

"BLACK STAR CHRONICLES: *THE CULLING* RESEARCH BEGINS"

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, as well as 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. Welcome to Ice Station: Seeder.

FADE IN:

QUIETLY ASLEEP IN A SMALL DARK ROOM, HARKER AND PIP WAKE UP TO WILKS AT THE DOOR.

HARKER STRUGGLES TO FULLY WAKE UP WHILE WILKS IS ALREADY IN FULL SWING OF A WORKING DAY.

WEATHER AND LIGHT CHATTER OUTSIDE

BANG ON DOOR

WILKS ¹: INCONVENIENCED

"It's Wilks. Open up, mate."

PIP AND HARKER STIR

HARKER ²: JUST WAKING UP

"What time is it?"

WILKS ^{3-B}: IMPATIENT

"It's almost 8, and I'm not coming back a third time. Move yer arse, unless you don't want your pipes fixed. I'm freezin 'ere."

HARKER ⁴: TRYING TO SPEAK CLEARLY

"Get off, Pip. I'm up, I'm coming."

OPENS DOOR

WILKS ⁵: FOCUSED

"Move. Pick that up and bring it to the bog."

HARKER ⁶: CONFUSED

"Bog?"

WILKS ⁷: IMPATIENT

"The pisser, It's the only other room in 'ere. Close the door."

HARKER ⁸: CONFUSED

"It's still dark out."

WILKS ⁹: PREOCCUPIED

"It's morning. Sun's not up for another eight hours and if we don't clear that pipe, it'll burst and drop pressure. Feed the line while I guide."

HARKER ¹⁰:

"*tired sigh*"

WILKS ¹¹: FOCUSED

"That's it."

HARKER ¹²:

"I haven't even used the bathroom, why's the line blocked?"

WILKS 13: GRINNING

"Pipe worms. They gorge themselves, get too fat and die in your pipes. The pipe cracks when the water freezes. We all lose water pressure when it thaws."

HARKER 14: GROSSED OUT, TIRED

"That's disgusting. How'd they even get in?"

WILKS 15: GRINNING

"This compound is mobile. Back when it was near the equator, it had even more bugs. They did way more damage. And when you're cheap as hell you don't build a new structure, you just move the old one. Now I'm stuck fishin these disgusting worms out. You know how many we found when we rebuilt this place? Pipes kept freezing for weeks."

ROOTER MACHINE STARTS

WILKS 16: UNDER HIS BREATH

"Better me than you, right?"

HARKER 17: OPTIMISTIC

"There shouldn't be too many left by now then?"

WILKS 18: SARCASTIC

"Oh there shouldn't? I'll have a chat with them then. Tell 'em you think so. Excuse me, Mr. Pipe Worm I'll ask you to leave now."

HARKER 19:

"I was only trying to--"

WILKS 20 : OCCUPIED

"Aye don't bother. They're breedin' in the pipes. We're pullin' 'em out buckets at a time and they're disappearing from the burn piles where we dump 'em. Turns out the snow stalks are havin' a bloody buffet every time. They love 'em and we're handin out supper on a shit platter. And they're real mean when they're happy...
awkward silence. Say we did kill em all, no more pipe worms. What'll those lanky bastards have for a buffet then *Harker*?"

HARKER 21 : WORRIED

"Would they attack us? ...Maybe we could request more security."

WILKS 22 : FINISHING

"There's a good idea, mate. Only I did that already. Asked for a few more guns, for the workers. Tetra said it wasn't in the budget... and then they sent you, which I know for a fact wasn't cheap. I hope you taste good kid."

HARKER 23 : UNCOMFORTABLE

"Thanks. I have to get ready, I think I'm supposed to be in the lab soon. I'm gonna go."

WILKS WORKS, HARKER STEPS IN A PUDDLE

HARKER 24 : TROUBLED

"ahhhh Pip. You should really make your puddles outside. *moving on* come on, let's hand you off to Kidari."

HARKER LEAVES DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

FADE IN:

LAB AMBIENCE.

HARKER ENTERS THE LAB DONNING A LAB COAT IN A HURRY. OTHER WORKERS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING THEIR DUTIES. ZENNETH IS SURPRISED.

MUSIC RISES, UNCERTAIN, UNEASY

ZENNETH ^{25-B}: GREETING

"Harker, you're right on time."

HARKER ^{26-B}: FIXING LAB COAT

"A few minutes early actually... Thanks to Wilks."

ZENNETH ²⁷: SHOWING HUMOR

"It's only six."

HARKER ROLLS HEAD

RAIFE ²⁸: MATTER OF FACT

"Don't think coming in early means you get to leave early."

HARKER ²⁹: EMBARRASSED

"Right, sorry about that."

ZENNETH ³⁰: UNDER BREATH

"He's not complaining."

HARKER ³¹: BREAKING TENSION

"It's been pretty hard to tell around here. When Wilks was at my room pulling out a pipe worm, he was just... so angry. It um, felt

personal. He complained about me."

ZENNETH ³²: MULTI TASKING

"Hand me that conditioner, the red one."

HARKER ³³:

"Here."

ZENNETH ³⁴: EXPLANATORY

"He made it personal, it's what he does. When you're a hurt person, you're a miserable person. Complaining about others eases the fear of how you'd be evaluated. He probably never thinks he'll be good enough."

HARKER ³⁵: SYMPATHIZING

"That's pretty relatable, though."

ZENNETH ³⁶: STOPPING TO MAKE EYE CONTACT

"Sometimes people imagine things in whatever way gratifies them the most. That doesn't make it true, or healthy.. Are you ready?"

HARKER ³⁷: THINKING

"Um yes. I was going over the data sheets before landing. Are we more concerned with the demand or the output?"

ZENNETH ³⁸: STOPPING TO MAKE EYE CONTACT

"It's all important. Tetra-Corp wants findings first, speculations last."

HARKER ³⁹: THINKING

"Okay, it's just, if this transmitter is supposed to shorten the transfer rate of data across systems, why are most of the observation fields focused on demand and

not output? The output field seems relatively short to be interstellar."

ZENNETH ⁴⁰: OPPOSING

"If we can't power the signal, who cares how far it can reach?"

HARKER ⁴¹: UNDERSTANDING

"Not Tetra-Corp."

ZENNETH ⁴²: AGREEING

"Not Tetra-Corp. Alright Harker. When we wear these helmets, we won't be able to use the radio. The near field interference is not worth corrupted data. The transmitter will make noise and you may not be able to hear me. Do your best to keep a line of sight."

HARKER ⁴³: SLIGHTLY NERVOUS

"Okay. Let's do it."

HARKER AND ZENNETH HEAD TOWARDS THE HOUSING SURROUNDING THE MASSIVE DEVICE

KUMA HA ⁴⁴: STERN

"Tags."

HARKER ⁴⁵: NERVOUS

"Right. Let me... It's somewhere."

KUMA HA STEPS BACK PREPARING WEAPON

HARKER ^{46-B}: BEGINNING TO WORRY

"No, I have them... They're just... Here they are."

HARKER SHOWS TAGS. KUMA HA LOWERS WEAPON

KUMA HA ^{47-B}: WARNING

"*Closed mouth breathing*..."

HARKER ⁵³: AFRAID

"Here! Here! I have tags. Stop! They're right here. See? Look! My tags. I got my tags."

KUMA HA LOWERS WEAPON

KUMA HA ⁵⁵: CALM, TEASING

"Go on through."

ZENNETH ⁶⁵: CHECKING

"Harker?"

HARKER ⁶⁶: CALM

"I'm ready, yes."

ZENNETH ⁶⁷: FOCUSED

"Begin tracking input readings."

HARKER ⁶⁸: FOCUSED

"Input readings enabled."

ZENNETH ⁶⁹: FOCUSED

"Radios offline. Initializing transmitter."

MACHINE STARTS, RUNS QUIET

HARKER ⁷⁰: UNSURE, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"Is it running?"

ZENNETH ⁷¹: OBVIOUSLY, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"You're the one following readouts. What do they say?"

HARKER ⁷²: UNSURE, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"It's running, I just don't hear any signal. I thought it would be loud."

ZENNETH ⁷³: CONCLUDING, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"It is loud, it must be out of our hearing range, though. How are the readouts?"

HARKER ⁷⁴: WHILE READING, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"Everything shows up green. No destructive levels, no distorting, recording with minimal latency."

ZENNETH ⁷⁵: PLEASED, THROUGH HELMET, NO RADIO

"Spectacular. Let's take care of the rest somewhere we don't need helmets."

HARKER ⁷⁶: DULL HEADACHE RISING

"That would be great. This bucket feels like a vice on my head."

ZENNETH AND HARKER WALK OUT

ZENNETH ⁷⁷: REMOVING HELMET

short effort

HARKER ⁷⁸: REMOVING HELMET

short effort

ZENNETH ⁷⁹: GENTLY

"You're bleeding. I'm gonna have a talk with Raife about his choice of security personnel."

HARKER ^{80-B}: SURPRISED

"I didn't even notice. It's probably from all of this cold air."

ZENNETH ⁸¹: CERTAIN

"Go see Kidari and have her take a look."

HARKER ⁸²: HIDING HEADACHE

"I should be fine. It was my fault anyway.
I'm okay to work."

ZENNETH ⁸³: STERN

"Out of the question. Your mother would
have my skin if she found out I let this
happen. Stop by medical. If Kidari clears
you, come back as soon as you want."

HARKER ⁸⁴: TOO TIRED TO ARGUE

"*deep heavy sigh* Okay, I'll be back."

HARKER LEAVES AND WALKS ALONE IN THE SNOW

STRANGE VOICES ⁸⁵: SOFT, INARTICULATE

"*indistinct whispers*"

*THE DOOR TO MEDICAL OPENS, KIDARI IS PLAYING
WITH PIP*

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁸⁵: TRANSITION FROM PLAY TO CONCERN

"Hey, Harker. Oh my gosh, what happened?"

FADE OUT:

NARRATOR/DINA ⁸⁵: CALM

"If you choose to tell Dr. Rambhatla about
the voices, proceed to listen
to: Treated. If you choose not
to tell Dr. Rambhatla about the
voices, proceed to listen to:
Rested."

FADE OUT:

VOICES IN THE SNOW.

END

WILKS ^{3-B}: IMPATIENT

"It's almost 8, and I'm not coming back a third time. Move yer arse, unless you don't want your pipes fixed. I'm freezin 'ere."