

Ninety Degrees South

SEASON TWO
EPISODE SEVEN: BRIGADOON part I

DRAFT 1: DEC 27, 2021
DRAFT 2: APRIL 21, 2022
FINAL DRAFT: MAY 31, 2022

by
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INTRO SONG

FADE INTO THE STATION. OPS CENTER. ONLY ONE VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND WITH LIMITED RADIO CHATTER IN THE WINTER SEASON.

BASS

What do you mean, 'just appeared'?

THOMAS

(Perplexed)

Well....exactly as it sounds, Deputy Marshal.

FLIP OF A PHOTOGRAPH

THOMAS

Here was the terrain from LIMA project's Radarsat II as it flew over the region two days ago. 87 Degrees 29 minutes 33-point 7 seconds South by 24 degrees, 29 minutes, 12 Seconds West

FLIP OF A PHOTOGRAPH

THOMAS

Here is that same spot as of an hour ago.

3 SECONDS OF SILENCE

BASS

Well, obviously this is some kind of mistake. A complete base complex doesn't just build itself in forty-eight hours. . .let alone down here, during the Winter season!

THOMAS

I had telemetry control for Landsat Image mosaic re-confirm three times what we're seeing here.

KENDRA

[Confused]

I'm seeing a multi-floor main structure. Those look like external buildings, like what we have in the dark and clean sector. Mr. Kelley, is this another research facility?

THOMAS

Your guess is as good as mine doctor. Those appear to be some sort of wind turbines about a mile away. I have no idea what that could be. . .but it *is* in the exact direction that Sandra and Lars indicated they saw the . . .swirling mist last night at your Birthday party.

SOUND OF DOOR OPENING

LARRY

[STERNLY]

I need everybody out of ops. NOW! You three. Stay!

SHUFFELING OF PEOPLE MOVING OUT OF OPS. NO CHATTER OR RADIO TRAFFIC. DOOR CLOSSES

LARRY

[UNHAPPY]

Normally, we wouldn't be having this conversation. However, due to the . . .ingenuity of our own Mister Kelley; coupled with the . . .fortunate adjustment of the Radarsat mapping satellite; that image you have before you concern a topic. . .we hoped to keep confided.

BASS

[PUTTING 2&2 TOGETHER]

You knew! . . .you KNOW! You know exactly what this thing is. You knew it was coming. Is that project Atlas?

LARRY

You are both correct and mistaken DEPUTY marshal. Yes, we knew it was coming. Yes, we knew it would appear around this time. No. We don't know precisely why or what it is, other than images we've seen. Also no, that is not this. . .project Atlas you speak of.

THOMAS

[Remembering]

That week long expedition you and Doctor Van Zandt went on the previous winter. . .it was at this exact same time last year. That's where you went! You went to find. . .[taps photo] this complex!

LARRY

[Sarcastic]

Very good Thomas. Gold star and you get to go to the head of the class.

KENDRA

Well. . .if. . .since you and... since you and Gustav were. . .went to..

LARRY

[Cuts her off]

Time is of the essence, so let me answer now. Yes, we've been there. No, we don't know precisely where it will appear. Each year it's. . .appearance point moves within a 20 miles radius. It is indeed a research station, however. . .well, YOU'RE going to get a first-person account, DEPUTY Marshal.

BASS

What?

LARRY

Once I saw the request made in the logs for the satellite updated images to be taken, I knew it was only a matter of time before this would come to light. Obviously, given the . . .puppy dog like admiration, I knew Mister Kelley would flock immediately to you to show you his findings. I spoke with. . .others, who coordinate specific research matters and was told to include you, but only to a limited extent and on a 'need to know' basis.

BASS

What are you saying here Waynewright?

LARRY

The imaging technicians at LIMA were given a hefty monetary award; contingent upon them signing an NDA in regard to this matter and removing the data telemetry. My. . .supervisors have already been in contact with Director US Marshal Davis along with the US Department of Justice Attorney General Garland. I'm told the proper paperwork and orders should be in your email in-box within the hour. Including a similar NDA. Mister Kelley will be. . .rewarded for his ingenuity and of course, discretion in this subject matter. Doctor Jennings. YOUR involvement was not anticipated. Nevertheless. . .this is one of those 'write your own ticket' situations. The NSF and Beauregard Lowing will most likely honor any request you make. . .again, for a proper non-disclosure agreement being signed.

BASS

Can we go back to the part where you said I would be getting a first-person account?

LARRY

The station only remains in place for approximately ninety-six hours. That's four days. It appeared yesterday; our teams believe around 15 hours ago. In one of our snow transports, and given the coordinates I see right there. . *[murmuring of math being done in head]* It should take us twenty hours to get there, assuming a relative average ground speed of twelve kilometers per hour. That gives us two and a half days to . . investigate. You are coming with us DEPUTY Marshal.

BASS

Pardon? And who exactly is *us*?

LARRY

Just read the orders. Pack for a weeklong journey and meet us in the Vehicle Maintenance Bay in three hours. The rest of the team will be there, and we'll depart.

BEGINS WALKING AWAY

BASS

Oh, Doctor. . .one last thing.

FEW STEPS TO CATCH UP TO HIM.

BASS

[Lower voice]

If you ever cut off Doctor Jennings again while she's working to make her point. You and I will have. . . words! Savvy?

LARRY

How, chivalrous.

WALKING OUT OF THE ROOM AND OPENS THE DOOR.

LARRY

[From a distance]

Very good people, break time is over, back to your stations!

THOMAS

Sounds like you're going to get to see . . .well whatever this is with your own eyes!

KENDRA

Bass, you should talk to Zeke and Mr. Waters. When. . .when you were out there, well...stranded. The. . .the guys jerry rigged the noddys with an early crevasse detection system. Something like that, well it would. . .I mean. . .ensure you all make it. . .that you get home safe.

BASS

I appreciate that, Kendra. I'll chat with Zeke, right after I check my laptop for these orders Dr. Waynewright mentioned.

KENDRA

I'm going to go get something to eat. Come. . .would you. . . I'd like it if you'd see me before you leave.

BASS

Absolutely. I wouldn't just pick up and go without telling you goodbye! I'll come see in a bit.

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STOPPED

DIGITAL RECORDER BEEP.

SOUNDS OF PACKING AND STUFFING ITEMS INTO A BACKPACK

BASS

US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow; Twelve April twenty-twenty two. Thirteen-Oh-Eight hours. South Pole Sabotage investigation / Flight 0492 Crash. Diane, everything for now is one hundred percent O.T.R. Per what Doctor Waynewright told me about thirty minutes ago, I had formal orders in my email from Marshal Murphy, countersigned by Director Davis and the US Attorney General. I've been ordered to accompany Doctor Waynewright to investigate and assess a known "Polar Abnormality" for the purposes of National Security. Apparently, whatever this thing is. . .everybody and their sister's want a piece of it. NSF, DOJ, Beau-Low, Defense Department.

Satellite photos showed a large base complex. Comparable in Size to Amundsen-Scott, but taller. More stories on their main complex. How a base could have been built in complete secrecy and so close. . .relatively speaking to Amundsen Scott is perplexing.

I spoke to Zeke about twenty minutes ago. He told me Waynewright ordered him to Prep one of the snow vehicle's we have called a "nobby" and have it ready with supplies for five people to be out for two weeks. He said this happened last year as well and that he has something he wants to present to Waynewright. Something that he and some others had planned while I was stranded on the side of Mount Markham.

I have to say I have mixed feelings regarding this D. I don't like stepping away from an investigation once I've started. Feels like walking away or putting things on autopilot. Just doesn't feel proper. Then, there is this. . .swirling mist covered distant station one hundred and eighty miles out there that has something to do with the larger picture.

[SIGH] The mystery at hand seems to be of more interest. I'm not supposed to be going into too much detail, but . . .eh, the D.O.J. can deal with it! It also doesn't surprise me that Doctor Waynewright knows more about this than he is letting on.

Remember that conversation I eavesdropped in on with him and Madeline Dantes back when the Trolls were on station? I assume this . . .complex is what they were referencing when they mentioned. . . "appearing again and to be ready for it. "

Okay, clothes, heavy winter gear. Medical pack, weapon with six mags and cleaning kit. Light, batteries, and data cards for the recorders. Radio and distress kit. About as ready as I'm going to be. Going to go chat with Kendra, then it's down in the VMF to prepare to leave.

Diane, I'd tell you to encrypt all of this. . .but I'm not supposed to be talking about it so. . .we'll chat soon.

DIGITAL RECORDER BOOP

FADE IN. WE'RE BACK IN THE VMF BAY. CONVERSATION IN PROGRESS.

ZEKE

And with the microwave point to point telemetry, the yeti's sensors detect any crevasse ahead of us 12 seconds before we even get close. I'm telling you Doc Waynewright, don't know where you are going, but with me and Emery on-board, we can get you there at double the speed and a day early.

LARRY

Mister Bustamante, you were already recommended to be on this . . .expedition. The last visit we encountered a number of technical difficulties which a mechanical engineer would have been of immense use. Given your position on station and experience, you were the logical candidate. Mr. Waters. . .was not considered.

ZEKE

This here detection system is his idea. For the speeds we'll be pulling, in pitch dark. We be doing the wise thing bringing him along to read the data coming in and troubleshoot anything that goes wrong. We ain't going to be investigating anything if'n we're stuck 30-feet down in a ditch with no help coming for six months. We have the systems all up and ready, just never got the chance to test them.

LARRY

[SIGHS]. Very well. . .I'll have him summoned. In the meantime Mister Bustamante, you'll need to sign these forms. Standard Non-disclosure agreement.

UNZIP OF JACKET AND PUSH BUTTON SOUND ON WALKIE

LARRY

Mister Kelly?

WALKIE RESPOND SOUND

THOMAS

. . .go ahead Doctor.

PUSH BUTTON SOUND ON WALKIE

LARRY

Please contact Mr. Waters in I.T. Tell him to pack for a 5-day trip, including any technical tools he may be fond of. Have him meet us in the VMF bay in forty-five minutes.

WALKIE RESPOND SOUND

THOMAS

Right away, Doctor Waynewright!

LARRY

Very good. Now, if you'll all gather around. Doctor Lorenz? Jemma! If you'd please. . .

SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS ON SNOW WALKING OVER

LARRY

Wonderful. Now, although Doctor Lorenz is aware of the situation, other than me none of you have set foot upon the station nor the endeavor we are about to embark upon. So with approval of the US Government. . .and of course, Beauregard-Lowing; I have been authorized to provide you with the following information. Please do keep in mind the NDA's you have signed, the classified nature of this subject matter, and how discussing outside of cleared individuals is a breach of national security, the penalty being harsh financially and potential imprisonment.

TWO SECONDS SILENCE. BEGIN TENSE MUSIC

LARRY

Now. Three years ago, Beaugard-Lowing monitoring satellites detected an . . . abnormality in an area, east of the Pecora Escarpment, Map-Northwest of this station. Upon analysis of satellite imaging, it was determined to be an unknown research base. Directed communication attempted went unanswered. After a week of satellite monitoring the station simply . . . vanished.

Exactly one year later, last year to be exact. The station appeared again. In the same general location, however now it was 17 miles from where we first observed it.

BASS

The station is mobile?

LARRY

[Perturbed]

In most . . . civilized scientific seminars and briefings, questions are held until the END of the presentation, DEPUTY Marshal!

Where was I? Ah yes! When the station re-appeared. Doctor Van Zandt, I and one of Mister Bustamante's workers. . . Mr. Decker went out to explore and determine what this station was.

ZEKE

THAT'S where Lou Decker went! Said it was all hush-hush. Cat acted weird all the time after that!

LARRY

What we found, was a station complex. More sophisticated than Amundsen Scott, if you can believe that! In addition to external science centers, standard cargo storage facilities, we found a four-story central research complex. All external doors and cargo bays were locked and secured from the inside. Try as we might, we couldn't find a way to get in.

There was no sign of any activity inside. No lights through the windows. No exhaust from heaters or machinery. There was no power or any indication the station was in use. We located a power generation facility external to the main complex. After three days of trying, Mister Decker was finally able to get partial power working and we were able to open a vehicle bay door and ramp. It was then that. . .

Well, the most accurate way to describe what happened was a rapid wave of static electricity seemed to descend on the area. Hairs on your arms and legs stood up. There was a . . .purple swirl of fog that began to materialize from the building. I don't know if it was affecting our eyesight or the ambient light but, other than us and the equipment we brought with us. . .everything started to shimmer and blur. After a few moments, I ordered everybody back to the vehicle and we drove out approximately one mile away from the area. It was about an hour afterwards, as we watched from a safe distance that the entire complex. . .blurred into. . .nothing. Disappeared. One hundred and forty hours after appearing, just as it had the year previously.

When we went back to investigate, there was nothing there. Including field notebooks and equipment we had brought with us. All had vanished. This year, assuming that cargo door is still open, we should be able to enter the main complex. Investigate the interior. Take various environmental and scientific readings and determine. . .what this is.

SEVERAL SECONDS SILENCE

LARRY

Now. . .you may ask your questions.

BASS

This purple fog. Could you also consider it. . . 'mist-like'?

LARRY

[Imposed upon]

I suppose. .potato/po*TA*toe really. Any other 'brain stumpers' from anybody?

ZEKE

So what happens if we inside the station building after the seventy-two hours? Inside when the shimmer and shine thing happen.

LARRY

Given the materials we left behind were not able to be located, it would be my strongest suggestion that we be out of the area by hour seventy. We're bringing along various pieces of monitoring equipment with us. If we rediscover the items left behind are intact, logic will dictate they. . .travel with the complex and we would deploy these sensors to accumulate data for the following year when the station reappears again. Doctor Lorenz!

JEMMA

I'll be fitting you each with rudimentary body sensors. Applying them to your chests and back. These will monitor and record heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure and body temperature. We don't know what, if any effect the station's internal environment may have on humans. I'll be monitoring your vitals in addition to my monitoring of any dilatation of magnetic or chron. . .

LARRY

[CUTS HER OFF, GETS HER TO SHUT UP]

AHEM. Need.to.Know; Doctor Lorenz. Now. Let's complete loading of the transport vehicle. Mister Bustamante, please ensure mister Waters is brought up to speed upon his arrival and priority is to have his. . .gizmo up and running prior to departure. We leave in one hour people!

**WAYNEWRIGHT WALKS AWAY, TALKING TO JEMMA ABOUT
OPERATIONAL SECURITY.**

BASS

What do you think Zeke?

ZEKE

[nonchalantly]

For around here? A station appears and disappears doesn't even rank top five! Should be cake walk. Get in, figure out what it is, get back here before my baby misses me too much! [laugh] I remember, two years ago. . I left the station to help get supplies from McMurdo. Only gone four days. When I got back, she had four fan belts snap. Two compressors went out. Electrical boards stopped working, and no hot water would run in A-Pod berths. Took me a week to get everything back running right.

BASS

I've seen your crews work Zeke. They're all good at what they do. They must be able to keep her running if your gone a few days.

ZEKE

Oh they all top notch at what they do. It ain't them. [Pauses, quieter so as to not upset] It's her!

BASS

Who her? Annie?

ZEKE

[Quietly]

No dumbass! My baby. My. . .lady! The station. She don't like it when I'm not here. Get's separation anxiety!

BASS

Zeke. . .it's a station, not a German shepherd.

ZEKE

SHHHHHHHHH! You go say goodbye to yo lady Lawman. I'm going to go chat with mine! See you in forty-five.

ZEKE WALKS OFF

BASS

This has to be.the WEIRDEST science station on the planet!

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STOPPED.

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED

BASS

Diane, it's Thirteen April. Twenty-Twenty-Two. Damn it, keep forgetting about my watch. Zeke, what time is it?

ZEKE

Three O'clock in the blessed A.M. You gonna help unload or keep on dragging ass lawman?

BASS

We arrived five minutes ago. Waynewright was not kidding. This facility is massive. It's dark due to no power or lights, not even emergency lights as far as we can tell. Only lights are chemical sticks and flashlight we brought with us. I'm looking around at the other vehicles in the station's vehicle bay. They look. . .well, one or two aside, I'm not familiar with their make or model. Zeke is in heaven I bet.

ZEKE

[From a distance]

No! I'm pissed off that it's three AM and I'm the only person hauling supplies off this here Noddy! I'm goin start taking shit personal if'n I don't get some help!

BASS

Two seconds Diane!

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STOPPED.

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED

NO STATION HUM. NO CHATTER. ECHOY FOOTSTEPS AS OUR TEAM GOES THROUGH THE STATION. THE LOW HOWL OF WINDS FROM OUTSIDE ALSO ECHO. ERIE MUSIC PLAYS

BASS

Twenty minutes later Diane. Zeke and Mister Waters went to look at the generator Doctor Waynewright mentioned. The Doctors and I are looking through the complex.

LARRY

I trust whomever. . .'Diane' is that she's also cleared, DEPUTY Marshal?

BASS

She's cleared Doctor. DOJ, DOD & Beau-Low were also very clear. Document everything.

LARRY

How you tolerate wearing these. . .go professional cameras all the time I'll never understand. You did this all last season?

BASS

I tolerated a great many things all last season doctor. You'll adjust to the go-pro quickly. We're . . . walking down a long hallway. The building . . . station if you will is shaped like a clover, or as if two double headed rowing paddles were laid in an 'X' atop one another. In the center of the 'X' is a Central complex. This place looks trashed inside. There are items laying everywhere haphazardly. Wires protruding from the walls. There are elevators and stairs which appear to run from ground to the third floor. Chairs, sofas. It almost resembles a . . . hotel lobby, after Megadeth came through town! We haven't seen any signs of people, but . . . the equipment and items we found in the berths. Extremely high tech!

LARRY

Let's concentrate on exploring and documenting, DEPUTY Marshal. We can speculate and provide commentary later.

BASS

We're coming to another set of stairs. We're on level three now and still no sign of anyone or anything that looks to be a hub or operations complex. There is trash, and debris everywhere. I will say. . . the movie theater and bowling alley we saw on level two was impressive!

LARRY

Doctor Lorenz?

JEMMA

Everybody's vitals are in the green. Stress levels slightly elevated, that's to be expected. Body temps of the Chief and Mister Waters lowered but again, that's from being outside near the generator.

BASS

Everything is in both English & French. Room signs, directories, wayfinding signs. I also noticed an abundance of Canadian posters and flag branded clothes. Along with another flag I didn't recognize.

LARRY

[Reading a sign]

'Science Labs One through Six'. Let's go through here. We still have around seventy hours remaining till event. Three-days. Plenty of time!

SOUND OF DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS ECHOING

LARRY

Excellent! Physics Lab. **DAMNIT!**

BASS

What?

TRYING DOORKNOB

LARRY

It has what appears to be a keypad entry system. The door is locked. Look! All up and down this section. All keypad entry.

JEMMA

All the other doors in the other sections had standard handles. Why lock these down? We don't even do that at Amundsen!

LARRY

I had Mister Bustamante's team pack prying tools and an acetylene cutting torch kit. We'll get through these doors one way or another. Let's continue around the hall, see if it loops back like the other sections.

JEMMA

This station is massive. I'd estimate four times the size of ours. It must have been able to accommodate six hundred, seven hundred staff and workers.

BASS

I'm envious at the size of their berths. Almost double ours!

LARRY

[Sighs] Everyone. I know this is. . .quite unusual, but let's focus on getting our bearings. Understanding the layout. We can. . .explore further and voice our enthusiasm later!

BASS

THERE! The second door on the left. [Reading] Stairway Access to Station Ops. I think we just found our Hub.

WALKING UP, DOOR OPENS.

BASS

Unlocked! Seems this isn't as critical as the lab doors.

TEAM WALKS UP THE STAIRS. ANOTHER DOOR OPENS.

BASS

[Impressed whistle]

JEMMA

It's massive for an operations center. It's the size of our ops and large conference room combined! Why does it have. . .there are burnt areas of carpet over here!

LARRY

Appears to be. . .workstations. But I don't see keyboards or mice. No input devices. Must be all. . .optical.

THE THREE WALK AROUND THE OPS CENTER FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

BASS

Okay. I'm going to just come out and say it. Based on the equipment we saw. Personal items. High tech devices. This station is from the future.

LARRY

[Nervous, but deflecting]

Don't be preposterous. Yes, we may have seen some . . . interesting devices. This may simply be, in part a research and development center for all we know.

BASS

And the poster in the large berth commemorating the 2032 Olympics from Brisbane, Australia?

LARRY

[Grasping, but holding together]

Could be somebody with marketing skills making a pitch to design posters. It could be from some Science-Fiction movie none of us have seen. This is all conjecture, DEPUTY Marshal! Unless you have something more SUBSTANTIAL to support your unscientific speculation, I'll thank you to. . .

BASS

[Happily Cuts him off / Showing him up]

There is also this station dedication plaque. Same as we have at Amundsen-Scott. [Reading] Roberta Bondar Scientific Research Station. Dominion of Canada. Established. . . February 16th, 2044.

LARRY

[Perturbed]

You could have simply led with that!

BASS

That would have denied me that look you have now on your face Doctor!

JEMMA

Would you two give it a rest already! I have calipers with me and am also a medical doctor. If you men want to really see who has the biggest pair. . .

BASS

Point taken doctor! Point taken. I apologize Doctor Waynewright. Now is not the time.

JEMMA

Lawrence?

LARRY

[Reluctantly]

I apologize, DEPUTY Marshal. Truce. For now.

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

Anybody on?

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

LARRY

Proceed Mister Waters!

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

Yeah. This place is from the future, just letting you know!

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

LARRY

Yes, Mister Waters. We discerned the same thing up here. Are you able to restore power?

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

[Disappointed]

Wow. Was expecting more. . .[acting surprised] from the future, really? No way! [end acting] Wasn't expecting a reaction like telling you I shifted to 90% bran in my morning cereal.

RADIO SQWAK

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

LARRY

The power. . .Mister Waters. Can you restore it?

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

Yes, partially. We powered up a terminal here. . .I'm not supposed to tell you how as you'd never would have approve the way we did it, but we're trying to make heads or tails of these systems. I think I can reallocate power from here to an emergency terminal in the station Ops center. Can you find that?

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

LARRY

Yes, Mister Waters. We're in the station's ops center now. Accessible through the 3rd floor science wing. Just follow our chemical light sticks to find us.

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

Okay then. Standby. I think I'm starting to get the gist of this operating system. Very efficient design! Okay. . .if this works you should notice one of the ops consoles monitor's blinking something in three. . .two. . .one. One. . .OH C'MON!

ZEKE

[In the background]

Hold up Em. I think I see. . .GOT IT. Try again.

EMERY

As I was saying. . .ONE!

RADIO SQWAK

FAINT CLICKING AND HUM, MINI-POWER UP SOUND

LARRY

Do you hear that?

RADIO SQWAK

EMERY

Did it work?

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

BASS

We're checking. Standby Mister Waters!

SOUND OF SLOW WALKING AROUND THE OPS CENTER

JEMMA

Here! It's coming from this station.

TAPPING OF PLEXIGLASS

JEMMA

Touch sensitive. Like an iPad! I have a keyboard configuration and text screen here. Various icons. English language.

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

BASS

That worked. We have a workstation up here that has power running to it. It's marked . . . 'Primary Control Access and Distribution'.

RADIO SQWAK

ZEKE

PCAD! Smart Idea. We got the power up and running down here. PCAD is a secondary failsafe that has to be activated. Like a power breaker to ensure not too much power gets turned on at once! Always wanted one of them.

RADIO SQWAK

PUSH BUTTON TO TALK

BASS

Alright then. If that's the case, sounds like you got us to the door. Now we just need to figure out how to open it. Why don't you two come in and join us?

RADIO SQWAK

ZEKE

Coming up Lawman. Out.

RADIO SQWAK
SOUND OF CHAIR SLIDING BACK

LARRY
Let's see what we have. . . .

SOUND OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLICKING AND A 'DENIED' SOUND

LARRY
Very well then. [Reading] 'Vocal Access'

SOUND OF ELECTRIC BUTTON AND THEN THREE FAST BEEPS.

LARRY
Okay. Um. [Aloud] Power on!

COMPUTER
VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

SOUND OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLICKING AND A 'DENIED' SOUND

LARRY
Identify this station!

COMPUTER
VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

BASS
Oh this is going to be a long day!

BEGIN FADE OUT.
SOUND OF ELECTRIC BUTTON AND THEN THREE FAST BEEPS.

LARRY
[Aloud] Display primary systems

COMPUTER
VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

DIGITAL RECORDER BEEP

BASS
Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Thirteen April twenty-twenty Two. Oh nine hundred. Roberta Bondar Scientific Research Station, allegedly. After a twelve-hour trip, two hours exploring we decided we should get a bit or rest. Doctor Waynewright GRACIOUSLY allowed us five hours of sleep.

ZEKE
[In the background. Groggy] Kendra know how much you snore? Damn Lawman. Thought I was sleeping with a chainsaw!

BASS
We only had four personal space heaters with us. Zeke and I bunked up while Emery, Doctors Waynewright and Lorenz slept in another Berth. I don't know what fabric these blankets are made of, but it reflected my body heat and absorbed the warmth from the Mister Buddies expertly! I was nice and cozy the whole night.

ZEKE
Glad somebody got they's forty-winks in. Tonight, I'm sleeping on the couch! [Deep breath] Alright ya'll, I'm going to take a look at that power relay room I saw on level one.

LARRY
Would you both cut the. . .buffoonery! We have limited time and I NEED to focus.

COMPUTER
VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

SOUND OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLICKING AND A 'DENIED' SOUND

LARRY

Re-initialize power

COMPUTER

VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

LARRY

ARRHHHHHHH!

SLAMS FIST ON THE COUNTER

BASS

Hey? How much sleep did you get last night Doctor
Waynewright?

LARRY

None! I want to focus. . . I need to focus on the task at hand.
Been working to get. . .

SOUND OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLICKING AND A 'DENIED' SOUND

COMPUTER

VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS DENINED.

LARRY

[ANGRY]

WILL YOU JUST WORK ALREADY YOU, PADANTIC. .
.CALCULATOR!

BASS

Um, Doctor. Really think. . .

LARRY

[SNAPS]

I SAID I'M FINE!

TWO BEAT

BASS

Okayyyyy. I'm going to just . . .

UNZIP JACKET

BASS

Go ahead and call Doctor Lorenz up here.

DOOR OPENS

EMERY

So this is the operations center huh?

PUSH TO TALK BUTTON

BASS

Yeah, Doctor Lorenz. Can we see you up on the ops deck please?

SOUND OF ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLICKING AND A 'DENIED' SOUND

EMERY

This place is BITCHEN!

COMPUTER

VOCAL PRINT RECOGNIZED. VOICE PRINT MATCH ACCESS GRANTED. Good afternoon, Doctor Waters. It has been 5 years 117 days since your last access. How are you doing today, doctor?

LARRY

WHAT?

EMERY

Um. Huh? Did I? Hello! I'm doing well. Thank you for asking. More consideration than I get from my regular partner! If um, you don't mind me asking. Who are you?

KYLIE

I'm Kylie, the stations artificial intelligence. You completed my design and installation on 24th October 2045. I have been online for approximately seven years and twenty-two days, not counting the power interruption just now. Do you wish me to bring the stations systems fully online?

LARRY

[EXCITED]

YES!

KYLIE

VOCAL PRINT NOT RECOGNIZED. ACCESS Denied .

LARRY

Mister Waters, if you'd please!!!!

EMERY

Oh, yeah. . . .ahem. Yes Kylie. Please.

SOUND OF POWER STARTING, WE HEAR THE STATIONS HUM FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND OTHER MONITOR'S IN THE OPS CENTER POWERING UP.

KYLIE

Power restoration in process. Do you wish to distribute power manually via the P-CAD system, or would you prefer me to allocate per optional station design specifications?

EMERY

Um, prefer you to do it. You can really do all that?

KYLIE

Of course! I am a Waters-Yung Ju A.I. system Model seven. You programmed me to oversee station operational systems and assist with scientific research. My apologies father, I detect several others with you on the operations deck, along with an individual who is working on main electrical systems in the main power relay room. Would you please confirm they are authorized to be on station, and introduce us?

EMERY

Wow you are very polite! AHEM. Kylie, I'd like you to meet US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Amundsen Scott Area Manager Doctor Waynewright. Doctor Jemma Lorenz, and the individual downstairs is Chief of Operations for Amundsen-Scott, Ezekiel Bustamante, but everybody calls him Zeke. They are all authorized to be on station.

JEMMA

Hey, you got everything up and running! Thanks for calling me Deputy Marshal.

BASS

That's not why I called you. Doctor Waynewright. . .may need some help. . .relaxing. May need some help to get some sleep.

TAPPING OF KEYS ON iPad

JEMMA

Doctor. Are you alright? Your BP, Heart rate, all are higher than I'd like.

LARRY

[Frustrated]

I'm perfectly fine, Doctor! I'm just. . .excited to have the station's system up and running. I don't need help relaxing as the DEPUTY Marshal indicates. Nobody tells Doctor Lawrence Emerson Waynewright when to go to sleep. I am not four!

KYLIE

Doctor Waynewright. Are you related to Doctor Lawrence Emerson Waynewright from Vermont, United States?

LARRY

I am him.

KYLIE

This is confusing. Doctor Waynewright, Bass Marlow and the others were all reported killed at the Amundsen Scott research station on June 12, 2024. D.N.A. air sampling and cross check with international and genomic databases show a genetic match. I will have your death certificates rescinded in my next data uplink. I hope you were inconvenienced!

THREE SECONDS SILENCE

BASS

Well that was a kick in the go-nads! Okay, before we are killed in two years, Doctor, I strongly suggest you get some sleep. If you're not thinking clearly, you won't get the most out of this mission. Mister Waters, can you ascertain why this thing calls you "father".

LARRY

I am in charge of this expedition, DEPUTY Marshal. Not you! NOT YOU! I'm not taking orders in this Endeavor, I.GIVE.THEM Two! Mister Waters, I want you to download all the scientific and operational logs from this database. We brought a substantial number of external hard drives we can use to store the data.

EMERY

Um, that is a really BAD idea!

LARRY

I beg your pardon?

EMERY

Um, there has been no work of fiction. Book, movie, television series where the use of knowledge from the future has worked out well for those who brought it back in time. In fact, 100% opposite.

LARRY

[Sputtering]

This is not one of you childish, idiotic sci-fi fantasy programs. This is reality. Our mission is to ascertain and determine what this complex is, and how exactly we managed to dislodge it with Atlas. Find whatever technologies. .

JEMMA

[ANGRY]

DOCTOR! Need.to.Know. You're apparently exhausted and before you say anything else, anything you SHOULDN'T be talking about. As a medical doctor I am ordering you to get six hours sleep. I can sedate you if you like, but you need to STOP.TALKING.

JEMMA

[Reassuring]

I'm . . .going to ask you all to try and ignore what Doctor Waynewright just said. He . . .obviously, is tired and is going to get a few hours rest. We'll have you woken up at 1PM. Now . . .I highly suggest you walk away, and that little slip can be . . .forgotten.

LARRY

I'll be in the 3rd floor berth's from last night.

WALKING DOWN STEPS.

BASS

Doctor? Anything we. . .how did you put it. . .that we need to know?

JEMMA

Not at this time Deputy. Now with power in process of being restored, why don't we do more walking around the station? Figure out what happened to the station staff?

BASS

Mister Waters, why does her voice sound so. . .familiar?

EMERY

Oh, yeah that's because I've always said if I ever designed an A.I. system, I was going to make her sound like Kylie Minogue! Obviously, I did. Or. . .will do. Huh. Have done? Oh I wish Chris was here! He loves temporal verbal tenses more than anybody!

BASS

Kylie Minogue. The pop singer from Australia?

EMERY

The one and only.

BASS

I'm. . . .okay, this is more than I signed on for!

JACKET UNZIP

PUSH TO TALK BUTTON

BASS

Zeke. Head back up to ops. We have power being restored and are going to start exploring. I owe you twenty bucks. It got stupid-weird within twelve hours.

SQWAK

ZEKE

Heh-heh! Told you. Always starts weird! If it goes into Stupid-weird, it never waits a full half day! You'll get the hang of it Lawman!

SQWAK

OPERATIONAL HUM FADE OUT

ELECTRONIC VOICE: RECORDING STARTED

ZEKE

I'm telling you; I saw something on the horizon.

BASS

Zeke, it's pitch dark out there. No stars in this storm. No moon. I'm not saying I doubt that you saw. . .something, but couldn't it have just been, your eyes playing tricks?

ZEKE

First time I saw it. Yeah. . .I thought the same shit. Second time, I said. . .come on playa, get hold of yourself. This last time. Naw, there is something out there.

BASS

Hey Kylie?

KYLIE.

I apologize US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. You have not yet been given vocal authorization to make requests. Access denied.

EMERY

No no Kylie. Bass and Zeke are cool. You can listen to them!

KYLIE

I understand father. Access rights granted. How may I assist you US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow?

ZEKE

Yeah, that ain't creepy in the least!

BASS

Kylie, do you have external flood lights or a way to illuminate the immediate area?

KYLIE

Absolutely US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow! Turning on external illumination to max setting.

SERIES OF LOUD STADIUM LIGHTS FLICKING ON!

ZEKE

SEE! Told yo dumb ass. There, on the horizon!

BASS

I see it. Whatever it is, it's scrambling away full speed. Think it's adverse to light, like the bumbles?

ZEKE

Could be. I ain't ever been in a research station from thirty years in the future, so. . .I'm a hafta get back with you.

BASS

Look, down in the snow. Tracks, leading into and out of the VMF bay.

RADIO SQUAK

LARRY

Come in Mister Bustamante.

PUSH TO TALK

ZEKE

I'm here Doctor.

RADIO SQUAK

LARRY

Where are you, presently?

PUSH TO TALK

ZEKE

I'm in an observation room. Above the VMF bay. We thought we saw something shifting around. Turned on the lights and. . .not sure what it was.

RADIO SQUAK

LARRY

I'm looking at a monitor in the VMF bay. Whatever that thing was, it's damaged the Nodwell we traveled here in.

RADIO SQUAK

ZEKE

SHIT!

***RUNS TO DOOR, OPENS AND STARTS DOWN THE STEPS TO THE MAIN BAY,
WITH BASS CLOSE BEHIND.***

ZEKE

[Concerned]

No.no.no.no NO!NO!NO! SHIT!

BASS

What? What is. . . . [realizes] shit!

OVER AN INTERCOM

LARRY

How bad? How bad is the damage?

ZEKE

[in shock]

How much time befo this station shimmers and shines into the nothingness?

LARRY

Approximately thirty hours.

ZEKE

Best forward our mail to this here station. We ain't leaving no time soon!

ANNOUNCER

To be Continued...

OUTRO AND CREDITS