

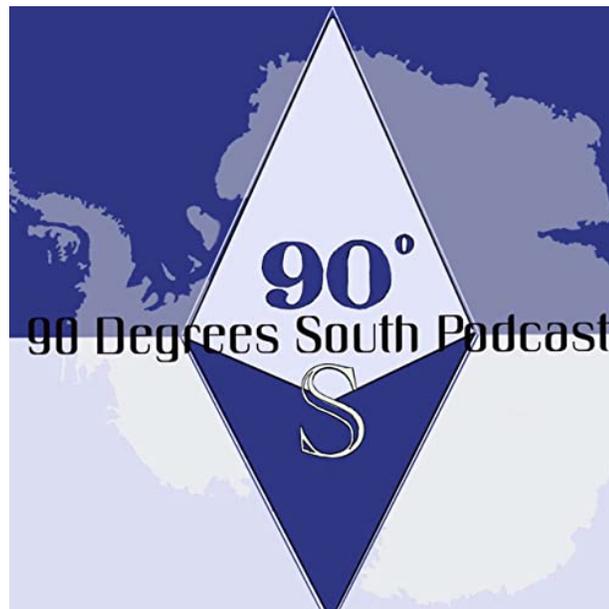
90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE

EPISODE ONE: PREDICTABILITY

DRAFT 1: DEC 21, 2022

DRAFT 2: AUG 17, 2023



by
Brian M Bradley

BMB Productions LLC

Act I
INTRO MUSIC

**WE'RE INSIDE THE STATION, ONLY MOMENTS FROM WHERE
SEASON 2 LEFT OFF. JOYCLYN IS LOOKING FOR HER NEMESIS**

THOMAS

[NERVOUS]

You're. . .you're her, aren't you?

JOYCLYN

Nice to meet you too Mister Kelley.
Special Agent Joyclyn Fowler, United States
Defense Intelligence Agency. This is the coat
room, yes?

THOMAS

[Stammering] It uh. . .it's where. . .we uh. . .

JOYCLYN

Not a trick question love, I promise!

SOUND OF CLOTHING ARTICLES COMING OFF

JOYCLYN

Well, I'll just leave this here for now. Going
to be getting much chillier for me in a short
bit. So. . .you were saying, Deputy Marshmallow
is. . .where now?

THOMAS

I'll just radio. . .for him. . .

RAPID BOOT HEELS.

JOYCLYN

Now now! Mustn't spoil the surprise, deny me
seeing the look on his face. Tell you what, why
don't you. . .TAKE ME to where Bass is, and that
way not only do I get a friendly male escort; but
you won't have to see how many ways I can break
your arm w/o losing a nail.

THOMAS

[FRIGHTENED]

This. . .this way. Large conference room.

JOYCLYN

Ta love!

THE TWO PROCEED DOWN THE HALL. THE SOUNDS OF A POPULATED STATION WITH PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINES. WE HEAR THE DOOR TO THE OPERATIONS CENTER OPEN AND THE NOISE FROM THE HALL DIES DOWN.

THOMAS

[FRIGHTEDED]

In there!

JOYCLYN

Okay. I know he'll be armed. He'll expect me to be too, will probably fire first. Hrm. Well, nothing else is coming to mind! Here, hold this a tic!

BODY CAM BEING DETACHED AND HANDED OVER. SOUND OF FABRIC BEING PULLED OFF.

THOMAS

Oh. . . OH! YOU SHOULDN'T. . .I MEAN, either the sauna. . or. . .your private berth. . .

MORE FABRIC AND UNZIPPING

JOYCLYN

Love, If I walk into that room in anything more than my knickers, he'll think I have a gun and I stand a chance of catching a round. Hell, even half naked I still stand a 50/50 chance. [BEAT] You alright love? You never seen a woman in her laceys before? You look all pale. .you going to. . . Let me just quickly take that back. .

THOMAS

[INCOHERENT BABBLING AS THOMAS' HEAD GETS WHOOZIE, ONLY ONE WORD IS CLEAR BEFORE HE PASSES OUT] . . .Bosoms.

SOUND OF BODY CAM BEING REATTACHED TO BRA STRAP AS THOMAS FAINTS TO THE FLOOR.

JOYCLYN

Have to say... never had a bloke faint seeing me like this. I'll take it as a compliment Mister Kelley. [SIGH] On to pressing matters.

KNOCK ON DOOR

BASS

[FROM OTHER SIDE] ENTER!

DOOR OPENS.

JOYCLYN

I'M UNARMED MARSHMELLOW, I'M NOT CONCEALING EITHER, AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE!

WE SWITCH TO BASS' BODY CAM. FAST DRAWLS HIS SIDEARM

BASS

[ENRAGED]

FEDERAL AGENT, GET ON YOUR KNEES! DO IT NOW!

JOYCLYN

Usually take a few more drinks before I'm on my knees Marshmellow! I'm here at. . .

BASS

[SHOUTING]

GET ON YOUR KNEES AND STOP RESISTING!

JOYCLYN

The N.S.F. and Beauregard-Lowing invited me here Marlow! I'm not here for you! I'm not armed. . .presently.

BASS

LAST WARNING! [Hammer pulled back] GET.ON.YOUR. .

DOOR OPENS

LARRY

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT. . .[SHOCKED] DEPUTY MARSHAL MARLOW, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES??

BASS

STAY BACK DOCTOR! THIS IS AN ARREST!

LARRY
FOR WHAT? SPECIAL AGENT FOWLE. . .

BASS
LAST CHANCE. YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS. . .OPTION
ONE. . .

JOYCLYN
Yes, yes. I remember your options! In the
interest of resolving this. . .[SIGH] There, I'm
on my knees!

BASS
CROSS YOUR LEGS AT THE ANKLES!

JOYCLYN
Once you handcuff me, check my jacket pocket
outside for the official orders sending me down
here. [BEAT] oh they're next to the fainted
station operations manager outside the door.

SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS AND THEN HANDCUFFS BEING APPLIED

LARRY
DEPUTY Marshal, I can attest Agent Fowler is here
at the direct request of the Beauregard-Lowing
corporation, United States Senate and cleared by
the N.S.F. I'm going to get the official
paperwork to show you.

FOOTSTEPS HEADING OUT

BASS
Give me a reason why I should have you locked up
for Charlie's murder?

JOYCLYN
I'll give you three Marshmellow. One, I was in
Caracas when Charlie was murdered, easily
verifiable. There was local news, live coverage
where you see me multiple times in the
background.

BASS
Sure, the D.I.A. couldn't possibly edit televised
playback.

JOYCLYN

Open your ears you tosser. . .I said, "Live footage". Can't edit live footage. Two, the method of Charlie's death was an electrical disruption device. Not exactly our preferred way of. . .resolving things. And three, don't you think if I *had* done it, I'd be bragging about it!

FOOTESTEPS RE-ENTERING THE ROOM.

LARRY

DEPUTY Marshal, I believe these are the official orders being referenced. They clearly show the orders for Agent Fowler being assigned here by Director Dantes, Director Pancahawten as well as Lieutenant General Berrier.

PAPERS BEING HANDED OVER

TWO BEAT

BASS

[PAPERS FLIPPING] This is horseshit!

JOYCLYN

It's all on the up and up. Feel free to verify it, although if my timing is still anywhere near accurate, you should be getting a call in. .
.three, two, . . .

WE HEAR THE STATION PA SYSTEM ENTER CHIME

CHERYL LYNN

[Loudspeaker]

Deputy Marshal Marlow, please pick up line three. Important Marshal business. Line three Bass sweetheart. Don't know who Director Davis is, but he sounds like he could use a nap!

WE HEAR THE STATION PA SYSTEM EXIT CHIME

JOYCLYN
[Confidently]
Still have it!

**FOOTSTEPS OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROOM AND WE HEAR A
PHONE HANDSET PICKING UP.**

BASS
Deputy Supervisor Marshal Marlow speaking.
BEAT

BASS
And why wasn't I notified well before. . .
BEAT

BASS
Was Marshal Murphy aware this was. . .
BEAT

BASS
I understand. Yes Sir.
BEAT

BASS
Yes sir. Thank you, Director Davis.
PHONE SET SLAMED DOWN.

BASS
Seems. . .Agent Fowler has been temporarily
assigned to the station as a special security
consultant to help safeguard certain. . .research
projects important to the D.I.A and Beauregard
Loving.

FOOTSTPES OVER AND HANDCUFFS BEING REMOVED

BASS
Apparently, nobody saw fit to notify the
marshal's service, at ANY level prior to her
arriving. As well, according to Director Davis,
HEAD of the US Marshals service.. we're to afford
you. . .every courtesy due a member of the
Department of Defense.

JOYCLYN

There you have it then. One BIG happy family again! Now why don't you put away your unauthorized sidearm. People have a nasty habit of getting shot in the leg!

BASS

[Temper]

Cross me, one time. Just once and I don't care who you're with or who you know back in the world, I'll make sure problems are dealt with.

JOYCLYN

Bodycams love! We both have them, and they have a nasty habit of picking up EVERYTHING!

BASS STORMS OUT OF THE ROOM.

JOYCLYN

Well now, since the formalities are concluded, why don't I put my work clothes back on!

LARRY

I apologize for that. . .display of barbaric animosity. I didn't realize that you and the DEPUTY Marshal knew one another, nor had. . . history.

JOYCLYN

Oh, when I saw the request for the Defense Agency to have an agent sent down here to help safeguard Atlas, I quickly made sure I'd get the assignment. Director Dantes was only too happy to make the selection once she found out the sorted past Marshmellow and I have.

LARRY

I'll uh. . .give you the room so you can get dressed. Afterwards I'll fill you in on the telemetry we've been receiving since we set up sensors in the Canadian station. We're confident the experiments are. . .

JOYCLYN

One moment doctor, let me turn this bloody thing off before anything is said that. . .

MALE DIGITAL VOICE: RECORDING ENDED.

ACT II

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY. THE CREW IS GATHERED SO BASS CAN FILL THEM IN. UNLIKE LAST SEASON, IT IS PACKED WITH PEOPLE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

ZEKE

So, she's like your archenemy or something like that? Joker to your Batman?

BASS

More than that. She says she had nothing to do with the murder of Chuck and Janet, but I don't believe anything that comes out of her mouth. I have people in the Marshal's office and FBI checking her alibi.

KENDRA

You believe she's here for Project Atlas?

BASS

She didn't say so exactly. Her orders and the word out of Washington is that she's assigned as [BEAT] 'Special Security' for on-station projects and critical operations. However, when you do the math, it's obvious her primary goal is keeping tighter security around Atlas, which trust me. . .will make our information gathering more difficult with her guarding the hen house.

KENDRA

Whatever her function is on the station, I can tell you that Doctors Jovac, Waynewright and Lorenz have been acting extremely peculiar. There is also a rumor that Doctor Van Zandt is going to formally retire in the next few weeks. His departing grad students were honestly surprised he wasn't booked on one of the first flights heading out.

THOMAS

[NASAL SOUNDING DUE TO NOSEBLEED]

Are they still considering you for Doctor van Zandt's replacement? Head of the Dark Sector Lab?

KENDRA

Sounds like it. I've haven't expressed any interest in accepting. . .but I. . .well, I also haven't told them I flat out don't want it either so. . .[sigh]. .we'll see what happens. [RAPID PIVOT] Thomas keep your nose up. . .yeah like that! The bleeding should stop sooner that way.

ZEKE

[CHIDING]

Damn Tommy! Not like when the troll-Doctor got naked in the Sauna. Lawman's arch-nemesis was only in her underwear, and you still passed out?

THOMAS

[NASAL SOUNDING DUE TO NOSEBLEED]

A super killing machine started to strip down so. . .well gosh I guess I just. . .

KENDRA

[STERN, MOM-VOICE]

Ezekiel Francis Bustamante!

ZEKE

[INSTA-REACTION]

Yes Ma'am?

KENDRA

[STERN, MOM-VOICE]

Enough!

ZEKE

[APOLOGETIC]

Yes ma'am. Sorry Tommy

TWO BEAT

THOMAS

It's okay.

BASS

[SIGH] Alright, goes without saying our lives are about to get incredibly more difficult with sadistic scary spice guarding the front door to the Ice Caves! I'm going to wait for the formal word to come in on her alibi confirmation. Until then let's keep an eye on what she does, who she talks to, and so on. Just be alert as she'll notice who is noticing her, so don't do anything overt or out of the ordinary.

ZEKE

So, you saying to watch her, but don't make it look like you're watching her?

BASS

Exactly. [Two beat] After so many months of having the galley so empty and mostly to ourselves, I'm going to have to get used to all these new people being around at once.

THOMAS

(SNIFF) Isn't it wonderful! So many new faces, constant noise in the hallways and labs. I just love this time of year when the station comes alive again after winter ends.

KENDRA

You get used to it quickly. Old routines and habits kick back in, Well. . .maybe not for me so much. Start of previous summers I hid away for the first few weeks. Got to work earlier than most and stayed longer than other just to. . . .to minimize the amount of interaction I had to deal with. (BEAT) Now. . .[DEEP BREATH]. . it doesn't seem as overwhelming as it once had.

THOMAS

Oh, how very true. I only used to see you two to three times a year. Now. . .well gosh! You're one of my best friends!

KENDRA

[Flattered]

That is so sweet Thomas! I consider you a very dear friend as well.

KISS ON THE CHEEK

THOMAS

[frustrated] Awwww. . .I just got the bleeding to slow down. Now I'm all embarrassed again. I better go see Doctor Ambrose. If you'll all excuse me.

CHAIR SLIDES BACK

ZEKE

[Reads the table]

Hey Tommy. Wait up and I'll walk you over there. Need to go make sure repairs are holding in the A-pods anyway. Lawman, we catching up later?

BASS

Yeah, happy to. Sixteen hundred?

ZEKE

Yup. See you when I see you. Come on Romeo! Lets get you to Doc McStuffins and get that bleeding to stop.

FOOTSTEPS LEADING AWAY

KENDRA

Sweetie. . .I know you aren't thrilled to see Joyclyn here. Probably the last thing you wanted, really.

BASS

[ALMOST TO HIMSELF]

No, I'm overjoyed to have her here. Now I don't have far to go to find her; once I hear her alibi has been proven as horseshit as I suspect it will.

KENDRA

Bass! You're too close to this one to be seeing clearly; and if Joyclyn is half as clever as you've described her; I'm willing to bet she's using that. [Deep breath] In science, we have something called predictive algorithms. It. . .well, the actual definition is to use historical data to predict future events. Typically,

historical data is used to build a mathematical model that captures important trends. That predictive model is then used on current data to predict what will happen next, or to suggest actions to take for forecasted outcomes.

BASS

She's predicting my next moves.

KENDRA

Exactly! By getting you so worked up, she's able to predict what you'll do next based on what you've done in the past when you and she would butt heads. So as pertains to her, if you want to maintain the advantage . . .

BASS

[Starts to get it]

Do something she never expect. Ever. [TWO BEAT]You're brilliant!

KENDRA

I'm a scientist Bass. Multiple PhDs. Comes with the territory. Thinking objectively, rather than reactionary. [teasing, false modesty] Also doesn't hurt that. . .what did Ms. June say? Oh. . .that I'm just as cute as a button on newly diapered baby.

BOTH CHUCKLE.

BASS

Okay then. Rather than starting to fly off the handle at every mention of her name or seeing her. . .something different.

STATION PA CHIME

CHERYL-LYNN

Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. . .my goodness that's a mouthful. . .why ya'll have to have such a long title anyhow? Bass Darlin. Please come to operations. Doctor Waynewright requests your presence. Operations please Bass darlin. And I heard you talkin' about babies shug!

STATION PA CHIME

KENDRA
[Surprised]
How does she do that?

BASS
Chalk it up to just another mystery here on the ice! I best get over there to see what Larry wants this time. Probably something about the scene with Joyclyn this morning.

KENDRA
I need to head out to the dark sector lab. Have a busy day getting all the new staff up-to-speed and acclimated to our operations. Normally Geeta would be doing that but. . .well baby steps are now turning into toddler strides!

BASS
That's fantastic! Can't wait to hear all about it at dinner.

KISS

BASS
Love you!

KENDRA
With all my heart!

FOOTSTEPS OUT A BUSY GALLEY AND RECORDING STOPPED.

ACT III

FADE IN. LARRY WAYNEWRIGHT'S OFFICE. SOFT HUM OF THE STATION HEATERS AND LOWERED VOLUME ON CLASSICAL MUSIC.

LARRY
. . .Without any consideration for the damage it would have caused! That. . .THAT is exactly why firearms are never permitted on the station. All that would be required would be one negligent discharge, one errant shot that hits a heating line and this station would be put at severe risk!

BASS

[Not taking him seriously]

Odd.. how the safety and well-being of the staff didn't factor into your examples. I also don't recall you lodging a protest when it was used to keep the ice spiders at bay. Nor when we were actively ensuring the icefeet left everybody alone!

LARRY

Nevertheless, and given the events of. .
.[realizes after the fact] . .the what?

BASS

[Confused]

What?

LARRY

What was that you said?

BASS

When?

LARRY

You said Ice Spiders and. . .what?

BASS

The Ice. . .[to himself] damn it now he has me doing it. The Bumbles!

LARRY

[Annoyed]

Regardless...Given the events of this morning, DEPUTY Marshal, I'm submitting a formal request to have all firearms removed from this station. Those known and any others I may not be aware of.

BASS

Oh, I'm sure your new chief of security for the station will absolutely go along with that order. I've known her much longer than you, Doctor! If you believe she came to this station without any sidearms than I'll need to review your academic credentials again.

LARRY

Rest assured; this edict will be for all station personnel. Even though she's declined to file a formal complaint on the matter this morning. . .I AM!

BASS

You have no idea just how little that concerns me. {Two beat} Why **is** she here Doctor? Why does the station need a formal chief of security for operational protection? Is it for **all** the science programs Amundsen Scott supports or . . .only for specific projects? Was this your idea?

LARRY

Hardly! I disdain having non-scientist here at the pole. Yes, I suppose we do need some support from the contractor staff to help maintain station operations; but even then, their presence is a . . .necessary requirement. The decision to have a more. . .formal and dedicated security official on station came from the US Senate.

BASS

[Disbelief]

What?

LARRY

I did not request it. **I** do not want it. Hell, **I** don't want **you** to be here, despite my protestations of such being necessary. No. The US Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management decided such was necessary and requested the Defense intelligence agency send a . . .security operative down. Given recent turn of events from within the President's foreign policy cabinet; President Campbell received and signed off on the request.

BASS

She's here at the request. . .of the President?

LARRY

I highly doubt agent Fowler was handpicked by the President directly, and frankly even if she was I.do.not.care! Her being here is a distraction. *YOUR* being here is a distraction. The both of you being here and given the . . .brutish and barbarian interaction I observed earlier this morning; would never have been tolerated when I first arrived. As such, while I don't desire it; I'm told I must endure it. So, if I am required to suffer your combined presence; I'll ensure I'm able to mitigate the damage the two of you can enact. No Firearms permitted. I don't need you two reenactingthe battle of Hubbardton!

TWO BEAT

BASS

[Feigned Politeness]

Doctor Waynewright. With. . .all due respect for your title, your position, and your standing here on the station, please understand that it is standard operating procedure and general policy for all US marshals to be armed.

LARRY

[CURT]

This station is under the jurisdiction of . . .

BASS

Furthermore. . . and with continued respect. . . The law enforcement Officer Safety Act or LEOSA of 2004 allows qualified active, Law Enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the U.S. or U.S. Territories regardless of state or local laws. I am carrying under Federal law and as we both are keenly aware. . .The United States has not submitted nor maintains a territorial claim within Antarctica, nor does it recognize any other countries claim. Thus. .I welcome any challenge you lodge and am more than happy to file my rebuttal in response. . .with all due respect.

TWO BEAT. LARRY IN STUNNED SILENCE

BASS

Now, was there anything else you required today,
Doctor? Or as you typically say. . .may I go now?

LARRY

[Through clenched teeth]

Go!

**SOUND OF CHAIR SLIDING BACK, BOOTSTEPS OUT THE DOOR
AND IT CLOSING. DIGITAL RECORDER OFF SOUND.**

Act IV

**WE JOIN A PHONE CONVERSATION ALREADY IN PROGRESS.
BASS IS TALKING TO FIONNA IN HONOLULU.**

FIONNA

I know it's not what you want to hear Bass. .
.but given what we're seeing. . .her alibi is
rock solid. She was attending an art exhibit at
the French Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. It was
televised live by France Télévisions as well as
several stations locally. VTV, Globovision, Vale
TV. . .all have footage recorded live where you
can clearly see her standing in the background.

BASS

Each feed was checked.

Fionna

No. . .comprehensive review takes a few days for
each section of footage. You only just told us
this morning, so while we were able to obtain the
digital downloads from each station. . .it's
going to take time to fully vet. . .but Bass. .

BASS

I know I know. The effort and resources to fake
footage from multiple national live news
broadcasts probably doesn't exist. What about
this. . .'Real Fake' program I keep hearing
about?

FIONNA

Used on one network feed, we'll be able to detect that. The same program with synchronized timestamps and footage faked from multiple different angles at once. That technology doesn't exist.

TWO BEAT

BASS

So, in a nutshell. . .what you're telling me. . .

FIONNA

She didn't murder Chuck and Janet. She was six thousand miles away, (Pause) and in a gown I didn't think a woman in her mid 40's could pull off!

BASS

Anything. . .else newsworthy happen at that event? Anything that would indicate why Joyclyn was at the French embassy to begin with?

FIONNA

Already checking with France's intelligence agency. One of the agents in our Quantico HQ has connections inside of the D.G.S.E. She was able to figure out . . .something. . .did take place that evening; but they're apparently embarrassed enough over whatever it was that they won't share. When Agent Fowler's picture was shown. . .they became. . .well lets just say tales of the Parisian temper aren't exaggerated!

TWO BEAT

BASS

So, there is a chance. . .she's completely innocent.

FIONNA

Said nobody, EVER about Joyclyn. Innocent is the last adjective I'd use to describe that bitch! Innocent of the murder of your in-laws. . .it's leaning in that direction, yes.

BASS

[DEEP INHALE AND EXHALE] How about my crash site. What's going on there?

FIONNA

N.T.S.B. arrived at Mount Markham yesterday afternoon. They deployed a special crash investigation team used to dealing in harsher than normal environments. They've set up camp nearby and expect to be there a week to ten days. They're mapping out the crash and debris fields now. DEA agents that were embedded with the team are conducting their own search. Looking for the canisters of dream wax. Nothing yet, but they only just got started.

BASS

I assume they'll be sent up to DEA headquarters in Virginia for analysis.

FIONNA

Correct. It would be the first confirmed sample of the narcotic to be secured since the strain was introduced a few years back. They're already clearing out an entire lab facility to focus on just that in anticipation.

BASS

Between our local chief of engineering and myself; we've visited both Palmer and McMurdo to have the radioactive canisters added to the pallets of equipment being returned through the office of polar projects. Marshal Murphy is aware, and the task force is ready to begin monitoring their movements.

FIONNA

You wouldn't believe the amount of secrecy around this operation Bass. They've set up in one of the empty SCIF's in the FBI section of the federal building. High ranking brass from D.O.J. are keeping close tabs on this. Rumor has it even the situation room is watching.

BASS

[Surprised]

Hrm. I'd think this would be a bit below the paygrade of the White House. Drug trafficking isn't usually worthy of their attention. Odd.

FIONNA

'Odd' has been the status quo over the last few weeks. We're seeing a lot of chatter across internal channels on foreign activities and monitoring individuals of interest. The bureaus cybercrime and financial divisions have been working overtime to find any steady and suspicious international money trails. Coming in *or* out. I hear the IRS was directed to get involved, but again only for reported income of very specific individuals. Foreign nationals.

BASS

Why the enhanced interest in non-citizens? This another patriot grab?

FIONNA

Certainly, has all the earmarks. Not sure what rattled Washington's cage. . .but it's cross divisional in interest. [PAUSE] How. . .how are *you* doing Bass? How have you been since. . .since reconciling with what happened. . .with Diane?

THREE BEAT

BASS

You can say her name Fee. Even I can say her name now. I'm doing. . .I'm doing better. Chatting with the station's head-doc helped. And yes. . .you can go ahead and say you told me so.

FIONNA

You have NO IDEA how glad I am to hear that Bass. I know this; all of this . . .coming to terms is more a marathon than a sprint, but I am so happy. . .no, I am so PROUD of you for finally taking the time that you needed to deal with everything.

BASS

[PLAYFULLY ANNOYED]

You done?

FIONNA

Seriously! I know you don't do feelings and you hate talking about them even more, but I am very happy for you!

BASS

And?

PAUSE

BASS

Go ahead, say it!

FIONNA

I told you it would help to talk to the psychiatrist. You dumbass!

BASS

Happy now?

FIONNA

Wow! That felt great!

BASS

Never could pass up the chance, even when we were kids.

FIONNA

Hey, old habits. We all have 'em! So, are they going to be able to send back your stuff from the crash site?

BASS

Yeah, NTSB is sending back personal effects after they exam and clear them as not being a factor in the plane crash. Should be about a month or so; but I'm expecting them by around October end.

FIONNA

Glad to hear. I'm heading out for the day, but let's catch up, same time next week?

BASS

Sounds good. Take care up there Fee!

HANG UP AND FADE OUT

ACT V

BODY CAM RECORDER COMMENCED- JOYCELYN

JOYCLYN

Okay. Doctor Waynewright I've met formally. The rest of you lot I only know from your dossier and background files I read on the fight down. So, just to get all the niceties out of the way. My name is Joyclyn Fowler, I'm a Federal Agent with the Defense Intelligence Agency. I've been directed to review and improve upon all security precautions which are in place at this research station. To ensure. . .no further interruptions or bollocksing around.

JOVAC

Do you really feel this is necessary, to be enacted here, Agent Fowler? I mean, I suppose one or two hiccups aside, we have been progressing along nicely. *[To himself, under breath]* Murder and international espionage notwithstanding.

JOYCLYN

I'll answer in two parts. One: What I feel? Let me make this clear. . .to you all. Nobody gives two tosses to how I feel. This is a mandate that comes directly from Beauregard-Lowing; and filtered through the Senate. The N.S.F. had their concerns, but when push came to shove and having to choose between funding or continued lack thereof, Well I'll let you guess which one they chose.

Two: Is this necessary? You tell me Jovac? You've had a homicide; proprietary scientific data breached and almost handed over to the Chinese, attempted murder of a third-rate, over the hill, tosser of a Marshal; that same killer escaped; openly discussed information pertaining to an Umbra-level Top Secret research project, complete disruption of that same project by intentional electrical sabotage, and a general weakness in the running of special programs!

LARRY

[INSULTED]

Now see here!

JOYCLYN

I see all too clearly Waynewright. Beauregard Lowing sees all too clearly. The United States Government also sees all too clearly! Every one of the instances I just cited happened over the last 18 months. Each one happened on your watch and under your command. However, . . .those whom we all take our directions from still see value in having you continue on. Why? I have no idea as I think you're a load of tosh myself, but as you yanks always say. . .somebody up there must really like you!

VAN ZANDT

You don't have to resort to insulting us young lady! Each one of us here are leaders in our academic fields and the contributions we have made to both academia as well as Beauregard's research and development program are. .

JOYCLYN

Appreciated, however your contributions to those endeavors will be coming to an end, Van Zandt.

VAN ZANDT

Pardon me?

**SOUND OF FOLDER BEING OPENED, PIECE OF PAPER BEING
EXTRACTED AND PLACED ON A TABLE**

JOYCLYN

This is a letter to you from Professor Mitrovic at Brown University; thanking you for the many years of work and advancements you've made while a professor at uni. She is saddened that you have decided to retire and will be leaving Amundsen-Scott, but is sure you will enjoy the relative quiet and relaxation you so richly deserve. It was beautifully written. Brought a tear to my eye and everything!

VAN ZANDT

[OUTRAGED]

This. . .this is ridiculous! I have no intention of. . .

JOYCLYN

I'd highly suggest that you choose your next words VERY carefully Van Zandt. That letter can easily be amended to reflect stripping you of tenure rather than retirement.

UNEASY SILENCE, JUST THE HUM OF THE STATION

CHAIR SLIDES BACK, STOMPING OF FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPENS AND IS THEN SLAMMED.

JOYCLYN

Good choice Gran-dad! Smart lad. Now. . .that leaves Doctor Lorenz.

JEMMA

[FRUSTRATED]

Am *I* going to be dismissed too?

JOYCLYN

Oh, quite the contrary love! Your time on station has been exemplary. You've acted as a solid firewall against decisions made while in the field from Waynewright here. Your updates and reports on. . .a specific project I won't mention while I have this tattle-box on my jubbles have been extremely well received by Director Dantes. No, my dear doctor. .you won't be sacked as far as I've seen.

LARRY

This. All *THIS* is unacceptable and preposterous. Ludacris! If you think you can just walk onto THIS station and start making. .unilateral decisions without ANY CONSULTATION OF MYSELF OR. . .

SOUND OF DIALTONE AND THEN RAPID DIALING. PHONE RINGS AND IS PICKED UP.

MADALINE

[TIRED, JUST WAKING UP]

Well, I assume if I'm getting this call, that means Larry is flying off the handle and about to make some big chest thumping speech about how he is in charge. Agent Fowler?

JOYCLYN

Good evening, Director Dantes! My apologies for waking you at this ungodly hour; however there seems to be a bit of a row about what powers I've been granted to ensure security of. . .specific projects here on station.

LARRY

[STRAINING TO CONTAIN HIS ANGER]

If I am expected to lead this research station and perform the duties Beauregard and Lowing expects of me. . .

MADALINE

LARRY! [deep sigh] Let me make this very easy, on all of us. . .before we sent Agent Fowler down to the station; she outlined initial steps she wanted to take & improve security and general OP-SEC. The board of director approved nine out of ten of her recommendations unanimously. Van Zandt is out. Encryption protocols will be enhanced. The Deputy Marshal's girlfriend will be replacing him.

LARRY & JEMMA

WHAT?

JOYCLYN

I hadn't gotten to that little gem just yet, Director!

MADALINE

Well, we can just chalk that one up to the whisky and Oxy then! Larry. . .[YAWN] Larry, the only recommendation . . .that tenth one not approved was having you removed as head of the project, and the station as a whole. Not to stroke your ego. . .or any other body part; most of the board still find you competent and an asset to have in place. I happen to be one of those. So, as a parting bit of advice before I hang up on this call and go take a piss since I'm awake. . .quit while you're ahead Larry! Anything else, Agent Fowler?

JOYCLYN

No Director Dantes. I believe we're all aces here once again!

PHONE LINE DISCONNECTED. JOYCLYN CONTINUES.

JOYCLYN

Now that the niceties are done with, let's move onto the new security procedure and hardware I'll be introducing, starting with the Ice caves! The current video surveillance you have is laughable and is the best technology 1997 had to offer. I intend to introduce. . . .

FADE OUT

ACT VI

BASS' RECORDER - RECORDING STARTED

BASS

So, we're all clear then. Next steps and how we'll proceed?

THOMAS

I'm clear, but also nervous at the same time.

ZEKE

Just stick to the plan Tommy, you'll be just fine! Have to say. . .this is one hell of an idea you two cooked up!

BASS

It was Kendra's suggestion; I give her all the credit!

KENDRA

It may have been my idea, but it will take all of us to make it happen. Where is Mister Ferguson?

ZEKE

Landry has him on cargo fire inspections. Said he was sorry he couldn't make it. Told him next time he best stop poking the gator with a stick. Boy will never learn!

DOOR TO THE ROOM OPENS.

JOYCLYN

What the hell? What's all this Marshmallow?

CHAIR SLIDES BACK

BASS

Sorry Joyclyn, but happy you can make it. I apologize in advance for making it look like Waynewright wanted to have this meeting, but I do enjoy sharing a good meal.

JOYCLYN

You what?

BASS

I figured your first day would be spent dealing with the four scientists working on . . .that project you'd love to stay hidden; but figured why not end the evening with a meal and so I can introduce you. . .formally to several people on station whom I count as trusted allies!

JOYCLYN

[SUSPICIOUS, TAKEN OFF-GUARD]

What are you playing at, Marlow?

BASS

Before I start, let me go over tonight's dinner to celebrate your first day at Amundsen Scott. Being that it's also a Sunday, I had our Lunch Lady Alice prepare a proper British roast dinner. Here we have roasted beef, Mashed potatoes and mushroom gravy, my favorite as well! We have Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, peas, carrots, broccoli or cauliflower. To drink, and direct from the private stash Doctor Waynewright doesn't know I'm aware of. . .A bottle of Chateau Ausone Bordeaux Blend; Twenty Ten. Please, we'd be honored if you'd join us!

IT CHRIS

Nice add Dep Marsh! Empire rocks!

BASS

We'll pass the dishes around and I'll make the introductions.

CHAIR PULLS OUT ANS SHE SITS. BASS FOLLOWS SUIT

JOYCLYN

This should be good for a laugh if nothing else. By the by that is a fifteen hundred quid a bottle of red you've procured from Waynewright!

BASS

I'll go out-of-pocket on this one! Already have a replacement bottle in route from our local scrounger. Now. I believe you and Mister Kelley are already acquainted!

JOYCLYN

Almost intimately you could say, right Tommy?

THOMAS

[HAS HIS BRAVE FACE ON]

Um. . .not to be rude on your first day, but I'd really prefer Mister Kelley, Agent Fowler if you'd please!

BASS

To your left is Mister Todd, head of our critical Internet Technology operations here on station. He's quite adept at ensuring our communication and data lines run smoothly.

IT CHRIS

Enchanté et un plaisir de vous rencontrer, mademoiselle Fowler. S'il vous plaît ne nous tuez pas avant le désert !

JOYCLYN

No promises love ! Was sorry to hear about your Boyfriend's. . .disappearing act.

IT CHRIS

[DOESN'T TAKE THE BAIT]

The needs of the many. . .exactly how he'd want it to happen. Try the stuffing, it's really yummy!

BASS

That handsome man to left is Ezekiel. . .Francis Bustamante. . .

ZEKE

The hell, Lawman! You promised!

CROWD MINUS JOYCLYN CHUCKLES

BASS

Head of station engineering and all DeWalt operations. My best friend, confident and can make a passable brisket and barbeque rib plate!

ZEKE

Better than your Kansas, Wizard of OZ tomato sauce pulled pork cookin'!

THOMAS

C'mon guys! Give it a rest till the next cook-out event already.

BASS

Next to me we have Patrick Dobber. Chief electrician and head of botanical studies on station.

PATRICK

Oh hey! Turns out, I have a doctorate from UC-Berkley! I'm actually Doctor Duder!

BASS

[CONFUSED, WE'RE GOING OFF SCRIPT]
What the hel. . When did that happen?

PATRICK

2007! I seriously lost like eight years I can't remember. My cousin Jimmy must have been just perfecting his craft at that time! [PAUSE] Oh man. . .that means I must have a SERIOUS student debt bill to pay off! Awww man! Sorry to ruin the mood, dudes.

BASS

And finally, may I present. . .Doctor Kendra Jennings. Scientist in the Dark Sector lab and South Pole Telescope project. Also, my girlfriend.

KENDRA

[Sincere]

Pleased to meet you agent Fowler! Bass has. . .well talks very. . .well he's mentioned you a few times. I hope you're settling in well at the station!

BASS

There you have it. Everybody this is Agent Joyclyn Fowler, most recently a specialist with the D.C.S. and tasked with foreign intelligence infiltration.

IT CHRIS

Defense Clandestine Service? Like Gemini Man? Wow! Not one of Will Smith's best films for sure. No wonder he got all "slappy" afterwards!

BASS

Former Second Lieutenant with the S.A.S. counter-sniper who assisted with Operation Marlborough in Baghdad, 2005.

ZEKE

Damn girl! Bet you have some stories to tell! Look forward to hearing em'!

SEVERAL SECONDS OF JUST PLATE AND SILVERWARE SOUNDS

BASS

[CONFUSED]

Agent Fowler? You already ate dinner? Not hungry? I assure you Lunch Lady Alice is. . .

JOYCLYN

[ON GUARD]

What's your game here Marshmallow?

BASS

Well. . .[WIPES CHIN] It occurred to me, that once you were down here, you'd start trying to reckon who my strength and allies were. Identify any weaknesses you could use and ascertain just exactly how much about Atlas I know. . .we. . .all know. So. . .Zeke! Elbows off the table man; we have a fancy guest!

ZEKE

Aww, my bad lawman. Sorry Agent lady!

BASS

[Continuing] So. . .I figured I'd save you the trouble. I thought the best thing to do was to gather. . .well most of those individuals and provide you; directly with whatever it is you want to know. Save you the trouble and hassle of going all cloak & dagger!

IT CHRIS

Dabney Coleman, Henry Thomas 1984. [Disgusted] Atrocious movie! The Marvel series same name 2018. . .even worse!

PATRICK

Doc Jen-Jen. . .would you please pass some of those savory pa-ta-tas over this way! In the middle of sculpting over here. This means something! This is. . .like important!

JOYCLYN

You lot taking the piss? Anybody tested the water around here?

BASS

Trust me, waters been tested many times! Less than 2 parts per trillion! I'm 100% on the up-and-up here Joyc. Seriously. . .you really should try the beef! It's very good!

CHAIR SLIDE BACK

JOYCLYN

You all are seriously off your rockers!

BASS

Well, if you already ate then I apologize, and I'll try to get better at scheduling next go round. But before you go. . .a toast!

WINE GLASSES BEING PCIKED UP

BASS

I have the advantage here. You're not up against one, you're up against many, those present and those not seated. I may be forced to work on station with you, but always be clear. . .If you're in my way, I won't try to go through you as you'd expect. I won't even be there for you to be in my way. I'll already be two steps past you.

HEELS LEAVING THE ROOM

Welcome to Amundsen Scott Joyclyn! Word of caution. On the ice, always. . .expect the unexpected.

OUTRO & Credits