so obvious! Why couldn't I  
see it?

CHERYL-LYNN

Shush now shug. The adults over here need to  
conduct some bid-ness.

RICHARD

Here you go. Like you asked for. The recipe for  
apple fritters. Had to be sneaky about it but  
found it inside the old broad's work drawer in  
the computer room.

CHERYL-LYNN

I 'm as happy as a pig in slop with this. Gladys  
got gumption to think her dog ain't never had  
fleas! Like the lord his-self gonna stop on his  
way to the second coming for some of her apple  
fritters.

BASS

[IN HIS OWN WORLD]

I mean who else? Who else would it have been?

CHERYL LYNN

[PRIDEFUL]

.Sometimes that woman has the same social grace  
God gave a rock!

RICHARD

[CONFUSED]

I feel like I need some sub-titles here. I'm at  
sixes and sevens. Just. . .gimme the skinny.  
Whose she chummy with?

CHERYL-LYNN

Okay. Now. . .Ya'll know I ain't one to gossip;  
but she like to spend most her free time. . .  
.with that so and so Rockefeller man, Chaz  
Wilford.

RICHARD

Wait! I got that one. A fat-cat, egg and butter  
man. The kid what runs the numbers racket down  
in the Logistic Arches? Wilford?

BASS

[IN HIS OWN WORLD]

AM. . .I losing it? Did I even really have it to  
begin. . .[SNAPS BACK] Wait. . .Chaz Wilford? He.  
. .and Mrs. Kellogg are. .

CHERYL LYNN

Uh-huh! In a biblical way. And she's a married  
woman to boot! Now, I know the bible says I  
shouldn't judge. . .but I'm close to handing out  
blue ribbons for vow breaking over yonder.

BASS

Wait. . .how long. . .how long have the two of  
them. . .

CHERLYN LYNN

Gladys says she first saw them making smitten  
eyes at one another middle of last summer season.  
Wasn't till close to end of summer the two of  
them starting acting UGLY as homemade sin!

RICHARD

Marlow. . .help me out here! What did she say?

BASS

She said Kellogg and Wilford started a relationship middle of last summer season. Things didn't get. . .physical . . .

RICHARD

[SUGGESTIVLEY]

Pitching Woo! The old round heel!

BASS

Exactly, till just before winter started. Which means. . .

RICHARD

He's probably the other hack at her taxi stand. It stands to figure.

CHERYL-LYNN

I think our business here is concluded. Good working with you again, Detective! Deputy Marshal!

BASS

Miss. June: why don't you go out first and we'll wait a few minutes so none of the volleyball teams sees us together.

CHERYL-LYNN

Oh, it's not worrying about being seen with you shug. It's about not wanting to see THEM! Out there. [GETTING WORKED UP] Them toned, muscles. In those shorts with no shirt. Naked bodies all covered with sweat; like the pirates on them fiction books I see at the check-out stands! [SNAPS BACK] OH LORD! Imma gon pray hard for forgiveness on that one! Alright boys. . .I'll just sashay out the back door here. Need the cold air right about now.

**DOOR OPENS AND WE HEAR WINDS AND THE FAIR GODMOTHER DUST SOUND.**

RICHARD

Good kid, but an odd egg that one! Only get half of what she ever says.

BASS

Let's give it a few more minutes and we'll head back to my office to think out our next steps.

**FADE OUT**

**ACT IV**

**BASS' RECORDER - RECORDING STARTED  
BACK IN BASS' OFFICE. HEATER IS OVERHEAD AND YOU  
CAN HEAR THE PEOPLE PASSING BY OUTSIDE**

BASS

[ANNOYED]

Fine! Go ahead! Just get it over with!

RICHARD

[NARRIATING]

It was quarter to two and we high tailed it back to the G-man's office in the downtown district. Had all the glitz and glamor of a barn.

BASS

Hey!

RICHARD

[NARRIATING]

After the tornado scared all the animals inside.

BASS

[IRRATATED]

HEY!

RICHARD

We were all but sure we knew who Mrs. Kellogg's flip-side fella was. What's more the G-man said this had a direct connect to something the feds had been investigating. We need to tie this twine into a tight little bow to get the package ready to send. Just need an address for the postman, and last pickup, was at 4PM today.

BASS

[ANNOYED]

You done?

RICHARD

All golden, Marlow. Now. . .

## DRAWERS OPENING AND CLOSING

RICHARD

You got a deck of luckies around here anywhere?  
I'm flat, need a gasper!

BASS

Would you stay out of my desk drawers please!  
And no, I don't smoke. It's a filthy habit.

RICHARD

Fine. Let's just bump gums then. Figure out how  
we get Kellogg and Wilford to sing?

BASS

So, in my investigation and while interviewing  
both; they gave alibis for one another. In their  
statements, both said they were inside of the  
logistic arch doing inventory work for a few  
hours. Said they were in each other presence the  
entire time, except when Wilford had to use the  
bathroom for 10-15 minutes.

RICHARD

Why not just say there were together the whole  
stretch?

BASS

Not entirely sure myself. But let's assume they  
weren't doing inventory but. . .

RICHARD

The horizontal mambo!

BASS

I was going to say. . .engaging in their romantic  
tryst. So, they were together for a bit, Wilford  
leaves for 15 minutes and then comes back. Why?  
Why the 15 minutes?

RICHARD

Maybe he did really need to use the W.C. On the  
level.

BASS

It's possible, but if he wasn't. . .then why be  
apart from her for those ten minutes. Only thing

I can come up with would be that he needed to do something he didn't want her seeing.

RICHARD

Throwing a wrench in, gumming up the works ?

BASS

No. The Plane tampering was a few hours before this. It had already been affected. The station sabotage wasn't done until a few hours later. So, what else would it have. . . overalls!

RICHARD

Say again Marlow?

**DRAWER OPENS, FILE FOLDER EXTRACTED AND BASS STARTS FLIPPING THROUGH PAPERS. . .**

BASS

Here! Right here. Right around 3PM at the start of second shift, one of the DeWalts I interviewed said the only thing odd he remembered that day was his pair of work overalls having been stolen off his hook. It made no sense to him as everybody on Zeke's crew has them assigned by the N.S.F. The only person who wouldn't have been assigned a pair. .

RICHARD

Would be a beaker or dexter, just like our boy Wilford. Okay, so far I savvy; but why does he need to do the old gooseberry lay on another fella's overalls?

**MORE PAPERS BEING FLIPPED**

BASS

One of the other prime suspects in this investigation said as she was walking by the operations office window, she peaked inside and saw somebody in work overalls conducting what she assumed was repairs on the operations flight terminals and monitoring equipment. She didn't get a look at the person's face, just saw the overalls and tool bag. It may have been Wilford in the stolen overalls!

RICHARD

Why he did the Houdini on the chippy, had to nick the bloomers.

BASS

Okay, so how can we make it into a prosecutable case a grand jury will indict upon? Use it to get them to confess?

RICHARD

Had an idea on that. Have me a plan that may help me get the skinny I need to give my client the proof he needs on his wife playing footsies; and you the juice you need to prove the fat-cat ain't nothing but a hood.

**KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND IT OPENS**

ZEKE

Hey Lawman, good news, inspections ended early and I. . . . .[PAUSE]

Nope! No time for murder-Muppets today. I'll catch up with you and your missing kidney having ass tomorrow lawman. The I told you so will be on me!

**DOOR CLOSES AND FOOTSTEPS AWAY**

RICHARD

Okay, first we need to get the mark out of the L.O. arch. That'll be eggs in the coffee! I'll have the Kid Tommy call down and have Wilford come up to the office pool. Have him say they need to look over some counts or something where numbers don't add.

Once the palooka is up in the station, you hide one of your microphones inside of the L.O. office up on second floor of that arch. THEN you get Kellogg on the blower. Tell her you need her to come back in, say at 6PM to go over statements on her whereabouts. Tell her there some things that aren't making sense and you need her help to resolve. Get her to think she's in a real jam.

Kitten will run straight to her sugar-daddy for help, and we'll get whatever they jaw about!

**THREE BEAT**

BASS

As sting operations go. . . I've heard worse. Okay, let's play this one your way. I'll get my gear and if you can get Wilford out by say. . . 2:30, I'll head in, install the bug and then call Rene Kellogg afterwards. Once they meet for their daily . . .

RICHARD

Plowing of the fields!

BASS

Rendezvous. we'll monitor what's said from the office over in the VMF Arch. Meet me there at 3:30?

RICHARD

Will do. See you in a few.

**HEAVY FOOTSTEPS TO THE DOOR, IT OPENS AND CLOSES AS WE FADE OUT.**

**ACT V**

**FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE CARPENTER SHOP'S OFFICE IN THE VMF ARCH. THE STANDARD GARAGE NOISES CAN BE HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND. WE HEAR THE TYPING OF A KEYBOARD COMING THROUGH A SPEAKER ON THE CCTV UNIT BASS IS HOLDING. THE DOOR TO THE OFFICE OPENS. RICHARD AND LARS HEAD IN.**

RICHARD

Sorry I'm late Marlow. Had to see a man about a dog!

BASS

Don't even want to know what that one means. Just glad you made it. Our guy just got back to his office a few minutes ago. Working on something in his laptop. I made the call to Mrs. Kellogg. Told her I needed another interview this evening. Got her nervous enough she was stammering at the end of the call. Your plan is working perfectly.

**LARGE BODY SITTING IN A SMALL SEAT**

RICHARD

News to these ears G-man!

**WE HEAR THE SOUND OF SHOES ON METALLIC STEPS IN THE MONITOR BACKGROUND.**

RICHARD

Sounds like the dame is heading up the stairs now!

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

I heard it's getting even colder out there. Need me to warm you up?

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

We have a problem. The Marshal wants to talk to me again.

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

Okay. He talks to everybody. What's the problem?

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

He said he needed me to go into more detail on my story. Said there were things that weren't adding up. Needs me to clear up some things. I don't know what to do!

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

What do you mean you don't know? You go talk to the cop. Keep telling him the same story I gave ya. There's nothing to it!

RENE

But what if he knows something?

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

Look, after he brought me in last time. He starting trying some bullshot out of my past to get me to slip up. Found out some shit that

happened back in the day. He's desperate, he's fishing, he ain't no smarter than us.

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

So, if it's nothing, tell me where you were that day? The day the plane crashed.

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

From 10AM to 11:15; I was in here with you, counting cans, widgets and supplies; that's all that matters and that's all you need to keep on telling people. If things get too hot, just start taking the 5<sup>th</sup>! Ask for a lawyer. Punk ass has to provide you one if you ask for it.

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

How long do we keep lying?

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

Just a while longer. Did you get rid of the boilersuit I gave you last week?

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

Buried it out behind the booze barn. Nobody will find it there.

CHAZ

[ANNOYED, OVER MONITOR]

Buried it?

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

It's not like we have anywhere or anything to burn it with. If I threw it in garbage it would be hauled out with everything else and could be retrieved. Burying it was the best I could do!

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

I have to figure out some way to get rid of those for good.

RENE

[OVER MONITOR]

We only have an hour before I have to be back.  
You still need help relaxing?

CHAZ

[OVER MONITOR]

You know I do. Come here.

**PLOWING THE FIELDS BUILD UP SOUNDS**

**RICHARD**

There we go! My client isn't going to be happy about this, but I've closed my case. Can I get that thing to make photographs?

BASS

Everything is recorded digitally.

RICHARD

What?

BASS

It's all on film.

RICHARD

Stag film! Love it. Can I get two copies?

BASS

I'll make one and send it direct to your client on your behalf. I'll get the address from Mister Kelley.

RICHARD

Huh, all wrapped up like a pretzel in there.

BASS

Alright! I think we've seen all we need to see.

RICHARD

Upside down? Wow!

BASS

Turning this off now. We both got what we needed. I'm going to see if we can't find those coveralls and get some answers, tonight!

RICHARD

Give you six bits to turn that picture show back on and walk away for thirty minutes.

BASS

No. Come on. . .some professionalism maybe?

RICHARD

From what I saw she's a pro alright!

BASS

Decorum man! Let's go. We got what we both needed.

**FADE OUT**

**ACT VI**

**FADE IN: WE'RE IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM. INTERVIEW IN PROGRESS'**

BASS

. . .and is sticking out to me as an issue. The other cargo loaders I've chatted with never mentioned anything about helping the logistic arch cream with inventory counts. They said nobody has ever asked them to do that, so then why did Mister Wilford ask you?

RENE

[NERVOUS]

You'd have to ask him. I can't tell you what he was thinking. He asked and I gave him a hand. We help one another out around here when needed, especially down in the arches.

BASS

And you were with him for 90 minutes on the inventory count?

RENE

[NERVOUS]

Yes.

**FLIP FLIP OF SOME PAPER**

BASS

Okay. Last time we talked you said it was only 60 minutes.

RENE

[NERVOUS]

Fine. 60 minutes then. You have me a little nervous over here.

BASS

Why be nervous? We're just chatting. You're helping me clear up things.

RENE

[NERVOUS]

I'm just. . .making me nervous, that's all.

BASS

Alright. Here, let's try this. What is it specifically that you're nervous about? Let see if we can't resolve it here and now so you can be more at ease.

RENE

I don't know. It's being in here. Talking to you, that's what I'm nervous about.

BASS

But this is your third interview with me. The first two interviews you were nowhere near this. . .agitated. You were calm and helpful. So, what happened between then and now? Let's try to fix it together.

RENE

[NERVOUS]

I don't. . .I . . .I want to. . .

**KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

BASS

COME ON IN!

**DOOR OPENS.**

CHAZ

Mister Kelley said you. . . .what's going on in here?

BASS

Come in Mister Wilford. Have a seat. I was just re-interviewing Ms. Kellogg about her statements from earlier. Your name came up quite a bit!

CHAZ

[GUARDED]

Did it.

RENE

[STARTING TO PANIC]

The Deputy brought you up, not me!

CHAZ

[GUARDED]

It's all good Rene. I got this.

BASS

So, you were together for 60 minutes. Doing Inventory.

CHAZ

If that's what we said last time and is in the notes, sure. We'll go with that.

BASS

Uh-huh. And what we're you taking inventory of?

CHAZ

Whatever your notes have us saying for last time, we'll go with that too.

BASS

Mrs. Kellogg. . . . I apologize I forget. . .it is. . .MISSUS Kellogg right? I see the ring on your left hand, just want to be sure.

RENE

[VERY NERVOUS]

Yes.

BASS

Yes, the ring is on your finger or yes you're married.

RENE

[VERY NERVOUS]

Married.

BASS

[SLY CHUCKLE]

Not. . .to Mister Wilford, I'm assuming.

RENE

[VERY NERVOUS]

Right, right. So. . .when you see him most days at 4PM you're doing. . .inventory?

CHAZ

[GUARDED]

You being a smart guy deputy? Asking questions about stuff you seem to already know the answers to?

BASS

Sorry Mr. Wilford: I was asking Mrs. Kellogg; not you. Mrs. Kellogg?

CHAZ

You don't got to answer that Rene. [GUARDED GOES TO FRUSTRATION] You know, seems you and me had this conversation before Deputy. We ain't talking to you no more with having no lawyer present.

BASS

So then, you've been authorized to speak on behalf of Mrs. Kellogg then? Does her husband know that as he'd be the only relationship partner any court would recognize as valid?

CHAZ

[FRUSTRATION]

We're done here Marlow. Let's go Rene!

**CHAIRS SLIDING BACK. BASS PICKS UP A DUFFEL BAG FROM THE FLOOR AND DROPS IT ON THE DESK. UNZIPS IT.**

BASS

So then neither of you can explain these pair of coveralls, stolen from the VMF Arch and buried behind the booze barn? Exactly where we were told to find them by Mrs. Kellogg?

RENE

[PANICKING]

WHAT? NO!. . .I. . .

CHAZ

[ANGRY]

You two timing little. . .

**SLIGHT SOUND OF SCUFFELS AND THE HAMMER ON A SNUB NOSE .38 BEING COCKED BACK.**

CHAZ

[LOUDLY]

Back off Marshal! Back off or I'll blow her head off!

RENE

[SCARED]

CHAZ? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I SWEAR I NEVER. . .

CHAZ

Shut your mouth, bitch!

BASS

Where you going to run to Wilford?

CHAZ

None of your concern Marshal. You've done enough already to fuck this whole operation up!

BASS

Alright then. Normally this is where I outline three choices a suspect has before things tend to go south. Now, in this room, there are only two; so, I'll make this quick. One: You take that gun off Mrs. Kellogg, you put it on the table and step away. I arrest you and we take things from there. Two, you move the barrel of the gun from her temple to take aim at me; but I promise you,

before you're able to get a bead on me and pull the trigger, you'll be dead.

CHAZ

Or I just head on out.

BASS

I have Detective Johnson right outside, ready to shoot you if you walk out with anything other than your hands up. Like I said. . .only two options.

**ERIE SILENCE**

RENE

CHAZ NO!

**WE HEAR FRUSTRATED GRUNTING, AND A VERY QUICK PISTOL CLEARING LEATHER AND A SINGLE GUNSHOT.**

**TWO BEAT OF SILENCE AND THE BODY HITS THE FLOOR. WE HEAR PISTOL RETURNING TO LEATHER**

**DOOR FLYS OPEN**

RICHARD

G-Man? You square?

BASS

All good. How is he?

RICHARD

Looks like you fogged him but good. [BEAT] Kid's still breathing though.

**A RADIO SQUAWK**

BASS

This is Deputy Marshal Marlow. Medical Emergency, we have a man down in the large conference room. Required immediate medical attention.

RICHARD

Mrs. Kellogg, are you okay?

RENE

[UPSET, SOBBING]

No, I'm NOT OKAY! The man I thought loved me and I was going to run away with, just used me as a hostage and human shield!

RICHARD

The guy was rotten from the start baby! A real wrong number that was stringing you. Don't feel bad, you're not the first twist this happened to!

RENE

[UPSET, CONFUSED]

I don't. . . What are you saying?

**WE HEAR RAPID FOOTSTEPS IN THE HALL AND A ROLLING GURNEY.**

**BASS**

**[TAKING CHARGE]**

Mrs. Kellogg. It's my strongest suggestion you don't talk to anybody until you have a lawyer. That said, I'm placing you under arrest for false statements made to a federal agent, obstruction of justice, and being an accessory after the fact in the crash of ANG-0492 and five charges of attempted murder, including one for a federal agent.

You have the right to remain silent. . .

**FROM OUTSIDE THE GURNEY AND DOCTORS ARRIVE, BEGIN FADING OUT.**

AMBROSE

MOVE PEOPLE! OUT OF THE WAY!

BASS

Anything you say can and will be used. . . .

## ACT VII

### DIGITAL RECORDING STARTED

BASS

Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Marlow. Today is 13 January 2023; current time 20:45 hours. Investigation into Flight ANG-0492 and Amundsen Scott Sabotage; concluding. Follow up interview of Mrs. Rene Kellogg resulted in an attempted hostage situation, assault, and attempted murder by the station's logistic operations manager Chaz Wilford. I arranged to have Mr. Wilford arrive to the large conference room in the middle of the Interview of Mrs. Kellogg to rattle their cages.

I borrowed a set of overalls from one of the guys in the arches and buried it outside in the snow for an hour. Went back to get it and tossed it in a duffel bag. I didn't have time to go looking and dig up the actual set, so I had to improvise. While it worked perfectly, I wasn't expecting that Wilford had smuggled a firearm onto the station or that he would have tried to use it.

Speaking of. . .Mister Wilford is in critical but stable condition. Doctor Ambrose reports he's lost a lot of blood and had bullet lodged in his A-Orta. That he should be dead by all rights. His chances of recovering aren't great; but they also aren't zero. He's been unconscious this entire time and had been restrained. Once his condition improves they intend to transport him back to the states, but for now he's in no condition to be moved.

Who he really is and who he's working for. . . .remains; murky at best. There was something he said, while he was looking for a way to escape. That I messed his whole operation up. Interesting choice of words under pressure. . . .  
."Operation."

I have Honolulu digging hard on Wilford. They're coming up against all kinds of roadblocks. The official and firm kind of walls that have black book ops written all over them. I remember Charlie talking about another players being out there. Not just the NSF, Beau-Lowe and the DIA. . .but something, even bigger. We're pretty sure now, the unknow player is DARPA and that in some way, shape, fashion or form; Wilford is part of that.

[TWO BEAT]

Mrs. Kellogg didn't know a lot about Wilford's background or true motivation. The only thing we'll be able to really hold her on this helping Wilford hiding the overalls and obstructing an investigation. Unless we can prove she was made aware before or after the sabotage and then helped; I think she'll be able to plead this down. She's clammed up for now until she can speak with a lawyer. We offered up Franklin, but she apparently has a family lawyer she wants back in the states.

While we are fairly confident we can pin the sabotage squarely on his shoulders. Until he offers up a motive or helps connect the dots on the drug smuggling operation and the crash itself. . .we 're at a standstill. Given the coma he's in; Ambrose says we should expect him to recover anytime soon.

So, for now. . . Investigation into Flight ANG-0492 and Amundsen Scott Sabotage; suspended until suspect regains consciousness or new evidence is discovered.

PAUSE

[RELUCTANTLY]

Go Ahead!

**SHUFFELING FROM BACKGROUND  
RICHARD JOHNSON THEME PLAYS**

RICHARD  
[NARATION]  
I sent a telegram . . .

BASS  
[BACKGROUND]  
Email.

RICHARD  
[NARATION]  
Back to the states and to my client. Along with  
the film the G-man took of them pitching woo!

BASS  
[BACKGROUND]  
MP4.

RICHARD  
[NARATION]  
Some joes get free with their backhands when they  
find out their old lady's been stepping out.  
Some cry like a 3-year-old after you take his  
candy. My client. Just thanked me and hung up  
the Ameche. Had a western union check same day in  
my hands paying off the 82 clams in expenses.

BASS  
[BACKGROUND]  
Paypal.

RICHARD  
[NARATION]  
Life out here on the Ice; can sometimes be like  
the big apple. You're flush with the green one  
day and hoping upon hope your next case comes in  
before the landlady comes knocking for the two  
months back rent.

BASS  
[BACKGROUND]  
We live rent free down here.

RICHARD

[NARATION]

In any event, I'm going back to figuring out the big caper, the case that keeps my head tossin' on that pillow every night. How do I get back where I belong? [PAUSE, REALLY LAND IT, MEAN IT!] To November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1947. I was ripped out of the past; away from everything I know and love. I'm stuck here, in this topsy Turvey place at the bottom of the big blue marble.

I have a score to settle with the mug that took out my old partner Louie, Boss Cyrus Maroni. A real blood debt. Whoever may be up there amongst the twinkly lights; you listen up and you listen good! I ain't no deadbeat or chiseler! Richard Johnson; ALWAYS pays his debts. I'm coming back for you Maroni. You can make BOOK on that!

**RICHARD JOHNSON END STRINGER  
OUTRO AND CREDITS**