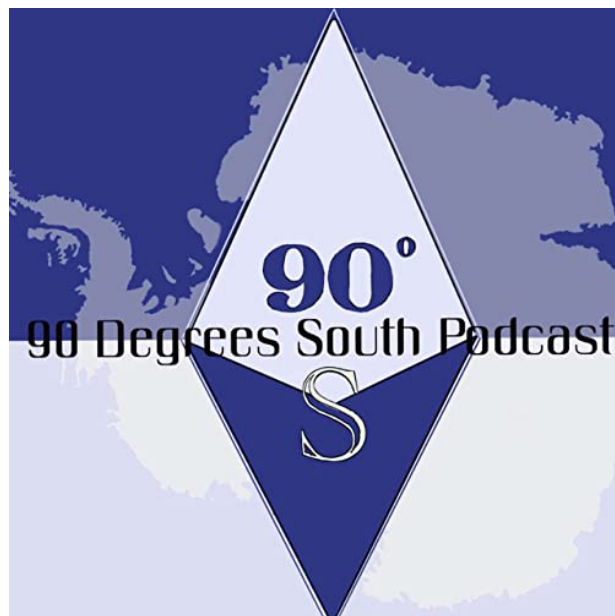


90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE
EPISODE SIX: THE UNINVITED

DRAFT 1: OCT 24, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

INTRO & CREDITS

ACT I

DIGITAL RECORDER START

BASS

United States Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Today is November 20th, 2022, and the current time is oh-six-thirty hours. Sabotage of C-130 plane and station investigation continues.

I've set to meet with the stations. . . .um. . . .legal expert later today wo has indicated he's made headway with what the circumstances were behind the court seal on documents pertaining to Chaz Wilford. It apparently took very little effort given connections he still had within the US court system. Not sure If I should be, impressed or alarmed!

Have an interview set up with one of the main three suspects of interest in my investigation. Sabine Greer: Cargo loader and was both in close proximity of both the plane and the tampered desktop system during the time the virus had been introduced.

This isn't a smoking gun; by any stretch, however; nobody else I've interviewed or review of assigned duty roster showed being in both locations at the time of tampering.

Our third prime suspect. . .is our resident blaster; Maurice Lamance. Oh. . .um for the record and as I'm sure the Marshal's service isn't familiar with the. . .uh. . . a 'blaster' is the individual who is assigned to use commercial grade explosives On the Ice. They measure, place, wires and detonates explosives in accordance with relevant technical/safety instructions and necessary station/camp field safety procedures.

Mister. . .LaManche has a very. . .interesting work record. Not to mention background with having worked as an eighty-Nine Delta is the U.S. Army. Explosive Ordnance Disposal. (SIGH) He's

also nutty as a fruitcake! Zeke typically just gives him a wide berth!

OH! The final tally on the Dream Wax shipment came in. Whoever sent the shipment; Chinese Organized Crime most likely will be out two point two-five billion U.S. dollars. It's been officially labeled as the largest drug interdiction in history. Thankfully, the media interest has almost completely died down. Only one or two interview requests a day now.

On the personal side, our glorious leader Doctor Waynewright arrived in Stockholm a few days ago to accept the Nobel Prize for his ...AHM work in Astrophysics, proving and devising a method to locate Dark Matter. Or put another way. . .being given for all the credit by Beauregard-Lowing for work that Josh Nichols; murderer of Doctor Rodney created.

The station is televising the Nobel Ceremony live in the large conference room. Nine A.M. Stockholm time; Eight P.M. station time. Thus far nobody has signed up to watch.

Doctor Jennings. . .that is to say. . .MY, Doctor Kendra Jennings has elected to take all her leave and sick time since the arrival of her mother. Professor Magda Beckett-Jennings. It's been a week since her mother's arrival and she hasn't stepped one foot out of her Berth. I've been bringing food and items into her. She's stated she won't come out until Professor Jennings is off-station.

The two of them have. . .have had a rather contentious history. The fact that her reunion with her mother had her. . .had both of us naked at the time certainly didn't help. Thank you SO MUCH Joyclyn!

I'm going to try and help smooth things over later today. After interviews are over. I'm worried. Worried this will be a step backwards for Kendra. Her stuttering, her lack of self-

confidence, her. . .social anxiety disorder; all of it is back with a vengeance.

She's come so far. So many strides she's accomplished. . .I'm torn. Torn between wanting to help solve this. Torn by not feeling I'm supporting her enough. Torn that I'm not able to put a bullet into Joycelyn's forehead.

For the record. . .that is a metaphorical bullet, and I am in no way indicating a premeditated motive to commit homicide.

Okay, best to end this before I implicate myself in anything! This is Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Sabotage of C-130 plane and station investigation continuing.

DIGITAL RECORDER BEEP OFF

ACT II

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED

FOOTSTEPS ON THE METAL PLANKS. WE'RE IN THE GENERATOR ARCH. WE HEAR BASS' STEPS AND A DOOR OPENING. WE'RE IN FRANKLIN'S ROOM ONCE AGAIN. THE SOUNDS OF CELL PHONE TYPING BECOMES MORE APPEARENT AS BASS APPROACHES.

BASS
Morning Franklin.

FRANKLIN
[HUMAN]
Hrm? Oh, good morning Javert!

BASS
You said you had something for me? Something you found researching the sealed files on Chaz Wilford.

FRANKLIN
Indeed. . .just. . . one. . . .moment. . . .and
SEND!

CLICKING KEYS END.

BASS
[FEIGN CUROSITY]
Legal work?

FRANKLIN
Oh no! Just messing with people on Reddit again. Nothing like crushing the righteous indignation of a bunch of socially abhorrent hipsters, taking up space in college classrooms.

BASS
Which was it this time? Supporting or railing against the current US administration's policies?

FRANKLIN
Political Redit? [PUKING SOUND] That's so 2016! No, I'm pitting K-pop kids against Death metal fans.

BASS

Yeah, sounds so very. . . anyway; so, you found something of interest?

FRANKLIN

Oh indeed! Took some digging. A favor here and there. Reverting ownership on some legal dues owed. . . but I got some interesting results.

BASS

Okay. And?

FRANKLIN

Your suspect Mister Wilford: wanted on a bench warrant for failure to appear before a criminal court on a summons and then MAGICALLY let go. . . works for the Government.

BASS

He. . . still works for the Government, councilor. The National Science Foundation is the government.

FRANKLIN

Oh no you sweet, sweet innocent chowder-brained farm bumpkin! Not the N.S.F; lower case 'g'. He was with the government with a Capital G. As in General Service 15.

BASS

[SURPRISED]

He was a G.S. 15? I'm only a G.S. 13; after almost twenty years! Who was he with? And the hell is a G.S. 15 doing down here?

FRANKLIN

That's the curious part! With all this cloak and dagger environment you humans enjoy; I first suspected US department of defense. Maybe Justice. But no. Department of Energy.

BASS

The D.O.E.? That makes zero sense. [SUSPICIOUS]
You sure your sources are reliable? Not just trying to regain parts of their soul?

FRANKLIN

[CHUCKLE] Doesn't work like that. You see; for something of that much value to be restored, the exchange only works if the intent is genuine. The offering to restore is. . .of value. How can I put this for your tiny brain to. . .oh hey. . .got it. If it isn't true, it doesn't shine. . .[DEMON] and its always Franklin's time to shine!

BASS

Yeah. . .that didn't make it any clearer.

FRANKLIN

[DEMON]

Oh! Um. . .if me smelly the cheaty-cheaty then me no dealy-dealy?

BASS

You don't need to be an ass about it. Just say it's a demon ability. Wouldn't be the strangest thing I've heard. So, who tipped off the court of what I'm assuming was his government clearance and had the bench warrant squashed?

FRANKLIN

[DEMON]

Um. . .hold on I have it right. . .swipe down, swipe down. . .wow my eyes are getting bad. Really need an eye exam!

BASS

[RELATES]

Oh man, tell me about it! Words that used to be clear, getting all fuzzy.

FRANKLIN

That's nothing. You ever try to read cuneiform in a cave by candlelight? It's like eye strain on crystal meth! Damn Sumerians! It's because of them we established a vision plan!

BASS

Hell, has health benefits? Seems kind of contradictory really.

FRANKLIN

[DEMON]

We have. . .what they call benefits. Not Blue Cross Blue Shield by any stretch. We got stuck with Kaiser. . ah here it is. [HUMAN] Okay. . .It was sent by General J. Gordon. Cosigned by the Massachusetts attorney General's office.

BASS

So. . .again, this begs the question, why is he down here? Working in a logistics position at the south pole. He obviously has money already, friends in high political office who were able to get him off the hook for not appearing to testify.

FRANKLIN

Can't do all the investigation work for you Javert. This should give you the info you need to help piece together a few more parts of the puzzle you're working on.

BASS

[CONTEMPLATING]

Gonna need to think on this for a bit. If I dig too deep too fast; could tip off him or his handlers.

FRANKLIN

Assuming he's a mole.

BASS

Assuming he is indeed a mole. Then again, there could be a very simple explanation for all this. Something I could get cleared up by asking. Or spook him into rabbiting if he is indeed guilty. Need to figure on how to play this just right. .

.

DING FROM FRANKLIN'S CELL PHONE

FRANKLIN

And if you'll excuse me Javert,

CLICKING KEYS ON CELL PHONE ONCE AGAIN

I need to school . . .ThunbergFan223 on Reddit on how B.T.S. are nothing more than glorified karaoke kids and will never touch the musical aptitude of Morbid Angel.

BASS STANDS AND STARTS WALKING OUT.

BASS
Everybody needs a hobby, I guess.

CELLPHONE KEYS CLICKING

FRANKLIN
Permission.to.Dance.My.Ass. More. like.
permission. To.suck.hard. HOW DARE **YOU** THUNBERG
FAN223!

DOOR CLOSSES, FOOTSTEPS BACK DOWN THE HALL

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED

ACT III

FADE IN.
WALKING THROUGH THE ELEVATED STATION. A DOOR OPENS AND WE HEAR THE STANDARD SOUNDS OF THE STATION'S OPERATIONS CENTER. BASS CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM AND WALKS OVER THE CHERYL-LYNN'S DESK.

BASS
Morning Ms. June. Is she in?

CHERYL-LYNN
Unfortunately...yes. Oh lord, I'm really trying down here, but [DEEP BREATH] I'm sure, she is a VERY lovely person. . .in her own way.

BASS
Look on the bright said; Doctor Waynewright will be back on station next week. . .[REALIZE WHAT HE JUST SAID] and I can't believe that is a bright side!

CHERYL-LYNN

[LOWERS HER VOICE]

Right?!?!? Never thought I'd see the day where I was missing Doctor Grumpy-pants. Bless his heart. But this one though. . .I can't wait for her to leave. Driving everybody up the wall. Well, everybody except. . .

QUICK STEPS APPROACHING, THOMAS TALKING AS HE PASSES THEM BY

BASS

Yeah. . .I heard.

THOMAS

[HAPPIEST HE'S BEEN IN A WHILE]

Here you go Professor Beckett-Jennings; late morning tea just the WAY you like it. Oolong, loose not bagged, steeped three minutes, almond milk, warmed separately, precisely five milliliters of sugar, granulated and not raw with two M.L. of Sri Lanka Ceylon cinnamon!

CHERYL-LYNN

I haven't seen him this giddy, since the last version of Excel was released.

BASS

I'm going to take my chances. See if I can't help reduce the stress during the last week she's here. Make life a bit easier, with whatever the problem is.

CHERYL-LYNN

[BEING CATTY]

Maybe she just doesn't realize a Medicaid card and a dress like hers don't belong on the same woman!

BASS WALKS DOWN THE HALL, PASSES THOMAS ON HIS WAY OUT

THOMAS

[HAPPY]

Oops! Pardon me Deputy Marshal! Need to go locate
Rhubarb and custard for this afternoon! So
wonderful!

**WE HEAR THE ODD TICKING OF A METRANOME AS HE APPROACH'S THE
OFFICE. BASS KNOCKS ON THE FRAME OF THE OPEN DOOR.**

BASS

Pardon me Professor. May I speak with you.

MAGDA

[UNINTRESTED]

Supervisory Deputy Marshal Marlow. What will this
line of conversation pertain to young man?

BASS

Well, this may be a bit awkward. . .

MAGDA

Oh, come now dear. I do believe we left awkward
behind us. No doubt in the same place you
deposited your shirt and trousers before
welcoming me on station in a traditional bohemian
manner. Oh, and with my eldest daughter
accompanying you!

BASS

How wonderful, you remembered me! Professor
Jennings. . .

MAGDA

[CORRECTING]

Beckett.Jennings

BASS

[BEAT] Of course. Professor Beckett-Jennings.
That is the topic I'm here, regarding. Kendra.

MAGDA

So, this is a social call rather than professional or station business.

BASS

It is, both Professor.

MAGDA

Young man, I've been asked to provide temporary governance over the scientific operations of this research facility. Not to act as a Nursemaid to a station full of bacchanalian revelers.

BASS

Okay. The Dark Sector Lab has been without leadership for over three weeks now and I'm sure productivity has diminished.

MAGDA

I assure you I'm aware. Not only am I supporting oversight of the station in Lawrence's absence; I was sent here to interview a prime candidate for Doctor van Zandt's position. It seems; however, the candidate has come down with some ailment and is indisposed.

BASS

There is a very simple solution, Professor! One that would remedy the absence of a division leader and return operations to normal.

MAGDA

Supervisory Deputy Marshal. As I understand and have read; your position on this station is one of security and enforcement of U.S. laws; not as a scientist or supporting research advisory role. I would thank you to remember such going forward.

BASS

[FLABBERGASTED]

So. . .you're not the least bit interested in Kendra or how she has been? What. . .remarkable circumstances must have taken place to see her not only deal with her social anxiety; but to thrive! To have become a cornerstone of the Science and staff operations here at the pole.

MAGDA

How Kendra chooses to behave and act in her private life is no longer a reflection upon me and I will not have it be regarded as such. Now.
. . .

FLIPPING PAPERS

I see here Dr. Karloff at McMurdo station requested your presence on-site for an enforcement related matter. Shouldn't you be heading off?

BASS

She embarrassed you. Is that . . .is that what you're telling me? Look, obviously there is. . .a complex history between you two; more than in just the last week; but this is Kendra. You can't just treat her like any other Scientist or worker. She's your daughter for God's sake!

MAGDA

I'm aware of who my children are, dear. Now, do you have anything of operational pertinence to discuss with me? My tea is still warm, and I'd like to enjoy it.

BASS

No. Nothing of pertinence. Thank you for your time, Professor. Enjoy your afternoon tea, oh and be careful it doesn't melt that cold interior where your heart used to reside.

FOOTSTEPS AWAY

FADE OUT AS BASS GOES THROUGH OPERATIONS.

ACT IV

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED

BASS

Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. Today is November 20th, twenty-twenty-two and the current time is 17:00 Hours. I'm in the small conference room and with me currently is station cargo loader, Ms. Sabine Greer.

Ms. Greer, before we start, and this is just routine. I want to make sure you are aware this is one hundred percent a voluntary interview. You are not under arrest; you are not being detained. You are free to get up and leave at any time you wish. No charges or allegations have been made against you; this is simply an interview. Do you understand?

SABINE

I understand.

BASS

Okay. In one of our last interviews. . .you mentioned Chief Bustamante had to speak with you regarding the ice cores being brought to the station?

SABINE

Yeah, he did. I'm sorry if Doc Waynewright doesn't care about people or their feelings; but that doesn't mean the rest of us can just. . . you know. . .shut all that off.

BASS

Oh, I get it, and trust me; Doctor Waynewright isn't one of my favorite people either.

SABINE

Piece of shi. . .he don't hear none of this right?

BASS

No ma'am. I'm the only person who hears it.

SABINE

He's a piece of shit then.

BASS

[CHUCKLE] Not going to argue that with you.

SABINE

You know he told Zeke come talk to me?

BASS

He mentioned.

SABINE

He need Jesus!

[THREE BEAT]

SABINE

What?

BASS

Nothing, it's just. . .

SABINE

Oh! You mean getting Hay*sus to show up. Yeah, that only works when Zeke does it. Weirdest thing right? [LEANS In, QUIETLY] You know what *I* think?

BASS

What's that?

SABINE

I think it's like that Vampire movie. That shit don't work, unless you really BELIEVE. SHIT! Zeke the most holy man I know! Of course, it would work on him.

BASS

Interesting. Okay. . .back to the events of the day. You said. . .

PAPERS FLIPPING

Okay, you said Zeke pulled you aside. Said he got why you were upset, that he was upset too cause. . .okay, we aren't boyfriends Ms. Greer!

SABINE

Hey, I don't judge. Only Big man gets to judge people. You too have some sugar, ain't none my business!

BASS

We're not an item Ms. Greer! He's like. . .he's like a baby brother to me.

SABINE

Oh, he ain't that much younger than you!

BASS

Five years.

SABINE

You almost fifty?

BASS

Yes ma'am.

SABINE

DAMN! Baby you don't look it.

BASS

Well, thank you for that.

SABINE

What keeping you looking so young? No booze, no sugar diet, something like that?

BASS

Off subject again. Can we. . .

SABINE

I'm just saying. Some of us would KILL to look like they still thirty-five. [REALISES] Wait! I don't mean like kill -KILL!

BASS

I understand.

SABINE

No! Really. I never killed anybody. I mean, sure; I could make up a list of guys I knew.

BASS

Lets. . .Ms. Greer. Let's get back to that day.

SABINE

Right! Right! Okay. So. . .where we leave off?

BASS

Zeke. Came to talk to you. You were upset.

SABINE

Right right right. So yeah. Zeke made it clear. Head in the game. He was upset too. His boy. . .best friend was out there too. Focus on work.

BASS

Okay. Got it. Let's go back to the day the plane with me on it took off.

SABINE

Okay. Where do you want to start?

BASS

Let's start during the morning. You started loading the plane up?

SABINE

We started loading the pallets of materials into the plane. Materials being off-loaded to the mainland. Waste, used consumables, items being retired in favor of new items.

BASS

Do you recall how many pallets?

SABINE

I don't know. Ten, Twenty. It was the last transport off the station for that season, so. . .alot.

BASS

After you were done loading?

SABINE

We signed off on the upload, the plane cargo hold was sealed; we started the loading shutdown procedure for the season and went to go get breakfast.

BASS

Okay. What time was this, again?

SABINE

We broke at 8:30. There was like. . . six of us on loading that morning. Zeke said he and the rest of the DeWalts had everything else, so go on and get breakfast. Lunch Lady Alice was serving Grits that morning. I love me some grits!

BASS

Okay. What else do you remember from that morning?

SABINE

Uh, well. Everybody up working in the station were shuffling about. Getting ready for the winter season and seeing people off. Galley was quiet that morning. Always strange that first day when that quiet sets in.

I remember, Chris and Emery coming in and going on about one of their cartoon things, like always. We heard Doctor Jennings singing her song on the P.A. I don't really like country music; but it was alright I guess.

After that, took my bowl of grits and walked down to operations so I could see your plane take off.

BASS

And that's when you saw the person.

SABINE

Like I told you last time. I saw somebody in one of our jumpsuits, under the operations workbench fiddling with something. Shit! Maintenance during season staff changes ain't nothing new, so I didn't think twice about it.

BASS

Okay. . .I'm going to ask you to close your eyes and think. REALLY think hard when looking back.

SABINE

Okay, whatever you need. [DEEP BREATH]

BASS

You have your bowl of Grits. You've had a couple spoons already and can still taste the melted butter and honey in your mouth.

SABINE

Oh baby, you killin' me right now.

BASS

Walking down the A Pod corridor. It's really quiet, just that hum of the station heaters. Heading down by ops and you see. . .

SABINE

Some guy under the workbench.

BASS

And he has on. . .

SABINE

Gray DeWalt work suit. He's on his back, working on one of the computers under.

BASS

You're sure that it's a 'he.'

SABINE

All that padding, the size. Honey!, I know all the DeWalts. Only queens we have close to that size were down working with Zeke. He even say so.

BASS

How long did you see him for when you walked by.

SABINE

Three. Four seconds maybe.

BASS

Okay, try to hold onto that memory for a few more seconds. You said he had a bag of tools with him?

SABINE

I mean, I guess it was his. It was on the floor by him, open with a tool laying on the floor next to it.

BASS

Any chance you remember seeing anything about their face.

SABINE

No, I'm sorry baby. They had their knees up, almost touching the bottom of the the workbench. I couldn't see nothing up that way.

BASS

Okay. I think we're good here. I appreciate you stopping by to talk to me again.

SABINE

No problem. I have you find them soon.

CHAIR SCOOTS BACK, FOOTSTEPS OUT AND DOOR CLOSES.

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED

ACT V

FADE IN. BASS IS IN THE HALLWAY OF THE B-POD BERTHS. LIGHTLY KNOCKING ON A DOOR.

KENDRA

[FROM BEHIND THE DOOR]

Please go away! I don't. . . I don't feel. . . .I
don't. . . feel very good.

BASS

Sweetie, it's Bass. Will you please open the
door?

KENDRA

[FROM BEHIND THE DOOR]

Is she off the um. . has she left. . .I mean; to
say. .did she leave yet?

BASS

[DEEP SIGH] No. She's still here.

KENDRA

[FROM BEHIND THE DOOR]

Well then I still. . .I'm not. . .I am really. .
.Yeah, I don't feel very well and don't want.

BASS

Baby, it's me! Please, will you let me come in?

[THREE BEAT]

SOUND OF A DOOR UNLOCKING

BASS

Thank you.

DOOR CREAKS OPEN

BASS

Sweetie I. . .[CLEAR THROAT] Sweetheart? When was
the last time you cleaned in here?

KENDRA

Oh. OH! So not only. . .I'm. . .I'm not good
enough. . .I have, NO PLACE in. . .but I. . .I
also.

BASS

Honey, I'm just. . .[DEEP BREATH] I'm very
worried about you. I haven't ever seen you. .

KENDRA

She's. . .she the absolute WORST, Bass! You have.
. .no idea what. . .growing up with; I mean she's
always been. .

BASS

I can't even FATHOM what you and your siblings
must have gone through growing up. I've only
interacted with her twice in the past week; but
that was enough to make my own opinion. Everybody
on station, she has them absolutely miserable.

Well. . .everybody but.

KENDRA

[WORRIED]

Oh my god! THOMAS! He must be getting it worst .
. .worst of everybody.

BASS

Actually, I don't think I've seen Mister Kelley
happier, more content at having a real challenge.
He's. .flourishing!

KENDRA

Oh . . .oh good. If anybody . . .I'm worried
about. . .it would be . . .[DEEP BREATH] Thomas!

BASS

Sweetie, Zeke said he saw Doctor Jovac , Lorenz
and Profes. . .your, mother heading into the
tunnels about an hour ago. Obviously, they're
doing something with the secret project. She'll
be sequestered for a while. Would you please come
out with me on station? Just for an hour or so to
get out!

KENDRA

[APREHENNSIVE]

Oh no way. . .NO WAY Bass! Last time i let my. .
.my guard. . .my inhibitions down, the. . . .SHE-
DEVIL appeared. I'm staying. . .right here
until I hear she's off station!

BASS

[CAUTIOUS, BUT FIRM]

So then. . .all the steps made in the last year.
The Baby steps. You're not willing to acknowledge
those? All that didn't mean anything.

KENDRA

[DEFENSIVE]

No. I didn't. . .that's not. . .Bass! You know
that's not what. . . .

BASS

I'm not saying that; Professor Beckett-Jennings
showing up wasn't stressful or jarring because. .
.[WAVES AROUND] well because your Berth now looks
like Emery and Chris' IT room and is *almost*
getting that same odor so OBVIOUSLY it stressed
you out.

KENDRA.

You. . .you don't have Anxiety . . .Social
Anxiety. . .[RIP INTO HIM SLIGHTLY] YOU DON'T
HAVE THIS!

AT THIS POINT, BASS REALISES! A RISKY PLAN FORMS

BASS

[CONFIDENT IN HIS WORDS, CALMING]

You are one hundred percent correct. I don't
suff. . .no, wrong choice of words. I don't
struggle, with the struggles you do. All I have
to relate to is what you've explained to me, so
in that sense. . .I'd like to think I have a
general idea.

KENDRA

[Chuckle] Yeah. . two Doctorates, a Masters and.
. .enough lifetime. . .experience to tell you
sweetie, you don't. I love you Bass! I love you
and that won't ever change, but. . .You need to
understand. . .I. .[TWO BEAT; PUNCTUATE THE NEXT
WORD, HARD!!] HATE. I **HATE** Magda Beckett! You
know me, you. . .you know me better than
anybody sweetheart, so you. . .you. . .[DEEP
BREATH] You know I don't use that word lightly. I
hesitate to ever use at all because it . .it's a
vile word, but. . .I.HATE.MY.MOTHER!

BASS

That is very apparent! From my own experience. .
.[QUALIFYING] not. . .not trying to say I relate
to what you're going through. Absolutely NOT
trying to compare or 'one-up'.

[BREATH] Your mother is a bully. An emotional
one as opposed to a physical one, obviously, but
a bully by the very definition.

KENDRA

Oh you have. . .NO idea Bass. Growing up [RAPID
MEMORIES HIT, ALL NEGITIVE] mmm-mmmmmmm. Growing
up, Devin was the Athlete. The strong one, the
fast one. You put a ball, or a stick, or a . .
.different ball in his hands and he was a
Maestro! On every team in High School and
College. He was very handsome. All the girls
would hover around him. And SMART!

It's never an area he focused much time on, but I
Swear to you he could have been an engineering
genius! He could fix ANYTHING with moving parts.
[FOND MEMORY] Cars. . .cars were his favorite!
[SNIFF]

But Mother. . .oh MOTHER didn't understand.
WOULDN'T understand the allure or appeal of
sporting events. She and my father used to get
into HEATED agreements about it.

I honestly think he joined the Marines just to
get away from her. And. . . .that decision got
him. . .SHE; got him. . . .[WIPES NOSE, SNIFFS]

Mary-Ellen; my younger sister. . .she left the
house at sixteen. Got herself emancipated the
same year my father passed. Wasn't hard to
prove. . . .prove a bad home life to the courts
with THAT woman! I was already off, attending
Harvard's physics program. [ANGRY] I know for a
FACT. . . .Mary and my mother haven't spoken in
over ten years. She's never met her own grand-
daughters and I suspect she doesn't even CARE
about that!

So, bullies, Bass? Yeah. I have some of my OWN experience with bullies. Yes, I know you're about to say that bullies like prying on easy targets, that the best way to deal with bullies is to fight back.

[DEEP BREATH / DEEP EXHAILE]

I'm so tired Bass. I'm tired of her behavior. I'm tired of her. . . .bullshit! I'm tired of her. I'm in my mid-thirty's sweetie, and I've only recently started to live. Started to enjoy. . .REALLY enjoy life because, no, to spite her.

BASS

You notice you're not stammering anymore?

KENDRA

[Lite Chuckle] Bass, let's get out of here, hand me some nicer clothes and let's take a walk, but I'm warning you right now. I best not hear a 'I told you so!' If the next two words out of your mouth aren't 'good job'; the third word will be "ow, ow my crotch, why did you punch me in my crotch!"

LITE FADE OUT

ACT VI

LITE FADE IN

FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE STATION'S UPPER MAIN COORIDOR. WE HEAR LITE MURMURS ALL AROUND, BUT THE MOOD IS NOT AS UP-BEAT S NORMAL. EVEYRBODY IS ANXIOUS, TENSE AND OVERWORKED. SOMBER. TIRED.

KENDRA

You weren't kidding Bass. Magda is doing a real number around here.

BASS

Ms. June and I were talking about that earlier. It's an odd thing when you're actually looking FORWARD to seeing Doctor Waynewright again.

KENDRA

I remember chatting with a few of her grad students one time. Several years after they had her as a professor. They said she may be the smartest instructor they ever had and were absolutely challenged to excel. But she had ZERO people skills or anything close to empathy. I'd love to have her sit with Sydney sometime. I'm almost positive she has Alexithymia!

BASS

I'm, I'm sorry I'm not familiar with that . . . term?

KENDRA

It's. . .it's not classified as a mental disorder really, it's . . .it means you are able to experience or express emotions. Any, emotion as others do. It's recognized as a personality trait I believe.

BASS

I don't want to pry, but does Mary-Ellen Suffer from anything similar? Did Devin?

KENDRA

No. Thankfully no. Neither of them had to experience anything; to the extent I have. [CHUCKLE] Most would think I inherited my gift for science and knowledge from Magda. No, her gift to me is Neurodivergence.

BASS

I don't agree. You told me before, everything you've accomplished. Everything you earned was earned by YOU! Your coming out of your shell. Making friends and connections here on the station. That's all you. She didn't have anything to do with that; inherited or otherwise and from where I stand, you don't own that woman a damned thing!

KENDRA

That's. . .that very sweet of you to say sweetie. You're right, or course!

BASS

[PLAYING]

Sorry, these old man ears didn't catch that. Say again?

KENDRA

My knee to your crotch is still an option here Bass!

BASS

[CHUCKLES] Hey, large conference room. They're televising the Nobel ceremony. Let's peak in for a moment and see. . .

DOOR OPENS. THE ROOM IS EMPTY, EXCEPT FOR DOCTOR KATHRINE TIMMS AND FIREFIGHTER FRED. THEY'RE MAKING OUT LIKE HIGHSCHOOL KIDS IN A ROOM THAT IS OTHERWISE EMPTY.

BASS

Oh! Sorry, you too. We just wanted to come in and take a look real fast. . .you know, you should really be doing that in your own Berths!

FRED

Oh, c'mon now Boss! Youz too of all people know just how THIN those walls are. Besides, we didn't think anybody cared enough for Larry to want to see him get his Science att'a' boy!

KATHERINE

The Nobel Prize is a bit more than an 'atta boy' Fredrick!

RIDING CROP SLAP

Plus, who said you could talk, puppy! Don't make me get nasty again!

KENDRA

[EMBARASSED]

Oh. Oh Wow! We didn't mean to; interrupt your. . .night out?

KATHERINE

It's not like there are many places we can go where we know we'll have the room, all to

ourselves. [PONDERS] Then again. . .I don't mind having an audience, do you pet?

FRED

No Ma'am!

KATHRINE

That's my good little boy!

RIDING CROP SLAP

KENDRA

[EMBARASSED, GROSSED OUT]

I'm, I'm going to just go stand over. . .there and watch, something more G-rated.

FRED

Prude!

RIDING CROP SLAP

KATHRINE

What have I said about disrespecting women Fredrick!

BASS

[LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE]

Well, look I think Kendra is right. We don't want to interrupt your. . .fun. . .time and while I think this ISN'T even remotely the proper place to get out your [SEARCHING FOR POLITE TERMS] extra-curricular activities; I think I need to go find some bleach, wash my eyes and re-think that prostate exam I'm due for next week based on. . .this.

KENDRA

[CONFUSED]

Um. . .sweetheart?

KATHRINE

Now Deputy. Despite what fun I choose to have in my off time; I'm a professional at my job and I take it VERY seriously. I don't take what you might see out here and bring in there!

FRED

YEAH!

RIDING CROP SLAP

KATHRINE

Oh, does the puppy need the bit-gag back in place?

KENDRA

[CONFUSED]

Honey, you should probably. . .

BASS

Okay, well on THAT note. . .[DISTRACTED]. . .Mister Ferguson, [DEEP BREATH] please tell me those aren't YOUR pants on the floor in the corner. Uhhh, put them back on man!

KATHRINE

YOU DON'T PUT ANYTHING BACK ON TILL I SAY YOU MAY, PET!

KENDRA

BASS!

BASS

Kendra, why don't we give these two run of the room. Some things I just don't. . .

KENDRA

Who does that look like in the front row?

BASS

What?

KENDRA

Doctor Waynewright is giving his acceptance speech. It's. . .uh, more self-promoting than normal, but there. . .that guy!

FOOTSTEPS CLOSER TO THE LARGE WALL MONITORS

BASS

That can't be.

KENDRA

Well then somebody who is the SPITTING image of Josh Nichols is sitting in the front row of Larry's Nobel ceremony! You two! You both were on the side of the mountain with Bass and Josh. Stop straddling one another and come tell me that isn't him!

A CHAIR SLIDES BACK, MORE FOOTSTEPS TO THE MONITOR

KATHRINE

That. . .suren' looks like him. Boy has the luck of us Irish. I thought you said he did a header off the side of the mountain, Deputy?

BASS

[ASTONISHED]

He did! I saw him do it. He fell into. . .the swirling purple mist! But that's him! Sitting in a tux. In Stockholm!

FRED

I'll be damned! It's the bowl cut looking psycho alright. Look at the way that tux is falling off. . .bigger pecs would make him not look like a scarecrow, you know what I'm sayin?

BASS

This feed is live! Doctor Waynewright. . .he's in danger! We have to get him some warning!

KENDRA

OH MY GOD!

BASS

What? What happened?

KENDRA

[REPULSED]

FRED . . .has no pants on! I can't unsee that!

OUTRO AND CREDITS.