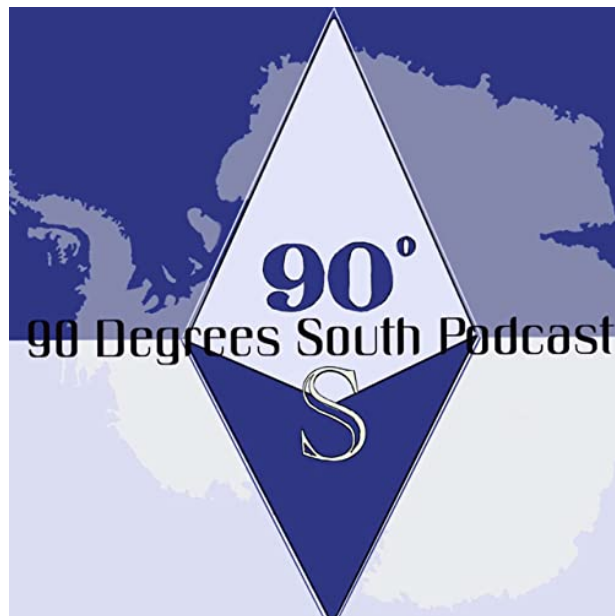


90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE
EPISODE SEVEN: THE ELDRIDGE

DRAFT 1: OCT 29, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

INTRO MUSIC

ACT I

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE GALLEY WITH THE ATLAS WATCHDOGS. IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE THE TELEVISED NOBEL AWARDS AND THE GANG IS TOGETHER, DISCUSSING WHAT TOOK PLACE.

BASS

...But from what my Marshal told me; we got in contact with Interpol just in time. They contacted security at the Stockholm Concert Hall and had Doctor Waynewright whisked away directly after his speech was concluded. To say he was unhappy would be an understatement!

ZEKE

These science things have security? What? You beakers get into it with one another if somebody finds out there's cork in the microscope or something.

A FEW MOMENTS SILENCE

ZEKE

That there was a baseball jo. . . .eh; Lawman got it.

BASS

[GOT IT, BUT NOT FUNNY]

Good one. Funny.

THOMAS

[GENUINE CONCERN]

But he's alright? Doctor Waynewright is, okay?

BASS

He's fine Mister Kelley. No worse for wear.

THOMAS

[RELEIVED]

Oh, WHEW!

PATRICK

So. . .does this mean your MOMS gonna be here for longer? I mean, I know she's your mom and all,

but she's SERIOUSLY putting a harsh on everything around here. And when I say...everything...I mean like...[LOWER VOICE] even relaxation time!

KENDRA

Oh, I assure you Mister Dobbins. I take NO offense of your opinion of Magda. I want her off-station more than anybody.

PATRICK

Not sure I'd take that bet Doctor!

THOMAS

She's not that bad, once you . . .

BASS

[NON-VERBAL DON'T, DON'T NOISE]

THOMAS

You. . .get more pancakes and think about it, that's what I'M gonna do!

ZEKE

[SARCASTIC]

Nice save Tommy!

IT CHRIS

I have to say. Between your mother, and headmistress Delores Umbridge of Hogwarts . . . I'd take the fictitious witch over the real thing! She's inspected the IT room three times in the last two weeks! All my defenses against the dark arts FAILED!

FRED

NERD!

BASS

Anyway, they kept Doctor Waynewright sequestered in military quarters until they were sure it was safe to move him once again. They're putting him on a transport back to the station; although for security reasons; they won't say which flight he'll be on arriving at Amundsen. Best guest, he'll be back tomorrow evening. Ken. . .Professor Beckett-Jennings will depart that same day.

KENDRA

Not soon enough!

PATRICK

So...like did anybody actually nab the um, killer Josh dude?

BASS

(Sigh) No. After Doctor Waynewright was through, there was an informal intermission so they could extract him. During that intermission all eyes on Nichols were lost. He slipped away, probably because he saw security closing in.

IT CHRIS

[MATTER OF FACTLY]

Roadrunner, to their Coyote!

ZEKE

With Doctor Van Zandt leaving, any word yet on who took his place on Atlas?

BASS

Nothing. [THINK] Mister Kelley, any new arrivals for the science team with Astrophysics or similar credentials Gustav had?

THOMAS

No. Gosh, nobody like that has arrived, and I'm not seeing anybody from work rosters being moved into a new role. My guess: is they haven't formally replaced him yet. May still be interviewing.

KENDRA

I've been away from the DSL lab for the last few weeks; but other than the new staff who arrived, no changes internally.

FRED

So, I get youz all are really focused on finding out what the brainiacs in the Ice Caves are cooking up; but did it ever occur to you that; oh, I don't know. . .meeting and discussing in the open like this isn't the smartest? To many ears around!

PATRICK

[LIGHTBULB] Yes! What he said! Guys. . .whoops, sorry. . .people. . .let's use the greenhouse! You got the loud hum of the lights and humidifiers; plus. . .I know the dude who runs it and he's got the good-good! Right!

ZEKE

Great, then everybody will know we've been meeting cause we'll like smell like the Parliament Funkadelic tour bus.

PATRICK

Awww, man! But we want the funk!

THOMAS

How about the Quiet Reading Room? Ms. June's Bible Study group moved back to the B-1 Lounge at the start of summer season.

BASS

Hrmm, not bad. . .but knowing Joyclyn; she gets wind we're in there; her curiosity will get to her, and she'll bug the place.

IT CHRIS

The IT room?

BASS

Same problem as the Quiet Reading room. Plus, it smell like a pine forest in there now. Bothers my nose.

TWO BEAT

KENDRA

Franklin's room.

ZEKE

Say what now?

KENDRA

No. Seriously Zeke, think about it. He's in there all the time. He knows who comes and goes out of the room. It's loud directly outside, it's only ever used for Jack's night or when one of us need

to talk to him. Hell . . .pardon the pun. . .; most people are nervous to go in there in the first place.

IT CHRIS

Huh. It's better to deal with the devil you know!

ZEKE

Okay, Alright now! Don't need help with the hell puns! I'm a team player and all that good stuff; but Franklin's room? Come.on.people!

BASS

Actually, that's not a bad suggestion.

ZEKE

[SARCASTIC]

Yeah, except for the...oh I don't know, maybe the flipping demon in the flipping tube who would dime anyone of us out, if'n it means somebody would let him go? You all REALLY want to give him a huge bargaining chip?

THOMAS

Um, I don't get the impression that Franklin would double-cross any of us!

ZEKE

Tommy. . .you DO know what a demon is yeah?

THOMAS

From which religious viewpoint?

ZEKE

Oh, I am not about to step in . . .

FRED

Would all youz just shut up for two seconds! Bruins for the win and all that is holy in the world, let's not go getting in no religious tiffs. Just go use one of the lounges from the old dome station for fuck sake!

THREE BEAT

It was decommissioned back over ten years ago. Nobody uses it; it's off limits; all the

infrastructure is still running over there, just shut off. Shit: with all the new electrical gear smoking hot British agen. . .I mean the young lady who arrived on station this summer brought with her; we have power to spare.

BASS

Not bad. . .puppy!

KENDRA

[SNICKERS]

FRED

Oh, so not cool Boss!

PATRICK

I don't get the joke.

BASS

Not important. Zeke, you think you can get some power and heating back to at least one room over there. So, we can meet without having to shiver?

ZEKE

[THINKING NOISES]

I only been inside that place once! It was already shutdown by the time I got on the ice. If we found a room fairly central, we could power and heat it for a few hours without having to worry too much about ice melt. Tell you what. . .give me a few days to scout it out, see what the sit-e-ation is and I'll see what I can whip up. I'll chat at ya all later.

THOMAS

Oh, I have to get back to Ops too! Your um. . .mother's afternoon tea needs to start.

BASS

I need to radio McMurdo and let them know I'll be a few more days delayed before I can head down there. Need to make sure Waynewright gets back okay. Hey, speaking of. . .whipping up; you *whipped* up this idea Fred; would you help him?

CHAIRS PUSH BACK, PEOPLE DEPARTING

FRED

Damn Boss, you really like to go for the old throat there don't ya. Yeah, I head over there with ya when you're ready Zeke. Just won't be opening anymore on my background after this ribbing!

BASS

Sweetie, will you please consider what I said? Professor Beckett-Jennings will only be here for one more day. There is an opportunity in front of you; and whatever you decide, you know I'll back you. . .just. . .try to let your head and heart decide, not the anxiety.

KENDRA

I will. I promise. We'll chat tonight. Can. . .I stay in your berth tonight? Either way I decide to go; I could use some cuddles before bed.

BASS

Hey! These arms are always ready to give cuddles. Stop by when you're ready to call it an evening.

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED

ACT II

FADE IN.

WE'RE INSIDE AN UNKNOWN AREA. WE HEAR MAGDA AND JOYCLYN WALKING AROUND, DISCUSSING WHILE THEY TALK.

MAGDA

That is why Lawrence is still down here and not in Denver. Madeline Dantes asked me; BEGGED me to come out of retirement and leave my teaching at Cambridge to take control of Atlas. [PONDER] I will admit; it is nice to see the old girl once again, despite the lack of care she's been shown over the years. That said. . .I despise it down here.

JOYCLYN

I still can't see why anyone down here enjoys it! Constantly cold, dry, the food is sub-par; the cooks can't even accomplish a proper fry-up! If not for the assignment; or to twist some preverbal knives in old wounds; I wouldn't give this place a toss.

MAGDA

Is that truly why you are here Agent Folwer? To settle some old vendetta with the Deputy Marshal? Here I thought it was to guard, protect and provide operational security to one of the most vital and important scientific projects the United States has embarked upon since The Ros[BLEEP OUT]

JOYCLYN

[SARCASTIC CHUCKLE) Professor, I'm not one of your little lamb learners and I don't need a speech like from me Gran about what needs to be done! Let's just make sure we get you all wrapped up here and back out onto civilization.

Waynewright gets dropped off in just about twenty-four hours by a spec-op team and I can go back to sheepdoggin this nutter farm. Until then. . . I'm here to protect and provide.

MAGDA

[Disapproving non-verbal] 'hrmmm'

FOOTSTEPS AROUND THE FACILITY.

MAGDA

Doctor Jovac!

KARL

Hrm? Yes yes, oh Yes there Professor! I hear you'll be leaving us tomorrow. Hopefully these past two weeks have been very , nostalgic, and especially in regard for the apparatus you designed here.

MAGDA

Nostalgia, disenchantment. Why put labels on things Doctor? My time here has been. .
.illuminating; that much is true. I'll be happy to be back in my own office in wet, dreary and absolutely inviting office at university.

BEEPING SOUND FROM A MONITOR

KARL

Oh! Oh my!

MAGDA

Keep the number of Baryons lower than anticipated Mesons during the upcoming experiments. You shouldn't keep seeing that problem.

KARL

Well, what, what about the Co-Rotating Interaction Regions? The interference we saw most recently. .

MAGDA

Will no longer be an issue with the improvements your Beauregard-Lowing benefactors have provided and the adjustments to forecasting and the luminosity upgrades I've installed.

KARL

Splendid! SPLENDID! [BEAT] Oh...oh dear, I need to poop!

FOOTSTEPS HURIDLY RUNNING OFF

MAGDA

Always good seeing you again Doctor! Agent Fowler, where is that young. . .rather odd little creature? Likes bugs and dermal infections.

JOYCLYN

Doctor Lorenz is currently working on a side endeavor M.I.T. requested of her. She'd not due back down on project until tomorrow morning for the 05:30 open window.

MAGDA
Her workstation? Yes?

JOYCLYN
It is.

PICKS UP A FOLDER AND STARTS LEAFING THROUGH

MAGDA
Well then, let's see if the little vermin loving
scientist can. . .

**FLIP OF PAPER, FLIP OF PAPER, FLIP OF PAPER
SET THE FILE FOLDER BACK ON THE DESK
CONTINUE WALKING**

MAGDA
The equations are accurate. One might even say,
competent. Seems like the little one may be an
up-and-coming asset to the program after all.

JOYCLYN
I'll make sure she gets an extra sweetie at
dinner tonight! What's the deal with Van Zandt's
replacement? Your daughter?

TWO BEAT

MAGDA
Doctor Jennings isn't right for the position.

JOYCLYN
Beauregard-Lowing doesn't agree.

WALKING STOPS

MAGDA
Agent Fowler. I get the impression you are a
woman not easily intimidated.

JOYCLYN
Spot on.

MAGDA
Who gets an assignment and completes it come hell
or high water?

JOYCLYN

I'm an excellent swimmer, Professor.

MAGDA

Who, in the heat of battle and conflict, can assess a situation and determine the proper course of action?

JOYCLYN

Ten for ten luv.

MAGDA

Then you should understand by now. Madeline. Dantes is NOT. . .the queen bitch.

THREE BEAT

JOYCLYN

I get that impression, Ma'am. . . Professor.

BEGIN FADE OUT.

MAGDA

Brilliant. Now, I want to talk about the ongoing protocols as pertains to [BLEEP] for the next two months. I think we need to..

ACT III

FADE IN

**BASS IS IN HIS OFFICE, ON THE SPEAKER PHONE WITH IT CHRIS.
THE TWO ARE DISCUSSING MIKHAIL**

BASS

So, then he was already on station when you and Emery arrived?

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE]

Correct. He had been on station a few years already when Em and I got here; and that was three years ago now.

BASS

And in all that time you've interacted, he's always been . . . [THREE BEAT]

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE]

Dep-Marsh?

BASS

Still here, just trying to find the right adjective.

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE]

Enigmatic?

BASS

Yeah! Actually, that works really well.

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE]

Well thank you and yes, in answering your question. He's always around, at exactly the right time. Regardless if it's cleaning up a spill or dolling out advice.

BASS

Has he ever given you any reason to . . .perhaps, be worried?

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE; CONFUSED]

About. . .what exactly?

BASS

Anything. At all.

IT CHRIS

[ON PHONE]

Kinda a big playing field you're asking me there; but if you mean anything malicious or ill intended; no. My answer would have to be no.

BASS

Have you, at any point prior to my..

KNOCK AT THE DOOR

BASS
Sorry, two seconds Mister Todd. COME IN.

DOOR OPENS AND FOOTSTEPS IN

TREAGER
Sorry to disturb you Deputy. Wanted to go through the preps for your trip to McMurdo late next week. Oh! Also brought you this back from Mudtown.

CLANK OF A PRYBAR ON HIS DESK

BASS
Thanks Captain, I'm on the phone with Mister Todd at the moment, but. . .

IT CHRIS
[ON PHONE]
No no, go ahead Deputy Marshal! I need to send out this email really quick. I'll stay on the line while you too knock that out.

CLICKING KEY NOISES OVER SPEAKING PHONE.

BASS
Oh, um... okay then. I have my itinerary for the trip to McMurdo. Nothing overtaxing and I'm guessing I'll only need to be there for three days at most.

TREAGER
Oh perfect! That will give me a day to rest up after reloading supplies for Amundsen and before bringing you back. I love being flight Taxi-driver; but even I have to admit I'm glad they're keeping old Doc Waynewright's trip back a secret and didn't ask me to retrieve him. Guy's a royal ass.

BASS
No argument from me. What's with the bar in the bag?

TREAGER

That was waiting for you at McMurdo. It's the prybar they found at our crash-site bunch of weeks back.

BASS

Isn't this evidence?

TREAGER

I'm just the taxi-driver Deputy. Maybe that letter attached to the handle can explain?

SOUND OF LETTER BEING OPENED, PAPER UNFOLDED

BASS

Supervisory Deputy blah blah blah. . .um. . .no prints located, no D.N.A. probably due to contamination from Antarctica weather. Blah blah blah blah blah.

Not Chinese in origin, metal is U.S. based and markings indicated it was retired U.S. Naval equipment. Similar to U.S. Naval equipment recycled and given to research stations.

TREAGER

Huh. Makes sense really. Amundsen Scott started as a Naval research station back in the 50's. The first structures erected by the Seabee's. . .the construction battalion used a lot of retired ship equipment and tools.

BASS

[CONTINUES READING]

Buh-buh-buh-buh. . .hallmark stamps on the tool 2130 and letters P.L.V.M.B.O. make it a lady foot rolling head prybar from the 1940's. Remaining letters further identify it as being assigned to US Naval ship D.E. 173.

TREAGER

D.E. That would have been a Destroyer Escort vessel. DE 173 was the um. . .U.S.S. Eldridge. Ship from the 40's. Decommissioned.

COMOTION FROM ON SPEAKER PHONE

IT CHRIS
[ON PHONE]
Sorry! Sorry guys. Say that last thing again?

TREAGER
The naval registry? D.E. 173. The Eldridge.

IT CHRIS
[ON PHONE, EXCITED]
BY GRABTHAR'S HAMMER! I'll be right there!

PHONE HANGS UP

TREAGER
The hell was all that about?

BASS
Don't know. Kid has always been excitable.
Anyway. . .the NTSB and FBI don't figure this
thing has any connection to the Chinese or
whomever removed the drug shipment. This look
like something that was being retired from the
station to you?

TREAGER
Entirely possible. That's not a standard tool
kept on our cargo transports. Might want to
check with Zeke to see if it could have been a
tool being sent back by one of the mechanics, the
carps, maybe a V.M.F.

**RAPID FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING FROM DOWN THE HALL. CHRIS BURSTS
INTO THE ROOM; BREATHING HEAVY!**

IT CHRIS
IT'S FROM THE ELDRIDGE!

TWO BEAT

BASS
We. . .know that already Mister Todd. We said it
while you were on the line.

IT CHRIS
[WINDING]

Fred's right. . .more cardio would help. . .no,
no you don't. The Philadelphia experiment!

TREAGER

Making the atomic bomb? This prybar was from
that?

IT CHRIS

[WINDDED]

No, that was the Manhattan experiment. This.
[DEEP BREATH] where is it, where. . .

INHALER SHAKING AND THEN INHALER USE, BREATH IN.

IT CHRIS

Oh, much better! O.K. The Philadelphia
experiment.

BASS

Why does that name ring a bell?

IT CHRIS

It was the Early 1940's. The United States was
neck deep in the second war; to end all wars!
[BEGIN STORYTELLER VOICE]Western Europe was under
constant attack from the Axis powers. In the
Pacific theater, Japan had only recently attacked
pearl harbor.

TREAGER

He okay?

BASS

He's. . .it's a thing he likes to do, just. .
.let him go.

IT CHRIS

Our story begin on October 28th, 1943.
Philadelphia Naval Shipyards. As the story goes.
. The U.S Office of Naval Research were trying to
devise a way to make a ship; undetectable to
enemy radar. It was one of the early outliers to
current stealth technology!

TREAGER

[INDIGNANT]

Oh. .pshhh. . now I remember. Conspiracy tales!

IT CHRIS

[IGNORING]

Scientist of that day; surmised if they could blend the separate, but interrelated forces of electromagnetism and gravity into a single field . . .the unified field theory. . .they could achieve refraction of light by bending it, around an object. Making it. . .[LOUD WHISPER] INVISIBLE!

BASS

To. . .the enemy's radar?

IT CHRIS

To everything! Like a Romulan cloaking device or Harry Potter's invisibility Cloak. It would make the ship impossible to see, by technology or the human eye!

Some claim, multiple large electrical generators as well as *exotic* materials were installed on the Eldridge to achieve, their operational obfuscation objective.

TREAGER

That's a mouthful! Nicely done!

IT CHRIS

Thank you. [PAUSE] So. . .with the equipment in place, the sailors only being told new equipment was to be field tested and with the scientist, observing from a safe distance, the experiment. . .began.

From reports, smuggled out after the incident; from the sailors on deck and multiples witnesses; once the project started, the Eldridge started to shimmer in the sunlight; and then. . .disappeared.

BASS

So; the experiment was, successful?

IT CHRIS

Yes, but NOT in the way they expected. At that same moment, people on the shore said a green

mist appeared where the Eldridge was docked. At that exact same time, witnesses in Norfolk Virginia, at that naval station reported the Eldridge, suddenly appeared at the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay.

Screams, and moans could be heard coming from the decks. For almost fifteen minutes, the ship drifted, shimmering; just as it had done in Philadelphia. The local base commanders had just ordered another vessel, the SS Andrew Furuseth to intercept and investigate; when the Eldridge began to shimmer again and vanished.

She reappeared, back at her original berth in Philadelphia. The electromagnetic generators depleted. Naval shore patrol and sailors rushed the ship; trying to ascertain what exactly happened. Once they boarded her, what they saw; was the stuff. . .of nightmares!

Men, screaming down below. Had scratched their eyes out. Engineers were fused, stranded into the walls of the ship. Some of them still alive, screaming to be killed. A few wandered the halls, intangible, not able to be touched or helped, until slowly they faded out of vision.

That green fog that had appeared, stayed around the Eldridge, for about an hour until it to, dissipated.

The story was suppressed. The account hushed up and relegated to the stuff of legend. Supernatural stories. Conspiracy tales. The fact that you have this . . . pry bar in your possession, is proof to the legitimacy of that story!

TREAGER

Or. . . conversely; it's a piece of Iron pry bar that has passed ownership from here to there to that place to this and finally came to Amundsen. Heck, ask Zeke how many hand-me-down tools he must deal with.

IT CHRIS

Deputy Marshal. Do you have a . . . oh, perfect.
. . .

FOOTSTEPS AWAY FROM THE MIC AND THEN BACK AGAIN

IT CHRIS

Just an ordinary Iron pry bar huh; then explain.
. .THIS!

SOUND OF CLICK AND THEN AN OBJECT FALLINNG TO THE
FLOOR.

IT CHRIS

Iron is one of THE most magnetic metals that
exists. Oh, you can. . demagnetize one, but for
solid iron, as this bar is. . would take heating
it to the Curie point, or fourteen hundred
degrees Fahrenheit to do so. At THOSE
temperatures, that hallmark right there, that is
so very legible; wouldn't be after being exposed
to such high temperatures.

This tool; is more than just history, gentlemen.
. .it's [OVERY DRAMATIC] Proof!

THREE BEAT

TREAGER

Okay. So anyway Deputy Marshal; we're wheels up
at oh-eight hundred. I'll have pre-flight and
all loading completed just before that time. See
you on board?

IT CHRIS

[DUMBSTRUCK]

What? Seriously??

BASS

All good Captain. Can I. . .can Mister Todd and I
have the room please?

TREAGER

No problem. Gonna go make sure that we don't
have any Gremlins or boogie-boogie monsters this
flight!

SNICKERS AS HE WALKS OUT OF THE ROOM.

IT CHRIS
Small mind, small personality.

BASS
I believe you.

IT CHRIS
[UNSURE WHAT HE HEARD]
Sorry, what?

BASS
What you just. . .that accounting.
I.Believe.you.

IT CHRIS
I um. . .I don't really get that a lot.

BASS
Well, then congratulations. You're getting it
now.

IT CHRIS
[FLORRED]
Thank you, Deputy Marshal.

BASS
Mister Todd, can I trust you, trust you with
this?

IT CHRIS
The pry-bar.

BASS
Yes. I'm not sure why, but for some reason I feel
like we should keep it around, just safe and
locked away until; well, whenever the time
arrives we do need it.

IT CHRIS
You can count on me Deputy.

FADE OUT

ACT IV

FADE IN

BASS

. . .I said it and absolutely meant it! Either way I'll support your decision.

KENDRA

[TREPADATION]

And I appreciate that. I do. . .it's just, well I mean I. . .[DEEP BREATH]. Every time Bass. Every. . .instance that. . .when I. . .[EXHALE] when I have this decision to make, the SAD hits hard. It's taking everything, everything inside to stay. . . .this. . . .focused. Now it's gone; again. Damn Magda and her being. . .on stat. . .here. Oh, what do I do sweetie?

BASS

Kendra, I can't decide that for you. I won't decide that for you. I'll be as supportive as I know how. I'll be an ear to bend if you want it. A shoulder to cry on if you need it, and arms to help you back up always. But telling you what you should do with your moth...with the Professor, that I can't do.

KENDRA

Honestly. I'm just content to; to um stay. . . stay in my berth, or even here. . .in your office [BREATH] until she leaves tonight.

BASS

I can't imagine what you're going through. Went through growing up. I only had two or three conversations with her while on station, but WOW is she difficult to like.

KENDRA

Growing up. . .wasn't all that, miserable. I mean; she was still really. . .detached and cold.

. .back then. With my, with the. . .the SAD; I
[DEEP BREATH] I was somewhat removed from her. I
honestly think my dad and her only stayed
together for . . .us children. If he hadn't
have passed, I. . .I suspect they. . .divorce
probably.

BASS

And she was like; this with your brother &
sister?

KENDRA

[FOND REMEMBERING]

Yes. . .and no, both. The three of us, we. .
.sorta bonded together to. . .be there for one
another; since she couldn't. . .actually. .
.wouldn't.

BASS

No wonder you three are so close to one another.
What about your father? How did he cope?

KENDRA

He did, well . . .the best he could. His parents
they um. They. . .died when he was still pretty
young, so he was raised in. . .in. . .um foster
homes and orphanages until, you know. . . he
became an adult. He got a full scholarship. .
.being alone a lot and introverted . . .it does
that. . .has you studying. . .alot. So . .
.yeah.

BASS

So, she was as you described it. . .distant and
cold while you kids were growing up. When did
she get so; mean so. . .pointed and caustic?

KENDRA

It was. . .after my dad died. That's; well. .
.it's when the . . .the downward. . .the spiral
it, began. But it wasn't really. . .not until.
[CLEAR THROAT] until Devin . . .was killed.

BASS

Look, Kendra. . .I am BY NO MEANS defending the
Professor. But, as somebody who lost both a

spouse and child in a short amount of time. . .
there is a lot of baggage that goes with that.

KENDRA

[FRUSTRATION]

No. [SLIGHTLY RAISE VOICE] No Bass. I mean. .
.yes. . .okay. She had every right. . .to be. .
. .to grieve the loss. Losses. Yes. But we . .
. .Mary-Ellen and I; *WE* hurt too! She didn't
get to have. . .the monopoly on grief!

It was at that point. . .that we; Mary-Ellen and
I. . .we became orphans, just like our Dad.
Because we never. . .never had a real mom. Just.
. .Magda.

BASS

I'm so sorry baby.

THREE BEAT.

KENDRA

[FRUSTRATED]

No.

ONE BEAT

BASS

[CONFUSED]

No. . .I'm. . .not sorry?

KENDRA

[MAD]

No. Not. .no. not you no. HER no.

BASS

[CONFUSED]

I'm not getting. . .

KENDRA

[ANGRY]

No. No. NO! How DARE she!

BASS

[Worried]

Kendra, maybe we should calm down.

KENDRA

[FURIOUS]

Bass, I love you. But you DO NOT want to be telling me to "calm down" right now. Okay. I'm tired of this.

BASS

[CONFUSED, UNSURE, WORRIED A BIT]

O. .kay.

KENDRA

[RAGE]

She shat all over us when we were kids. She shat all over us when. . .we were older. She shat on Mary-Ellen and me when Dad and Devin died. . .I. . .I. . .

BASS

I think it's. . .'shitted'.

KENDRA

[ON THE WARPATH]

Give me that thing!

SOUND OF THE DIGITAL RECORDER BEING PICKED UP AND A DOOR BEING FLUNG OPEN.

BASS

[WORRIED]

Kendra? What are you. . .

KENDRA

I'm going to say what's been long overdue! I'm taking this thing so when the old bat has a heart attack, I'll have evidence there really was a heart in there to begin with!

BASS

[TRYING TO CATCH UP]

Baby, I don't think that's a good. . .

DOOR TO LARRY'S OFFICE BARGES OPEN

KENDRA
[INTENSE RAGE]
We're doing this mother. Right now.

MAGDA
Ah! I'm happy to see you're feeling. . .

KENDRA
SHUT THE FUCK UP YOU. . . .SLAG!

MAGDA
I beg your pardon, Doctor!

KENDRA
I'm your daughter first, Mother! Most women with an ounce, a SHREAD, even a modicum of maternal instinct inside of them could realize that.

BASS
KENDRA! Maybe we should find a better. . .

KENDRA
Bass, you're either part of the problem or the solution! If you're staying, then you SHUT THE FUCK UP TOO! [TWO BEAT] This is between me, and her!

BASS
[INTIMIDATED]
Yes ma'am.

KENDRA
Ever since I was little. Ever since the Social Anxiety kicked in when I was a teen, all I wanted was to just be . . .normal. To have parents who would support me. A mother who would be there and listen to what I was going through.

MADGA
This is not the forum to air. . .

KENDRA
YOU WILL SHUT YOUR WHORE MOUTH AND LET ME TALK!

[TWO BEAT]

KENDRA

All you did was ignore me. I needed a set of open arms. To take me in. Not to solve all my problems for me. Not to . . . enlist a sea of child psychologist to diagnose me and try to repair me. I needed a mommy. I needed support. Where were you? The open arms were always folded, while you looked at me with contempt. With disdain and like a failed experiment you all but abandoned.

If not for the love and support I got from Devin, Mary-Ellen and yes, even Daddy who through his own social awkwardness gave me that bit of love I so needed; I doubt I may have made it. After he and Devin were gone, I was devastated. So was Mary-Ellen. And where were you? Back to university. Back to your work. Daughters be damned.

I had to go on by myself. For the first time, and for more than a decade the only person I had to rely upon was myself. Even with the cards I'd been dealt in life. All the struggles and hurdles, I excelled. I was the youngest Bachelor of Science Student from Harvard's Physics Program. Graduated with honors. Youngest person ever to get my PhD in Quantum Physics from M.I.T.

I've been awarded the Michelson Medal, the Oppenheimer Memorial prize, the Herschel, the President's, Gold and Copley medals. I have seven publications and was elected as a Legacy Fellow of the American Astronomical Society.

My work while on this station has been nothing short of revolutionary, and I damn well deserve the promotion to head of the Dark Sector Lab. I have more field time and credentials than the next three people I'm sure are being considered.

It's not just academic accomplishments either, Professor! I have friends, close friends and people here I consider family; something I was denied growing up. Relationships, meaningful and intense. I'm also having sex now! With him and I

love him with more than the gravitational pull
from a super massive black hole!

BASS

[FLOORED]

I um. . .I think SOME things we can keep, private
Kendra.

KENDRA

You no longer frighten me, Mother! I will not be
intimidated by you. I will not permit you to have
that impact on my life. I had to be alone a very
long time, because of my condition. It was forced
on me and even then, I survived. I thrived. You
chose to be alone. Your family wanted you, needed
you, and you chose to be alone. Here are some
parting words mother, something for you to stew
on. You'll die. . .alone. [TWO BEAT] We're done
here Bass!

FOOTSTEPS OUT OF THE ROOM.

BASS

[FROM A DISTANCE]

Um. Have a safe flight back Professor?

KENDRA

NOW! BASS! [BEAT] How do I turn this fucking
thing. . .

DIGITAL BOOP OFF.

ACT V

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDED STARTED.

**WE'RE JUST INSIDE OF THE ENTRY FROM DESTINATION ALPHA. A
SMALL CROWD HAS ASSEMBLED TO WELCOME BACK DOCTOR
WAYNEWRIGHT, ALTHOUGH MORE TO CELEBRATE THE DEPARTURE
OF PROFESSOR MAGDA BECKETT-JENNINGS. IT'S A GATHERING OF
MIXED EMOTIONS. HAPPY TO BE RID OF MAGNDA, SURPRISING HAPPY
TO WELCOME LARRY BACK.**

ZEKE

. . . .just landed. Joyclyn had to head out there to like. . .formally take possession of him or something from his security contingent. Guess they want to make sure Josh don't take him out!

THOMAS

Was there ever a known threat of that?

BASS

No. The fact that Josh was there was enough. He already killed one scientist on Atlas. After taking out Rodney, I'm sure Beau-Low wasn't taking any chances. They hired a crew from triple canopy to safely escort him back.

ZEKE

The hell is triple canopy?

BASS

Private contractors. Former US Military. Mercenaries.

ZEKE

Oh. Joycelyn's kinda people!

BASS

Exactly.

THOMAS

Where's Doctor Jennings? Still not. . .feeling well?

BASS

She'll be here. She just, um...well she needed to kinda reset after speaking with her mother.

THOMAS

[HAPPY]

Oh wow! Did the two of them reconcile? Oh, I hope so.

BASS

Wouldn't call it a reconciliation. More like. . .a repudiation.

THOMAS

Oh dear!

BASS
After what I witnessed. It would be best to not
bring it up until. . . .well ever.

THOMAS
Noted.

THREE BEAT WHILE THE CROWD STIRS A BIT

ZEKE
Here comes Kendra now.

BASS
Just be cool.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

BASS
But that's
when he slid
into home
and was
safe.

ZEKE
Man, I can't
WAIT for
tonight's
dinner. Ribs and
cornbread.

THOMAS
I think plants
would really Cheer
up this hallway and
not make it so
bland. Right?

KENDRA
Guys.

BASS
Hey you!

ZEKE
Evening Doctor

THOMAS
Plants, like azaleas.

TWO BEAT

KENDRA
Uh huh. So, Bass told you guys about my chat
with Magda, huh?

BASS
Well, I
wouldn't
exactly say

ZEKE
Say what now?

THOMAS
Yeah, he did.

KENDRA

It's alright everybody. I'm [DEEP BREATH] I'm actually doing. . .okay. I had a lot of feelings and emotions that had been bottled up for too long. It's. . .very liberating.

ZEKE

Well, I for one am glad you doin' better. I mean, one of the big man's laws is honor thy parents; but I get the impression he grades on a curve now and again!

KENDRA

Well, in this case I may be inclined to agree with you. Just before I left my berth to come over here, I received an email from the N.S.F. and the office of polar projects.

THOMAS

Oh no. Professor Beckett-Jones didn't get you into trouble with the O.P.P. did she.

MIKHAIL

[FROM A DISTANCE]

Yeah, you know me!

KENDRA

No. The opposite. I was formally submitted, selected and offered a promotion to divisional head scientist of the Dark Sector Lab. Seems, a specialist they sent down to Amundsen-Scott submitted the recommendation. The N.S.F. concurred. I've accepted!

BASS

Congratulations sweetie, that's phenomenal!

THOMAS

If anybody deserves it, you do!

ZEKE

So, don't like that Imma gon be the one that asks; but it was your moms?

KENDRA

Magda submitted me with my qualifications. It's official as of this evening. The weird thing. . .it also said they were declining to consider me for another on-station project.

THOMAS

Wait. . .Doctor Van Zandt wasn't just the former leader of his. . .your Dark Sector Lab. . .he was. . .

ZEKE

An Atlas scientist. OH SNAP! You think they was considering you for that gig too?

START FADING OUT THE BACKGROUND CHATTER. ADD IN SOME 'SHHHS' AND NERVOUS WHISPERING. HIGH HEELS APPROACHING.

KENDRA

Obviously, somebody had given it consideration. But according to the email, I'm not going to be considered for it. Honestly, I wouldn't have accepted that anyway.

ZEKE

A chance to be on the inside? Why not?

THOMAS

We'd know for sure what was going on!

BASS

She wouldn't have been able to tell us anything. Taking that assignment would have entailed a non-disclosure agreement. With top-level security clearance and serious penalties, felonies. Federal crimes if she disclosed anything, no matter how inconsequential.

MAGDA

Don't hurt yourself with those large words dear, although I'm somewhat impressed you used it in the proper context.

BASS

Professor. Good evening.

ZEKE

Professor Jennin. . .I mean Beckett-Jennings.

THOMAS

Did you get everything packed properly? Did you remember the two binders of notes you asked me to assemble? What about your day planner? I alphabetized all the contacts you had in there which I know you didn't ask for but. . .proper organizational. . .

MAGDA

You are, one of the few things on this station, Mr. Kelley that I think I may have found. . .mildly palatable.

THOMAS

oh it was all my pleasure to make sure your visit was an enjoyable one. I hope you have a pleasant flight Professor.

MAGDA

Magda.

THOMAS

Sorry? What?

MAGDA

[CONFUSED]

Magda. It's my name, dear. Please call me, Magda. Now, gentlemen, if you'd give me a moment with Doctor Jennings. With you too, Supervisory Deputy Marshal.

FOOTSTEPS AWAY

KENDRA

If you're waiting for me to thank you for the promotion, Mother. . .you'll be waiting for. . .

MAGDA

You have them worried Kendra. Both of you, have Beauregard Lowing worried. You two, your cadre of supporters looking into. . .project Atlas.

BASS

Which I assume you have intimate familiarity with?

MAGDA

As you mentioned, non-disclosure agreements. I couldn't say I knew or didn't know. What I can say and isn't protected; is that this goes so much higher than you suspect. Attempts are being put into place to ensure you don't get too far. Intentions were to have Kendra replace Gustav, not just in the lab, but on the project. I rejected the latter.

KENDRA

More doubts regarding my ability?

MAGDA

No. It was fear.

BASS

I'm not sure. . .I understand.

MAGDA

There are two directional vectors of fear to contend with. Vector A: somebody with the gifted intellectual abilities and natural aptitude for theoretical science, such as Doctor Jennings wouldn't just be an asset to certain projects and deduce necessary mathematical algorithms; I surmised she could solve them and make, again certain projects fully operational within eighteen months. Twelve, assuming she had no. . .distractions.

KENDRA

Your saying you didn't recommend me, because I'd be successful?

MAGDA

Which leads me to Fear Vector B. Your relationship with my daughter, Supervisory Deputy Marshal. The powers that be, aren't aware of my predictions nor estimated timetables of Doctor Jennings potential solution to Atlas. Regardless it was highly recommended by the Beauregard Board of Directors that she be assigned to certain projects; to create a wedge. Between you both.

BASS

Exactly what I was concerned with.

MAGDA

When I saw my daughter, how happy. How enamored she is with you young man. Well; I don't think we need to say it out loud.

THE DOOR TO THE INSIDE AIRLOCK OPENS AND THE CROWD BEGINS A ROUND OF POLITE APPLAUSE.

MAGDA

Well, with Lawrence returning, I must be off.

BASS

Thank you, Professor.

MAGDA

[NON-VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT]

KENDRA

[COLDLY]

Mother.

MAGDA

Doctor.

THE APPLAUSE CONTINUES AS WE HEAR THE HEELS HEAD DOWN THE HALLWAY.

LARRY

Thank you! Thank you all for this warm welcome back to the station. It is indeed an honor to be back, a Nobel laureate!

FOOTSTEPS OF ZEKE AND THOMAS COMING BACK

ZEKE

Everything good?

KENDRA

Everything is fine Zeke.

THOMAS

Do you think, well that Doctor Waynewright knows; that all this is more about Prof. . .about Magda leaving than him returning?

KENDRA

Let him have this one Thomas. Sometimes you have to. . .[small chuckle] just let him think it's for him.

OUTRO AND CREDITS