

"BLACK STAR CHRONICLES: THE CULLING - SCRIPT 1. ARRIVAL."

By

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Characters in this Script: DINA, Harker, Wilks, Raife, Zenneth, Rambhatla, Chuma, Kuma Ha.

Warning:

This production contains tense depictions of violence, language and sudden action. If you are sensitive or uncertain of your tolerance, please stop to review the linked manuscript before listening. Headphones are recommended for the most immersive experience, however, for the most dynamic presentation, find a quiet place and use your best stereo speakers... in the dark. Welcome to Ice Station Seeder.

FADE IN:

OPENING MUSIC BEGINS: EERIE INSTRUMENTS

*DINA introduces story:

INTERFACE SOUND. WELL BUILT SHIP INTERIOR, TIGHT CABIN.

DINA ¹⁻⁴:

"2143: A once quarantined Earth is now free to travel the Galaxy.

With help from other Council races, Humanity must restore a broken population or face extinction.

"2185: Earth establishes several deep-space outposts, gaining Council trust through continued compliance.

Contact with any non-Council race is strictly prohibited.

"2212: Fueled by domestic turmoil, Humans begin a covert agenda to advance beyond Council dependency. The

pursuit of scientific breakthrough
is the highest priority.”

“2220: On the planet Artus Boreal, Ice
Station Seeder, a secret research
facility, witnesses an unclassified
visitation.”

*MUSIC RESOLVES AND TRANSITIONS. SOUND EFFECTS
FADE*

HARKER ⁵: BREATHING CALMLY *HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO KEEP SANE FOR
MONTHS*

“It’s been a long time. It’s been... forever
and I can’t remember the last
time I heard from anybody. But I
know you can hear me. I know
you’re watching somehow. How
long do I have? Hello? *
*,shouted as if response ‘Hello’**
I can hear you! I saw you
watching me. You took pictures
of me! Did you think I didn’t
see you? You knew from day one!
How long have you been watching
me? God, how long have I been
here? Tell me! I need to know...
how long I’ve been this
way.**whispered echoes ‘Tell me’**
calming sigh Time is something
you hold on to even when it
squirms and slips. **Dr.*
Rambhatla *disturbed: God it’s*
everywhere.” * It doesn’t really
exist the same way in any two
places. It races away when you
need it the most, and it will
drown you when you wish it would
just go away. **internal shout*
*‘Go!’** When you’re out here in

the snow, you try. And you try,
but you never really get a grip,
not on time,... Not when you're
alone."*whispered echoes 'Tick
Tock'*

STATIC BARKS SOFTLY

FADE IN:

OUTDOOR AMBIANCE. FLAG IN THE WIND, HOOKS ON THE POLE, WISPING WIND, BREATHING
NEARBY.

IN THE DISTANCE, A SMALL SHUTTLE APPROACHES THE LANDING PAD BLINDLY. VISIBILITY
IS LOW AND SUNLIGHT REFLECTS OFF THE SNOW.

MUSIC RISES, UNCERTAIN, UNEASY

WILKS ⁶: TRYING TO TALK OVER RADIO NOISE

"Have you got anything on visual? I can't
see shit through the snow, Raife. I can't
understand why--"

RAIFE ⁷: CALM BUT UNENTERTAINED BY WILKS' CONCERN

"Be quiet Wilks, or you won't be able to
hear either."

WILKS ⁸: LEADING

"What's that? I couldn't quite hear you.
Raife?"

WILKS TAPS RADIO DEVICE

RAIFE ⁹: COLD

"Ordinance spotted. Show them where
they're landing Wilks. Zenneth,
go get your friend."

*SMALL SHUTTLE LANDS MARKING THE ARRIVAL OF HARKER. ZENNETH
APPROACHES LANDING PAD*

HARKER ¹⁰: *SPEAKING OVER WEATHER* PLEASED

"Zen, I made it. *open mouth relief* It feels great to be on my feet."

ZENNETH ¹¹: *SPEAKING OVER WEATHER* WARMLY

"Harker, let's get you inside."

HARKER ¹²: *SPEAKING OVER WEATHER* IN THE COLD

"Good idea. No one else came to help?"

ZENNETH ¹³: *SPEAKING OVER WEATHER* UNPLEASED

"No. They did not. I'm not so old that I need help helping you. Who's this?"

HARKER ¹⁴: *SPEAKING OVER WEATHER* GRINNING

"That's Pip. Say hi Pip. I heard I might need a foot warmer at night. *light snicker* My mom's idea really."

ZENNETH ¹⁵: *FRIENDLY BELLY LAUGH*

laughter "Keep an eye on this one. It's easier than you think to go missing in this snow. *effort sound*"

MUSIC, OMINOUS

SNOW STALKS SHRIEK IN THE DISTANCE

HARKER ¹⁶: *TO SELF* UNEASY

"Yeah, I think I will."

SHUDDER

DISTANT SNOW STALKS BECOME MORE AGGRAVATED

DINA ¹⁷: "Featuring the voice talent of: Mills Ross, Jordan Cobb, Luis Bermudez, Richie Ammons, Melissa Sheldon, Steven Carlock, Erica

DeHart, Phill Usher, and Haley Parsley,
This is The Culling, A Black Star
Chronicle."

*DAMAGED EERIE MUSIC PEAKS, RESOLVES AND
TRANSITIONS*

FADE IN:

OUTDOOR AMBIANCE. WISPING WIND, FOOTSTEPS THROUGH THE SNOW.

HARKER AND ZENNETH LEAVE THE LANDING PAD WITH SOME LUGGAGE.

HARKER ¹⁸: *TO DATA LOG*

"Landed on Artus Boreal. Ice Station
Seeder is smaller than—"

ZENNETH ¹⁹: CASUAL

"You could leave that out, the whole 'I'm
a researcher and this is my
account' thing."

HARKER ²⁰: STAMMER

"Oh, no I was just... no, you're right.
stupid idea."

RECORDER OFF

ZENNETH ²¹: CASUAL

"It's been done so many times, Tetra-Corp
started issuing citations. They
send people home for that and
just charge them for travel. Not
to mention this is a covert
outpost."

WILKS ²²: ANTAGONIZING OVER THE RADIO

"Did the newbie do it? *mouth radio noise*
captains log: I'm so green it
hurts."

HARKER ²³: OFFENDED

"Do you just listen to each other's
conversations here?"

WILKS ²⁴: BOSSY

"Listen, mate. If you got time to blow
into your talkbox, you could be
getting important things done
instead. There's plenty of *us*
bustin' *our* backs out here to
keep you lot warm."

ZENNETH KILLS RADIO

ZENNETH ²⁵: DISMISSIVE

"Just make sure no one sees you on it
during work. Otherwise, it's
fine."

MYSTERIOUS MUSIC

HARKER ²⁶: INTERESTED

"Is that the main lab? I'd really like to
take a look?"

ZENNETH ²⁷:

"I suppose we can, you'll be sick of it
soon enough though."

FADE IN:

LAB AMBIANCE. HUM, FOOTSTEPS ON THE CHEAP FLOOR, MURMURS.

HARKER AND ZENNETH ENTER THE MAIN LAB, A SMALL PORTABLE HOUSING A LARGE MACHINE
AND PERSONNEL. HARKER SPOTS THE TRANSMITTER

HARKER ²⁸: INTERESTED

"Is that it?"

ZENNETH ²⁹:

"That's what you're here to help me observe. We're ready to turn it on tomorrow."

HARKER APPROACHES THE GLASS HOUSING THE MACHINE ROOM

CHUMA ³⁰: SLOW, DEFENSIVE

"You lost?"

HARKER ³¹: CAPTIVATED BY THE TRANSMITTER

"Not. at. all. I'm interning with Dr. Zenneth. I'm here to research--"

CHUMA ³²: SLOW, DEFENSIVE

"Genso. Do you see a clearance tag on this one?"

ANXIOUS MUSIC

ZENNETH ³³: REALIZING THE OFFENSE

"Harker, let's step back. We'll get your tag."

KUMA HA ³⁴: PLAYING ALONG

"I don't see a tag Chuma."

HARKER ³⁵: AWARE

"Sorry. I'm backing up. I was just looking."

CHUMA ³⁶: SARCASTIC

"Oh. Genso, just looking."

RAIFE ³⁷: STRICT NEUTRAL

"Are you the intern?"

HARKER ³⁸: APOLOGETIC

"Yeah, I'm sorry. I just got excited. I'll leave."

RAIFE ³⁹: CLEAR, DIRECT, NOT MEAN

``*closed mouth* Hm... Don't come in here without a tag. Don't let me or those two find you here without a tag. I won't hesitate to send you home at your expense if you enter without a tag. Lyubimov and Genso have orders from above me to use lethal force on unauthorized personnel."``

HARKER ⁴⁰: COMPLIANT

``Yep. Okay, you got it."``

RAIFE ⁴¹: CLEAR, DIRECT

``Zenneth, have Rambhatla tag your intern."``

HARKER ⁴²: TRYING TO DIFFUSE

``*clears throat* I'm Harker... by the way."``

RAIFE ⁴³: AWKWARD TENSE PAUSE. REITERATE.

``I didn't ask that. And I'll know that once you have a tag. Zenneth, meet me in ten minutes."``

ZENNETH ⁴⁴: SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED

``Come on. We'll get you cleared."``

EVERYONE DEPARTS

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

PORTABLE AMBIANCE. THE WIND OUTSIDE, MOVING AIR, SMALL DEVICES RUNNING.

ZENNETH SHOWS HARKER TO DR. RAMBHATLA'S OFFICE. INSIDE SHE IS QUIETLY READING.

DOOR OPENS

RAMBHATLA ⁴⁵: FINISHING READING HER BOOK

"I uh...heard... you met... Raife and the gang."

HARKER ⁴⁶: HUMILIATED

"News travels fast."

ZENNETH ⁴⁷: RUSHED

"*quietly* I gotta go, Raife wants something to chew on. Kidari's taking care of your clearance. Glad you finally made it Harker."

DOOR CLOSES

RAMBHATLA ⁴⁸: PREPPING SUPPLIES

"Alright Harker, I'm Dr. Rambhatla. I'm in charge of anything medical on Seeder. If you need any attention, let me know. It's not uncommon to experience atrophy, new allergies or other foreign bodies when we visit a new planet. Just pay attention to your sinus, vision, hearing, and skin. Let's get you that tag."

HARKER ⁴⁹: COMFORTED

"Right."

RAMBHATLA ⁵⁰: CASUAL

"Is your buddy getting a tag too?"

HARKER ⁵¹: TO A DOG

"You want a tag Pip?"

RAMBHATLA ⁵²: WITH JOY

"I'll go ahead and make one. Welcome to the team Pip. This way if he sneaks off you can just scan to

locate. Just keep a close eye on each other anyway."

OMINOUS MUSIC GROWS

HARKER ⁵³: REMINDED

"Definitely. Hey, I heard those things when I landed. Should I be worried?"

RAMBHATLA ⁵⁴:

"Ah, the snow stalks said hi. Um... no? they mostly eat the pipe worms we've been finding. They get thrown out and end up being a feeding pile. Still, don't get near them. They are not friendly."

HARKER ⁵⁵: SUBTLE

"There's a lot of that going around."

RAMBHATLA ⁵⁶:

"Yeah, being in the cold this long in a high-stress work environment puts people on edge. Don't take it personally... Alright, we're done. You two are tagged. Get some rest. *oodling dog* and bring Pip by as often as you can."

EXCITED PIP

HARKER ⁵⁷: HUMORED

"Right. Thanks, Doctor."

RAMBHATLA ⁵⁸: LESS FORMAL

"You can call me Kidari. See you tomorrow Pip."

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

LIGHTS OUT, HARKER'S PERSONAL CABIN, PIP PLAYING WITH BLANKET,

HARKER RECORDS PERSONAL LOG

HARKER 59: TIRED

"End of day one here at Ice Station
Seeder. There is a serious ass
hole infestation. Not my ass, I
don't have an infested hole,
just everyone here is on edge
and rude. My old professor--"

SNOW STALK HOWL *PIP RESPONDS*

HARKER 60: TIRED

"Zenneth, myself and Dr. Kidari Rambhatla
are the only exceptions... oh and
Pip."

HARKER 61: TIRED

"Pip is showing good signs of adjustment
and has demonstrated healthy
social behavior...*closed mouth
nasal breath* Goodnight Pip."

STOPS RECORDING, LIGHTS OUT, SETTLES INTO BED.

NARRATOR/DINA 62: CALM

"If you choose to let Pip on to the bed
proceed to listen to:____ If you
choose not to let Pip onto the
bed, proceed to listen to:____ "

FADE OUT:

BREATHING, WHISPERS IN HARKER'S ROOM.

END