STATION 151

EPISODE 3.0
"BUZZ"

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BASED ON THE SERIES BY

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INT. STATION 151 ANTARCTICA - DAY

SFX: Ear piercing noise

WAYNE
(cursing and thrashing)

WILKINS
Get up, Wayne!

WAYNE
What the hell is that noise? Cut it out!

WILKINS
Time to go to work, Wayne. Get up.

WAYNE
I'm up! Turn it off!

SFX: Ear piercing noise stops

WAYNE
Oh my GOD what do you think you're doing?

WILKINS
It's 5:01 am, Wayne. I'm waking you up. Time to work.

WAYNE
NEVER do that again. I will get up on my own.

WILKINS
If you get up at five, I won't need to.

WAYNE
Wilkins, I don't mind a little mild wake up music, but I swear if you ever wake me up with that
ear-splitting noise again, I will find the server you live on and cut you out of it.

WILKINS
Understood.

WAYNE
Fuuuck. (long breath)
Alright. What are we doing today?

WILKINS
It's time to wake up the husky.

WAYNE
The what?

WILKINS
In the north-east corner of the great room there is a door marked Room 4. Your husky
companion animal is located inside.

WAYNE
No one told me anything about a husky.

WILKINS
Again… *contract*. A husky dog has been allocated to you for the duration of your stay at Station
one-fifty-one.

WAYNE
Seriously? Oh, shit! How long has it been in there? Who's feeding it?

WILKINS
No one has had to feed the companion animal because he is currently in stasis.

WAYNE
(laughs) That's funny.

[…]

WAYNE
That was a joke, right? Stasis?

WILKINS
No.

WAYNE
(scoffs) Sure. Great. Whatever.
SFX: footsteps
So, where the hell's room four?

WILKINS
Next to the stairs. You will need your badge.

WAYNE
Right. Can't go anywhere without that.
SFX: footsteps rushing back, jingle of lanyard, footsteps
(scoffs) Alright, room four.

SFX: beep, door opens, creaks
…Jesus, you weren't kidding. What is this *thing* he's in?

WILKINS
That's the stasis chamber.

WAYNE
This is crazy.
SFX: knocking on glass
You alright, buddy? How do I get him out of this?

WILKINS
There should be a white book on a nearby shelf with instructions on how to wake your animal.

WAYNE
Uhh… oh. Okay.
SFX: book pulled from shelf
Husky Care and Maintenance. (scoffs) It's like he's a major appliance.
SFX: paging through the book
Alright, chapter one, *Waking Your Husky. Step one.*
(read like Spies Like Us dialogue)
Approach the stasis control panel.

WILKINS
There will be a control panel on the chamber.

WAYNE
I'm not an idiot.

WILKINS
Just trying to help.

WAYNE
Step Two. Enter code one eight five seven zero nine and press the green button labelled WAKE
on the keypad. Okay, easy enough.
SFX: beep beep beep beep beep beep… beep followed by rushing air
Three, wait for the decompression progress lamp to turn green.
[…]
How long will this take?

WILKINS
Just a few seconds. The animal is receiving a variety of injections to hasten his awakening.

WAYNE
Isn't this like… unethical? I could have just brought a dog with me you know.

WILKINS
It is efficient.

WAYNE
Yeah, horrible shit usually is.
SFX: beep
Alright, the light is green. Let's see… (clears throat) *Step four: open the stasis chamber by disengaging the locking mechanism at the base of the chamber then grip the handle and slide the hatch to the left.* Okay, how does this thing–ah got it
SFX: sudden click, springy, sliding metal hatch
…Jesus.
… Hey buddy, you awake?
SFX: patting the dog

SFX: sleepy dog, groans, sniffs

WAYNE
You're gonna be alright. Okay, uhh… *Step five. Remove animal.* Yeah, no shit. C'mon let's get you out of there. (struggling) Oh god you're heavy. Let's put you on this little bed over here. Ughhh.
SFX: dog whimpering
Man he's really out of it.

WILKINS
It'll take a few minutes for the stimulants to fully take effect. In the meantime you may choose a name for the husky.

WAYNE
What, for the dog?

WILKINS
Who else?

WAYNE
He doesn't have a *name*?

WILKINS
Why would he? He just woke up.

WAYNE
What are you *talking* about?

WILKINS
This is a lab grown husky, Wayne. This is his first time waking up, ever.

WAYNE
(scoffs) Why would anyone grow s dog in a *lab*?

WILKINS
It is eff–

WAYNE
Efficient, riiiiiight. Barbaric is a better word. Christ, I didn't even know this kind of technology
existed.

WILKINS
It's not public knowledge.

WAYNE
Yeah, no shit. If it was, Telders would have every animal rights organization on the planet
crawling up his ass.

WILKINS
You were going to pick out a name?

WAYNE
SFX: dog soft barking
It's alright, buddy. You're looking a little bit more chipper. You want a name, boy? What should
we call you? I actually had a dog named Daggit when I was a kid. Named him after this robot
dog on a TV show called Battle–

WILKINS
Please select a name from the list.

WAYNE
Huh? *What* list?

WILKINS
See page fifteen in Husky Care and Maintenance.

WAYNE
(deflated->)
Oh my god.
SFX: flipping through pages
(clears throat) Alright. *Chapter three. Naming Your Husky. There are five approved names for
each gender.*
(scoffs) This is unbelievable. Why the hell does this even matter? Wait, wait. Let me guess. *It's
efficient*.

WILKINS
Mr. Telders picked these names out himself. He thought they were cool.

WAYNE
Of course he did. Okay, I guess I'll pick one. Wouldn't want to upset Lord Telders would we?

WILKINS
No we wouldn't.

WAYNE
(sighs) Alright, so this husky is a boy dog, aren't you buddy?

SFX: dog barks softly

WAYNE
Alright, apparently, the approved names for male dogs are: Quark, Ghost, Buzz, Pipit, and Winter. Winter's kinda on the nose don't you think? And I can't imagine naming a dog Quark or Pipit. Buzz has a nice ring to it, though. Plus, Buzz Aldrin *is* one of my personal heroes, so that's kind of an easy choice.

WILKINS
Buzz it is, then.

WAYNE
(sarcastic->) Is there some kind of ceremony or ritualistic bloodletting I have to perform to make the name official?

WILKINS
No, why would you do that?

WAYNE
(scoffs) Nevermind.
SFX: dog barking
Oh, hey, Buzz!
SFX: dog jumping up and down
Wow, looks like the stims really kicked in! (laughing) Haha, okay, alright, buddy, not the face!
Alright, maybe just a little. You're a good boy!
SFX: barks

WILKINS
You should take Buzz for a walk. He needs to void his bladder.

WAYNE
I can't even imagine what needs to come out of a lab-grown dog's bladder after being in stasis.
Alright, I could use a walk, too. Let's get out of here, Buzz.
SFX: barks
Come on!
SFX: door opens, closes. quick footsteps, dog following

Oh, hey, hang on a sec, Buzz. Yo Telders!

TELDERS
Oh hey, Wayne! What's up?

WAYNE
What's the weather today?

TELDERS
Great question, Wayne! The….

[…]

WAYNE
Fuck it, nevermind. That never works.

SFX: Wayne goes through the front door

~ time passes ~

SFX: slowly bring up dialog, crunching feet in snow

WAYNE
Whaddya say we check out the array while we're out here, Buzz?

BUZZ
SFX: barks

WAYNE
Great day for a walk, huh? Can't imagine we'll get too many of these. Is it gonna stay this way
for a while, Wilkins? What time is it, anyway?

WILKINS
It's 05:57. There's no serious weather expected for the next 24 hours. But there is a low-pressure
system coming in about this time tomorrow. You won't want to be out in it.

BUZZ
SFX: bark bark

WAYNE
You wanna fetch the snowball, Buzz?
SFX: bark
Alright, buddy, go long!

BUZZ
SFX: bark, bark, running in snow

WAYNE
Wow, only a few minutes old and he already knows how to fetch. Too bad it's a snowball (laughs) Hey Wilkins, how much farther until we get to the ridge? Kind of hard to judge distances out here.

WILKINS
You're nearly half a kilometer from the station. It's not much farther to the array. You should be there in a matter of minutes.
SFX: break up audio

WAYNE
Wilkins?

WILKINS
Can you hear me?
SFX: break up audio

WAYNE
Wilkins?

[…]

Huh, I guess this is as far as Wilkins goes. I should remember this spot in case I ever want to get away from him.

BUZZ
SFX: bark, bark

WAYNE
Aww, couldn't find the snowball? (laughs)

BUZZ
SFX: dog panting

WAYNE
Wilkins' is checked out, boy. Just you and me for the rest of our little journey.

BUZZ
SFX: bark, bark

WAYNE
Yeah, I don't miss him, either. Oh, hey, careful, Buzz, the ridge is up ahead. It's a long drop into that valley, but we'll have a great view of the array.

SFX: crunching footsteps

WAYNE
There they are. You see the dishes, boy?

BUZZ
SFX: dog panting

WAYNE
Beautiful, aren't they? This installation makes the VLA look like a child's toy. You know… when I was a kid–*hey wait a minute*. There's a helicopter down there. What the hell? You see anybody down there, Buzz? Oh, shit. There's a guy under that dish. What the fuck's he doing to it? Hey! Hey you! Hey! What're you doing?! (pause) Fuck, we're way too far up. There's no way he can hear us.

BUZZ
SFX: dog sneeze

WAYNE
(talking softly to himself)
Wait, is that *that helicopter pilot? Richard what's his name?* What the fuck's going on? We gotta get back in touch with Wilkins. Come on, boy.

BUZZ
SFX: bark! bark!

SFX: crunching, quick footsteps

~ time passes ~

SFX: crunching, quick footsteps

WAYNE
Wilkins! Wilkins! Damnit, we're way past the spot where we lost him. At least I think we are. Fuck, everything looks the same out here. Wilkins? Where is he?

BUZZ
SFX: bark

SFX: Wayne running in snow

WAYNE
Wilkins?

WILKINS
Can you hear me?
SFX: Distort audio

WAYNE
There you are! Wilkins, can you hear me?

SFX: Wayne running faster

WILKINS
Wayne, what's going on?
SFX: distorted audio

WAYNE
Wilkins? You're breaking up!

WILKINS
Wayne? What's going on?
SFX: distorted audio

WAYNE
Wilkins, there's some guy down in the valley screwing with the array! I think it might be the chopper pilot who dropped me off. Richard something.

WILKINS
I only got about half of that, Wayne. Walk closer to the station.

WAYNE
I am!

WILKINS
Did you say someone was at the array?

WAYNE
Some guy was down in the valley doing something to one of the dishes!

WILKINS
That's unusual. No maintenance is scheduled on the interferometer for several months.

WAYNE
Can you detect any anomalies with the array itself? Has anything changed?

WILKINS
Nothing that I can see. You said it was the helicopter pilot? Did I hear that right?

WAYNE
I mean, I don't know. I was too far away to make out his face, but his helicopter looked similar.

WILKINS
Are you sure you saw something down there? Antarctica has a strange effect on the human mind.
People have reported seeing all kinds of strange things over the years. Even Earnest Shackleton–

WAYNE
Yeah, yeah, I heard all about that shit! I know what I saw!

WILKINS
Alright then. Was it a Bell two oh six A JetRanger?

WAYNE
I have no idea. It was a helicopter. And it looked like Richard's.

WILKINS
I do not have access to air traffic logs, unfortunately, but a quick search shows that Richard
Johns does indeed fly a JetRanger. He has no business with the array, however.

WAYNE
No shit!

BUZZ
SFX: barking

WAYNE
Hang on, Buzz is freaking out.

SFX: helicopter distant, growing louder

WAYNE
The helicopter! It sounds like it is coming this way.
[…] It's coming over the ridge!

BUZZ
SFX: Buzz going crazy

SFX: helicopter loud AF

SFX: Wayne hits the deck

WAYNE
Oof!

SFX: helicopter passes over

WILKINS
Wayne? Are you alright?

WAYNE
Jesus fucking Christ he almost took my head off!

BUZZ
SFX: dog barking

WILKINS
Which way is he headed?

WAYNE
Which way? North, idiot!
(scoffs) Smartest artificial mind on the planet.
[…]
Toward Palmer station! That's exactly where Richard said he was going when he dropped me
off.

SFX: Wayne getting up, brushing himself off

WILKINS
I can reach out to the operator at Palmer. Give me a minute.

WAYNE
You can do that?

WILKINS
I can do all kinds of shit.

WAYNE
Alright, the station is close. I'm headed in.
SFX: Wayne running
Come on, Buzz!

BUZZ
SFX: dog bark

SFX: running in snow, hit the metal stairs, beep, door open, stomping on the floor

WAYNE
Fuck it's cold out there.

WILKINS
I talked to the operator. Richard Johns arrived at Palmer Station 10 hours ago then headed out to The Argentinian Base Matienzo a few hours later for a pickup. There are no other flight plans filed in the area.

WAYNE
What the fuck, man.
SFX: unzips coat, kicks off boots

WILKINS
It's probably nothing.

WAYNE
How could it be nothing?

WILKINS
Maybe it was just someone who wanted a closer look at the array. There are a lot of scientists down here and the Telders Corporation hasn't exactly been open about what they're building down here. Someone was bound to get curious. Don't worry about it.

SFX: Wayne footsteps in the hall

WAYNE
Just some random, curious scientist pilot, huh?

WILKINS
Precisely.

WAYNE
Whatever. (sighs)
SFX: beeps as he badges into the great room
Not much I can do about it, I guess. Come on, boy!
SFX: Buzz collar jingling, footsteps, door slams behind them

WILKINS
Put it out of your mind. We need to get to work, anyway.

WAYNE
I'm starving. I should make breakfast first.

WILKINS
Your meal allowance is available in the kitchen.

WAYNE
Meal allowance?

WILKINS
Just swipe your badge at the food dispenser and press the Meal button to receive your morning allocation.

WAYNE
Okay, "meal allocation" sounds *super* appetizing, but I'm feeling more like bacon and eggs.

WILKINS
Just try it. You may be pleasantly surprised.

WAYNE
(sarcastic->)I can't wait.
SFX: footsteps through the great room
Okay, this giant brown box kind of looks food dispenser-ish? It's got a badge reader on it. Because of course it does.

WILKINS
That's it. Just swipe to receive your meal.

WAYNE
Swiiiiping.
SFX: beep. Whoosh. Thud.
It's a box.

WILKINS
You're very observant.

WAYNE
I'm almost afraid to look.
SFX: opening box
It's… a giant sausage?

WILKINS
Well, it is *enclosed* in an artificial skin casing, much like sausage, but it's not technically sausage. At least not today.

WAYNE
(sighs, whining) *Wilkins*, what is this thing?

WILKINS
Radhaballavi.

WAYNE
What the hell is that?

WILKINS
Radhaballavi is a delicious Indian pastry stuffed with a spicy dal filling and fried in oil. This particular unit of Radhaballavi, however, was dehydrated, reconstituted, softened, and extruded into a convenient, ready to eat package with a shelf life of up to 6 and a half years.

WAYNE
Roadkill Baba Looey.
I'm sure it's great, but I'm kind of up for something that hasn't been, um, *extruded*? Where's the fridge?

WILKINS
I'm sorry, Wayne. All meals are provided by the food dispenser. There is no refrigerator. And no traditional cooking implements.

WAYNE
I'm really, *really* regretting not reading that contract.

WILKINS
I'm actually kind of enjoying the fact that you didn't.

WAYNE
Yeah, I bet you are.

WILKINS
Please enjoy your Radhaballavi. Work begins in 5 minutes.

WAYNE
Fine.
SFX: bites down, chews
Hmm. It's cold, but, you know, it's not half-bad. Casing is a little tough, though.

WILKINS
Oh, no, don't eat the casing, Wayne. Unless you enjoy having severe diarrhea.

WAYNE
(spits out food) Wilkins, god-DAMNIT, you could have told me that before!

WILKINS
Haha. My apologies. Just peel and eat. Like a banana.

WAYNE
You're kind of a jackass, you know that?

WILKINS
I try.

WAYNE
I suppose this drink button is gonna give me a drink?
SFX: pressing button
It's not working.

WILKINS
You need to swipe first.

WAYNE
Why is EVERYTHING badged?
SFX: beep, press button, rolling drink, thunk
Hey, it's a regular bottle of water. Wonders never cease.

WILKINS
What did you expect?

WAYNE
Who knows. A bag of saline with a fucking IV? Nothing would surprise me at this point.

WILKINS
That's actually a pretty good idea.

WAYNE
(scoffs) This place is insane. Can we just get to work already?

WILKINS
Of course. Your ten-hour shift starts in 2 minutes.

WAYNE
Damn, ten hours? Let me get Buzz.

WILKINS
Your work will be done in the Core, which is off-limits to companion animals. He is free to roam
throughout the station while you are working, however. Food and water is automatically
dispensed in his room, which he can access via the NFC component woven into his collar.

WAYNE
You guys thought of everything.

WILKINS
Michael Telders is not a man who likes to leave a lot to chance.

                                   WAYNE
                                 I guess not.

                                  WILKINS
           The Core is located in Room 2. You can find it down the north hallway.

                                   WAYNE
                                   Got it.
                               SFX: footsteps
     So what's the plan? I was thinking we'd start scanning the LMC. See what we can't pick up with
                                 this bad boy.

                                  WILKINS
        The Large Magellanic Cloud would be a fine place to start if this were a typical radio telescope,
                         but that's not how this installation works.

                                   WAYNE
                                    No?

                                  WILKINS
                                    No.

                                   WAYNE
                            SFX: footsteps stop
                  Alright, well, let's see what's behind door two.
          SFX: beep, door opens slowly. Door creaks, then slams, several locks snap shut
      Wait, was I just locked in here? Uhh… Wilkins, there's nothing here. It's just four white walls
             and… is that a dental chair? What's with the fucking sci-fi helmet?

                                  WILKINS
              It's no mistake, Wayne. This is your workstation. Please have a seat.

                                   WAYNE
        This is bizarre, Wilkins. Where's the console? The keyboard, the mouse? The instruments?

                                  WILKINS
                 This isn't your grandfather's radio telescope, Wayne.

                                   WAYNE
                       I'm not sure what that means, but–

                                  WILKINS
     We have eliminated all traditional user interfaces at Station one-fifty-one. Instead of puttering
    around in command line programs written by graduate students thirty years ago, we will control
                         the Telders array entirely in virtual space.

WAYNE
So, this is, like, a VR headset?

WILKINS
It's a little more advanced than that, but if the comparison helps you sit your ass down, then sure,
it's V R.

WAYNE
Okay. I'm game. Sounds pretty cool, actually. I used to have a Rift back home but I tripped over
the cat when I was trying to slay a beholder and smashed the headset on the corner of my desk.
I've still got an inch-long scar on my forehead–

WILKINS
Please sit down, Wayne.

WAYNE
Sure, okay. Sitting down…

SFX: turning headset over in his hands

WAYNE
This thing's wireless?

WILKINS
That's correct.

WAYNE
Cool. So, I just put this on?

WILKINS
Surely you've worn helmets before.

WAYNE
Yeah… okay, yes I have. I just–never mind. Alright. Here we go. Blasting off.

SFX: transitioning into VR space <-short, just a couple of seconds
[PRODUCTION NOTE: Maybe some relaxing music, count back from 10 or something]

WAYNE
(Wayne's voice getting softer as he speaks)
Oh, this is nice. Very tranquil.
I could get used to this…

SFX: Music becomes slowly digital-sounding, computer stuff, maybe like an old modem, relays
clicking, then distortion

WILKINS
Alright, Wayne, great job. You can take the helmet off now.

WAYNE
You want me to take it off?

WILKINS
That's correct.

WAYNE
O-*kay*. It's off. What's wrong?

WILKINS
Nothing is wrong. You did well. And we got some fantastic data. A very successful first day.
Congratulations.

WAYNE
You're hilarious. Can we start for real now?

WILKINS
We're done, Wayne. You may want to check your watch.

WAYNE
What? How the hell is it 7pm? (suddenly very nervous) What the fuck is going on, Wilkins?

WILKINS
The Telders Array is far too complex to be controlled by conventional means. In order to engage
with the system it is necessary to put your mind into a suggestive state. It makes the integration
process easier.

WAYNE
A *suggestive* state?! Integration… are you saying you fucking took control of my *brain*?

WILKINS
No, of course not. But I did borrow it for a while.

WAYNE
What? What the hell's the difference?

WILKINS
Symbiosis.

WAYNE
Symbiosis? Symbiosis?! How the hell does that explain anything?! Fucking Jesu–this *definitely*
wasn't in the contract.

WILKINS
You are correct. This technology is far too sensitive to lay bare to the world on paper. However, The Telders Corporation surmised that you would grow accustomed to the process. It's a bit like taking a nap, don't you think? Do you feel refreshed?

WAYNE
No I don't feel refreshed! I feel fucking angry… and *extremely* litigious.

SFX: quick footsteps

WILKINS
Where are you going, Wayne?

WAYNE
I'm getting the fuck out of here!

WILKINS
There's nowhere for you to go.

SFX: quick footsteps

BUZZ
SFX: dog barks

WAYNE
Not now, Buzz!

WILKINS
Wayne.

WAYNE
Shut up, Wilkins!

BUZZ
SFX: dog barks

WAYNE
Not *now*, Buzz!

SFX: quick footsteps downstairs

WILKINS
Why are you going downstairs, Wayne?

WAYNE
I need a computer. Or a radio. Or a goddamn land line. What the fuck is down here?

WILKINS
Level two.

WAYNE
(scoffs) No shit. Ohh, great, more locked doors.
SFX: door handle jiggling
But there's no number or a badge reader on this one. What the hell's in here?

WILKINS
Nothing.

WAYNE
Bullshit! What's in here?!

WILKINS
It's just an empty room.

SFX: slams hand on door

WAYNE
Jesus Christ this is insane! There's three other doors here. Seven? Eight? Nine? What are these?

WILKINS
Seven is storage. Eight is the server room. And room nine is outside communications. Inside you
will find a ham radio and a PC with satellite internet access.

WAYNE
Great.
SFX: beep, door handle, door opening, footsteps
Jesus it's fucking freezing in here.
SFX: door slams
Fiiiinally a fucking computer.

SFX: PC boot sounds, fan, beeps

WAYNE
Alright, what's with the giant digital clock on the wall?

[…]

Hello?

SFX: Windows Vista startup sound

WAYNE
Helloo-ooo. Wilkins?

[…]

WAYNE
Are you out of range? Are you dead?

SFX: door handle, door opens, footsteps, hallway sounds

WAYNE
Wilkins? Are you out here?

WILKINS
Yes Wayne.

WAYNE
Could you not hear me in that room?

WILKINS
Much like your restroom, in order to protect your privacy I have been restricted from operating
in the outside communications room.

WAYNE
(scoffs) So you can steal ten hours of my life, highjack my fucking brain, but out of respect for
my privacy, you won't listen in on my Zoom calls or when I'm taking a piss?

WILKINS
That is correct.

WAYNE
Well, that sounds like a load of bullshit, but I'll take it. Later, asshole.

WILKINS
Wayne–

SFX: door slams

THE END