

"BLACK STAR CHRONICLES: *THE CULLING* SCRIPT 3 COUNTING SHEEP"

By

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Characters in this Script: 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: MEDICAL OFFICE AMBIANCE, SOME WIND OUTSIDE. LIGHT MACHINERY AND VENTS RUNNING IN THE ROOM

HARKER ENTERS DR. RAMBHATLA'S OFFICE FOR A CHECKUP ON HER BLOODY NOSE.

HARKER ^{1-A}: NERVOUS

"I'm not really sure what happened, actually. My nose just started bleeding after this thing in the lab and Zenneth said I needed to get cleared."

DR. RAMBHATLA ²: WITH CARE

"Was there trauma or did it just start bleeding?"

HARKER ^{3-A}: STILL A LITTLE WORKED UP

"I can't really remember, it got pretty crazy. Genso pointed her gun at me when I didn't have my tag and it just took off from there."

DR. RAMBHATLA ^{4-A}: DEFENDING HARKER

"But I gave you a tag."

HARKER ^{5-A}: STILL A LITTLE WORKED UP

"I know. I had it, I just forgot what pocket it was in. It's honestly

my fault for not having it out already."

DR. RAMBHATLA⁶: MAD AT GENSO

"Don't! Both of those troglodytes have scanners. They knew you had it before they even asked you to show it."

HARKER^{7-A}: DIFFUSING

"It's fine. I just wanna get cleared so I can get back to the lab."

DR. RAMBHATLA⁸: SUBDUING ANGER

"*sniffle* This is the kind of shit that loses funding... Let me take a look. *Calm, examining* I don't see any bruising. Have you had any headaches, nausea, blurred vision, sleepiness or memory loss?"

HARKER⁹: CALMING

"No, I mean I had a headache but I think it was from that helmet. It fits too tight."

DR. RAMBHATLA¹⁰: FOCUSED ON THE EXAMINATION

"Okay. Let me check your ears too. Anything weird going on there? Tinnitus or ringing, maybe a little throbbing? *sneeze*"

HARKER^{11-A}: HIDING SOME TRUTH

"*plosive exhale from side of mouth* No. I think the cold air just dried me up a bit. The lab is kind of arid. *diverting* Are you feeling okay?"

DR. RAMBHATLA^{12-A}: HUMORED

"I'm fine Harker, I'm probably just allergic to Pip here. *disappointed sigh* If you end up with any of those symptoms

tell me right away. We have to put you on rest if you have a concussion."

HARKER ¹³: HOPEFUL

"I will. So am I clear to go back?"

DR. RAMBHATLA ¹⁴: CLOSING

"You're clear. I know this breaches some confidentiality, but next time one of those thugs pretends to be tough, just imagine Chuma right here cryin like a bitch when I replaced his arm."

HARKER ¹⁵: GRINNING

"Seriously? I mean nice work, but ... How?"

DR. RAMBHATLA ¹⁶: REFLECTING

"I've probably said too much... but he does not like snow stalks."

HARKER ¹⁷: PLEASED

"Noted... Thanks, Kidari."

FADE IN: RAIFE'S OFFICE IN THE LAB. MOSTLY SILENT, MOVING AIR, OCCASIONAL PASSING FOOTSTEPS.

RAIFE, UPSET OVER THE ORDEAL WARNS LYUBIMOV AND GENSO THAT THEIR ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

RAIFE ¹⁸: DISCIPLINARY

"I don't care if it took her ten minutes to get her tag out. If you two continue to escalate situations like these, I'm going to deescalate your contracts and your reputations."

CHUMA ¹⁹: SMUG

"If you start doing that, you're gonna get what you pay for, Raife."

RAIFE ²⁰:

"We should already be getting what we paid for, Lyubimov."

KUMA HA ²¹: CALM

"Don't ruin this for us both, Chuma."

CHUMA ²²: ACCUSATION

"Aren't you the one who drew first?"

KUMA HA ²³: CALM

"That's well within our protocol. Weirdly enough, beating company property is not."

RAIFE ²⁴: IMPATIENT

"Exactly. You two are back on post. Don't cause me any more problems.
calling out the door Ash."

ZENNETH ENTERS THE ROOM

RAIFE ²⁵: TRYING TO KEEP IT BRIEF

"I talked to security about the misconduct. Don't let your intern keep her tag concealed. We clear?"

PREGNANT PAUSE

ZENNETH ²⁶: OBSTINATE

"No."

RAIFE ²⁷: DISINTERESTED

"What have I not made clear?"

ZENNETH ²⁸: PREPARED

"For starters, why the hell I was beaten over the back, and secondly, why those two chose not to scan for tags."

RAIFE ²⁹: A MATTER OF FACT

"They can prevent you from interference.
starts coughing"

ZENNETH ³⁰: WITH SARCASM

"Oh, can they? The way Lyubimov did I
suppose? How about the scan? This should
be good, go ahead."

RAIFE ³¹: IMPLYING

"Maybe you want to rethink your approach,
Ash."

ZENNETH ³²: PREPARED

"You're right, I do. I should be voicing
this above you. Given your record, I'm not
sure why Tetra Corp. ever appointed you as
a foreman. You've gotten people killed
before and you'll do it again."

RAIFE ³³: DISMISSIVE SASS

"That's fine."

ZENNETH ³⁴: HEATED

"Good."

RAIFE ³⁵: A MATTER OF FACT

"But transmission data is scrambled until
the transmitter stops running.
It stays on until Tetra Corp.
says so. *sniffle* *coughing*"

ZENNETH ³⁶: FRUSTRATED, DISGUSTED

"*on the way out* Don't get me sick,
Raife."

ZENNETH LEAVES THE ROOM

FADE IN: HARKER'S ROOM. THE WIND OUTSIDE, OCCASIONAL SNOW STALK. PASSING
BANTER OUTSIDE.

HARKER ³⁷: END OF THE DAY TIRED.

"Day two, and my first day of work here on Artus Boreal. *Stressed* Where do I start?"

WHISPERS ³⁸: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

STOPS RECORDING

HARKER ^{38-A}: END OF THE DAY TIRED.

"Sleeping has been a challenge. I showed up two hours early to the lab, I think I almost got myself shot, I'm hearing things..."

STOPS RECORDING, HARKER COMPOSES HERSELF

HARKER ³⁹: STRESSED.

"I may have experienced traumatic stress that's triggered... auditory hallucinations.*hard exhale* I need to tell Kidari. I just hope it doesn't get me kicked from my internship, especially since things are already interesting.*lightening up* After I was cleared, Zenneth told me more about the transmitter. She says it's a very long-range and a very high-speed device. If what we're doing is sustainable, this prototype could leap humanity decades into the future of technology."

HARKER ⁴⁰: END OF THE DAY TIRED.

"*yawn* I think there's more to it than that. We're stationed just outside of patrolled space, and

I've never seen a human design anything like this transmitter. I would ask Pip what he thinks, but he appears to be occupied winning Kidari's affection... and making puddles. He stirred all last night looking out the window. That was probably my chance to avoid a restless night... and his cleanups."

STOPS RECORDING

HARKER ⁴¹: END OF THE DAY TIRED.

"That's right, I'm talking about you.
settles into bed Goodnight,
Pip."

SILENCE

FADE OUT:

FADE IN: HARKER'S ROOM, ONLY THE WIND OUTSIDE.

PIP STIRS AND WHIMPERS.

HARKER ⁴²: HALF-ASLEEP

"Hm? *mumbles* Need to go potty? Come on let's get you out. *groggy* Next time you're going out before bedtime. Out we go."

*DOOR OPENS, PIP ROLLS IN THE SNOW OUTSIDE,
BARKING.*

WHISPERS ³³: EERIE

indistinct dialogue

HARKER ⁴⁴: WHISPERED

"Pip!... Stop it! Go. Pee! It's too damn cold to play games."

PIP GOES PEE, SNOW STALK CLICKING NEARBY

HARKER 45-A : WHISPERED, HAPPY

"Good boy. Come on let's go back to bed.
Pip! Kidari doesn't want to play
with you, get over here!"

PIP RUNS CORNERS TO EXPLORE, BARKING

HARKER 46 : WHISPERED, AGONIZED

"*Sigh* Shit. Thanks, Mom... Pip, it is too
late for this. Where are you?"

*PIP WHIMPERS SUDDENLY, SNOW STALK GRABS PIP AND
BEGINS TO EAT HIM.*

HARKER 47 : BLOODY MURDER

"Pip!"

*THE REST OF THE COMPOUND COMES TO LIFE, LIGHTS
ON, PEOPLE LOOKING.*

HARKER 36 : WRECKED

"NO! *ugly sobbing*"

Wilks 37 : DEMANDING

"Where is it? *coughing* Where's the snow
stalk?"

SNOW STALK RUNS OFF

HARKER 38 : WRECKED

"*ugly sobbing*"

Wilks 39 : ORDERING OTHERS

"Get inside or get a prod, your choice.
This way! *coughing*"

FADE OUT :

VOICES IN THE SNOW.

END

NARRATION ⁴⁰: INTENSE

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