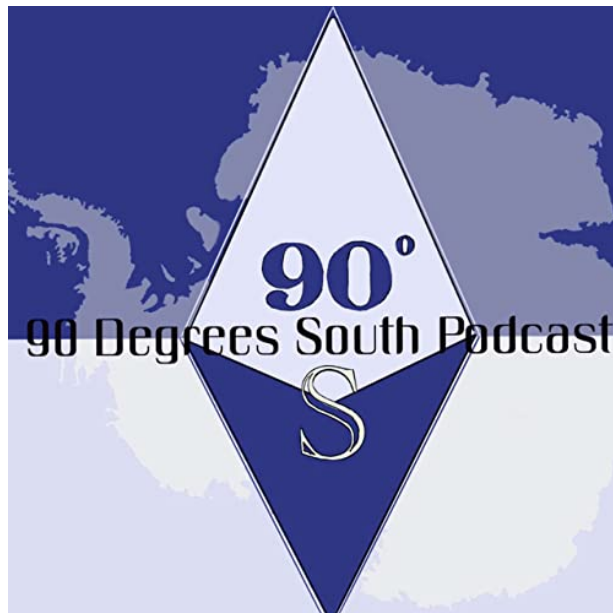


Ninety Degrees South

SEASON THREE

EPISODE SIXTEEN: **Follow the
Angels, Follow the Doves.**

DRAFT 1: DEC 21, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

INTRO MUSIC

ACT I:

**FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE ATLAS CONFERENCE ROOM. STANDARD
SCIENCY NOISES COMING FROM ALL AROUND. A BREIFING OF ALL THE
PROJECT SCIENTIST AND JOYCLYN**

SHEP

. . .and the one way this can be absolutely
proven; I'm confident is using the Schwarzschild
metric.

OTHERS GROAN IN DISSAPPROVAL

LARRY

How many times must we pursue the same wrong
pathway? You do recall what Professor Einstein
stated, regarding the definition of insanity,
yes?

SHEP

I recall the Professors works quite clearly, and
I am VERY pleased you brought him up as I think
relativity is the part of the solution we're
seeking.

LORENZ

The singularity of the Schwarzschild metric at
the event horizon is not a singularity! the point
at $r=0$ is merely an artifact of the coordinate
system choice.

SHEP

I don't agree. Look. . .When you use Kruskal
coordinates (T,X) the metric is non-singular at
the horizon, right? Well so what!

JOVAC

So what? You counter an observation with so What?

SHEP

Doctors, please observe! If you calculate
the ds^2 of a person who crosses the horizon then
you should get infinity, yeah? In either (t,r) or
(T,X) coordinates, so that the *quote unquote*

singularity at the horizon is correct; and there is nothing defective about the metric being infinity in the Schwarzschild coordinates: the Schwarzschild metric is giving the correct physics.

≠ = Not
Equal To

With Kruskal coordinates you shift the infinity at the horizon into dx and dt which are infinity at the horizon when $dr \neq 0$. If you have a singularity in some coordinate system, then physically there is some trajectory that will give an infinite proper time, which indicates that the singularity is physical and can be felt by someone on that trajectory.

LARRY

Doctor! It's been pointed out . . . multiple times that not all singularities are curvature singularities. Are you worried about how to detect conical singularities? I'd remind you the current work is focusing on Coordinate. . .

JOYCLYN

FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT IS DECENT AND HOLY. . . Are we closer to a solution yes, or no.

SHEP
YES

JEMMA/LARRY
NO

JOVAC
Where's my
Kit-kat bar?

JOYCLYN

Look. This meeting isn't for you lot to banty about whatever propeller head theories you have. Save that for when you're in there!

I need to know if we're still on our timetable for event four.

JEMMA

Agent, I think for the moment, that answer is a qualified; we're not sure yet. Telemetry from the sensors Lawrence and I left during event three are still transmitting but at random intervals. The best theory we have to date, is we may be able to improve the detection when we focus on an inverse frequency to Cosmic Microwave Background radiation and a peak frequency around

160 gigahertz. The Cosmic Microwave Background is most evident in the frequency bands between 70 and 217 gigahertz.

SHEP

Exactly that! It was shown that the singularity center and the distance between another object's center is $r=2M$ in the Schwarzschild solution is a consequence of the choice of coordinates. Introducing Kruskal-. . .

JOYCLYN

NOT.THE.TIME! [HEAVY SIGH] I need an Aspirin. [TWO BEAT] Alright. . .bottom line this for me. Let's assume Doctor Dellham theory pans out; where would that leave us.

JEMMA

If his theory were to become theorem; we could reduce the potential appearance of event four from a 20 miles square radius to roughly a three, maybe two square radius. We could be onsite within an hour of the station returning.

SHEP

It will proof out, I'm confident of it!

LARRY

Detection is the least of our troubles. Determining how to stabilize and isolate the specific entropic quantum signature so the station can exit the singularity as the convolution rotates on the spherical plane over the ninety-Six-hour revolution; that is where true mastery of physics will be proven.

JOYCLYN

And with that you have achieved. . .

JOVAC

A big ol goose-egg! One doesn't simply grab somesome white out an adjust the entropic signature of an item; let alone an entire station and all its internal. . . .[LIGHT BULB] an artificially created differential envelope! It would mirror the Entropic Signature of the

Critical Point and establish a. . . . Landau!
You brilliant commie mathematical madman!

CHAIR SCOOTs BACK AND KARL RUNs OFF FOR A WHITEBOARD

THREE BEAT

JOYCLYN

Is that something we need to be worried about or encouraged by?

LARRY

Karl is prone to. . .engage in periodic flights of fancy when an inspiration hits. If he comes up with anything of substance, trust me. . .we'll be aware.

What is the status with the Arch worker who was shot by the Deputy Marshal?

JOYCLYN

It's a wonder Marshmellow didn't kill him. Bullet lodged in his Aorta and from what I heard they had a bloody difficult time extracting it. The lad is still kicking for now. He's been in critical condition since he was shot last week. Still in a coma and they're hoping to transport him out in another week.

JEMMA

Do you still think he was working for the United States Government?

SHEP

A spy? I hadn't heard this. For whom? We wouldn't be spying on ourselves!

JOYCLYN

As soon as I was told what happened I had my resources in the Defense Intelligence Agency begin a thorough search for anything on this Chaz Wilford.

His NSF paperwork and background history is all rubbish. A master fakery but, but rubbish all the same.

Somebody did a complete scrub on him. Only thing we could find is a 2002 incident where he was a witness to murder. Apparently he had a handler back then who advised Wilford to do a runner and had the court summons nullified.

There was a reference to the codename of his Handler, Gable. I never met Gable, but he decided to go rouge about ten years ago. He found a consciousness or found the good lord or had some breakdown, I don't know. Within government circles, he is one of only a small number of people who have a shoot on sight order.

JEMMA

Is that even legal?

JOYCLYN

Oh deary; please tell me you're not THAT naïve! I mean, it just makes you more delectable yes, but legal? Seriously?

JEMMA

[HURT]

Was just asking!

LARRY

Yes this is all very good, but to which agency was he given directions through.

JOYCLYN

Appears to be DARPA. Specifically, their Defense Science Offices.

SHEP

Do we think it was him that stole the Atlas telemetry data around Christmas time?

JOYCLYN

I had the same thought. I search his Berth and the logistic offices directly after his shooting and before Marlow made his way. I couldn't find it, or anything else of interest.

LARRY

The next window opens in two hours. If there is nothing else I want to have everybody begin preparations for monitoring. You'll see the glacial coordinates I've selected based on the last results.

I also have. . .a specialized piece of equipment on its way to the station. An apparatus which should simplify location and tracking of the Canadian station, once we have it installed inside that facility.

JOYCYN

[MAD]

Why wasn't I notified of this? Have the proper security precautions been taken to ensure it arrives without prying eyes?

LARRY

[SMUG]

Oh did I. . .not inform you? My my, I must have had my mind on other items.

JOYCLYN

You right ponce! I want to know everything that has been arranged and the specifics around its transport.

LARRY

[SMUG]

Of course, of course! Happy to bring you up to date.

JEMMA

I think it's important we all know about this device; especially if we're being asked to install and leave it on the station before it shifts back into null-space.

JOYCLYN

I agree with the cute little chippy! Especially since I'll be leading the expedition into event four when she reappears. I also will have a little surprise of my own.

FADE OUT AS PEOPLE LEAVE THE TABLE

ACT II

BASS' BOD CAM: RECORDED STARTED.

WE HEAR A TELEPHONE LINE TONE AND THEN NUMBERS BEING
PUNCHED IN OVER SPEAKER. A CHOPPY CONNECTION STARTS AND THE
PHONE IS ANSWERED.

ANNE

Deputy Marshal. Prompt as always. Did A.U.S.A.G.
McAvoy make it off the station alright?

BASS

Yes ma'am. He boarded a transport out this
morning. I have to say I'm still not a fan of
McAvoy or this particular US Attorney General's
office. Pretty sure he hates me too.

ANNE

Every branch of federal law enforcement has a
general disregard for internal reviews from the
A.G. It's a necessary evil and we're all on the
same team.

BASS

Not sure McAvoy got that particular memo.

ANNE

From what I read off the wire this morning, he's
cleared you. Says the shooting of Wilford was a
clean shoot.

BASS

He did, he's just a natural born asshole I
suppose. Anyway, I'm officially cleared by the
A.G. to return to duty.

ANNE

What's the latest with the suspect?

BASS

Still in a coma. Still listed as in critical condition. Our chief physician has had multiple video consultations and examinations with docs back in the states. Real top-notch trauma surgeons to evaluate his case. Doc Ambrose is a good doctor and surgeon, but he's never had a gunshot case before.

ANNE

Will he live?

BASS

Ambrose says it's 50/50 at the moment. If they can safely get him back to fully staffed hospital in Christchurch those chances should go up. With Winter forecasted to begin in another five weeks and the station going dark for eight months, they're going to give it another week or two but after that, they'll have no choice.

ANNE

How's this sitting with you?

BASS

I'm alright. Not the first time I've been in this situation over the twenty years I've been on the job. Just annoying having to wait ten days to be cleared.

ANNE

A.G. McAvoy didn't want to handle the investigation over a video call. Wanted to be there in person. Don't understand it myself; but that's their call to make.

BASS

Assholes going to asshole!

ANNE

So where do we stand on that investigation?

BASS

We have a full confession from Rene Kellogg. After she had a gun pointed at her head she more or less was willing to give her full recount of the circumstances around the shooting itself. A.G.'s is going to drop most of the charges since her involvement was pretty much secondary and she had no real clue what Wilford was up to. We found the coveralls exactly where she said they'd be. They heading off station with McAvoy for testing back in the states. Given the cold preservation, we think it should still have traces of his DNA.

Even if his DNA is found, it's a stronger case that he was indeed our saboteur; but it's not the smoking gun I was looking for. If he makes it and if he's able to go to trial; I'm not confident that it's enough to get us a conviction. Not that he'd ever make it to trial even if he does survive.

ANNE

You still believe he's D.O.D. Connected with DARPA?

BASS

I'd bet my badge on it.

ANNE

D.O.J. made a formal inquiry. As you'd expect, they aren't finding any employee with that name in their rosters. Denying any involvement. What is it you're mixed up in down there Marlow?

BASS

A lot of rumor, a lot of cloak and dagger games. I've filled you in on the Beau-Low project several of the scientists are connected to down here, including Waynewright. Wilford was on the outside however, which means DARPA wasn't invited to the party and says to me they want to crash it.

ANNE

So [PAUSE] what I'm hearing is my star S.D.M.; in addition to running an entire continent himself, is smack in the middle of some spy vs spy inter-intelligence dispute. I don't like it.

BASS

Not having a barrel of monkeys myself ma'am.

ANNE

Want reinforcements? I can have several assets freed up here and call in Pete to give me some heavy hitters out of Ohio. Have them spread out between Palmer, McMurdo and Amundsen?

BASS

Appreciate the offer Marshal. For the moment I don't think it's necessary. Things are calm at the moment, and I don't want to rile up the other nations with enhanced paramilitary forces, especially everything the U.S. is going through on the internal theater.

ANNE

Good point. Deputy [HESITANT] I have another piece of information. An update for you. The Arminian monster who shot you in McMurdo, Narek Margosian. . is dead.

BASS

[SURPRISED]

Dead?! What happened?

ANNE

Two days ago, there was a riot inside of Auckland Prison. D-Block which is where they house the most dangerous shitbirds they have. In the course of event, they found Margosian with a shiv through his ear. Death of instant. Five other inmates in D-Block were killed, more than 20 seriously injured, so while it doesn't appear that Margosian was specifically targeted.

BASS

Margosian was specifically targeted.

ANNE

Pretty much. It happened during a shift change and when that block's guards were already at minimal staffing due to some virus going around.

BASS

Shit!

ANNE

There's an inquest from the local authorities that started last night into the riot and subsequent deaths. I don't think much will come from it.

LONG PAUSE

BASS

Would. . . .would it be possible to get a list and nationality of all the other inmates who were in D-Block at the time?

ANNE

I'm, honestly not sure. Privacy laws can get touchy when you're dealing with overseas; but I'll see what we can get for you. Have a hunch?

BASS

Nothing I want to articulate just now. I'll know more if I can get the list and review it.

ANNE

Give me a few days. I'll see what I can obtain.

BASS

Appreciated Marshal.

ANNE

Hang in there Bass. Head on a swivel and all that.

BASS

Yes ma'am. Goodnight Marshal.

SPEAKER PHONE DISCONNECT.

BASS' BODYCAM: RECORDING STOPPED

ACT III

**ITS QUIET. ALL WE HEAR IN THE HEATER OVERHEAD. WE HEAR
MALE GRUNTING AND COVERS BEING TURNED OVER.**

KENDRA

[GROGY]

Sweetie, you've been tossing and turning for an hour. Do you want to talk about it?

BASS

I'm sorry Kendra. I don't mean to keep you up. Should I go back to my own berth tonight?

KENDRA

And I lose my favorite space heater? No! But why don't you tell me what is keeping you up? Better to talk about it then let it fester.

BASS

Margosian was killed.

KENDRA

[YAWN] Who?

BASS

Narek Margosian. He's. . . .was the guy who shot me in McMurdo. He's dead.

KENDRA

What happened?

BASS

There was a prison riot in the cell block where he was housed. He was knifed, along with a number of others who either died or were seriously hurt. People are saying he wasn't specifically targeted; but his trial for crimes on McMurdo, including my shooting would have started next week. I think he was targeted.

KENDRA

By the Chinese government, or mob?

BASS

Exactly that. It's all way too coincidental. If they killed him it was probably because he

failed, or he was going to talk. Either way. .
.he was killed because of me.

KENDRA

Honey, I don't agree. We're all responsible for our own actions. He chose that life. He chose the job to be on McMurdo and scouting it out. He chose to pick up that gun and he choose to get into a shootout. . .do you see where I'm going here?

BASS

Still. . .it's hanging on me regardless of if I get it or not. Why don't you tell me what's going on with you? With your new position?

KENDRA

[TEASING]

Oh? My new position so boring to you that hearing about it will make you sleepy.

BASS

[CHUCKLE] No, it's not that. It would just be nice to hear about something other than criminal investigations, international unrest and prison homicide for a little while. [YAWN]

KENDRA

[PONDER AND RECALL]

Okay. Um. Well, today we had our weekly staff meeting with the whole D.S.L. team. We reviewed where everybody is on their mapping and data gathering.

[LITTLE EXCITEMENT] Ooh! Treeny on BICEP2 thinks she may have discovered a curlicue pattern in the polarization of the cosmic background, possibly gravitational waves [CLARIFYING FOR BASS] ripples in space time. They'd be generated. .

BASS

[FINISHING HER SANDWHICHES]

During the first moment of the universe, where you theorize the cosmos went through a brief, but mass expansion called inflation. If verified, these waves would confirm the inflation theory.

KENDRA

[IMPRESSED] You actually pay attention when I explain science. You pay attention even when I'm naked and up against you. You love my mind, not just my looks. Reason number four-twenty-six why you are the perfect partner somebody could ever want!

QUICK SMOOCH.

KENDRA

So yeah, everybody on the BICEP2 project is excited, but are remaining cautious. Last time we thought it was gravitational wave, WHOLE big debacle! It was several years before I was here, but they sent their finding for peer review. The French contingent of the Planck observatory team we had partnered with released the findings months too early; long before everything was vetted. Not unusual for the ESA.

BASS

[YAWN] E.S.A.?

KENDRA

The European Space Agency. Needless to say, we're being extra cautious this time around. All in all, I have to say I'm happy that I accepted this position. All so exciting stuff.

BASS

[GETTING GROGGY]

I'm happy sweetheart, Anything new between. .
.um. . . you and your mom?

KENDRA

Mother. She stopped being 'mom' a long time ago. No, nothing new there. I'm still trying to really wrap my head around that she is associated with Project Atlas. [SOFT CHUCKLE TO HERSELF]
Associated. . .more like it's her legacy that she takes pride in. Unlike your own children!

BASS

Kendra. That's a bit harsh. Is it. . .[YAWN] is it possible you're still looking through tinted glasses?

KENDRA

[SOUL SEARCHING A SEC]

I don't know. Maybe? Possibly? I'm not angry that she chose me over Shepard Dellham as the project replacement. That would be one offer I would have turned down. I'm just. . .[SIGH] the reason that brought her down here wasn't me and my work. It was that damn project and Waynewright's temporary absence. It's just something new to distance us I guess.

BASS

[VERY SLEEPY]

Look, at the risk of sticking my nose into a family affair, and it may just be oh-two-thirty talking here. . .but as somebody who is now an orphan after both parents passing; you're in a position I kinda envy really. To have a chance to speak more with a parent before they're gone forever. . .I'm not saying. . .[YAWN] you should eat shit from here or anything like that; but maybe. . .I don't know.

KENDRA

Reach out?

BASS

[ABOUT TO FALL ASLEEP]

Reach out.

KENDRA

Yeah, Mary Ellen, my little sister said the same thing to me. How Mother has more or less written her off since she decided to me a homemaker rather than pursuing molecular biology. Even despite all that, she's been making attempts to reconnect with Magda. I don't know Bass, it's just such a foreign conc. . .

BASS STARTS SNORNIG

KENDRA
. . .cept and given everything. . . .Sweetie?
Bass?

SNORING

KENDRA
Sweetie, you left your recorder on again. . .

**JOSTLING AS THE RECORDER IS PICKED UP AND TURNED OFF.
DIGITAL RECORDER BOOP.**

ACT IV

**KEYBOARD TYPING IN BASS OFFICE. WE HEAR AN OLD COWBOY SONG
PLAYING AND THE HEATER GOING. CROWDS OUTSIDE ARE THINNING
WITH THE WINTER SEASON JUST WEEKS AWAY. THERE IS A KNOCK
ON THE DOOR AND IT OPENS.**

MIKHAIL
Ah, Tovarich! I am sorry, I did not knows you
would be working in office this hour. The early
bird gets to find all the worms, eh?

BASS
Mikhail, please. . come in. Don't let me get in
your way.

MIKHAIL
Spasibo Tovarich! I will not bes long. You are
doing well, da?

BASS
Mikhail, I have to admit. . .I'm confused.

MILHAIL
Can Mikhail, help you to get un-confused?

BASS
I think you may be the ONLY person on station who
can!

MIKHAIL
Oh! Sounds like this is important. I will sit
down here, see if I can't help finding answers. I
have a talent for this thing!

CHAIR PULLS OUT AND HE SITS

MIKHAIL

Now, you tell, I listens!

BASS

I'll cut to the chase. I was digging through old digital recordings, making sure I don't erase anything not already having been transcribed. I typically don't go listening to recordings made when I leave my recorder somewhere. I tend to have two or three of those a month. This time, however, . . . I listened.

MIKHAIL

Da. Go on!

BASS

Well, digging through them, I struck gold. A wealth of information I never knew about. Specifically, your interactions with Franklin.

MIKHAIL

[CONFUSED]

Okay? Da.

THREE BEAT

BASS

And. . . what's this 'plan' you and Franklin were talking about? You rattled off station people and friends of mine, talking about getting them lined up. Are the two of you up to something?

MIKHAIL

[CALM AND CONFIDENT]

Tovarich, you are all worried over the nothings. We are not the bad mens. . . well. . . man and demon. We have just connected together since we both have very rough times adjusting to you Americans, or in his case. . . [THINKS] how he say. . . adjust to full of sin meat-sacks what have voices that sound like rabid baboons in heat, but in not good ways.

BASS

Mikhail? Seriously?! You expect me to believe what I heard on that recording were two . . . individuals who bonded over assimilating to working and living with Americans? That's ridiculous!

MIKHAIL

Different cultures to be around then where we from, people speak differently. Customs odd, way of life odd and strange, but we try hard to fit in, without giving up the who we are in core of persons. You know. . [REALIZATION] . . .is just like Clampetts family!

BASS

Who?

MIKHAIL

The family Clamp. . .ok, I help you get it. AHM. . .Tovarich, please come listen to my story, it is about man who has name Jed. He was very poor man, who just try to provide for family, keep them fed. Good father!

Well, one day who was out hunting for food, when up from the ground. . . .came bubbling crude.

BASS

Beverly hillbillies? Mikhail. . .enough with the sitcoms! I listened to the recording, like five times. What do you and Franklin have cooking down there?

MIKHAIL

Tovarich! Is very simple and not of the conspiracy makings. We are fishes that are not in the water. The uh, the the. . .how do you say, the ways people do things are strange to us both!

Like when Clampetts must learn how to make livings in the capitalist world of Beverly Hills. They do not fit it, they can see how everything is different around them, but they try to get accustomed to all the peoples' ways! So too, do demon-guy and janitor!

BASS

You called him by name. You don't call ANYBODY by their real name. Tell me it's not a coincidence!

MIKHAIL

Is no a coincidence. Sometimes. . .things are just the way they seem they are.

BASS

Okay. . .then what is going to happen in two more years? Do we all die like the station computer at. . .[REMEMBERS HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT] what happens in two years? You both seem to be in the know!

MIKHAIL

[TRYING TO REASURE] Tovarich. . .eh, I am still no good with art of words. One time. . .I write down. .how it go again. . . . The most perceptive character in a play is fool! This is because the man who wishes to seem simple cannot possibly be a simpleton. [CHUCKLE] But, like most writers, only the creator can know what is to come, but MEH! This; this is all teachings, you do not believe in!

TWO BEAT

BASS

What are you? Sydney told me to never trust you, he was being serious as I've ever seen him. You know a lot about the coming and goings around here. What.are.you?

MIKHAIL

I am janitor! Best Janitor on station, who needs to not take such long breaks and get back to cleanings. Soon all the young smarty-pants leave station to go back to their homes, and station will be just as clean, as on day they arrived!

CHAIR SCOOTs BACK AND THE JANITOR CART STARTS MOVING AGAIN.

BASS

This is not over Mikhail!

MIKHAIL

Da! On this we agree. There is much cleaning to do around station. Mikhail will come back later to make sure, Tovarich's office is clean as whistles!

DOOR CLOSING WITH MIKHAIL WHISTLING THE BEVERLY HILLBILLY THEME. BASS GOES BACK TO ONE-FINGER TYPING.

ACT V

NO ACT BREAK. WE STAY WITH BASS AS HE CONTINUES WITH HIS WORK. MUTTER TO HIMSELF ABOUT THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES AND HOW HE NEEDS TO WATCH MIKHAIL MORE CLOSLEY. THE TELEPHONE RINGS. BASS HITS THE SPEAKERPHONE BUTTON.

BASS

Supervisory Deputy Marshal Marlow.

SEVERAL CLICKING SOUNDS, A DIGITAL BEEP AND THEIR CRYSTAL-CLEAR VOICE QUALITY.

JOSH

Sounds like somebody got a promotion.
Congratulations Supervisory Deputy Marshal!

BASS

Nichols!

JOSH

You remember me, I'm flattered.

BASS

I don't know many people who can leap off a mountain that's four thousand feet up, on a mountain in the middle of blizzard like conditions and survive. You stand out.

JOSH

We all have our extraordinary talents. Like being able to attract undue attention and put themselves in the middle of a bullseye. I do have to say. . .I don't like the competition that others have started in trying to take you out!

DIGITAL BEEP ON BASS' END, RESULTS IN A 'DENIED' BEEP

JOSH

Oh, you won't be able to trace this call Marlow!
I took steps to ensure that.

BASS

What is it you want Josh? I doubt it's to gloat
about the escape or the appearance at the Nobel
ceremony we all witnessed. Nice tux by the way.

JOSH

Thank you. However, I didn't call all the way
back down to my former home just to accept the
plaudits of fashion choices. I'm calling as,
well what I hope will be the harbinger of
portent.

BASS

Nichols. Either come out with it or get on with
whatever it is you do.

JOSH

[TWO BEAT] This is one of the primary reasons
Lawrence never cared for you. A lack of general
comprehension of words with more than a single
syllable!

BASS

Hanging the phone up now. . .

JOSH

Get off the station Marlow. Get off the station
while you're still able to do so. I'm able to
make you a one-time offer. Leave the station,
take whomever you want with you, and everything
that happened will be forgotten. No retribution,
no retaliations, no more people coming after you.

BASS

[SURPRISED -NOT SURPRISED]

So, you sent the Chinese hitmen at Palmer? Sent
Margosian at McMurdo?

JOSH

The Albanian wasn't just intended for you, bet
yes Marlow; that was implied. As a showing of our

good faith, we had Margosian delt with in that staged Prison Riot. If you walk away now, it all stops. If you stay and keep on interfering in matters not your concern; it's fair game on you, and all your chums.

BASS

You had Margosian killed?

JOSH

Naturally.

BASS

And you're threatening me, and others here on station, over the phone, from a safe location. Never took you as a little BOTCH before Nichols!

JOSH

Oh ouch. Your words hurt so much Marlow. [TWO BEAT] All the same. You have a few weeks more to decide. Be on the one of the transports off the station before the next winter season starts up. If you leave, you and whoever goes with you will live out their lives and die a ripe old age. Stay. . .and you'll have made a decision there is no coming back from. Three weeks.

BASS

I don't need three seconds. I'm staying. I'm staying right here; and if you want to finish what we started on the side of Mount Markham, you won't need to look too hard for me. But I'm guessing you don't possess the testicular fortitude to truly represent the less than obfuscated threat you levy towards me. How's that for comprehending more than a few syllable words?

JOSH

Three weeks Marlow. We're watching. After that, you will either say you were warned and live out your live; or you can say you were warned as you watch everybody around you killed and slip through your fingers.

BASS

We'll see each other again Nichols. On that you can trust. Hope the arm is feeling better after this long.

HANG UP SIGNAL ON THE SPEAKERPHONE.

WE HEAR THE PAGE OF THE RADIO.

BASS

Zeke?

RADIO SQUAWKS

ZEKE

Go ahead lawman.

RADIO SQUAWKS

BASS

One hour. The barn. Tell the team.

BASS' RECORDER. RECORDING STOPPED.

ACT VI

FADE IN. WE'RE IN THE BARN. ALL THE GANG HAVE GATHERED TO LISTEN TO BASS AND HIS UPDATE. THE MOOD IS TENSE. A SLIGHT WIND IS PICKING UP OUTSIDE.

BASS

. . .so the long and short of it is, if you're still on station after the winter season starts; he'd not going to afford you any mercy. You'll be viewed as no different than I am.

IT CHRIS

[NERVOUS]

Josh Nichols said he and his. . .group will be trying to murder us as well?

BASS

More or less. Correct. That's what he indicated on the call.

RICHARD

A two-bit, thug lackey who wants to rub me out.
I've seen this matinee and the second feature for
a dime. Always ends the same, with my meat hook
in his mug and him seeing the tweety birds
circling his noggin. Not even news reel worthy!

BASS

Over the past season, there has been two attempts
made against me. The incident in McMurdo with
Narek Margosian, who Josh confirmed they had
killed in the New Zealand prison, and the attempt
while I was at Palmer and the two Chinese Private
Military DeWe contractors who tried to kill
Special Agent Cord and myself.

If we continue on with this, I and the US
Marshal's service will do everything in our power
to protect you. . .

ZEKE

[CONFIDENTLY]

I'm in!

BASS

I appreciate that buddy but let me finish my
spiel first before you decide.

ZEKE

Oh, my bad Lawman. You go on with your speech-a-
fying then, I'll tell you I'm still in when you
done. You go on now!

BASS

I and the US Marshal service will do everything
we can to protect everybody in the room. . .but I
can't make any promises. We'd all have targets on
our backs, targets put there by actors with
homicidal intent, both external to the U.S; and
what I fear may be internal factors as well.

PATRICK

What about your. . .your. . .ex-girlfriend whose
working with the Atlas dudes? Will she be trying
to cut off our stems at the root?

BASS

Not my ex. . .but thank you for making me throw up in my mouth a little. No. As much as it pains me to have these words come from my own mouth. . .Joyclyn is . . .unconnected with the plot to have me removed.

THOMAS

But she. .

BASS

Let me walk that statement back. She's not connected with this CURRENT plot to have me removed. I honestly believe she'd see any attempt to move against me as competition. She'd act against that other individual.

THOMAS

[WORRIED]

What about the call we intercepted from her last season? The call from the antique shop? The call one block away from [LOUD WHISPER] The Chinese Embassy in Wellington?

BASS

That bothered me as well Mister Kelley. For quite a while. Something never sat right. If she had been connected with the Chinese; that call should have been coming from within the embassy, not outside. I had to get past my own mistrust, anger and rage to allow reason and logic to take over. I think it may have been her way of telling me to watch for them, without directly telling me.

ZEKE

Say what now?

BASS

Joyclyn had to know we'd try tracing the call, yet she stayed on the line just long enough to happen. The call came from a location directly near, but not within an embassy we already had identified as being connected with the data Nichols was trying to smuggle out. I'm not saying I'm ready to put my life her in hands, far be it. . .VERY FAR be it, I'm confident she's not

mixed up with the Drug smuggling nor the attempts from Nichols and his goons to take me out.

THOMAS

But we should continue to not trust her?

BASS

Don't trust he in the least, no Mister Kelley. Let's get back to the main point I brought up.

ZEKE

Can I say it now?

BASS

Not yet. If you opt to stay on through the winter season, it's been made known to me you will all be at risk. I've outlined everything that has happened and that I know as of today. I can't ask any of you to stay. I'll do everything in my power to keep not only all of you at this table, but all those on this station safe. If anybody does want to depart, nobody here will think any less of you, and you'll still be family no matter what.

Not asking you to decide now. We have several weeks before the last flight departs for Winter. Take that time to really think it . . .

ZEKE

In! Sorry lawman, I know you wasn't finished all the way, but nothing you say going to change my mind. Somebody coming after my best friend, my brother, my station? You best believe they going have to go through me. No sir, I wasn't gonna be leaving before your breaking news special report, ain't leavin' now. IN!

PATRICK

Yeahhhh, I'm gonna hang around too Deputy Duder sir. Formal! What would happen to my kiddies in the greenhouse? Who's keep Keenan from visiting and trying to overdue the courtesy free samples? Sorry Zeke, you didn't hear that part.

ZEKE

The hell I didn't!

PATRICK

All due respect. . .I'm planted here. See what I did just then? [CHUCKLE]

THOMAS

[ENTHUSED]

Wow! I have to say I've never been in a situation where entire nations and a shady criminal underworld have been out to come kill me! That sounds so exciting! [TRYING NOT TO BE SO HAPPY ABOUT IT] Except for the you know, the murder parts!

RICHARD

I say let the mugs come. We'll show them what for! I'm on the case, Marlow!

BASS

Mr. Todd?

IT CHRIS

[DEEP BREATH]

I just got to my place of Zen in staying on station. It took me so long to get to that place and I don't want to leave. Besides, now that I know Emery. . the man I love is still alive. I can't leave. [REALIZES WHAT HE SAID] I uh. . I know this may come as a bit of a surprise. . .but we're gay.

BASS

We're aware Mr. Todd.

IT CHRIS

Well yeah, I know you'd figure it out being an investigator Dept Marsh. But the rest. . .

KENDRA

Deduced it ten minutes after you boys arrived on station, bickering the whole time.

ZEKE

Dang, took me six months after ya'll arrived to figure it out.

PATRICK

Samesies! You two fight EXACTLY like my Uncle Milo and Aunt Cece: My cousin Jimmy's folks. Get into heating arguments and then are lovin' each other up. One of the main reasons why Jimmy's products got so strong. .had to get that memory out of his noggin!

THOMAS

We all figured it out Chris, it's just. . .well gosh, we wanted to be respectful and let one of you. . .formally tell us. It's . . .golly, it's just the respectful thing. I mean, c'mon even Fred figured it out.

FRED,

Yep! So many gay dudes have killer abs that I was surprised when. .[HAMSTER GETS IN BRAIN WHEEL] whoa whoa back up! The hell youse mean that 'even *Fred figure it out?*'

IT CHRIS

IN! I'm saying I'm in! and um. . .thank you all.

FRED

[STILL INSULTED, MUTTERED]

I know some stuff about some things. Know what I'm sayin'?

BASS

Kendra.

KENDRA

I'm a bit insulted that you'd even ask.

BASS

All the same, this is something I can't. . .I won't just assume I know the answer, despite. . .everything. Kendra, please understand. .

KENDRA

[CONFIDENT]

I'm in.

BASS

[CAUTIONARY]

Kendra, If. . .

KENDRA

[FIRM]

Okay, before when I said I was a bit insulted; that was hyperbole. Now? Now, I really AM starting to take offense If you're think I need any different or special consideration above and beyond what you'd give the others. [WARNING HIM]SO PLEASE [DEEP BREATH] Continue. . .sweetie. Please finish that sentence. Kendra if. . .

[SOUND OF ALL THE HEADS TURNING AT THE TABLE TO LOOK AT BASS]

BASS

[AWKARD PAUSE, TWO BEAT]

Kendra, if there was a way where I could love you more, you just showed me that way.

[TWO BEAT; SOUND OF ALL THE HEADS TURNING AT THE TABLE TO LOOK AT KENDRA]

KENDRA

Okay. That was a great recovery. Still in.

BASS

[DEEP BREATH, TAKING STOCK]

From here on out, everything gets more difficult than before. We have forces aimed directly at us and we still have less than half of the whole story of what's going on down here. We have to get more intel, more information, more knowledge. We'll do that from within. On a remote research station, this station on the bottom of the planet. Our home. . .this is where we make our stand.

**MUSIC AND OUTRO
BMB TAG**