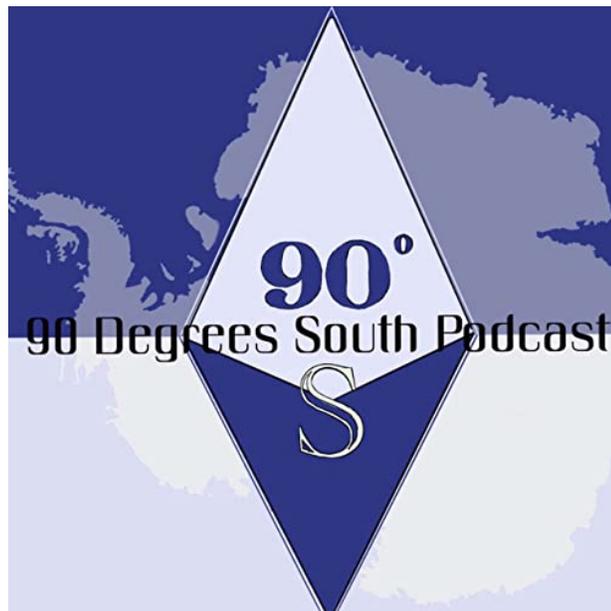


90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE
EPISODE TWELVE: DENIABILITY

DRAFT 1: DEC 6, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

**INTRO MUSIC
ACT I**

FADE IN. BUSY HALLWAY AND WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS WALKING DOWN THE HALL AND PASSING MULTIPLE CONVERSATIONS. DOOR OPENS TO OPERATIONS AND THE HALLWAY CHATTER IS REPLACED WITH NOISES FROM THE OPERATIONS DECK.

CHERLY-LYNN

[ON THE PHONE]

No, I don't know any more than you do Gladys! Just cause I'm up here with Doctor Grumpy-pants, don't mean he goes telling me all his business. Man is shiftier than my Daddy's old Chevy pick 'em up truck. Ooooh, Deputy Marshal just walked in. I gotta go!

WE DON'T HEAR THE OTHER END OF THE CALL

CHERYL-LYNN

[ANNOYED]

Gladys! Your husband is only two years planted; God rest his soul! Have some respect and don't be thinking them sinful thoughts! Mmmmmmm, But cha- ain't wrong girl! Bye!

PHONE HUNG UP

CHERYL-LYNN

Morning Shug. You got the call from Doctor Waynewright too did ya?

BASS

Morning Ms. June. You're looking particularly lovely this morning. You do something new with your hair?

CHERLYN-LYNN

Bass, sweetheart, it's too early to be shoveling manure!

BASS

(CHUCKLE) Care to give me a heads-up what this is about?

CHERYL-LYNN

Oh. . .you know me Darlin, I ain't one to gossip!
[BEAT] **But.** . . I'll tell you what we think. So,
I was talking to Gladys, and SHE said the field
survey team what went out late last night, came
back a few hours ago and they was ALL shook up.
Wouldn't say anything and went straight to
Waynewright's office, more nervous than my nephew
Steve waiting for the paternity results! Told
him that child was too cute to have been his!
Boy's ugly as sin and just as dim-witted to boot!

BASS

So. . .I'm walking in there to chat about what
they saw. I'm almost afraid to guess what that
was.

CHERLYN-LYNN

Oh, now why fret about something till you got
something to fret about, what my granddaddy
always use to say anyway. Now, why don't you just
sashay that cute little caboose of yours down to
Grumpypants office. That nasty London-Lady is
already inside, along with Ezekiel. [BEAT] You
know how to ride a horse, right?

BASS

[CURIOUS]

Yes. . .ma'am?

CHERYL-LYNN

[LEANS IN, WHISPERS]

Well, before it comes out accidentally, why don't
you close the stable door on yer britches!

BASS

[EMBARASSED]

Oh. OH! I um. . .thanks. . .Ms. June.

**ZIP OF HIS JEAN PANTS, WALKING DOWN THE HALL.
KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

LARRY

[FROM OTHER SIDE]

ENTER!

DOOR OPENS, BASS ENTERS AND CLOSES DOOR

LARRY

Fashionably late, as per usual; DEP*U*TY Marshal?
You are nothing if not consistent.

ZEKE

Morning lawman.

BASS

Hey Zeke. Pleased to see you too, Jezebel.

JOYCLYN

Eat my ass, Marshmallow!

ZEKE

Damn! You just went biblical! Morning of
surprises round here.

LARRY

If you're done hurling playground insults, I'll
discuss why you children have been called to the
headmaster's office.

BASS

I'm curious.

LARRY

[SIGH] We had a field research team sent out
yesterday evening to scout out potential new core
drilling sites. Much like our current Spresso
site; we want to set up a location some distance
away to avoid any vibrations or seismic
contamination from our stations heavy machinery
or snow clearing bull dozers.

The team was sent out to scout four potential
locations. Each about 30-40 miles from the
station to ensure drilling is optimal. It was at
the third location they came across a commercial
aircraft.

[PAUSE]

This is typically the part where the DEP*U*TY
Marshal interrupts me to ask an inane question
that could have waited until after the briefing.

BASS

I'm all good over here doctor. Please, proceed.

LARRY

Wonderful. Finding a downed aircraft is not too unusual in Antarctica. Over the decades, around 50 various aircraft have crashed or disappeared while operating over polar skies.

BASS

Painfully aware.

LARRY

What makes this one. . .problematic, is that it appeared fully intact. As if it was sat down, directly on the ice. Now, by the amount of snow and permafrost that had gathered around it; the field team estimated it had been sitting there for some time. Ten, maybe fifteen years. They looked for any tail or other identifying markings but couldn't find any through the ice cover.

After radioing into Beauregard Lowing, they've asked for a small team to go and investigate the craft. Determine whose plane it is and if possible, document the area and interior. You'll leave at fourteen hundred this afternoon. Now. . .your questions.

ZEKE

I've actually researched this before doctor. The only flights that went missing and never found were helicopters. All airplanes that crashed are documented. To my knowledge, ain't no missing airplanes left.

LARRY

None the less Mister Bustamante, we have one. Instructions are to have a small team assembled to investigate.

BASS

Déjà vu!

LARRY

Pardon?

BASS

Déjà vu! Given the three of us were here and the ice queen over there being in the know. . .

JOYCLYN

I'll get the preserves for my bum and everything Marshmallow! Eat it!

BASS

Last season something was detected out on the ice. All mysterious and a small group was sent out. Is this something like a recurring seasonal event for you all?

ZEKE

Actually, come to think of it. . .it happened couple times before you came down. Nothing like this, but. . .

LARRY

Gentlemen! [TWO BEAT] You are more than welcome to speculate and banter about your already wild and imaginative conspiracy theories on your own time. This, however, is NOT your time, it is MY time being wasted! I've selected four individuals to investigate. The three of you and our ordinance and demolition technician.

LONG PAUSE

BASS

I'm sorry, did you say. . .demolition?

ZEKE

I'm sorry, did you say I was going with these two, and with explosives as well?

LARRY

Everybody heard me correctly. My specific skill set is not required on this. . .endeavor. Therefore, there is no need for my attendance. Mister Bustamante, I trust you'll use your usual skill and experience in having a vehicle prepped and made ready? Head out, investigate and head back afterwards. I've already had Mister LaMarche notified. He's gathering his. . .materials and will get them ready for transport.

BASS
[LOW VOICE]
Shhhh. Don't prompt.

LARRY
You may all go now!

FOOTSTEPS OUT THE DOOR, IT CLOSSES BEHIND THEM

BASS
DAMN IT!

ZEKE
HA-HA! TOLD YA! BOOM! Twenty more bucks baby, fork it over to daddy!

JOYCLYN
What are you two knob heads on about?

BASS
I bet Zeke next time we were here, he'd get in one last insult before the "you may go now".

ZEKE
Damn lawman! You got the worst gambler-luck of any cat I've ever seen!

JOYCLYN
I can't believe I picked this over the assignment in Belize! What are you too, like eight?

BASS
Here ya go!

ZEKE

And I thank YOU lawman! Going get me some road-snacks for the trip with this.

FADE OUT

ACT II

WE'RE IN A SNOWCAT, DRIVING ACROSS THE ICE. THE ENGINE IS RUNNING AND WE HEAR A SLIGHT WIND FROM INSIDE THE CABIN. THE CONSTANT MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH OF CHIPS.

JOYCLYN

Will you STOP, with the munching of crisps! It's truly annoying!

ZEKE

[SLIGHT MOUTH FULL]

I.AM.telling you lawman, these spicy takis are the BOMB!

REESE

BOMB? BOMB! WHO NEEDS ME? Where's the bomb?

SLIGHT SOUND OF SKA MUSIC AS HEADPHONES ARE LIFTED

ZEKE

Nah nah nah, sorry Maurice. Used the slang word, didn't mean the noun. My bad!

REESE

[CRAZED VOICE]

Like I said before. Don't like Maurice. NEVER LIKED IT! Yeah, yeah! Just call me Reese you see? Just like the guy from my favorite movie. Made nitro, in a hotel kitchen sink, in the eighties, TOOK OUT A ROBOT! [WEIRD CHUCKLE]

ZEKE

[CAUTIOUS]

Right, gotcha Reese, gotcha. Just go back to listening to your music, we be there soon enough!

SLIGHT SOUND OF SKA MUSIC AS THE HEADPHONES GO BACK ON.

REESE

[SINGING IN A SKA FLAVOR]

It's a noun-noun, not a verrrrrrbbbbbbb. It's a noun-noun, not a verrrrrrrrbbbb! It's a noun-noun, not a verrrrrrbbbbbbb!

BASS

So; what's the deal with the. . .what'd you call him, a blaster?

MUNCHES ON ANOTHER CHIP!

ZEKE

Right. So. . .we got these guys you see. Usually have one or two over summer. They go out, and any hill, mound or collection of ice or frost that solidified hard, they take out with their. . .materials!

REESE

BOOM! Sweetheart, that's right. Boo-freakin-oom!
[SMALL CHUCKLE]

ZEKE

When we need a new hole started for the um, the ice cores. They get it started. I mean, they have other duties like helping out the VMF crew. Storing and making sure their. . .materials are secured and used safely. Figuring out how to clear something without damaging anything important. He's good at what he does, promise you that, it's just. . .

REESE

PLAY THAT TROMBONE!

ZEKE

He's a bit. . .out there.

JOYCLYN

Hold up! You telling me, Waynewright, put me into a torrie, with you two bloody gits, and a nutter who handles high explosives? Oh, that's just rubbish!

ZEKE

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHH Woman! Not so loud! Some words get him all; you know. . .kinda worked up. That's why he always has on his headphones! Listens to ska music. Says it's the only thing that keeps him grounded.

LOW MINIACAL CHUCKLE

BASS

and he's okay? In handling exp. . .

ZEKE

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

BASS

Handling the stuff back there we're hauling. While we're all sitting on a hundred gallons of highly flammable gas?

ZEKE

Naw, we good.

POPS ANOTHER CHIP

ZEKE

See, the sled back there. It's reinforced. Why we dragging something so small, yet it feels so heavy and weighted. There's a container, in the container. The one internal is a gyro-stabilizing container so no matter the bump, the shimmy or the hippie hippie shake, it stays level and secure.

JOYCLYN

Saw '*Wages of Fear*' in the enlisted lounge one time. That was so much better than this!

BASS

And he's okay. . .to be dealing and working with.
. . .

ZEKE

Yeah, we don't get him during the winter when everything shuts down. Doc Bremmer said the isolation was no good for him. But he comes back EVERY summer. Not saying I'm going be playing

Jenga with this cat anytime soon, but he's a master when he goes to work. Damn sight to see. Cat was in the US Army. E.O.D.

JOYCLYN

Oh bloody **HELL!** M.O.S. 89-Delta? That explains a lot! Dated somebody from E.O.D. one time. She was completely barmy! Great in bed though! Talk about explosive orgas. . .

WE HEAR A DIGITAL BEEPING NOISE

BASS

Alright everybody. G.P.S. says we're within three hundred yards. Joyclyn, let's park it here and go in first on foot.

ZEKE

I'll replace the rechargeable batteries on the Yeti while you all kit-out. Chris hooked up a remote system with an iPad. This area out here never been fully surveyed. Last thing we want is to go over a weak crevasse.

REESE

BRAYEAH!-BUAH-RUM-A-RUM-A-RUM!

SLOWDOWN OF THE SNOW CAT AND ENGINE REVS DOWN.

BASS

Up ahead, according to the survey team it's just on the other side of that small hill, nestled between that and another hill on the opposite side, about 45 meters out.

JOYCLYN

Sleeping in-between two hills, only visible if you went by from the east or west and happed to turn your head? No wonder it hasn't been spotted before.

BASS

I'll radio back in the Amundsen that we've arrived. We're still withing range, yes?

ZEKE

We have an antenna on the big radio tower at the station, way up there. We using APX 8K-P25 CBs; so, we could head out a ways more and still get reception.

DOORS OPEN AND THE TEAM GOES OUT, CAT STILL RUNNING.

JOYCLYN

Gear up. Five minutes and we hump it the rest the way.

BASS

Sorry? Who said you were in charge?

JOYCLYN

[POINTED]

I did. Happy to discuss it in person over here if you want!

BASS

Oh, more than happy to dis. . . .

EZIKLE

[DAD VOICE]

HEY! SERIOUS NOW! I don't know what we about to walk into, don't know what the full history between you two is, but I'M in charge here.

BASS

Standard NSF station protocol. Highest ranking station contractor or scientist leads the expedition. Ska-man up there is a worker, not a division or department lead.

REESE

[NERVOUS, THROUGH WINDOW]

Why's everybody looking at me? It doesn't go boom, unless I SAY IT GOES BOOM! [Creepy chuckle] Gun the man down, seven WAYYYYS from sundown!

Gun the man down
Song by: Prince Buster

ZEKE

Exactly Reese, c'mon out here my man, we're heading out! [Quick prayer] dear lord keep him calm this time, Amen!

DOOR OPEN, SNOW CRUNCH AND DOOR CLOSE

You agent-lady are a consultant. How Waynewright explained it and by you yourself. Um, sorry lawman, but same goes to you. You part of the station, permanent and all that, but you ain't operations, not a Dexter or beaker, or DeWalt.

Which leaves, your truly!

BASS

A station division head in charge of 13 departments.

ZEKE

Yeah, its 14. 13's not a good number, so I added the department of Keenan Accident Prevention. Cleaning up after youngblood's messes is a full-time gig; might as well get credit!

BASS

I'm okay with it.

ZEKE

Agent-Lady?

JOYCLYN

Whatever. I'm gearing up. Just don't slow me down and stay out of my way!

ZEKE

I accept your ringing endorsement. Okay, I'll get the Yeti's batteries changed and remote her out 10 yards of so in front as we walk. Shove my tools in the pack, grab the ladder and we'll head out.

FADE OUT

ACT III

JOYCLYN'S RECORDER: RECORDING HAS COMMENCED
ONLY 10 MINUTES HAS PASSED. THE TEAM IS WALKING SLOWLY
ACROSS THE ICE. THE WIND IS STRONG AND INTERMINANT, BUT NOT
HOWLING. JOYCLYN IS IMPATIENT AND IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS.

ZEKE

[FROM DISTANCE]

...too far ahead and in front of the Yeti. You
break into a crevasse and it going to be real
bad. The yeti will detect it before we. . . .
.STOP! DON'T MOVE!

WALKING STOPS

ZEKE

This is what I was just. . .mmmmm, Lord help me
out here. JOYCLYN, STEP BACK TEN PACES, SLOWLY.
[LOWER, JUST TO BASS]. Moron just went over an
open crevasse. Just about bought it.

BASS

[HALF-JOKING]

You know if an accident were to. . .

ZEKE

[ANGRY, ANXIOUS]

Uh-uh! Don't even joke about that around me
lawman!

BASS

Right, right! Sorry buddy.

ZEKE

We still good. TWO MORE. . .okay, you're clear.

JOYCLYN

WHAT?

BASS

Look here at this iPad. This is us! Green dot.
That's the yeti scanner, 60 feet out, the blue
dot. See all the red wavy lines pulsing and the
blinking red exclamation mark? That's death.

JOYCLYN

Once more, without the sarcasm mate.

ZEKE

You just walked directly onto a crevasse with a layer of ice over it. Thankfully it's thick enough that your weight didn't crack it. Look, just bear with me here for a couple of minutes. The yeti is pretty quick, and it shouldn't take too long to map out the area up to and around the plane, see if'n I can't figure out how bad the situation is.

TAP TAP OF THE IPAD AS FOOTSTEPS HEAD OFF FROM ZEKE.

BASS

Mister LaMarche? Hi! Yeah, over. . .hi! You want to. . .the headphones. . .maybe. . .not not a high-five! The. . .HEADPHONES!

BLARE OF MUSIC AS THE HEADPHONES ARE LIFTED

RESSE

SO, he says . . .BOSS-TONES MAN! You'll dig 'em! And I'm like. . .BOSTON? Boston doesn't know ska. Boston ain't hip. Not Rascal King, more like Rascal swing. SWING? This ain't no swing music. It's Ska HEPCAT!

BASS

Good to know. We're taking five. Hang tight. Smoke em if you got 'em.

RESSE

SMOKING HOT! MADNESS. One step BEYOND!

MUSIC DIES OUT AS THE HEADPHONES ARE REPLACED, BUT WE HEAR REESE HUMING AND DANCING AROUND IN THE SNOW TO THE SONG.

BASS

Thought this place was done surprising me.

JOYCLYN

Look Marshmellow, I have to know. Yeah, we're not mates, never will be and I actively despise everything you are and stand for. . .but I gotta know. Why'd you agree to come down here?

BASS

I go where I'm told to go Joyclyn. Perform my orders and do what I'm told. Nothing more interesting than that.

JOYCLYN

Bollocks!

BASS

Believe whatever you want, or don't. I came down here to solve a murder and I did. The brass asked me to stay as they wanted. . .they needed full time support down here. Given the drug running, sabotage, fugitives coming through, I'd say they weren't wrong.

You are right about one thing though. You. . .me. . .we'll never be friends. Not even work acquaintances. I tolerate your presence down here, because I have no choice but to. So, just ensuring we're clear. . .I've never forgotten what happened in Cincinnati. I never will. Stay on your part of the station and I'll stay in mine! As far as this. . .you and me chatting. . .we're not. If there is information you have or I need to relay as part of the mission, we'll have words then and when necessary. Clear?

JOYCLYN

[UNSURPRISED CHUCKLE]

Have it your way Marlow. I'm not going to get all upset about it.

BASS

Good!

JOYCLYN

Too right!

AWKARD SILENCE

REESE

HEY! Let's go. . .downnnnn-towwwwnnnn to the Ska show! [CREEPY CHUCKLE]

AWKARD SILENCE

ZEKE

Okay. I got good news, and I got the bad news.

BASS

Bad news first.

ZEKE

Sent the yeti around the plane, twice. So, these two hills on either sides. . .well they ain't just hills; they the boundaries for a large crevasse the runs the length of this here valley. Plane came to a rest right in-between em'. Her tail-end is resting on ice that is capping the Crevasse.

BASS

[SARCASTIC]

Just fantastic! So, what's the good news then?

ZEKE

Well, the yeti scans downward indicate the ice it sitting on is about 350 feet thick. It's down to about 200 in other spots; but where we want to go is the thickest. I looked up a few things before we left, and this thing, assuming it has no fuel, some bags and people: we looking at about 350 thousand pounds. So, in theory, we should be okay so long as we don't take the snowcat closer in. The four of us and our gear; we should be okay.

JOYCLYN

Notice you said, "should be okay"; not "would be."

ZEKE

[NERVOUS]

Yeah. So, if we start hearing a bunch of Ice cracking; We gonna want to run same direction plane's nose is pointing. Towards the thicker ice! I mapped us out a route to take to stay on the thickest parts of Ice all the way to the plane. I'll lead the way, just follow my route; and make sure dancing Abba queen back there don't wander too far off.

**SOME MUTTERING AND THEN FOOTSTEPS AHEAD.
WE HEAR VARIOUS MUTTER AND OUTBURSTS FROM REESE EN ROUTE.**

ZEKE

OKAY, WE HERE! Survey team said they couldn't get up to the plane door cause of'n the landing gear being down. Let me get the ladder set up and I'll get that door open.

**SOUND OF LADDER BEING SET DOWN AND THEN EXTENDED.
CLIMBING LADDER RUNGS.**

ZEKE

[GRUNTING AS HE TRYs TO OPEN THE COCKPIT DOOR]

BASS

You want the cutting torch, buddy?

ZEKE

Hang tight. . .gonna use some big-boy muscles here and. [GRUNTING]. . .

SOUND OF A LATCH MOVING

ZEKE

Hell yes! WHOES YOUR DADDY?

BASS

Okay, we're coming up.

**MORE LADDER RUNG CLIMBING. THE TEAM GO INTO THE PLANE AND
THE SOUND OF WIND BECOMES MUTED. ECHOING THROUGHOUT THE
FUSALIGE. SLIGHT FOOTSTEPS.**

JOYCLYN

Where's all the passengers?

BASS

I'll check the cockpit.

ZEKE

Looks like nobody home.

**SLIENT FOOTSTEPS. OFF IN THE DISTANCE WE HEAR BASS TRYING
TO OPEN A DOOR WITH NO LUCK. AN OVERHEAD BIN OPENS.**

ZEKE

Luggage still in the overhead.

FIVE BEAT. THE SILENCE IS BROKEN

REESE

But I climbed one, two flight, three flight,
four. Five, six, seven flight, eight flight more.

JOYCLYN

OI! NUTTER! KNOCK IT OFF!

HEADPHONES COME OFF AND SKA MUSIC AGAIN.

REESE

What's the dealy o? [BEAT] Whoa. Nice jet bird.
We going somewhere daddy-o's?

JOYCLYN

Marshmallow, I just can't with this one here. All
yours! What's the deal with the cockpit?

FOOTSTEPS TO THE GROUP

BASS

Locked from the inside. Exactly what you'd
expect. We could cut it open with the torch, but
it will take time.

ZEKE

You two look around up here. Me and Captain
Obvious will check out the luggage hold. See if
we can get the cargo doors to open as easy as the
cabin did.

FOOTSTEPS AWAY.

JOYCLYN

I'll take port. You go starboard.

**SLOW FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE AISLES. OVERHEAD BINS BEING OPENED
AS THEY GO. TENSE MUSIC STARTS**

BASS

You noticing the seats?

JOYCLYN

Almost all the belts are engaged.

BASS

Same on this side. Middle too. If the passengers and crew fled on foot to look for help; the belts would be unfastened, and the cabin door opened. Same with the cockpit door.

JOYCLYN

Gear was down. Flaps were down. This wasn't a sudden crash. It was a controlled landing. If it were a high jacking, everything wouldn't be this tidy.

BASS

There's still luggage in the overhead. Under the seats here and there. I see briefcases. Purses. Cups of coffee and drinks sitting on trays. Laptops open.

JOYCLYN

None of this is making sense.

FOUR BEAT

BASS

Continue on to the rear.

MORE FOOTSTEPS AND OVERHEADS BEING OPENED. WIND SHIFTING AS WE HEAR BANGING COMING FROM BELOW.

RADIO SQUAKS

ZEKE

[RADIO]

That's just us. Cargo doors frozen shut but good. Trying some brute force first. Otherwise, we'll have to cut it open.

REESE

[OVER ZEKE'S RADIO]

Breaching charge! Oh yeah. I can whip something up like that quick! Boom Boom Boom let's go back to my room! GET ME?

RADIO CLOSES

FOOTSTEPS AND TENSE MUSIC DIES OUT

BASS

Rear galley. I'm not seeing any sign of distress, violence, or anything that tells me what happened here. Other than we found a fully air worthy plane with all the passengers missing.

SOMETHING IS PICKED UP

JOYCLYN

Have some sort of journal or ledger here.

PAGES FLIP

JOYCLYN

Looks like an air steward manager timecard or staff roster. English writing, that's a plus. We're on Guarda Airlines. Flight G.A.990; um... Serial number 29144 Line number 1305.

BASS HITS HIS RADIO

BASS

Hey Zeke?

RADIO SQUAK

ZEKE

[ON RADIO]

Go ahead lawman.

BASS

We found the plane's information. Flight number, serial number, all that. I'm going to radio it back into the station.

ZEKE

[ON RADIO]

No problem. Snow cat has a repeater on board, so you should have great signal. See if they can tell you where the . . .whatcha call it thing is. The recorder, the flight box or whatever. They probably gonna want us to grab that. Switch over to channel two for home.

RADIO SQUAK AND DIGITAL BEEP

BASS

Amundsen-Scott, this is Bustamante search party reporting in. Over.

RADIO SQUAK

THOMAS

[OVER RADIO]

Go ahead Deputy Marshal. Reading you loud and clear, over.

BASS

Hey Mister Kelley. We're on-board the plane found by the survey team. Zeke has us investigating the interior. Wait.

TWO BEAT

BASS

Found information on the flight we're on. Need you to look it up for us. We're on Flight Golf.Alpha.Dash.Niner.Niner.Zero. Plane Serial number begins. Two.niner.one.four.four. over.

RADIO SQUAK

THOMAS

Copy that Deputy Marshal. Standby. Over.

RADIO SQUAK

BASS

If any of the lifeline satellites are overhead, this should be relatively quick. Just. . .do me a favor and don't walk behind me!

JOYCLYN

Think I'll attack you Marshmallow.

BASS

I think you'd try; yes.

JOYCLYN

[SCOFFS]

THREE BEAT.

RADIO SQUAKS

THOMAS

[ON RADIO, SOUNDS NERVOUS]

Uhhhh, hey guys. The um. . .well the flight
you're on. . .

**SUDDEN FADE IN OF WHITE STATIC AND THAN A LOUD DIGITAL
TONE. THREE SECONDS OF SILENCE THEN AN AUTOMATED MASSAGE
PLAYS ACROSS THE RADIO.**

AUTOMATED

BY ORDER OF BEAUREGARD-LOWING AND UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ALL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS
WILL SUSPENDED AND UNAVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE. PLEASE STANDBY, PLEASE STANDBY, PLEASE
STANDBY, PLEASE. . . .

BASS

It's on every channel! I think our radio comms
are being jammed.

JOYCLYN

[SMUGLY]

Sounds right to me!

RADIO CHANNEL BEEPS, NOTHING BUT STATIC.

BASS

DAMN IT! [SIGH] I'm going to go fill Zeke in.
You. . . .do whatever it is that you do!

**FOOTSTEPS STOMPING AWAY DOWN THE CABIN
SOUND OF A ZIPPER BEING PULLED DOWN AND SOMETHING EXTRACTED
FROM A POCKET. DIGITAL KEYS BEING PUSHED.**

RADIO SQUAK

JOYCLYN

Fowler, Joyclyn. Q clearance. Authentication
Green Seven One Three Codex. Direct to Dantes.
Priority Comms this channel.

**STATIC DIES DOWN BUT NOT FULLY CLEAR. A M+FAMILIAR VOICE
POPS ON THE CHANNEL.**

MADALINE

Agent Fowler?

JOYCLYN

[FRUSTRATED]

I'm here. What the bloody hell is all this?
You're jamming comms?

MADALIE

[CURT, DIRECT]

Young lady, I need you to shut your face for two
seconds and listen to what I'm about to tell you,
very, VERY carefully!

JOYCLYN'S BODYCAM: RECORDING HAS CONCLUDED

ACT IV

**FADE IN. INSIDE THE PLANE CARGO HOLD. WE JOIN BACK AS BASS
IS ON HIS SAT PHONE WITH THOMAS**

BASS

. . . It's been that way for over two hours now.
All handheld radio communications are being
blocked. I'm honestly surprised the satellite
phone is working.

THOMAS

[ON PHONE]

Your iridium phone connects with overhead
satellites. The radio system depends on ground
transmitters, repeaters and a truncing system.
Probably how the government is blocking our
transmissions. Something pre-installed in the
software systems they activated. Not so easy to
do with satellite communications. As soon as I
heard the communications system being blocked, I
figured the satellite phones would still be
working. They operate on a completely different
system after all.

BASS

Okay. . .the others are dropping off the
materials we had to walk back to the snowcat to

get. I'm in the cargo hold by myself. Don't want Joyclyn to know I still have an active line back. So, what's the deal? What were you saying before you got cut off?

THOMAS

The plane you found. It's the one that went missing around ten years ago. It's Indonesia Air 990!

BASS

[UNSURE]

It. . .vaguely rings a bell. Ten years ago, I wasn't. . .I didn't really pay attention to news or anything not directly important to my job back then. Refresh my memory.

THOMAS

Gee, I just thought everybody. . .[REFOUCS] Okay. So, Flight 990 was leaving from the city of Hobart, In Tasmania and carrying back passengers who had been on holiday. The majority were Indonesian citizens, but there were also a few from China, Korea. .but most were from Jakarta and other Provinces'.

The plane took off to return home early in the morning in May of 2013. After about 40 minutes in the air, it fell off radars. It was at thirty-five thousand feet one minute and then. . .nothing.

BASS

[CONFUSED]

So, the plane I'm standing in, right now. . .exploded? Cause I have to say it's in pretty much in contrary condition!

THOMAS

[EXCITED RETELLING THE STORY]

That's just it Deputy. . .everybody thought at first it must have been a bomb, but since it disappeared just as they left the northern shore and were over the Bass strait [BEAT]. . .wow, that's a coincidence. . .[REFOCUS] um, there

would have been debris, and it was close enough that an explosion would have been visible.

The next morning when they failed to arrive in Jakarta, a massive search was started. There were A LOT of conflicting data points coming in. One radar station would say they were detected over Northern Territory of Australia. Another station swore they hit a ping over the Tasmania Sea, heading towards New Zealand. Planes, ships, even Satellites scanned the ocean, seas and outback for YEARS looking for any sign. Never finding anything. Until. . .

BASS

Until she was found, ten years later in the middle of Antarctica, fully intact, landing gear down and not a sign of any passengers or crew.

THOAMS

[EXCITED]

Deputy. . .don't you understand. . .you just solved the GREATEST aviation mystery since the disappearance of Emilia Earhart!

BASS

[STOMACH SINKS]

Except, obviously somebody suspected what this plane might be. They had preparations in place and were obviously monitoring as it didn't take long at all after the fight and serial number were run for them to turn off station communications.

THOMAS

You think. . .you think. . .[WHISPERS] The government knew in advance what happened?

BASS

Zeke keeps on telling me I'm horrible at gambling; so, it's a bet I wouldn't take. . .but yes. That's what I suspect. Question is if they want the news of the discovery contained; what. . .in specific are they hiding? Don't get me wrong, I don't need or want any additional popularity for the 'Ice Sheriff', but I'm still

curious what the motive behind all this would have been.

THOMAS

[RECALLING]

The Indonesian Defense Minister! I just remembered! Netflix released a documentary special about the whole disappearance about a year ago. One of the more interesting aspects was the flight contained the . . .well at the time the current minister of defense for Indonesia. They had been scheduled to return a day earlier but stayed over in Tasmania another twelve hours for reasons still not understood! Maybe that had something to do with it!

BASS

Could be. Could be nothing more than a simple coincidence. Not ruling anything out just now. [THREE BEAT]. Mister Kelley, can you and Mister Todd do some discreet searching into what he may have been doing?

THOMAS

Her, what she was doing; but you bet! No problem at all Deputy! Can you just imagine. . .with everything taking place with Indonesia right now. Ambassadors being expelled, international tensions being tense; if this came out and if the United States was responsible. . .well Golly!

BASS

We'll continue investigating. Keep this within the Barn-team for now. Don't talk about anything unless you're inside there and there only.

THOMAS

Absolutely Deputy. I understand. Be safe.

HANG UP SIGNAL. BASS WALKS AROUND PLANE AND UP LADDER TO CABIN.

BASS

Okay. Walked the Cargo hold from front to back. I didn't see anything other than standard luggage

and a few freight pallets. Nothing that indicated it could be the source of. . .any of this.

JOYCLYN

Little spaz-blaster lad got us into the cockpit by blasting off the hinges. Cracker of a job really, tight focus explosion. Minimal noise given the echo chamber. Your mate Zeke was right. He may be a nutter, but he's bloody great at his craft. He's out smoking a fag as we speak. Basking in it, as it were.

BASS

Speaking of. . .where is Zeke?

WE HEAR A DOOR OPEN, SQUEEKING AND PUSHING THROUGH ICE BUILDUP.

ZEKE

[FROM A SLIGHT DISTANCE, EMBARRASSED]

Up here lawman. Um. . .yeah. So. . .in the heat of the need, I didn't stop to think. Everything being frozen and not fully, operational. . .

BASS

[GETS IT]

Oh, you didn't.

ZEKE

[EMBARRASSED]

Man! It was all them damn hot Taki's lawman. All the spicy chips I ate on the way out here. You know I gots a nervous tummy when we travel. [SERIOUS] Don't you go shaming me Bass Marlow!

JOYCLYN

[DOUBTFUL]

You cannot be. . .

TAKES TWO STEPS

JOYCLYN

OH MY GIDDY AUNT! WHAT POSSIBLE. . .

ZEKE

DON'T NEED IT FROM YOU EITHER AGENT-LADY!

JOYCLYN
[COVERING HER MOUTH AND NOSE]
What are they putting into the crisps you yanks eat? That's RANCID!

ZEKE
MAN, SCREW YOU BOTH! [UPSET, LOW] Like neither of you make a mistake ever.

JOYCLYN
[COVERING HER MOUTH AND NOSE]
Seriously lad! Seek medical attention for whatever that is living in your gut!

ZEKE
[DEFLECTING]
Okay. Ha-ha-ha! We had our laughs.

BASS
[COVERING HIS MOUTH AND NOSE]
Nobody is laughing Zeke!

ZEKE
You two want to know what I saw in the cockpit or not?

JOYCLYN
[COVERING HER MOUTH AND NOSE]
Can we discuss it back toward the rear of the plane?

QUICK FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE ASILE.

BASS
Okay buddy. Now, what was in there? Assuming same as out here. Seatbelts tightened, stuff still in place.

ZEKE
More or less yeah, cept a few specific things.

JOYCLYN
[SARCASTIC]
Anytime now.

ZEKE

You know how in an emergency the oxygen masks pop down? Well, theirs come out the sides. Both the front seats had oxygen masks in them. Just sitting down on the chair. Seatbelts were still locked down, but there was this clipboard, next to all the display screens and whatnot. Bunch of maps and numbers, but in pen written in large letters all over that, was what I think was a word in some language I don't know.

JOYCLYN

Did you get a picture?

ZEKE

[SARCASTIC]

How dumb you think I am? Of course I took a photo.

JOYCLYN

You don't want me to answer that first part there luv!

BASS

Let's see it.

UPZIP OF POCKET.

ZEKE

Here ya go.

BASS

I don't recognize it but given this is an Indonesian airline. Stands to reason, it's Indonesian.

THREE BEAT, CAMERA RETURNED AND JACKET POCKET ZIPPED BACK.

BASS

Well ,short of going through all the luggage, which I'm kinda opposed to until we know more what happened; not sure there's more to do until they lift the jamming.

ZEKE

[DEEP SIGH, PONDERING]

Yeah. Only things we couldn't get into were the cockpit and cargo holds; but Reese and his. . . hey. . .where's he at?

BASS

He was loading stuff back onto the tow sled last I saw. Just before I came back in here from the Cargo hold after he opened it. Enjoying that cigarette of his.

FOOTSTEPS TO WINDOW

ZEKE

Huh. Has everything packed up and waiting over by. . .[SERIOUS] EVERYBODY OUT! OUT NOW!

TENSE MUSIC STARTS

WE HEAR RUNNING TO THE DOOR. THE OUTSIDE WIND GETS LOUDER AND THE THREE SLIDE DOWN THE LADDER AND TO THE GROUND.

ZEKE

[PANICKED]

GO! GO! GET OVER TO REESE!

BASS

[PANTING, TALKING WHILE RUNNING]

ZEKE? WHAT THE HELL?

ZEKE

HE WIRED IT BASS! LOOK AROUND THE ICE COVER.

FEET RUNNING ON ICE.

BASS

I'LL KILL HIM!

MORE RUNNING, THE SINGING OF SKA MUSIC CAN BE HEARD LOUDER AS THEY APPROACH REESE.

REESE
THREE SHOTS RUNG OUT! THE HERO'S DEAD! THE NEW
KING IS CROWNED!

BASS
GRAB HIS HAND BEFORE. . .

**WE HEAR A CLICK AND A BEEPING NOISE. SLOW TO QUICK OVER
FIVE SECONDS AS FOOTSTEPS STOP. SUDDENLY THERE ARE A
CHAINLIKE SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS. NOT MASSIVE, BUT LOUD.
AROUND TEN. THE ICE CRACKS AS EACH ONE DETONATES AND WE
HEAR A LOUD MATALLIC LEARCHING AS THE PLANE ROLLS BACKWARDS
AND SLIPS INTO THE CREVASE. CRASHING DOWN BELOW.**

REESE
IT'S. . . . [CREEPILY DELIVERY] beautiful!

BASS GRABS REESSE BY THE JACKET

BASS
WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? WHY'D
YOU DO THAT? YOU COULD HAVE KILLED. . .

REESE
[INCOHEARANT MUTTERING]

BASS
WHAT?

REESE
[ENTHRALLED, ALMOST TRANCE LIKE]
I'm gonna ska, ska, ska, guess it's got them all,
Pretty lady, pretty lady.

BASS
You? [THREE BEAT] YOU! YOU HAD HIM DO THAT? ARE
YOU INSANE? YOU WERE OUT THERE TOO! YOU ARE
ASBOLUTLEY WRECK. . . [CAN'T COMPREHEAND} WHY?

JOYCLYN
[COLD, COLLECTED, MEASURED]
I'll give you the same answer you gave me a few
hours ago. I go where I'm told to go Marlow.
Perform my orders and do what I'm told. Nothing
more interesting than that. Remember what you
said. we're not mates, not work acquaintances.

**FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS JOYCLYN, THE PAT OF A HAND ON A JACKET,
PERVENTING.**

ZEKE

Lawman. Time to go back.

BASS

ZEKE! Do you NOT REALISE!

ZEKE

I realize lawman. You fired up. Not thinking
straight. Later Bass. This can be dealt with,
later.

**SLOW FOOTSTEPS STARTING BACK TO THE SNOWCAT, AS THE WIND
INCREASES.**

OUTRO