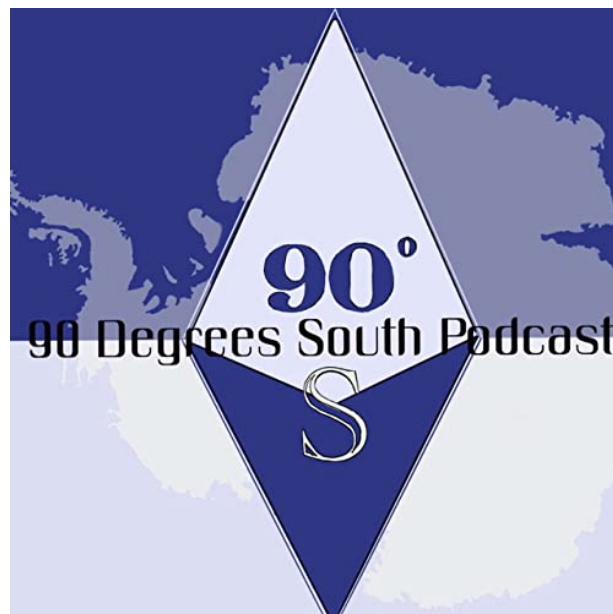


# 90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE  
EPISODE FIVE: REUNIONS Pt II

DRAFT 1: OCT 12, 2023



by  
Brian M Bradley

**BMB Productions LLC**

**INTRO & MUSIC**

**ACT I**

**DIGITAL RECORDING START BEEP.**

**[FIVE BEAT; HEAVY BREATING]**

BASS

[WASTED, HUNGOVER]

Dian. . .[HOLDIN IN PUKE] Diane. This is [DEEP BREATH] Supervisory Deputy. . .Bass. It's Bass. Today is. . .oh, a day I shouldn't be doing ... I'm not in my twenties. . .Oh SHIT I'm [GAG] hurting.

The Trolls arrived last night. I thanked them. Then, we drank. Lots of drinks. There was. . .something . . .green? I have a. . .vague, memory. . .of. . . .[RELEIF]this desktop is so cold; I'm gonna chill my forehead on it.

**[DEEP BRETAKS]**

Diane. . .yeah. . .I know I'm not suppose to. . .never mind. Let's just do this. OKAY! Owwwwwww! Shhhhhhhhhh! I haven't been this hungover in like fifteen years. Why. . .there is. . . foreign currency in my boxers? Also, a note. . .eyes hurt. Can't [GAG] focus.

The station received our international visitors from Norway. It was a. . .welcome reunion. Just when, just when everybody gave up all hope. They. . .didn't. They knew. They knew I. . .we were still alive. Those, rowdy, obnoxious, contemp- - contep [GAG] contemptuous people. . they wouldn't give up. Diane. . .I owe them my life. A life that I was ready to. . .yeah, let's not go there.

Okay. . .have to get through this. [DEEP BREATH] With the drug trafficking investigation. . .now having resulted in arrets. (BREATH) My involvement is more or less through. I can go back to focusing on the plane crash and station sabotage investigation.

[AUDIBLE DEEP BREATH]

Mr. McTaggart; the patsy who was threatened into helping handle the shipments has agreed to testify in exchange for full immunity. [LITE GAG] Brokered by our resident demon lawyer! That said. . . Zeke went ahead and had him removed from the O.P.P. contract. Said it wasn't personal but given everything it was just too much a risk for the N.S.F. to have him continue on.

[DEEP BREATH]. . . I need to start keeping aspirin in my desk.

Today. . . Diane. . . [REMEMBERS] right, Sydney said I should phase that um. . . phase this out. Uh. . . so today there are various; meetings; conferences with the Trolls and station scientists. Should keep them occupied for the most part. I'm. . . [DEEP EXHALE] I'm scheduled to continue interviewing my main three suspects for the sabotage investigation. Don't want to go into too much detail; but based on seal court records I've taken a keen interest in Mr. Chad Wilford; the logistics worker.

Oh, and how could I have forgotten! Today we have to say [LITE GAG] have to say goodbye to Doctor Gustav van Zandt. Our good Doctor and head of the Dark Sector Lab is retiring. Although from what I hear it's more akin to being put out to pasture. Eh, he and I never got close so I can't say I'll miss him myself.

Since he was Kendra's boss, this presents a unique opportunity for her! She told us a few months back she was being eyed as Van Zandt's replacement in the Dark Sector lab and division.

I've. . . [DEEP BREATH] I've spoken to her several times about the offer. I honestly think she may take it after all. She's no doubt a bit nervous; but I think she is absolutely ready for it; not to mention absolutely qualified!

**LOUD KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND IT OPENS SUDDENLY**

ZEKE  
[LOTS OF ENERGY, INTENTIONALLY LOUD]  
MORNING LAWMAN!

BASS  
[IN PAIN]  
Shhhhhhhhh! Not so loud ; please Zeke!

ZEKE  
Oh, I sorry Lawman! You have a hangover huh? I guess with all that drinking, wrasslin' and table dancing you did last night that would figure!

BASS  
[CONFUSED]  
Table.Dancing?

ZEKE  
[LOUD]  
YEAH!

BASS  
Zeke! Please! Not.so.loud!

ZEKE  
Oh sorry, sorry. Sometimes I forget to use my indoor voice. Yeah, you were doing some sort of dance. Didn't figure you for a lampshade on the head sort of cat! Hey; who the hell is Gypsy Rose Lee anyway?

BASS  
[EMBARRASSED]  
Please, tell me I didn't.

ZEKE  
Aw don't worry Bass. Reno Dave actually got a new Bar slogan out of it. "Free drinks with a table dance and drop of pants!"

BASS  
Well, that explains the foreign currency in. .  
.never mind. [GAG]. . oh man, what's that smell?

ZEKE

Oh yeah! Let me take this here napkin off the top  
and . . .

**BASS REELS BACK FROM THE SUDDEN BURTS OF SMELLS!**

ZEKE

Since I knew you'd be hurting this mornin' I  
figured I'd bring you some breakfast!

BASS

[GETTING SICKER]

Oh, dear lord! Zeke, you have to get that out of  
here!!

ZEKE

[FAUX CONCERN]

C'mon now! Just like Gran-mama B. used to say;  
'Zeke! ain't nothing a GOOD breakfast can't fix  
now.'

BASS

[COVER NOSE AND MOUTH]

You're killing me!

ZEKE

I had Lunch Lady Alice whip up your favorite  
breakfast. Sausage Gravy on butter biscuits!  
EXTRA FAT!

BASS

[GAG]

ZEKE

Eggs sunny side up with the runny yokes!

BASS

[DRY HEAVE]

ZEKE

Uh-oh. . .some of the gravy fat is mixing with  
the runny yoke bits. It's kinda a jiggly mess.  
EH, you put some ketchup on that it's all good!

BASS

DAMN YOU ZEKE!

**RAPID STEPS ACROSS THE ROOM AND PUTTING HIS HEAD IN THE TRASHCAN WHERE HE PUKES**

ZEKE

Aww man! Now you know I gone done messed this up! This one is MINE! Nah, Kendra tole me just to give you this here cup of coffee extra black and some saltines. Said you'd be having a rough morning. [TEASTING, BABY VOICE] You havin' a bad morning' there baby-boy?

**HARD WRETCH**

BASS

[HEAD IN TRASHCAN, ECHOY]

I HATE YOU [DEEP BREATH] SO MUCH [DEEP BREATH] RIGHT . . . [GAG] [WRETCH]

ZEKE

Trust me lawman. . . had to get the rest of that hard hooch out of your system for you to get to feeling better. [TWO BEAT] [BACON CRUNCH] mmmmm-MMMMM. You dip the bacon in the sausage gravy, aww man it's even better! Gravy slowllllly slides down your throat!

BASS

[STILL IN THE BUCKET]

I HOPE YOU SUFFER LIKE. . . [GAG] [WRETCH]. See the red light. . . on the recorder sitting on my desk.

ZEKE

[MOUTH FULL OF BACON]

Mmmm-hmmmm.

BASS

Push it.

ZEKE

[MOUTH HALF-FULL BACON]

Okay, just one moment and I'll. . . [SNIFF] hey. . . do I smell turkey giblets over there you puking up? Where you all get giblets at last night?

BASS

Oh, DAMN YOU. . .

DIGITAL RECORDER OFF BEEP

ACT II

JOYCLYN'S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS COMMENCED

FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE HALLWAY. KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

LARRY  
[FROM INSIDE]

Enter!

JOYCLYN  
I'm here! What has your knickers all in a knot  
Waynewright?

LARRY  
[TWO BEAT] and a good morning to you as well  
Agent. [BEAT] Thank you Mister Kelly, please  
ensure everything is ready for my departure in  
the morning!

THOMAS  
[NERVOUS]  
Of course, Doctor! Hello again, Agent. . .Fowler!

FOOTSTEPS OUT THE DOOR AND IT CLOSES

LARRY  
Tomorrow morning I'll be boarding a C-130 flight  
to McMurdo and then to my home in Vermont for a  
few days before flying to Stockholm.

JOYCLYN  
Right! The Nobel prize ceremony: for the award  
they're making you take credit for.

LARRY  
We all have our cross' to bare, agent. While  
proving the existence of Dark Matter may *not* have  
been completely by my hand; there are no shortage  
of my accomplishments which have gone overlooked.  
I take solace in the fact that any number of  
those endeavors are worthy of the honor I'll have  
bestowed upon me.

JOYCLYN

Whatever helps you through the day Waynewright?  
Is this honestly why you summoned me? To act as  
your little Disney cricket to tell you what  
you're doing is okay?

LARRY

What? No! Don't be preposterous agent! I rid  
myself of a conscious long ago; and even if it  
still existed; I'd never admit it. No. I. .  
.summoned you as you just put it; to discuss  
operations while I'll be away for the next month.

JOYCLYN

[SARCASTIC]

Oh joy!

LARRY

[RETURNING THE SARCASM]

Please, do contain your enthusiasm, Agent Folwer!  
I submitted our weekly update to Director Dantes  
on Atlas results over the past month. With  
Doctor Van Zandt. . . .*departing* today and myself  
tomorrow; we'll only have 50% of the science  
staff.

JOYCLYN

[SARCASM]

Surprised you aren't getting the Nobel for  
arithmetic.

LARRY

. . .Dry acerbic wit. Certainly nothing one would  
expect from the British! As I was saying, I  
requested a temporary stand in from Beauregard-  
Lowing research and technology division. Somebody  
with the appropriate skill set and of course,  
clearance. They should have somebody identified  
in a few days and we. . .

JOYCLYN

[ACTING BORED, TRYING TO SHOW HIM UP]

Already took care of it!

LARRY

[CONFUSED]

Beg pardon?



JOYCLYN

Its.taken.care.of! Look, Waynewright; when I was assigned to safeguard the Atlas project and everything comprising it, I did so knowing it would be a massive undertaking. If there is anything, and I do mean anything that might hinder or impact the project. . .trust that I knew about it before you became remotely aware.

Once I heard the Nobel committee announced you as one of this year's winners, I sent an encrypted message back asking for a backfill while you'd be out. A very. . .specific backfill; not only somebody already read into the program; but was on the original design and initiation team.

**FILE FOLDER GETS SLAPPED ON THE DESK. LARRY PICKS IT UP AND OPENS IT.**

LARRY

[SHOCKED]

How on Earth did you arrange this? This is. . .this can't be correct, they retired from Beauregard Lowing and the project ten years ago! Left the private sector for academia! They agreed to return? How did. . .

JOYCLYN

If you'd shut your gob for two seconds, I'd explain! [DEEP BREATH]. Replacing one scientist with another already familiar with Atlas is routine. Replacing that same scientist with another who is NOT familiar, like your Doctor Jennings is not routine in the least. Doing so whilst at the same time arranging for them to be read in; and finding somebody, even temporally who can oversee that introductory process AND act as a fill in for a short time, while also able to run the station as a whole? Well, that takes somebody not only intelligent, witty, but somebody who has the proper connections, not to mention able to arrange all this in under twelve hours.

LARRY

[SMUG]

Yes, yes! I'm sure you're quite proud of your administrative accomplishments. That doesn't answer how . . .

JOYCLYN

Nothing to concern yourself over Waynewright. Their plane is arriving this evening. It will be the same one transporting you off station tomorrow morning after refueling and flight checks.

I'll be at the pax terminal when they arrive and ensure everything goes swimmingly . . . [SLY INTENT] and to plan.

LARRY

The next set of tests are to begin in two days from now. The event window will be open for

[REDACTED BEEP]

With the potential for in-depth

[REDACTED BEEP]

Around 20 T.E.V. Doctor Jovac will be monitoring for any sign of

[REDACTED BEEP]

Even though I filed my protest with Director Dantes of running additional

[REDACTED BEEP]

During my absence, [TWO BEAT] the fact that my . . . temporary replacement literally wrote the book on

[REDACTED BEEP]

Despite, familial realities. The project cannot suffer from my absence. Even though I fully expect productivity and results will not be as. . .persistent without my immediate governance.

JOYCLYN

Despite your sense of, self-importance to the project, I'm here to make sure everything proceeds on schedule.

LARRY

[DISTASTE]

You have no idea. . .how little that means to me or how reassured, I am not. Has anybody, even APPROACHED [SAID WITH DISGUST] Doctor. . .Jennings to ascertain her interest in taking over the lead for Gustav?

JOYCLYN

That's another reason why we have one of the original initiation team flying down here Waynewright! Normally you'd gage the interest and competency; ensuring Doctor Jennings would be a value-add. With you not being here, this egghead will be able to explain all the scientific bits and bobs you lot work on.

LARRY

[ADMITTINGLY]

I suppose. . .as I'll be off receiving the highest scientific laurels and recognition; this is a reasonable secondary plan. Are all the security precautions in place given the presence of the Norwegians?

JOYCLYN

Yes Waynewright! I know how to do my job! Now, if your ego and apprehension have both been fed; I have more of my job to perform.

LARRY

[DEEP BREATH] Yes. . .by all means. You may go now.

**HARD FOOTSTEPS OUT OF THE OFFICE AND CLOSING THE DOOR**

JOYCLYN

Fucking wanker!

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

**ACT III**

FADE IN.

KENDRA

. . .dehydrated. Sweetie! Hangovers down here are nothing to fool with. They're more intense, both in a desert environment and at this altitude. Sitting in the greenhouse, with the relative humidity in the air was a great thought, but this will help your head & body faster.

BASS

Don't know if it's all the water, spending an hour in the greenhouse earlier or just having you here, but I'm feeling better already.

KENDRA

Just. . .mmmm, just promise me you'll go easy on the drinking tonight please!

BASS

Oh, after everything this morning, I have ZERO intention of enjoying anything more than a sip of champagne for the evening toast.

KENDRA

How late did you all stay up last night?

BASS

You mean this morning? Um, what time did you turn in?

KENDRA

11 P.M. Reno needed to lock up the bar and clean up. You and the Trolls paid for a few bottles and the last I saw you all were heading to the B-1 lounge.

BASS

I have no memory. . .of any of that!

KENDRA

By 10, Zeke and I convinced you to handover your gun since you were getting. . .um, really into the evening. Zeke went to your berth and put it in the desk safe and came back. That was, right around the time you were serenading me. . .badly!

BASS

[EMBARASSED]

Oh, please no! Tell me I didn't!

KENDRA

Oh, you did! You grabbed the Karaoke mic, got up on stage and belted out the BEST version of 'Natural Woman' by Aretha Franklin!

BASS

I'm so embarrassed!

KENDRA

Oh don't be! It was so cute to see you let your guard down for once! It was *wonderful* sweetie to get to see that side of you.

BASS

Still embarrassed.

KENDRA

At least you were singing to me as opposed to Zeke!

BASS

[SIGH] Point taken. What's in this water? It tastes kinda. . .chalky.

KENDRA

Electrolyte powder. It will help with the rehydration.

BASS

Okay. [BEAT] And what's with the I.V again?

KENDRA

I have you on D-five half normal saline with twenty K.C.L. at 100 CC's per hour. Water is great, but it has to go through your digestive system first. This goes direct into your

bloodstream. Should get you right as rain in a quarter of the time.

**BASS LEANS BACK IN CHAIR**

BASS  
THANKS FOR THIS DOC AMBROSE!

AMBROSE  
[FROM A DISTANCE]  
You're welcome numb-nutz!

BASS  
I think he's starting to like me. Kendra, aren't you supposed to be working now?

KENDRA  
I'm exactly where I need to be. Snuggling with my boyfriend while he's under the weather and helping him get back on the mend!

BASS  
Don't get me wrong. I love having you here; it's just; with the Trolls on station and everybody putting on their best faces, I don't want you to get in trouble.

KENDRA  
Yeah. Last thing I need is for my boss to find out I'm not at my desk. OH WAIT, Gustav left the station already, yeah...I'm boss-less for a few days!

BASS  
Has the NSF made the official offer to you on taking over Van Zandt's position on the dark sector lab?

KENDRA  
Not, officially. They're [HESITANT] I don't know it's odd really. From everything I've been hearing the last few months, I'm the early favorite to replace him.

BASS  
But?

KENDRA

But there hasn't been anything official sent. I mean, technically this just means the D.S.L. lab will be under Doctor Jovac as the station's lead scientist until a new division head is named. I just don't ever recall there being a gap in leadership like this before. On any of the programs!

BASS

You. . .think you'll take it, when the official offer gets made?

KENDRA

I think it's more; 'IF' then 'WHEN' sweetie.

BASS

I stand by what I said! When they offer it, will you accept.

KENDRA

[DEEP BREATH] If it's offered. Yes. Yes, I'd accept it. I mean it's going to be a lot more responsibility, more hours, I'll actually be supervising people, have to fill out grant reports, attend division head meetings. . .[REALIZATION] huh. I should be freaking out right about now. Stammering, having an anxiety build up. . .

BASS

Well; that just tells me you're not only confident in your own ability to do the job; but that any sense of trepidation or concern, doesn't exist.

KENDRA

No. No, its there. I promise you I have concerns. . .but. . .wow! I'm not used to. . .this.

BASS

I had no doubt you'd get here. Baby steps sweetheart, baby steps.

KENDRA

You're embarrassing me. Stop already. [CHANGE SUBJECT] so, what's on your agenda today?

BASS

Um. Informal lunch session with the Trolls to discuss station events over the last year. I'll be eating a salad as it's about the only think I imagine being able to keep down.

Helping Zeke after that with reinforcing the Galley to prevent any unnecessary damage from the inevitable wrestling that will break out. Get showered and dressed for the reception at 18:00; dinner at the head table at 19:00 and then to bed at 22:00. Their flight back to Troll II station departs at 03:00: so, it's going to be an early night. You um. . .you want to attend with me?

KENDRA

. . .and who says you never take me out anywhere! Of course, I'll come with you.

BASS

As my date. As my girlfriend, not just a scientist I'm escorting.

KENDRA

Yes sweetie, I got that part.

BASS

Wanted to make sure. [CHUCKLE] Last year after escorting Doctor McKendrick to the reception; the trolls assumed she was my date. I had to set them straight.

KENDRA

[AMUSED]

You & Helena? [CHUCKLE] Oh she'd have chewed you up and spit you out!

BASS

I assure you; I had no interest in a potential suspect. Attractive or otherwise!



KENDRA  
[PLAYFUL]  
So, then you *did* find her attractive!

BASS  
[DEFENSIVE]  
What? NO! I mean, yes she was an attractive woman, but I wasn't really interested in her. Like I said, she was a suspect in an ongoing murder investigation!

KENDRA  
[PLAYFUL]  
At the time, wasn't 'I' also a suspect in that same murder investigation?

BASS  
Um. . . . .

KENDRA  
You found *me* attractive and that didn't seem to stop you coming a courtin'!

BASS  
Well, that was; [STAMMER] that was different!

KENDRA  
umm-hmm. And just how exactly? For that matter, why didn't you escort *me* that evening?

BASS  
[DEFENSIVE]  
Because. . . .I don't even remember seeing you at the reception, or the dinner either!

KENDRA  
I'm sure it was because [SULTRY] Hel-Lane-ah had you so distracted!

BASS  
[TWO BEAT; REALIZES SHE'S FUCKING WITH HIM] I'm not answering any more questions without my lawyer present.

KENDRA  
OH MY GOD I seriously had you there for a moment!

BASS

Did not!

KENDRA

Did too! I had you squirming!

BASS

I'm dehydrated still. Head is. . .woo! Still a bit swimmy is all.

KENDRA

Do you, seriously know; just how madly I'm in love with you.

BASS

I have a basic idea.

AMBROSE

[FROM A DISTANCE]

Now I'm going to throw up! No kissing in my E.R. people. No spreading germs or your grade-school cooties in here! You'll contaminate the field.

BASS

Pick you up at 17:45 for the reception?

KENDRA

Make it 17:30. We'll see about those grade school cooties before we go!

**BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED.**

**ACT IV**

**FADE IN. WE'RE AT THE PRE DINNER-RECEPTION. STANDARD SOUNDS OF PEOPLE POLITING CHATTING. SOFT CLASICAL MUSIC AND LITE FINGER FOODS BEING ENJOYED.**

ISELIN

Bass, hello again my friend!

BASS

Doctor Nybo, nice to see you once again!

ISELIN

Bass, last night you promised us. . .no more titles. You are vår familie, vår bror now! You promised to marry your Mister Kelley off to me last night! Some vows. . .cannot be taken back.

BASS

[MORTIFIED]

I did what?

ISELIN

[LAUGH] Oh, I am sorry Bass! Your, your best friend Ezekiel said we should all make up stories about you drinking last night. I thought I could keep a better; how do you say. . .poker face?

BASS

I'm. . .going to have to have a chat with chief Bustamante. I've been hearing stories all day of the things I did last night. I didn't realize there was a coordinated plot to exaggerate events!

ISELIN

It was . . .is a funny joke. Your friend was right; seeing you like that last night. . .we were seeing the *real* you! Plus, let me tell you this with no joking. . .you, Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. . .must have some Norwegian in your blood! You drink like you love. You love, like you live. Your heart will melt any ice. Your spirit will not be contained!

BASS

Is, that a Norwegian saying?

ISELIN

I think it loses a lot in translation.

BASS

I disagree. It's as beautiful as the woman who relays it. For if she were the sun all who looked upon her beauty would go blind.

ISELIN

And you, Bass are full of the SHIT!

**BOTH LAUGH**

ISELIN

Bass. May I. . .speak in confidence with you now?

BASS

[ASSURING]

Absolutely. What is said stays with us.

**THE TWO WALK TO A CORNER, THE CROWD NOISE ABATES A BIT**

ISELIN

Bass, my government. They are worried about the position your President has taken. Not just externally, but in regard to Antarctica.

BASS

In all, candor. . .many of us are as well.

ISELIN

What does this mean. . . 'candor'?

BASS

In all honesty.

ISELIN

Thank you for explaining.

BASS

Docto. . .Iselin. Neither of our countries are strangers to international politics. Over the last few years, our president has opted to take. . .what many Americans have viewed as a more isolationist approach to world events.

It wasn't until the last few months that his policies started to become. . .uncomfortably xenophobic. His focus was on our usual boogiemen. .

ISELIN

Booger-Men?

BASS

[Chuckle] Villains. On our countries previous cultural villains. Russia, China, Iran.

Diplomatic relations have become strained; are now non-existent in relation to Iran. In the last six months we've seen the list grow to other nations we've had contentious relations with. There is a lot of fear. . .

ISELIN

That soon friends and long-time allies of the US will be added to the list.

BASS

Precisely.

ISELIN

This is our fear as well, Bass. The relationship we and many others have with the U.S. will be damaged. The sense of international corporation is felt no more intensely than here, on the ice. Troll, Scott, Concordia, Casey; all stations worry; about the long term impacts these decisions will have.

BASS

I have to admit. . .President Campbell's actions; restricting foreign access to US maintained stations. . .conflicts with portions of the Antarctic treaty we signed. Mister Kelley said it's Article seven?

ISELIN

Free and open inspection of any station in Antarctica. We are nervous on what may happen if the United States rejects a foreign inspection party from another nation.

BASS

You said 'we'. I sense you're not referencing the other scientists.

ISELIN

I mean we; to say the other international collection of research stations. Argentina, New Zealand, France, the U.K. ,ourselves. The United States withdrawing; or even worse to contemplate. . .being ejected from the treaty has all the other treaty members on edge.

BASS

I admit; it's not something I want to see happen; but at most we'd have to pack up and leave the continent I suspect. Work from the other nations would I'm sure continue.

ISELIN

I believe you undervalue the role you Americans play here. Seven nations, my own included have historical claims going back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century inside of Antarctica. After the treaty was signed is put a halt on all claims. It said no one claim was acknowledge or denied, that existing claims could not be added to or reduced. . .in essence; it helped pause countries trying to expand their territory.

Even absent the treaty; America refused to acknowledge a single territorial claim. From anyone, even close allies; and on top of this; refused to claim any land for themselves!

BASS

I; I wasn't aware of the history.

ISELIN

Scientifically, your nation has been on the forefront of some wonderful and innovative discoveries over the last hundred years. Also, many which are frightening! America has been a cornerstone, the. . .uh. . .lim? The uh. .sticky stuff that holds. . .

BASS

Glue?

ISELIN

Yes! Thank you, yes, the glue. America has been the glue that helped keep the treaty going for so long and with little to no disagreements, until recently. Russia's recent & regional actions caused the rest of us to suspend scientific corporation on the continent.

The worst kept secret is China looking to establish a covert military presence on Inexpressible Island; 200 miles from your McMurdo

station. Should America formally withdrawal, or if they reversed policies and formalize their own claim.. .

BASS

So, you're saying. . .

ISELIN

I'm only speculating. Hypothesizing. Were there to be a fractioning of the treaty; especially one caused by or in reaction to policies of your current administration, the outcome would be. . . extremely worrisome!

### **HEALS APPROACH**

JOVAC

[AS IF HERDING CATS]

Now, now Doctor Jennings. Mustin go bumping into. . into things! [Mumble something, high heels long legs)

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

Here you two are! Sweetie: weren't you going to introduce us?

BASS

Absolutely! Doctor Iselin: Doctor Jovac I believe you already know; but may I introduce Doctor Kendra Jennings. Cosmologist and Physicists , Dark sector lab.

KENDRA

Ahem.

BASS

Also, my girlfriend. Doctor Jennings: this is Doctor Iselin Nybo, climatologist and lead researcher on the Troll II science station.

ESILIN

[WARM GREETING TO KENDRA]

Doctor.

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

Doctor.

ESILIN  
[WARM GREETING TO JOVAC]

Doctor.

JOVAC  
Doctor!

KENDRA  
[TISPY, to JOVAC]  
Doctor.

JOVAC  
[CONFUSED]  
Doctor!

BASS  
Wow! That actually happens?

JOVAC  
Well, now that I have properly escorted Doctor Jennings, over and into safe hands, I need to head back over to the charades game.

KENDRA  
[TISPY]  
Welcome back to Amundsen Scott Doctor; and may I also say it's wonderful to be able to thank you in person for saving Bass last season. I'm sorry we weren't able to chat last night at . . .at your arrival!

ESILIN  
It was our pleasure to help the Ice Sheriff and others. I must say I do appreciate your earrings this evening!

KENDRA  
Why thank you! I didn't expect we'd have many formal events at the station, but I did pack a few pieces and a dress or two, just in case. Have you by chance had an opportunity to review the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change's report this year?

ESILIN



I was part of working group II! We published our findings in February of this year to the I.P.C.C. I'm impressed that we captured the interest of a physicists!

KENDRA

Oh, I'm absolutely fascinated with the subject. I firmly believe the updated data from AR5 to AR6 and using the single-model initial-condition large ensembles have improved our understanding of the impact of internal variability on the forced changes.

BASS

[TRYING TO KEEP UP]

I'm. . .quite fond of the A.R. 15 myself.  
{nervous chuckle} it's a. . .rifle. Ice.Sheriff.

KENDRA

Oh sweetie, I'm so sorry. Why don't you run and get me a plate while Doctor Nybo and I talk. . .you know, girl stuff! We wouldn't want to bore you.

BASS

[UNSURE HOW TO ACT]

I um. ..okay I guess. . .

KENDRA

I'm sorry, I'm forgetting my manners. Doctor Nybo, can I have him get you anything as well?

ESILIN

[ABSOLUTLEY LOVING THIS]

Oh Ja! Absolutely! Another glass of champaign please. Oh, and one of those hot dogs in the pastry wrap please!

BASS

[EYEING KENDRA]

Sure! If you Doctors will excuse me; I'll be right back with your. . .order!

**BOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY. WE HEAR THE DOCTORS EXCHANGING PLESENTRIES AS BASS NAVIGATES THE ROOM. WE FADE OUT.**

**ACT V**

**FADE IN.**

**DINNER IS WINDING DOWN. PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED AT THE HEAD TABLE TO MINGLE AND DISCUSS EVENTS WITH THE VISITING SCIENTIST.**

NORWEIGAN I

[IN NORWEIGAN]

So, the husband walks into the garage and says.  
If my wife was out here, then where is my sister?

ESILIN

His jokes are nowhere near as funny as he thinks,  
so just laugh politely; he doesn't understand  
English!

**EVERYBODY CHUCKLES, CLAPS A BIT**

ESILIN

So, Doctor Waynewright. Will you have time to see  
any sights in Sweden after receiving the award in  
Stockholm?

LARRY

Hrmm. . .oh, unfortunately no. The Nobel  
committee has all the winners set up for  
interviews over the weekend; and afterwards I'm  
set to return back here to the station.

ESILIN

That is a shame. It is very beautiful this time  
of year. I think you would enjoy it very much.

KENDRA

How long have you been on the Ice Esilin?

ESILIN

Five years. I'll be departing at the end of the  
summer season to spend nine months back at home,  
and then return for a few years more. I would not  
be telling the whole truth if I said I wasn't  
excited.

**FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING**

THOMAS

Excuse the interruption, Doctors. Um. Agent Fowler, Flight one-one-two is about to land. You're being requested at Pax terminal.

**CHAIR SLIDES BACK**

JOYCLYN

As exciting as all this is. . duty calls. [TWO BEAT] don't bother getting up Marshmellow!

BASS

Wasn't going to., Norwegian.

ZEKE

[UNDER HIS BREATH]

Damn that's a burn!

**FOOTSTEPS LEADING AWAY. JOYCLYN MUTTERS SOMETHING ABOUT BEING DAMNED TIME AS THEY GO OUT OF EARSHOT.**

LARRY

Well Doctors; as like you; I have an early flight out tomorrow morning, I regrettably must bid you all a pleasant evening.

**HIS CHAIR SCOOTs BACK**

LARRY

Doctor

NORWEIGAN II

Doktor

LARRY

Doctor

EISLIN

Doctor

LARRY

Doctor

NORWEIGAN I

Doktor!

**ZEKE LEANS INTO BASS**

ZEKE

First time you seen this, Lawman?

BASS

I saw it earlier this evening, I thought. . .you know. .

ZEKE

Just on the T.V.? Nah, they be doing this all the time. Why their conference calls last five minutes longer than necessary.

LARRY

Doctor

KENDRA

Doctor

LARRY

Doctor

JOVAC

Doctor

**THE DOCTOR CALAVCADE ENDS AND THE SMALL GROUP SITS BACK DOWN.**

**POLITE CROWD BANTER AT THE TABLE**

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

Sweetie, thank you so much for this evening. I absolutely ADRORE the trolls. They are so. . full of life! They live. . .like every day may be their last!

BASS

They are a lively bunch. That's for sure.

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

I just. . .I can't imagine all the things I've missed ; well before I started working on my Social Anxiety Disorder. All the experiences, this. . .zest for life they have it's. . .intoxicating!

BASS

Speaking of. . .

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

Oh. . .phooey! I'm just buzzed. I'm nowhere near; New Year's Eve drunk! Besides, I have a very charming and loving chaperone who will see me back safely to my birth.

BASS

Absolutely.

KENDRA

[FLIRTING]

Makes sure I'm all tucked into bed!

BASS

[BLUSHING]

Um. . .yes that too. The um, Doctor Norbinger is giving me the thumbs up and winking. I think he may know more English than Esilin is aware of.

ZEKE

Uh. . .Lawman.

BASS

You, only had half a glass all night?

KENDRA

[TIPSY]

Well! Maybe I should catch up then!

**SOUND OF THE GLASS BEING PIKCKED UP FROM THE TABLE**

ZEKE

[INSTANT, LOUD WHISPER]

BASS!

BASS

Zeke, what's. .

ZEKE

[MAKES A SOUND, TRYING TO DRAW BASS'  
ATTENTION TO THE GALLEY MONNITORS]

BASS

What. . .oh crap!

KENDRA

Ohhh, the bubbles tickle my nose. What. .what  
are you looking at. Ohhh, It's minus a hundred!

BASS & ZEKE

No, no no! Shhhhhh! Oh snap, here we go.

**THE NORWEIGANS SEE THE CURRENT TEMPRETURE AND GET EXCITED.**

ISELIN

This may be the last time we're able to visit for  
a while. Certainly, Ice Sheriff, you wouldn't  
deny us the opportunity! Not after. . .everything  
we've been through.

ZEKE

[IMPRESSED]

Damn they know you too well!

ISELIN

Once again, we would love to end this evening;  
with the excitement of the three-hundred club!  
Oh Kendra, please, you must join us!

BASS

[CONCERNDED]

Well, now I'm not sure. . .

KENDRA

[INSISTANT]

Sweetie, I'm sure I can speak for myself here.  
[DEEP BREATH] Yes, I've never participated before  
in all the time I've been here. I'd love to join  
you yes!

EISLIN

Oh wonderful! I'll call your Doktor Ambrose and let him know to meet us in the Sauna again. Fifteen minutes?

KENDRA

Oh, we'll see you there!

**FOOTSTEPS OFF**

KENDRA

Ooooooh I love her! She's like My Zeke!

BASS

Sweetie, I in NOOOOOO way am trying to imply I should say what you should or shouldn't do . . .as pertains. . .your own body but. . .as somebody who cares deeply for you; I do want to check to make sure this is you talking more than the alcohol!

KENDRA

[DEEP BREATH] Hydrogen, Helium, Lithium, Beryllium, Baron, Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Fluorine, Neon, Sodium, Magnesium. The first dozen elements on the table. I think I'm clear headed enough.

BASS

[RESIGNED]

Alright, but I'm sure you won't mind if I join you!

KENDRA

That was implied, yes!

ZEKE

You two have fun! One time was enough for me. I'm going to go tell my teams they can stand down for the night. Looks like we may go incident free for the first time during a Troll visit!

**FADE OUT**

**ACT VI**

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

**WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS WALKING DOWN THE HALL. ITS EVENING AT THE STATION AND ONLY A FEW PEOPLE ARE MINGLING IN THE HALLWAYS.**

JOYCLYN

. . .The two weeks that you're here on station, we have you in the A-Pod berths.

MAGDA

I want to see the data results for the last experiments Lawrence ran tomorrow morning. I'm also anxious to see the laboratory itself and determine just how much headache I'm in for given the modifications I've been told were made to my work.

JOYCLYN

Easily done. Jovac and Lorenz will meet you in the morning inside the lab. The announcement of your stay and oversight of the station will be made during the morning station announcements.

MAGDA

What is the name of the overly optimistic little man who runs operations again?

JOYCLYN

Kelley. Thomas Kelley.

MAGDA

Have him report to my office at eight AM. Can't expect you to be at my side the entire time. I'll have him start working on improving things at this. . . .

Why are there naked people running around like primates outside?

JOYCLYN

Station activity. They call it the three hundred club. When outside temperatures reach minus 100, they sit in a Sauna at two hundred and then run outside.



MAGDA

[ANGRY]

And Lawrence permits this. . .foolishness?

JOYCLYN

Apparently so.

**WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS COMING UP TO D.Z. STAIRS AND THE DOOR TO OUTSIDE OPENS. SHIVERING, BUT ELATED VOICES ENTER THE STATION**

AMBROSE

Come on doctors! Back into the Sauna so I can check everybody's vitals! I'll be there as soon as the last two get in here.

**FOOTSTEPS MAGDA AND JOYCLYN APPROACH AMBROSE**

JOYCLYN

This is the station's chief medical doctor.  
Julian Ambrose.

AMBROSE

Always a pleasure to meet new people; but if you'll pardon me for now; I need to ensure these two ignoramus get back inside before . .

**DOOR OPENS. BOTH BASS AND KENDRA ARE GIDDY.**

KENDRA

[SHIVERING]

My god that was a rush! My endorphin levels are through the ceiling now.

AMBROSE

Alright you two; into the Sauna immediately. I'm sure our guest here has more pressing things.

KENDRA

[MORTIFIED]

MOTHER?!?!?!?

MAGDA

Hello Kendra. I see you've made progress with your social anxiety!

KENDRA  
Oh no! Oh no! Please no!

BASS  
[EMBARASSED]  
[CLEARS THROAT] It's uh . . .I'm excited to meet  
you, Professor Jennings!

MAGDA  
[SNIPPY]  
Yes, young man. I believe we all are witness to  
your. . .excitement.

AMBROSE  
Introductions later, Sauna. . .NOW people.

**NAKED FOOTSTEPS RUSING TO THE SAUNA.**

AMBROSE  
[MUTTERING]  
Seriously, every year? I go through my routine,  
but none of these morons listen to me. Just a  
medical doctor. . . .

MAGDA  
Obviously, nobody was notified to expect my  
arrival other than you!

JOYCLYN  
Yes, I do believe that is the case. [SLY CHUCKLE]

**OUTRO AND CREDITS**