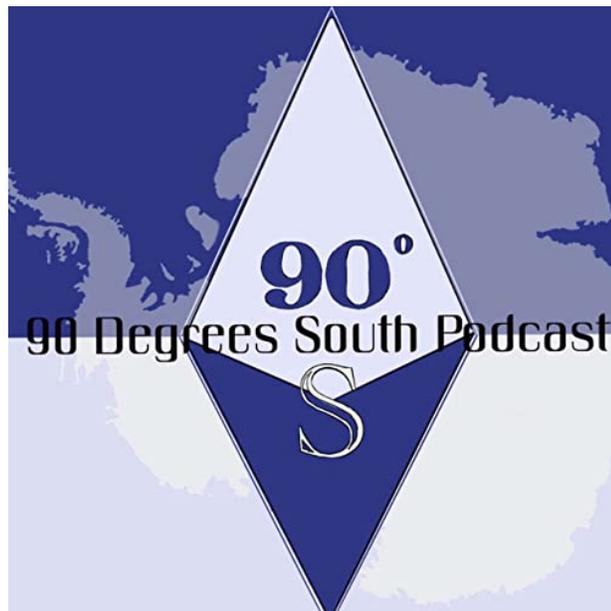


# 90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE  
EPISODE ELEVEN: FLASHPOINT

DRAFT 1: DEC 4, 2023



by  
Brian M Bradley

**BMB Productions LLC**

**INTRO MUSIC**  
**ACT I**

**FADE IN**  
**BASS IS IN HIS OFFICE, DICTATING.**

BASS

Today is Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Oh-Seven Thirty hours. Supervisory US Deputy Marshal Bass Marshal. Ongoing Investigation of Amundsen Scott sabotage / Flight 0429 crash.

Received a response from the Massachusetts Courts on my request to have the court records around the bench warrant for Chaz Wilford unsealed. Not surprisingly that request was denied. Reason stated was ongoing national security and court privacy. Administrative bullshit.

This basically means that line of investigative searching has hit a brick wall. Thankfully, I'm known for my skill with a sledgehammer. I've scheduled a follow up interview with Mister Wilford for later today where I'll re-visit his details already provided; but also confront him with my knowledge of the whole bar stabbing incident. See what he says and how he handles the fact that I'm aware.

The investigation as a whole is not going as quickly as I'd like it to. I know that these things don't all just get wrapped up in an hour like they do on television, but with this few suspects, I feel like there should be more progress being made.

[CHUCK IMPRESSION] *Things don't just fall into your lap son, you got to hit the streets, get out from behind the desk and use that gray matter God put between your ears, or it'll turn into Donkey brains!*

[DEEP BREATH] Hearing his voice again was a punch in the balls! Just when things had a way of easing down; the world finds a way to bring it all back to the surface again. His voice, the

internal revelation that Joyclyn really wasn't the one that had Chuck and Janet. . .sorry; I'm doing it again. Doing the hipster, reality 'confession booth' video thing. U.S.M.S. doesn't care about my feelings or internal personal matters. Old habits. . .

Okay, head back in the game. Updating reports from my time back on station and the incident in McMurdo a few months back where I was shot. Again. Had to go into detail with Marshal Murphy why I don't care for hospitals. ANY. . .hospitals and about my decision to check myself out of their medical hut against doctors' orders.

I've put a meeting on the calendar for a month from now to head up to the U.S. Palmer Station to meet with my special deputy there, Jack Cord. Other than an occasional verbal dispute or two, there isn't much happening there. No reported crimes as of yet and this will be mostly just a friendly social visit. Unlike McMurdo or even here at Amundsen Scott, Palmer is small. It's one of the smaller stations on the continent at only 45 people over the summer. Ost times not even 20 over the winter season. Their base complex is only a half dozen buildings, most made up of insulated cargo containers, stacked together and interconnected.

It will be my first trip up there since arriving on the Ice. The one thing they do having going for them is since they're situated on the Northernly most peninsula of the continent, on the Anders Islands.

They get some of the more warmer weather Antarctica can offer and have an active seaport, however unlike the one in McMurdo they are relatively close to about ½ a dozen other international stations and accept tourist. At least that all mattered BEFORE the president's new isolationist edict went into effect.

Much like Bill Culligan my deputy in Mudtown, I hear Jack isn't heavily enforcing the documentation of visiting foreign nationals.

While officially I'll need to correct that behavior, personally I applaud the decision of both my special deputy's!

Alright. Going to grab me some breakfast. Check in on the Biggs brothers, who surprisingly are keeping their streak of zero fights this season intact. Need to figure out what's up with that! Then it's paperwork and my interview with Mister Wilford at fourteen hundred.

Supervisory US Deputy Marshal Bass Marshal.  
Ongoing Investigation of Amundsen Scott sabotage / Flight 0429 crash. Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Oh-Seven Thirty-nine hours. Update complete.

**DIGITAL RECORDER BOOP**

**ACT II**

**FADE IN. BASS IS WALKING OUTSIDE THE STATION, CLOSEBY TO THE ARO BUILDING. WINDS ARE STRONG BUT NOT HOWLING. CRUNCHING FOOTSTEPS IN THE SNOW AS WE HEAR VOICES GETTING LOUDER AS BASS APPROACHES.**

**A BADLEY PLAYED PAN FLUTE**

IT CHRIS

Still don't know when Em found the time to learn how to play that thing!

RANDO 1

You sure that is going to attract her rather than spook her?

IT CHRIS

[FRUSTRATED]

Like I said the last three times, it's a working theory. It was only a matter of hours last summer season when she showed up after the flute was played. The Summer before that, less than a day after Emery got bored watching and decided to practice. Darn fool said he was trying to serenade her! Never gave *me* that much of a

thoughtful romantic gesture! [BEAT] I'm trying to replicate that experiment!

**HORRIBLE PAN FLUTE PLAYING STOPS**

RANDO 2

My lips are getting chapped trying to play this thing.

IT CHRIS

Yeah? Well, my ASS is getting chapped listening to more whining and less PRACTICING.

RANDO 2

[UNDER BREATH]

Ass!

IT CHRIS

Uh, what was that young padawan?

RANDO 2

[COVERING]

ASS! I said your ass is getting chapped, don't want that now.

**PAN FLUTE HORRIBLE PLAYING CONTINUES**

IT CHRIS

Like listening to my eight-year-old Niece's clarinet recital. Ah, Deputy Marshal! Here to help us with the watch?

BASS

I saw you all from the windows of the Galley as I was having my breakfast. Peppermint again?

ALL

PEPERMINT!

BASS

Gotcha! How goes it?

IT CHRIS

She is as elusive, as she is breathtakingly picturesque! Stealthy, equal to her radiant beauty! Just wish she had more appreciation for

the station schedule and when. . . [AGAST!] THAT  
ONE DIDN'T COUNT! I TAKE IT BACK!

**WE HEAR AN ANGRY MURMUR FROM THE WATCHERS!**

IT CHRIS

Sorry! Sorry all! I just. . .lose myself trying  
to describe her. . .magnificence!

BASS

Okay, keeping in mind I'm still rather new to  
your. . .spirit watch. . .movement here. Why are  
all these people giving you the stink-eye?

IT CHRIS

I used the "W" word in a direct declaration. You  
must be careful how that word is used when you're  
looking for her. You may wind up accidentally  
making a. . .request of her you didn't intend to!

BASS

Oh! Okay, got it. Miss Alice asked I bring you  
all this thermos of hot chocolate and stack of  
cups to help keep you warm as long as you're out  
here.

IT CHRIS

[GUSHING]

I love how that woman watches out for all of us!

IT CHRIS

[LOUDER TO THE GROUP]

FIVE MINUTE BREAK EVERYBODY. MS. ALICE SENT US  
HOT CHOCLATE.

**HAPPY MURMURS FROM THE CROWD. PAN FLUTE STOPS. FOOTSTEPS  
APPROACHING**

BASS

I have to say I didn't realize how much I missed  
the pan flute until just now! Despite the lack of  
playing skill from last time and all that.

IT CHRIS

Yeah, I was just telling YANI over there of my  
theory that the pan flute, may be a way to entice  
the Divine Wind-Dancing Caribou Spirit.

ALL  
PEPERMINT!

BASS  
You're. . . .trying to bait the tarp?

IT CHRIS  
[SARDONIC CHUCKLE]  
Ah. I keep forgetting that you haven't yet, come to accept her divineness. Your eyes are still clouded with the filter of the non-believer!

ALL  
BEFUDDLED!

IT CHRIS  
[CHASTIZING]  
Alright everybody! The Deputy Marshal is okay. Not like Waynewright or the others. Let's not go all zealotry now!

BASS  
Doctor Waynewright still not approving of all this?

IT CHRIS  
Never has. But, so long as we do this on our off-time, and it doesn't interfere with anybody else's activities. . .he allows it. [LEANS IN, LOWERS VOICE] I also mentioned something to the H.R. person, Ms. Chipperfield; that many of us might take this as an infraction of our. . .shall we say, spiritual expression.

BASS  
You weaponized the overly P.C. Human Resources Lady?

IT CHRIS  
Whoa! Human Resources PERSON! Let's stay in the twenty-first there Deputy Marshal. Need to remember. . .

BASS

Right, right! Still feel like a dinosaur sometimes around all you younger people and the social. . .movement, whatever. Person!

IT CHRIS

And no, I wouldn't say I weaponized Ms. Chipperfield, I just. . .leveraged the situation and her natural predisposition.

BASS

Apples and apples where I stand, but let's get back to the here and now. How long will you all be out here?

IT CHRIS

Well, we have about a dozen believers this season. We all gather this time of the morning other than the new Blaster who is sleeping right now. We have six shifts of two people at a time keeping watch. Radios at the ready to announce, her blessed return!

ALL

PEPERMINT!

BASS

Blaster?

IT CHRIS

The explosives technician. What we call them. Helps clear out permafrost and ice buildups during field operations. Maurice LaMarche. Good man, kinda. . . .out there!

BASS

Haven't met him yet. Anyway, just wanted to check in on you all before I start my day. Make sure everything was. . .alright.

IT CHRIS

Oh, everything is great Deputy Marshal. We have Ms. Alice's hot chocolate now to keep us warm. We have a working theory on how to entice her. . .

BASS

Bait.

IT CHRIS

And our hearts and minds remain. . .purified! We  
are. . .The Personhood, of the Divine Wind-  
Dancing Caribou Spirit

ALL

PEPERMINT!

BASS

Well, then alright. Best of luck to everybody,  
and I hope she appears and grants you all your. .

IT CHRIS

[WARNING NOISE TO NOT SAY IT]

BASS

Fondest heart's desire!

IT CHRIS

Whew! Close one. Later Deputy Marshal.

**FOOTSTEPS AWAY AS PEOPLE CONTINUE TO MURMUR.**

BASS

At least he's socializing with others again!

**DIGITAL RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED.**

**ACT III**

**FADE IN: WE'RE IN BASS' OFFICE. AN INTERVIEW I UNDERWAY OF  
CHAZ WILFORD. THE CONVERSATION IS UNDERWAY.**

BASS

. . .and all the standard pre-flight checks were  
conducted?

CHAZ

By the book CAP-USAF Inspection was performed.  
Oil change history verified, Avionics logbook  
check. Altimeter system, Fluid hoses, breaks,  
tires, airframe for corrosion, all by the  
numbers!

BASS

So, remind me. You check first and the pilot checks after you, or vice-versa?

CHAZ

Nahh. Doesn't matter who does first check so long as they both get done, recorded and logged in the maintenance and aircraft logs.

BASS

And you each watch the other conduct their checks.

CHAZ

Well in normal hangers and maintenance bays yes. You'd have two small teams on each side, pilot and mechanic working all together. Here, on the ice and in such a small flight deck like PAX. . .nah. I do mine. He does his. We sign each other's papers just before the pilot boards for the flight. Anything comes up before that, we'd radio the other to pop back over and give a look-see.

BASS

So.. you can't really say that Traeger fully did review the full checklist, nor he could do so for you.

CHAZ

Again, back in the world; different story. But down here with limited resources and a small staff, we trust one another.

BASS

I see here from my notes. . . .that day you were acting. . .as a stand-in. For the Head Flight Ops leader; Macro Green who was sick that morning.

CHAZ

Yeah.

BASS

So, flight checks aren't something you're regularly called on to preform?

**TWO BEAT**

CHAZ

Yeah, you know. . .I'm kinda not liking where you're going here.

BASS

Where I'm going?

CHAZ

Well, sounds to me you're trying to say that it's the fault of the stand-in guy who had to be there and doesn't do this as his normal day gig.

BASS

I've not made any accusations Mister Wilford. I'm not accusing anybody of anything right now. Just asking questions.

CHAZ

Yeah, bout that too! You're asking me the same questions as the last two times. You keep reading from your little handy-dandy notebook there, so I know you writes this stuff down and all that.

BASS

I've interviewed close to forty some-odd people. Stories can sometime get muddled together and questions I ask can sometimes be asked to backup something that another person has told me.

CHAZ

You say so.

BASS

So, running operations in the logistics arch, that keeps you busy most days?

CHAZ

It's a typical nine to five around here; yeah.

BASS

Mostly working down in the arches.

CHAZ

Not always. Depends on what the need is that particular day, may have to head up with supplies for the beakers. For the Galley workers, with food or other kitchen supplies. Mikhail will come down with a list of cleaning items he needs to be brought up to restock the janitor closets. Day's activities are based on what the need is upstairs.

BASS

Okay. . . certainly makes sense to me. How about later that morning, into the day. The day the plane went missing.

CHAZ

Okay. What do you wanna know?

BASS

You helped in the Meteorology lab late morning, which yes, I am reading here from our last interview.

CHAZ

That's right. Helped the weather beakers and the horny old doctor guy with some calibration and diagnostics. I don't uh. . .lean that way if you get me, so just tried to make it go by as fast as I could while he talked all ...you know, weatherman like.

BASS

Then over to lunch.

CHAZ

[GETTING FRUSTRATED]

Still same as last time, yeah.

BASS

Says here [TWO BEAT] had lunch after that. Around 13:00.

CHAZ

Uh huh.

BASS

Who'd you sit with that day? For lunch?

CHAZ

Don't remember.

BASS

Try.

CHAZ

Look, Deputy, If I can't remember, I can't remember!

BASS

Can you, at least try? Humor me!

CHAZ

Oh, that's all I've been doing the last few hours here! Humoring you. Like I said before, you have all same questions, I'm giving you all the same answers. [SIGH] but sure. . .fine. Who was I eating with.

[PAUSE]

CHAZ

There. I tried. Hamster is in the old brain wheel there, and I still ain't remembering!

BASS

Did. . .did something happen Mister Wilford? Since we last spoke, because you weren't this. . .agitated last time we chatted, or the time before that!

CHAZ

Yeah, something happened. I kept getting brought in here. I keep getting these questions which, let's be honest here, are like really pointed and making it sound all like I half-assed the job I did as a favor cause Marco can't keep his food down. I stepped in, covered and now I'm paying the price for being a back-up.

BASS

You...do understand right that I've literally questioned everybody who was here during the Winter season yes, not just you! I'm asking everybody these questions; from the guy that scrubs the fuel tanks to Waynewright himself.

CHAZ

Yeah. All the same. . .you said I can go at anytime I want, yeah?

BASS

Absolutely, you haven't been arrested. You're not even detained.

CHAZ

Yeah. Yeah okay then.

**CHAIR PUSHES BACK**

CHAZ

I'm just going to go ahead here and...

**FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS THE DOOR**

BASS

Have judges in Massachusetts seal any formal records here too? Just like the failure to appear warrant on you in 2002.

**FOOTSTEPS STOP**

CHAZ

Know about that huh?

BASS

Oh; I think you'd be surprised at what I know.

CHAZ

Perfect, then you know that there isn't much to it; my involvement in the stabbing at the bar was so minimal, honestly didn't see much of anything. So. . .what's your point?

BASS

Seems you have some long standing and powerful friends back on the East Coast.

CHAZ

See, now I know you got nuthin! Cause if you did, you'd know it's less to do about me and more about other people. It's not glamorous. I ain't no James bond guy. If it were that exciting, I promise you I wouldn't be wasting my time down here. Living in colder temperatures than Boston in February, making a menial wage and dealing with guys even dumber than your typical southie boy!

If I had that kind of clout, or clothes, or money my ass would be sitting on a beach somewhere with so many young honeys and drinking drinks I can't pronounce. But no, Instead I'm down here, with people who I don't want to be around, and answering dumbass questions, being made to feel like your plane went down cause I'm an idiot, and you're digging shot up from twenty years ago that barley had anything to do with me!

BASS

Okay. Okay that's fair enough. If its barley had anything to do with you and it helps put all this in prospective, then why not tell me about it?

CHAZ

Tell a cop, all about something I've been told to shut my mouth about, for national. . .whatever reasons or be sent to jail. There's a word for that Marshal. . .entrapment. I.Can't.discuss.it!

Now, I don't mean to be rude or nothing, but why don't you take your notebook, take all your questions, and go fuck yourself!

**FOOTSTEPS OUT. DOOR CLOSES.**

BASS

Supervisory US Deputy Marshal Bass Marshal.  
Ongoing Investigation of Amundsen Scott sabotage / Flight 0429 crash. Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Fifteen ten hours. Interview of Logistics worker Chaz Wilford terminated at suspect's request.

Suspect demonstrated growing sense of animosity over the last hour of interview. Body language and demeanor give strong indications of deception and withholding vital information. Suspect claimed to be under court order to suppress information from a previous incident, which not directly connected to the current investigation at face value. . .I believe is intertwined somehow. Sending recordings back to Honolulu for formal transcription and logging.

Investigation ongoing.

**DIGITAL RECORDER BOOP.**

**ACT IV**

**FADE IN.**

**WE'RE WALKING DOWN A HALLWAY. MIDDLE OF THE DAY AND IT'S VERY BUSY WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE OTHER SCIENTISTS AND DeWALTS GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINES. WE FOLLOW TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS AS THEY NAVIGATE THE HALLS.**

JOYCLYN

. . .And you've been down here long enough now to understand the order of things.

SHEP

No no no, I completely understand what you're telling me Agent Fowler, but I can't believe that being part of the Ice Picks team would put. . .projects into jeopardy.

JOYCLYN

Waynewright, although the head of the station doesn't take to any extra circular activities. Jovac is close to being admitted for any number of problematic issues and his inane utterances. Nobody takes him overly seriously regardless of his position. The little bird Lorenz, enticing lil bit of fluff I'm sure she is. . likes to keep to herself more than socialize, but you! I'm not

sure being as. . .sporty as you've been is a good idea.

SHEP

Look, I get it. I promise you I do. You've been charged with making sure the integrity of specifics works, is maintained. You do an awesome job of it and are extremely dedicated. But you must understand, this place is BORING! Everybody needs outlets.

Working out in the gym, playing the only sport available on the station, keeps me grounded and helps me stay in shape. As far as. . .my work here at the research center, I work in the IceCube lab as a physicist studying the impact of neutrinos. Nothing Else!

#### **WALKING STOPS**

JOYCLYN

One instance. One errant thing uttered when your mind is otherwise focused, one slip-up is all that is necessary for everything I have in place to go bullocks. Dellham, the risk is too great.

SHEP

All due respect, I was fully briefed by the defense department and Beauregard lowing before accepting the assignment. I know your position is chief of security for special projects and ensuring that. . .intellectual properties and operational security are maintained. I get that, I understand that, and please believe me when I say. . . I respect that.

What you do not have position over is what I do in my free time and how I do it. I apologize if that came across too harshly, but I am an adult and grown man. I can police my own actions and keep my knowledge and mouth in check.

#### **THREE BEAT WHILE THEY SIZE ONE ANOTHER UP**

JOYCLYN

[RELUNCTLY]

[DEEP BREATH] Alright Delham. I still think this is a rubbish idea, problematic and prone to be more a hindrance than help. Play your sports with the brainy lads and we'll keep an eye on how you crack on. Most likely be less of a headache than dealing with Marshmellow and the rest of his tosser lot.

## **WALKING RESUMES**

SHEP

Yeah! What's the deal with you and him anyway? During the initial interviews with Professor Beckett-Jennings, she mentioned you and he had an adversarial history. More than professional rivals or competition. Why take this position if he was already down here?

JOYCLYN

I took the position BECAUSE he was down here. He has a rather annoying habit of cocking things up and interfering into matters he has no business being attached to. He's also a git who loves throwing his little tantrums when things go off the rails. He's a self-righteous, egotistical, overgrown boy scout who. . .

SHEP

Sounds to me like you have a school crush!

## **TWO BEAT**

JOYCLYN

[DEAD SERIOUS]

. . .I've disappeared people for less than what just left your gob, Delham. Strongly recommend you never infer that; ever. One of your predecessors, Doctor Mark Rodney got careless and sloppy while working on the project. Tried going into business for himself by blackmailing others and had a nasty habit of taking information out of secured areas as his own little insurance policy.

Marlow found a thumb drive hidden in Rodney's room during his murder investigation. A thumb drive containing information, on the special

project. Doing what he always does, he jumped into fire feet first and started causing waves in the intelligence community. Marshmellow always acts before he thinks. [PONDER] He's been like that since Cincinnati!

[HEAD BACK IN CONVERSATION] Watch what you say to him or around him. Same with his little boyband of followers.

SHEP

Sound like there is a whole backstory to you and him.

JOYCLYN

There is, and we're not discussing it. Clear?

SHEP

Fine by mean. I'm heading, down to the project. When you stop in tonight for the weekly briefing, I have something I've come up with that may help. . operations. Something I've been working on, and I think will be of tremendous help.

JOYCLYN

Save it for the other Beakers, Delham. Work on impressing Waynewright, not me. I don't honestly give two tosses about what you lot have cooking downside, only keeping it contained and secured.

[HUFF] Half-Three already. Time seems to go by so quickly down here.

SHEP

Time is typically relative to the observ. . . .

JOYCLYN

[INTERUPTING]

No no. Can't tell you how little I'm interested in whatever you're about to say. Just keep in mind what I said and watch what you say as you're playing. . . bad-mitten or whatever it is you yanks call sports down here.

**WALKING AWAY.**

**JOYCLYN'S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS CONCLUDED**

ACT V

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY AND IT'S PACKED WITH THE DINNER TIME RUSH. MS. ALICE AND HER TEAM ARE SLINGING THE HASH AS QUICKY AS THEY CAN. BASS AND KENDRA ARE SHARING A MEAL.

BASS

No. I'm not comfortable with it.

KENDRA

Why? I mean. . .I've known you long enough now I'm pretty sure I know 'why'; but how about you tell me?

BASS

[NOT COMFORTABLE]

Look: I get it's politically a good idea, especially with everything going on in the world! I get it's all about respect and . . .I'm not comfortable being in the limelight, you know that. I don't like feeling I'm a sideshow act.

KENDRA

Bass! You will be in a position to do a world of good. [COMFORTING] I understand not being comfortable about social things! BELIEVE ME, if anybody gets it. . .this girl here! With me, in my case, it's all about self-comfort and overcoming my anxiety. For you it sounds like. . .more modesty than anxiety. Not that I'm Sydney or anything.

BASS

People are making too much of a fuss!

KENDRA

Aren't you supposed to be heading up to Palmer Station anyway?

BASS

For staff review and evaluations, not to be the featured act!

KENDRA

Sweetie, it's a banquet in your honor. How is it different from when the Trolls come here onto our station?

BASS

Deputy Cord, he's my guy at Palmer. Said that once word got out that I'd be there, stations heads for five nearby outposts wanted to come over to pay their respects. I'm a Supervisory US Deputy Marshal. Not the Godfather!

Leaders from Vernadsky, San Martin, Rothera, Gabriel de Castilla. .hell even a contingent from Great Wall station is rumored to be coming. Chile, Argentina, the UK, Ukraine. . China; it's a regular U.N. convention.

KENDRA

You go, meet with your deputy. Have a meal which. .I bet the visitors will be bringing dishes, eat, have a few drinks and tell a story or two. Just. .please do me a favor. .try not to have anybody murder you this time!

CHUCKLE

BASS

Okay, between attending a banquet and taking one in the 8 ring. .I guess the meal is the lesser of two annoyances.

KENDRA

Never thought I'd be in a relationship where possibly getting shot was a probability. [BEAT] Speaking of. .any word on the guy who shot you?

BASS

Margosian? He's awaiting trial in New Zealand. He's officially had an extradition request submitted against him from the states; however, it's doubtful they comply; especially with the international issues in play. I doubt he'll be seeing blue skies for quite a while.

KENDRA

Good! I didn't like getting a visit from Zeke in the middle of the night, saying you had been shot. My heart sank in my chest when I heard.

BASS

It's. . .something we live with as part of being law enforcement. Being on front lines. People will be trying to hurt you, there is a possibility that. . .

KENDRA

[INSISTANT]

Can we change the subject, please!

BASS

[REASSURING]

Of course! Absolutely! I'm sorry, I didn't. .  
.[CLEAR THROAT] so, how are you settling into being a division leader, Doctor Dark Sector Lab?

KENDRA

It's, about as challenging as I suspected it would be. Scheduling experiments. Scheduling staff and making sure everybody is working as optimally as possible. Ugh! The paperwork and red tape isn't fun at all. The amount of reports and updates I have to complete on a weekly basis!

BASS

Oh, I get it! The Marshals document ev\*re\*thing! Anytime I need a bathroom break, I have to report how long I was in there and how much of the paper roll I used.

KENDRA

Ew! Sweetie. . .T.M.I! You're not serious?

BASS

No. It's not THAT bad, but it isn't that good either. It's. . . .a necessary part of doing the job.

KENDRA

So back to your trip over to Palmer Station?

BASS

Must we?

KENDRA

Oh, we must! With everything going on, with the Antarctic treaty still in place; at least for the time being, you receiving all the various international guests is a great idea. Show the others that what the government thinks and believes to be necessary, isn't always a belief shared by the people. Good will can go a long way, Bass.

BASS

Look. Yes, of course you're right!

KENDRA

[PLAYFUL]

Usually am.

BASS

Uh huh. And everything you said makes 100% sense.

KENDRA

Usually does.

BASS

(Sigh) It's just; I'm not accustomed to being a diplomat.

KENDRA

Have you ever considered that all you have to be, Is Bass Marlow?

BASS

I don't. . .huh?

KENDRA

My god, you don't see it do you?

BASS

Obviously, no. Why don't you enlighten me, Ms. I have two Doctorates!

KENDRA

[CHUCKLE] Sweetheart, yes you're there in your official capacity as a Marshal. But when that work is done, turn off! Look, right here, right now, are you being a Marshal?

BASS

No.

KENDRA

When you and Zeke sneak into Waynewright office and act all childish; are you being a Marshal?

BASS

No.

KENDRA

So, when you're sitting down with the foreign leaders. Talking about the work we do at Palmer, at McMurdo, here at Amundsen-Scott. . .just speak as you, not as Supervisory U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Act like you do during the Christmas and New Year's Eve parties!

BASS

(DEEP BREATH) I get it. I'll try.

KENDRA

And don't get hurt again!

BASS

Right.

**A RADIO IS HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND**

VOICE OVER RADIO

SHE'S BACK! SHE'S BACK. HILL BY THE A.R.O.!

**CHAIRS ARE PUSHED BACK AND THERE IS A HUBBUB OF VOICES AND EXCITEMENT**

IT CHRIS

[FROM A DISTANCE]

IT'S HER! ALL PRAISE THE DIVINE WIND-DANCING CARIBOU SPIRIT!

ALL

PEPERMINT!

BASS  
[QUIETLY]  
Not again! C'mon people.

IT CHRIS  
WE WELCOME HER BACK FOR THE SEASON! WE THANK HER  
FOR HER CONTINUING INSPIRATION. WE ASK HER. . TO  
GRANT A WISH!

**THE CROWD FALLS SILENT, ONLY SLIGHT MURMURS  
DOOR TO GALLEY OPENS.**

FRED  
[FROM A DISTANCE, ENTERING GALLEY]  
. . .I'm just saying. . .we have a whole Library  
of other books. Read someone else, DAMN! I wish  
Danielle Steel would just go away!

RANDO 1  
WHERE'D SHE GO?

RANDO 2  
DID IT WORK?

DAN BIGGS  
We. . .we still here?

DAVE BIGGS  
Not in N.H.L? Still here? We do not fight for  
FIVE MONTHS! BEEN GOOD!

DAN BIGGS  
FOR NOTHING!!!!

**TABLE FLIPS AND THE BOYS START SLUGGING IT OUT.  
FOOTSTEPS APPROACH BASS AND KENDRA'S TABLE**

FRED  
Hey losers! What's going on?

KATHERINE  
Why is everybody over by the windows? Why are the  
boys fighting this time? They were doing so well!

BASS

The tarp flew back towards the station again. The Caribou returned.

FRED

Not the magic reindeer again. Pshhhhhhh, nerds!

KATHERINE

Wait, what?

KENDRA

Chris has a small group on watch around the clock, looking for peppermint. Sounds like she was spotted.

**PA TURN ON DING**

**CHERYL-LYNN**

**[OVER P.A.]**

All department and division heads, please report to the large conference room. Station leaders, please make your way to B-235 immediately.

BASS

Sounds serious, we better head over there.

KATHERINE

Fred, what did you say when we walked into the galley?

KENDRA

Right behind you.

**BEGIN FADE OUT**

FRED

What? I don't know. I don't remember half the things I say.

**ACT VI**

**JOYCLYN'S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS COMMENCED.**

**WE'RE IN WAYNEWRIGHTS OFFICE. HE'S CHATTING WITH SOMEBODY OVER THE PHONE**

LARRY

It will be a distraction to the general contract staff no doubt, but I'll make sure to stay on top of the station's chief engineer to ensure our day-to-day operations are not negatively impacted.

**WE DON'T HEAR THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE CALL**

LARRY

Correct, we do not have any foreign nationals working on station this season. It was part of the staffing request for the 2022-23 summer season. Our Human Resources director wasn't pleased, but it was implemented. I cannot speak for the other station managers, however.

**WE DON'T HEAR THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE CALL**

LARRY

Yes, I've had them all assembled, and they are awaiting my arrival as we speak.

**WE DON'T HEAR THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE CALL**

LARRY

I will communicate as much. Good evening Director Panchanathan.

**PHONE IS HUNG UP.**

LARRY

Well Agent Folwer, our lives are about to get more interesting. Why don't you join me in the conference room.

JOYCLYN

What does the stuffed shirt bureaucracy have to say?

**DOOR OPENS AND THE TWO START THE SHORT WALK TO THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM THROUGH ADMIN.**

LARRY

Our illustrious President and his cabinet have stirred the international pot even more than expected. Oh, I don't see any direct potential issues to our station, let alone Project Atlas; but you'd be surprised how much this group gets rattled by the most insignificant of items.

JOYCLYN

So, if it's not such a to-do, why gather all the rabble?

LARRY

Director Panchanathan, learned as he may be, has an annoying knack of . . .caring about the health and well-being of those in the N.S.F. Some would call it commendable. I call it a nuisance!

**WALKING STOPS  
TWO BEAT**

LARRY

A-hem!

JOYCLYN

[SARCASTIC]

Oh, do allow me to get the door for you gov\*na!

**DOOR OPENS. QUIET MURMURING COMING FROM WITHIN.**

JOYCLYN

[QUIETLY]

If you're expecting me to announce you, you can sod-off!

LARRY

[IGNORING HER]

Thank you, Agent! Everybody! Everybody [pause, sarcastic] oh please don't bother to get up, do remain seated!

**DOOR CLOSSES, LARRY WALKS TO THE HEAD OF THE TABLE WHILE THE  
MURMURING DIES DOWN.**

LARRY

I've just had a call from N.S.F. Director Sethuraman Panchanathan regarding events taking place back in the United States. He wanted me to relay this news to all of you with assurances, I'll touch upon those; momentarily.

**PAGES FLIP IN NOTEBOOK**

LARRY

Approximately four hours ago, Eight A.M. East Coast time. By order from President Campbell, Sec-State Bilken has formally expelled ambassadors and attaches from the Countries of Sudan, Uruguay, Indonesia & Pakistan from the United States. As a result of this action, the leaders of those countries have in turned, expelled the United States diplomats from their countries.

There will be a formal breifing from the press secretary later today, but we've been told in advance she will report upon espionage operations that each country had been conducting on U.S. soil and detected, because of his new enhanced homeland security directive.

An emergency United Nations meeting has been called for later this week, where no doubt allies of these countries will file formal protests against the president for these actions. As both Pakistan and Uruguay each have research stations on Antarctica; any person from these countries are forbidden, to step foot on any U.S. research station.

Uruguay, being the most recent signatory of the Antarctica treaty, are also to raise this matter in the U.N.

**SLIGHT MURMURS**

BASS

Has there been any public comments from the other 55 signatory nations?

LARRY

[PERTURBED]

I seem to recall having this conversation with you last season, DEP\*U\*TY Marshal. Questions are to be reserved for AFTER I've delivered my briefing. [BEAT] Now. . .where was I?

Ah! The N.S.F. has been asked by Congress to ensure our record keeping and reporting of any request for visitation, information or any other communications be reported immediately back, through Beauregard-Lowing so they may consolidate and sent to the Government.

While this may come as less than desired news, we've been asked to remain focused on our standard daily operations, and ensure ALL grant monies from academic universities, as well as private corporations, such as our dear benefactors in Beauregard-Lowing are spent wisely and limit any. . .interruptions in our research endeavors.

Those who may have family or friends in these affected countries, will be spoken to separately, and privately.

**THREE BEAT**

LARRY

Now, you may pose your, questions.

BASS

[MOCKING]

Bass Marlow, Supervisory U.S. Deputy Marshal!

LARRY

Despite having your name referenced in the not-too-distant past, this is not a formal press briefing, DEP\*U\*TY. The Jocularly is unnecessary. To answer the question, you felt necessary to interrupt me with; yes. Several nations, to include other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty have made public comments against the action. While not formal as of this time, it is expected to happen with the U.N. convenes. Argentina, one of the first signatories

is expected to announce similar visitation restrictions to their stations here; later in the week, targeting the U.S.

THOMAS

Oh my! They have multiple stations on the Ice! They're some of our best scientific partners, plus their world cup parties are so much fun!

LARRY

Was there a question, in any of that, Mister Kelley?

THOMAS

[FLUSTERED]

Well, I mean. . .why is this happening?

LARRY

I'm not here to debate or validate current administration policies. I don't support, nor condemn any action taken. It is not MY concern. As I said, we should be focused on our work here and now; not actions we cannot impact nor influence.

RANDO

I have family in Uruguay. So, what's that mean?

LARRY

You'll be contacted by our Human Resources specialist, Ms. Chipperfield. She'll take down your information, request some additional details and you'll be contacted thereafter.

JULIA

I have a meeting with the N.S.F. VP and office of polar projects. Once I get more instructions from either NSF or OPP I'll be happy to update everybody.

MIKHAIL

[BACKGROUND]

Yeah you know me!

LARRY

Any other questions?

**CRICKETS**

LARRY

Very well.

**JOYCLYN'S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS CONCLUDED**

**BASS'S RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED**

LARRY

Oh, you may all go now!

**FOOTSTEPS OVER**

ZEKE

I know that look Lawman. What's up.

BASS

Not now. Not here. One hour. The Barn. Get word out to the team.

ZEKE

Yeah, thought you'd say that. I'm on it.

**FOOTSTEPS AWAY.**

KENDRA

That bad?

BASS

Certainly not good. My fear is that it's just the start.

**OUTRO AND CREDITS**

**EASTER EGG: NEWS BROADCAST**

REPORTER

Press Secretary Daniels went onto say while the events are unfortunate in the light of international relations, the steps taken were necessary to ensure the security of the United States and her interests. Members of the House are expected to introduce resolutions, against the president's actions and may seek intervention through congressional means.

Finally, the search continues this evening for acclaimed romance novelist, philanthropists & fashion designer, Danielle Steel. Ms. Steel was reported missing from her San Francisco residence earlier this week by her staff and family. While investigators with the San Francisco Police Department have yet to make any statement on the active and ongoing investigation, they have stated there were no signs of forced entry or foul play at the home.

Ms. Steel was not scheduled to attend any events, public appearances nor had she attended any social gatherings in the previous few days. The 78-year-old writer is currently recognized as the best-selling fiction writer still living, indeed one of the best-selling fiction writers of all time.

While the investigation continues, fans of the romance author have gathered outside the gates of her home, called Spreckels Mansion, constructing a makeshift shrine, leaving flowers, candles, and hope for a speedy, and safe return.

From the main news room in New York, I'm Bart Joyrock. Goodnight

**BMB PRODUCTION TAG**