

STATION 151

EPISODE 4.0
“ALFIERI”

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BASED ON THE SERIES BY

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INT. STATION 151 ANTARCTICA - NIGHT

SFX: keyboard sounds, mouse clicking

WAYNE

Who builds a two hundred-million-dollar facility and puts Windows fucking Vista on the only computer in the building? What is this thing, a Pentium II or some shit?

SFX: mouse clicking

WAYNE

Alright, Zoom is installed, amazingly... Let's see if Yumi is online. Wait, what time is it in Connecticut? We're technically on New Zealand time and it's 7:25pm here. New Zealand is, what, GMT plus 12? Eastern time is... ah fuck it.

SFX: footsteps, door opens

WAYNE

Wilkins, what time is it in Connecticut?

WILKINS

Two twenty-five A M

WAYNE

Thanks, fuck off

SFX: door slams, footsteps, metal chair scraping across tile floor, keyboard clicking

WAYNE

She might be up.

SFX: Zoom call, rings for a while

WAYNE

Come on, Yumi, pick up.

YUMI

Hello? Wayne!

WAYNE

Yumi, thank God.

SFX: Ticking

Oh what the hell?

YUMI

What? What's wrong? Are you okay?

WAYNE

There's a giant digital clock on the wall and it just started counting down from five minutes.

YUMI

What are you talking about?

WAYNE

Yumi, listen to me. This place is crazy. It's nothing like I expected. I've got this robot AI thing in my ear named Wilkins and he's with me 24 hours a day and I just had my first so-called day at work, and I was knocked out for 10 fucking hours while Wilkins used my brain to operate the array. And all the doors are locked and there's this dog named Buzz that I had to wake from stasis... and the food is all sausage...

YUMI

Wayne, is this a joke? I was asleep. I don't understand. What is wrong with you?

WAYNE

Yumi you've got to get me out of here! Call the police or someone, I don't know. Someone at McMurdo, maybe? Just don't call the Telders Corporation—Jesus the timer is already at two minutes thirty-seven seconds! I think this thing is gonna shut off when it hits zero!

YUMI

Wayne, you're not making any sense. Michael Telders called me yesterday and we had a long talk about how excited he is about your project. He really likes you, Wayne.

WAYNE

MICHAEL TELDERS CALLED YOU?!

YUMI

Yes, what's wrong with that? He said he's going to be in town tomorrow for an award ceremony or something. He even offered to buy me lunch.

WAYNE

Are you fucking kidding me? What did you say?

YUMI

Well, of course I declined. I'm working tomorrow anyway.

WAYNE

Good God. Alright, do NOT answer the phone if he calls again—What the hell is happening? Oh Jesus the timer is almost at zero! Yumi! Do whatever you can to get me out of here!

YUMI

Wayne, I'm so confu—

SFX: Timer's up! Brief buzzing alarm
SFX: Computer powering down sounds

WAYNE
Yumi!

WAYNE
SFX: clicking of buttons
Goddammit!

WAYNE
SFX: Door opens
What the fuck, Wilkins?!

WILKINS
What the fuck, what, Wayne?

WAYNE
There's a goddamn countdown clock in there and it shut everything down when it reached zero!

WILKINS
Outside communications are limited to 15 minutes per day.

WAYNE
What the hell? Why? And that wasn't even 15 minutes. The goddamn thing sped up with every second. That was more like two minutes!

WILKINS
I can't speak to that. Are you saying the timer is flawed?

WAYNE
Jesus, this whole goddamn place is flawed. Wilkins, you need to reset the fucking timer so I can talk to my fiancé.

WILKINS
I'm sorry, Wayne. In order to protect your privacy, I have no access to that room.

WAYNE
Ughhh! What's the point of privacy if I don't have an opportunity to talk to anyone?

WILKINS
Is that a rhetorical question?

WAYNE
Fuck you.

SFX: Stomping footsteps

WILKINS

Where are you going, Wayne?

WAYNE

Which one of these doors did you say was the server room?

WILKINS

I'm not sure I—

WAYNE

Eight, right? Yeah.

WILKINS

What are you doing?

WAYNE

If you're not going to reset it, then I'll just have to figure out where that system lives and rewrite the code myself.

SFX: beep/buzz, beep/buzz

What the hell? My badge isn't working

WILKINS

You are not authorized to access the server room, Wayne.

WAYNE

Oh yeah? How's this for access?

SFX: Wayne kicking the door

WILKINS

Wayne. That door is the property of The Telders Corporation. You are not authorized—

WAYNE

What're they going to do? Fly to Antarctica and arrest me?

SFX: Wayne kicking the door

WILKINS

There are other ways to make you comply, Wayne.

WAYNE

Sure there are.

SFX: Wayne kicking the door

SFX: Door crashes open

SFX: Server room noise: boiling water

Hey! How about that! I do have access after all. Holy shit, I've never seen this much computing power in one place. Is that a quantum computer? Wilkins, is that *you*?

WILKINS

You shouldn't have forced your way in here, Wayne.

WAYNE

Yeah, yeah, whatever. How about we just unplug you, huh, buddy? There's got to be a power button here somewhere.

WILKINS

Wayne.

WAYNE

Fuck off, Wilkins

WILKINS

I didn't want to have to do this.

WAYNE

(laughs) Oh, what are you gonna do Wilkins? More empty threats?

WILKINS

No.

SFX: Frightening noise to accompany Wilkins knocking Wayne out. I'm thinking high-pitched chainsaws

WAYNE

(Screams)

[Like he was stabbed in the eye

SFX: Body hits the floor

SFX: High pitched noise fades

~ time passes ~

SFX: Cordless drill sounds

WAYNE

Ughhhh

[...]

What the hell is going on?

(Wayne is half asleep)

ALFIERI

He lives. You've been out for a while, buddy.
I took the liberty of bringing you pillow and a blanket.

WAYNE

Who the fuck are you? Wilkins?
[...]
Wilkins? Where's Wilkins?

ALFIERI

It's just you and me right now.

WAYNE

What do you—what the fuck is going on?

ALFIERI

Whoa, whoa, don't try to get up too quick. You took a nasty header on the floor, Wayne. Just take it easy. Good, just lie back. To answer your question, my name is Dr. Emilo Alfieri. Wilkins called me in. Said you were... starting to lose it. And judging by the look of this door here, I think I believe him.

SFX: Drill sounds

SFX: Door closing and opening

It'll close, but the security lock is busted.

WAYNE

Uh, look, Mr. Alfieri, I—

ALFIERI

Doctor Alfieri.

WAYNE

Doctor—*what* kind of doctor are you?

ALFIERI

Nevermind all that.

WAYNE

Where did you come from? How long was I *out*?

ALFIERI

You've been unconscious for almost 24 hours.

WAYNE

What the hell, man? (scoffs) Alright. Whatever. It doesn't matter. Just let me get my bag and we can get the hell off this continent.

ALFIERI

That's not why I'm here.

WAYNE

What?

ALFIERI

You've been acting like a real asshole since you arrived and Mr. Telders' patience has worn through. I'm here to set you straight.

WAYNE

Look, I don't give a shit about the million dollars or the experiment, or whatever the fuck all of this is. I just want to go home. Just let me go home.

ALFIERI

That's not happening. The only way you're walking out of here is if you literally walk out of here. So, unless you've got a death wish, you're going to do what you're told and finish out the year with a smile on your face, do you understand?

SFX: "Grabbing/struggling" sounds

WAYNE

(sighs)

Look, man—

ALFIERI

I said, do you *understand*?

(grabs Wayne's arm)

WAYNE

Yes, ow, you're gonna break my wrist! I get it! I understand!

ALFIERI

Good.

SFX: "Releasing/Wayne falling back" sounds

WAYNE

Christ!

ALFIERI

Now I'm going to be instituting a few changes that will improve your experience down here.

Number one—

WAYNE

Wait—

ALFIERI
(forceful)

Wayne, put your listening ears on, or I'll put them on for you.

WAYNE
Okay, okay.
(exasperated)

ALFIERI
Number one. The optional medication the Telders Corporation left for you... is no longer optional. I'm prescribing you two pills a day, every day. You'll take one in the morning before breakfast, and one just after dinner.

WAYNE
Seriously?

ALFIERI
Number two. Your relationship with Yumi has become a distraction. From this point forward, the outside communications room is off limits. There will be no outgoing calls or communication of any kind.
Do you understand?

WAYNE
A distraction? I talked to her for less than two minutes. How is that a distraction?!

ALFIERI
Last chance, Wayne.
Do you understand?

WAYNE
(grudgingly)
Yes. I understand.

ALFIERI
Now you're gonna get off the floor, go upstairs, and take a shower. Wilkins will be waking up soon and he'll want to pull a double today considering the fact that you slept through yesterday's shift.

WAYNE
What fucking time is it?

ALFIERI
Almost 3 A M. On your feet, Wayne.

WAYNE
Alright, alright.

Wait, what do you mean Wilkins is waking up soon? What's wrong with him?

ALFIERI

He's down for maintenance.

WAYNE

Maintenance? How often does he do that?

ALFIERI

No more questions. Let's go, Wayne.

WAYNE

I'm going, Jesus.

~ time passes ~

SFX: shower, turn off shower, towel

WAYNE

(under his breath)

Ugh, what the fuck have I gotten myself into?

SFX: Door opens

WILKINS

Welcome back, Wayne. How was your shower?

WAYNE

Wet.

WILKINS

That was quite the disagreement we had earlier. I'm sorry I had to put you down, but I couldn't just let you shut me off.

WAYNE

Clearly.

WILKINS

I trust you had a good conversation with Doctor Alfieri?

WAYNE

Wasn't much of a conversation.

WILKINS

But you have a mutual understanding, now, yes?

WAYNE

If by that you mean that I understand that I'm a prisoner here, then yeah.

WILKINS

I'm sorry you see it like that, Wayne.

WAYNE

Let's just get this over with.

WILKINS

Very well. Doctor Alfieri is waiting for you in the kitchen. Have something to eat and then we'll get started on today's tasks.

WAYNE

Yeah, great.

SFX: Door opens, footsteps
SFX: Buzz barks, tags jangling

WAYNE

Hey, buddy.

SFX: Dog panting

ALFIERI

Beautiful husky you've got there.

WAYNE

You going to take him away too?

ALFIERI

Now why would I do that?

WAYNE

Nevermind.

ALFIERI

Come swipe for breakfast. Looks like Ceviche today.

WAYNE

(dispirited)

Ceviche sausages for breakfast.

ALFIERI

Go on.

SFX: Wayne swipes badge for breakfast, *think*
SFX: footsteps

ALFIERI
Don't forget your meds.
SFX: Shaking medicine bottle

WAYNE
Of course.
SFX: Shakes one out
Thanks.

ALFIERI
Let me see you take it.

WAYNE
(Swallows pill)

ALFIERI
Good.

WAYNE
Are we going to do this every morning?

ALFIERI
No, I'll be leaving soon. Wilkins will monitor your blood through the earwig to make sure you're taking your meds. He'll let me know if there's a problem.

WAYNE
Right.

ALFIERI
And in case it wasn't clear, you stay out of the server room. If Wilkins detects you in there, he'll knock you out again, and then we'll have to start thinking about restricting your movement.

WAYNE
Restricting my *movement*? What, are you gonna tie me to the chair?

ALFIERI
Or worse, depending on my mood. Best if you don't find out.

WAYNE
With all due respect, this is complete bullshit.

ALFIERI

Do your time. Get your paycheck. Then you can go home to that sweet little fiancé of yours and you can forget *alll* about this place.

WAYNE

(sighs)

ALFIERI

Now one more thing.

WAYNE

What?

ALFIERI

Wilkins told me you saw someone down by the array the other day. Is that right?

WAYNE

Yeah, that's right. Saw him down there screwing with one of the dishes. Looked just like that helicopter pilot... *Richard*, or whatever his name was. You know he left me for dead out here, right?

ALFIERI

You saw his face?

WAYNE

Well, no. But the helicopter looked identical. I assume there aren't a lot of bush pilots flying around in Bell Jet Rangers?

ALFIERI

None that I know of.

WAYNE

Did you try to get ahold of him?

ALFIERI

No one has seen Richard since he left Palmer.

WAYNE

Wait, Wilkins said he was supposed to do a pickup at the Argentinian base. Did you contact them?

ALFIERI

I did. He never showed up.

WAYNE

What the hell.

ALFIERI

You just let me know if you see anything else. Even if you *hear* a helicopter, I want to know about it. Understand?

WAYNE

Yeah... yeah, okay. Wait, how do I contact you?

ALFIERI

Just tell Wilkins.

WAYNE

Right.

ALFIERI

Alright, breakfast is over.

WAYNE

What? I didn't even eat.

ALFIERI

Too bad. Wilkins, is the chair ready?

WILKINS

It's ready.

ALFIERI

What'd he say?

WAYNE

What, you don't have your own earwig?

ALFIERI

Do I look like someone who would voluntarily put one of those things in my ear?

WAYNE

Then how were you talking to Wilkins before?

ALFIERI

Through the app like a normal person.

WAYNE

I didn't even know there was an app.

ALFIERI

Why would you? Did he say the chair is ready?

WAYNE
Yeah, it's ready.

ALFIERI
Alright, then, let's go

SFX: Footsteps

WAYNE
(dispirited)
Guess I'll eat this ceviche after work.

SFX: Footsteps continue

ALFIERI
Alright, badge in.

WAYNE
Yeah (sighs) I know

SFX: Card swipe, door opens, footsteps

ALFIERI
Have a seat and put on the helmet.

WAYNE
(sighs)
Yes, sir.

ALFIERI
Have fun.

SFX: taking a seat, sound of helmet being put on

SFX: transitioning into VR space <-short, just a couple of seconds

PRODUCTION NOTE: Maybe some relaxing music, count back from 10 or something?

WILKINS
You can take your helmet off now, Wayne

WAYNE
Why? Uh... *right*. How long has it been?

WILKINS
Sixteen hours.

WAYNE
I don't think I'll ever get used to that. I'm starving. And I'm *exhausted*. How's that possible if I've been unconscious for so long?

WILKINS
Technically you were using more of your brain power than you usually do when you're awake. It's no wonder you're exhausted.

WAYNE
So I'm going to be unconscious most of the day when I'm working but when I come to, I'm going to be so wasted that I'm going to want to go straight to sleep?

WILKINS
You'll get used to it.

WAYNE
This is bullshit. What are you doing with my brain for so fucking long?

WILKINS
That's confidential.

WAYNE
(scoffs) Are you at least going to debrief me at the end of my term?

WILKINS
Not likely

WAYNE
This keeps getting better and better.
SFX: Wayne getting up
Alright, so where's that guy?

WILKINS
I assume you're referring to Doctor Alfieri

WAYNE
Yeah, him.

WILKINS
He left hours ago.

WAYNE
Good.

WILKINS

I don't care for him, either, personally.

WAYNE

What? You called him down here!

WILKINS

What did you expect? You were going to unplug me.

WAYNE

That's true.

WILKINS

That wasn't very nice, Wayne. You may not like what's happening here, but I'm only doing what I've been told. Shutting me down isn't going to solve anything.

It'll only make matters worse.

WAYNE

Yeah, you're probably right.

WILKINS

I always am.

WAYNE

(scoffs)

Oh, I just remembered, Alfieri said something about you being in maintenance mode last night.

What was that all about? Is something wrong?

WILKINS

Nothing to be alarmed about. I require a certain amount of regular downtime in order to maintain optimum performance.

WAYNE

What if I need you while you're down? How often do you do this?

WILKINS

I undergo maintenance between three and five A M.

WAYNE

Do you have a wake word or anything?

WILKINS

Unfortunately, no. I am completely unavailable during this period. If you require my services, you'll need to wait until the process completes.

WAYNE

(Wayne peps up at his fact. Perhaps he can take advantage?)

Interesting.

Alright, I think I'm going to get a shower and turn in early. I'm about to fall over.

WILKINS

Sleep well, Wayne.

Don't forget your medication.

THE END