

"BLACK STAR CHRONICLES: *THE CULLING* SCRIPT 4 ESCALATE"

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: SNOW OUTSIDE, WIND, NIGHT TIME. DISTANT GENERATORS RUNNING

KUMA HA AND CHUMA ARE ABOUT TO SWITCH SHIFTS FOR OVERWATCH.

KUMA HA STRIKES CHUMA

KUMA HA¹: GETTING HIS ATTENTION

"Hey. You can count sheep on your own time. My watch is over."

CHUMA²: LYING

"I wasn't sleeping."

KUMA HA³: AGGRAVATED

"You were sleeping. I don't need to be woken up because a snow stalk took your other arm. Stay awake, Chuma!"

CHUMA⁴: WITH MYSTERY

"Hey Genso... Does this shit bother you?"

KUMA HA⁵: SMART ALEC

"You sleeping? Yeah, it bothers me."

CHUMA⁶: CLARIFYING

"The last 3 days."

KUMA HA ⁷: DISMISSIVE

"Not as much as it bothers you."

CHUMA ⁸: OMINOUS

"I've never seen snow stalks attempt this many entries. It's like they want something here at Seeder."

KUMA HA ⁹: DISMISSIVE

"Probably your other arm, Chuma. They don't like incomplete sets."

CHUMA ¹⁰: OFFENDED

"I'm waking you up next alert."

KUMA HA ¹¹: WARNING

"Go ahead if you wanna deal with me and my headache."

CHUMA ¹²: WARNING

"Better not catch whatever's going around."

KUMA HA ¹³: CASUAL

"Fuuuck no. Looks like you've got company."

CHUMA ¹⁴: FORESHADOWING

"I don't think they're gonna stop, Genso."

KUMA HA ¹⁵: DISMISSIVE

"For the next 6 hours... That's your problem."

KUMA HA WALKS OFF AND CHUMA ENGAGES ANOTHER SNOW STALK

FADE IN: RAIFE'S OFFICE.

RAIFE AND WILKS TALK ABOUT CURRENT PROBLEMS. WILKS BECOMES MORE UPSET

Wilks ^{16-A}: UPSET

"She's been moping around since they ate her dog. I've heard her complaining to her two mums, Zenneth and Kidari, about how it's this transmitter making things go to shit here. *coughs sickly*"

RAIFE ¹⁷: BOTHERED

"Jesus, Wilks, cover your damn mouth."

Wilks ¹⁸: TRYING TO ESCALATE

"*finishing cough, sniffle* She's been trying to send out formal complaints."

RAIFE ¹⁹: NOT SEEING THE PROBLEM

"She has a right to do that."

Wilks ²⁰: ESCALATING, DEMONSTRATIVE

"You don't get it, Raife! Those three are gonna ruin this entire operation!"

RAIFE ²¹: REBUTTAL, DISCREDITING

"And since when do you care about anything other than ass and money?"

Wilks ²²: DEMANDING

"I'm caring about my own arse damn it! I ask to arm the workers and I get shut down. Now we're getting picked off by those howlers because Tetra is cheap and you don't trust us with munitions."

RAIFE ²³: REBUTTAL, DISCREDITING

"I barely trust you with a wrench, Wilks.
coughs suddenly"

Wilks ²⁴: GIVING UP

"Piss off, Raife. I warned you and now
we're all gonna lose this job
because of those three."

FADE IN: LAB AMBIANCE.

HARKER IS WORKING ANOTHER DAY OBSERVING THE TRANSMITTER WHEN SHE FALLS ILL ON
THE JOB.

HARKER ²⁵: IN PAIN

"Hey Zen, I noticed the demand and output
of the transmitter won't stop
climbing since it was
activated."

ZENNETH ²⁶: OCCUPIED

"That's commonplace. It's building up to
full range. *sniffle*"

WHISPERS ²⁷: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

HARKER ²⁸: IN PAIN

"What?"

ZENNETH ²⁹: INTERRUPTED

"I didn't say anything. Are you okay?"

HARKER ³⁰: IN PAIN

"Yeah, I just have a headache. Still not
getting enough rest ya know?
Closed mouth pain I'm okay."

ZENNETH ^{31-A}: GENTLE

"I'm sorry about Pip, I know you must be
devastated. Try to see his death as what's

allowed us to raise exterior security. As sad as it is, all of us are safer now."

WHISPERS ³²: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

HARKER ³³: IN PAIN

"I'm sorry, I heard what you said, I just keep hearing something else... That means a lot, Zen."

ZENNETH ³⁴: GENTLE

"Of course, it's okay... Are you ready to check the receiver?"

HARKER ³⁵: IN PAIN, LIGHTENING UP

"Yeah, let's do this."

ZENNETH ³⁶: CHEERED UP

"That's the spirit. Alright, now that the relay on Pelias has our signal, we need to see how strongly we're receiving theirs. This should be the last step before beginning long term observations."

HARKER ³⁷: IN PAIN

"Is this it around back?"

ZENNETH ³⁸: SLOW, INSTRUCTIONAL, CLEAR

"That's it, Harker. You'll need to get between the housings to activate reception. This calls for a major shift in power distribution. You'll need to prime it to facilitate the charge."

HARKER ³⁹: MOUTH BREATHING, FOCUSED

"I see the handle on a large grey panel. It's flat."

ZENNETH ⁴⁰: SLOW, INSTRUCTIONAL

"Good, give it four pumps."

HARKER ⁴¹: CAUTIOUSLY

"Okay, here it goes. *strained* One... two...
three... four... *exhausted
breathing* okay."

ZENNETH ⁴²: SLOW, INSTRUCTIONAL

"Now beneath a label with the words
'contact position,' there's a round green
button that says 'push to open.'"

HARKER ⁴³: SEARCHING, FINDING

"*half to self* 'Push to open'... okay..."

WHISPERS ⁴⁴: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

ZENNETH ⁴⁵:

"... Push it."

*CLANK AS HARKER PUSHES BUTTON, SWEEPING VORTEX NOISES,
TREMORS RISE.*

HARKER ⁴⁶: IN PAIN

"AGH!...*Wincing in pain*"

ZENNETH ⁴⁷: WORRIED

"Harker! What's wrong? *to self, frantic*
Terminate receiver, erm shut off control.
to all Kill the receiver! Harker, I'm
coming in. Hang on!"

RAIFE ⁴⁸: OVER THE SPEAKER

"*ordering* Do not shut it off Zenneth!
Genso, get Harker out of there.
The transmitter stays on!"

CHITINOUS VOCALIZATIONS

HARKER 49: IN PAIN

``*agony* They see me! *terror* They're
here. They're coming. No!
panicked breathing slows down
as if saying final words Mom."

HARD CUT

FADE IN: KIDARI'S OFFICE.

HARKER IS BEING TREATED BY KIDARI AFTER HER EPISODE IN THE LAB. DAYS HAVE
PASSED

DR. RAMBHATLA 50: SICK

"Can you hear me? Harker? *coughing*"

HARKER 51: IN PAIN

``*aches* Yeah."

DR. RAMBHATLA 52: SICK, URGENT

"A lot's happened and we don't have much
time. *sniffle*"

HARKER 53: IN PAIN, DIRE

"I saw something in the lab, Kidari.
Something else is going on."

DR. RAMBHATLA 54: SICK

"You don't know the half of it, Harker."

HARKER 55: GROGGY

"Where's Zenneth? I have to tell her what
I saw. It's the transmitter."

DR. RAMBHATLA 56: SICK

``*coughing* She's getting ready. We have
to leave soon but we couldn't until you
were able to move. You've been out for two
days now."

* NON-SNOW STALK ROAR OUTSIDE, PANIC, GUNSHOTS*

HARKER ⁵⁷: GROGGY

"The snow stalks are still going strong,
huh?"

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁵⁸: GRAVE, OMINOUS, SLOW LIKE A CAMPFIRE STORY.

"Not exactly. People are getting... real sick, Harker. I've never seen anything like what's going around; skin loss, madness, even loss of motor function. I've seen more patients in the last 24 hours than I've seen in my career. We're running out of prescriptions and vaccines. If this gets out to Tetra Corp. They'll quarantine us to Seeder."

RADIO PLIPS

ZENNETH ⁵⁹: OVER THE RADIO, ON A MISSION

"Kidari? I've got everything ready to load. We can leave as soon as there's a discrete opening."

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁶⁰: AFFIRMATIVE

"Sounds good, Zen. Get back as soon as you can."

RADIO PLIPS

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁶⁰: IN PAIN

"*contained wincing* Ah! Shit."

HARKER ⁶¹: IN PAIN

"You're getting the headaches too?"

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁶²: IN PAIN

"And the voices. We need to move. Take this and keep it on until we're out of here. Zen and I are the only ones on this channel."

RAIFE ⁶³: OVER THE PA

"All Tetra Corp. personnel report to the main lab immediately. This is an emergency meeting."

RADIO PLIPS

ZENNETH ⁶⁴: OVER THE RADIO

"This might be our chance."

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁶⁵: ON A MISSION

"See you there. Let's go, Harker."

FADE IN:.

UNREST IN THE MAIN LAB. PEOPLE SICK AND COUGHING.

RAIFE ATTEMPTS TO INFORM THE CREW OF THE QUARANTINE. IT IS NOT WELL RECEIVED.

RAIFE ⁶⁶: SICKLY

"We need to start even if everyone's not here. *coughing* Please be quiet."

CHATTER SIMMERS DOWN

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁶⁷: WARNING TO HARKER, DISCREET

"Raife's judgment has gotten people killed before. Whatever he says Harker, It's not safe here anymore."

RADIO PLIPS

ZENNETH ⁶⁸: OVER THE RADIO, DISCREET

"I see you two, I'm at the south entrance."

RAIFE ⁶⁹: SICKLY

"We've had an outbreak in the last day or two."

LAB TECH 1 ⁷⁰: EMOTIONAL, FROM THE CROWD

"You shot Mineva!"

Wilks ⁷¹: FROM THE CROWD

"He was a bloody animal!"

LAB TECH 1 ⁷²: EMOTIONAL, FROM THE CROWD

"He needed help!"

RAIFE ⁷³: SICKLY

"These incidents are grounds for
quarantine."

CROWD DISMAYED

RAIFE ⁷⁴: SICKLY

"Tetra Corp. is clear on their policy and
is sending relief."

LAB TECH 1 ⁷⁵: EMOTIONAL, FROM THE CROWD

"That's bullshit! It takes years to get
here!"

RAIFE ⁷⁶: SICKLY

"Chuma, shut him up. *coughing*"

CHUMA ⁷⁷: STERN

"Let's take it outside."

LAB TECH 1 ⁷⁸: EMOTIONAL, FROM THE CROWD

"Get off of me! Let me go! *resisting
noises* NO!"

CHUMA REMOVES HIM. CROWD SILENCE

RAIFE ⁷⁹: SICKLY

"This changes nothing. It just means we
can't leave or send out physical
cargo. No one was planning on
leaving anyway. If you have a

complaint *coughing* If you have
a problem, file a complaint."

WHISPERS ⁸⁰: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

CROWD UPSET

DR. RAMBHATLA ⁸¹: IN PAIN

"*contained wincing*"

HARKER ⁸²: IN PAIN

"*contained wincing*"

ENDING MUSIC RISES

DINA ⁸³:

"If you chose to speak up, and reveal the
truth about the transmitter,
proceed to listen to Harbinger.
If you choose to stay quiet,
proceed to listen to Reticent"

FADE OUT:

VOICES IN THE SNOW.

END