

Station to Station Episode 5, “ORGANISATIONAL MEMORY”

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1. A QUIET ROOM

(WE CONTINUE FROM EP 4)

REVA

If the two of you are gonna do good cop-bad cop right now, one of you needs to offer me a cigarette.

NELLY

You think you can just laugh this off? We know you're up to something out here. You've been sneaking around this ship since it left port. Skulking and sneaking and — and lurking.

REVA

I told you, going for a walk on my break time's not a federal offence.

NELLY

Maybe not, but what about whatever it is you've done with Riley Arber?

REVA

(SHARPLY)

Where did you hear that name?

MIRANDA

Did you send him down below too, like your people did to Costello?

REVA

What are you [talking about] — what do you know about Riley Arber?

NELLY

He's on the passenger manifest, doing your job. Which is interesting, when there's absolutely no mention of you.

REVA

You've seen the manifest?

MIRANDA

Don't change the subject.

REVA

(SLOWLY, TRYING TO TALK HER DOWN)

Okay, that make sense. I'm not supposed to be here — I didn't get hired until right before we left port. Whoever this Arber guy is, I was at home in Virginia when he decided he wasn't coming along. If you need proof, I've still got my plane tickets in my room I can show you.

NELLY

Right, because printing fake airline tickets is definitely too sophisticated for a billion-dollar multinational company.

REVA

Dr. Quan, I get that Cochrane's spun you some kind of conspiracy theory, but think this through—

MIRANDA

Oh believe me, I've thought this through. I've spent every day since we got here going through Costello's notes — that's right, he left notes. I know what you're doing out here, and — and maybe I don't know everything about how it works yet, but I know enough.

(STEADILY GAINING STEAM)

How did you do it? Did you just — just lure them down there and wait until the experiment wiped them out of existence? Is that all it takes?

REVA

Hold on a second—

MIRANDA

Tell me how it works.

REVA

Doc, listen to me— You're not making any sense.

MIRANDA

I don't want to hear anything except why your company's experiments killed these people!

(A PAUSE, AS THAT LANDS)

REVA

Dr. Quan, do you believe you have evidence someone on this boat committed murder?

NELLY

Arber. Costello. Durand. Won. All on the manifest. All gone. If not that, what's your explanation?

REVA

(SLOWLY, MAKING UP HER MIND)

Okay, look. I think there's something you should see. I'm going to reach into my coat—

NELLY

Yeah, I think not.

REVA

Let me finish.

SOUND: ZIPPER NOISE. FABRIC RUSTLES

There's a little hole in the seam, see? I'm gonna reach in there real slow. No sudden movements. No one gets upset. Now I'm pulling my hand out, still slow, still calm.

NELLY

Miranda, watch her.

REVA

This might answer some of your questions:

(A DEEP BREATH. FUCK, SHE'S REALLY DOING THIS)

Agent Reva Luther, FBI.

2. DATE STAMP 1

(REWIND-WIND-WIND...)

REVA

(FLAT, MATTER-OF-FACT)

Level check. Testing. Check one-two, check one-two. Testing, testing, one-two, testing. Recording begins April 8. Port of Seaward, Alaska.

3. PORT OF SEWARD, ALASKA

SOUND: THE CRY OF A STRAY GULL, LIGHT WAVES ETC.

(WE COME IN MID-CONVERSATION)

NIAL HENDERSON (ROV CREW LEADER)

—don't get seasick, do you?

REVA

Not in my experience.

NIAL

It can sneak up on you — what'd the company send you up in, a bush plane?

REVA

A two-seater out of Anchorage.

NIAL

Charlie fly you in?

REVA

Uh, I didn't catch a name.

NIAL

Well, if you made it through one of Charlie's flights alright you can't have much to worry about. There's the lifeboats — we'll get you in on safety training once we're through with the shallow water tests. C'mon, this way.

SOUND: DOOR.

Fine, Howard, the replacement's here.

JEFF FINE

(MUFFLED)

Hold on a sec.

NIAL

Where's Howard?

FINE

(STILL MUFFLED)

Went to find another torch—

NIAL

What's that?

FINE

He's getting a torch before we accidentally re-wire the friggin' radar again. Inside of the instrument panel's dark as — Hi there.

REVA

Reva Santiago. Hi.

FINE

Jeff Fine. So you're the new Riley, huh?

REVA

Guess so.

FINE

Damn, I knew I shouldn't have let Geoff take the night shift.

GEOFF HOWARD

I lost to you fair and square for that night shift, Fine. No take backs because the company's better looking than you expected.

FINE

Yeah, yeah.

NIAL

Interesting looking flashlight you've got there, Howard.

HOWARD

Hey, I'd have gotten you a coffee too if I knew you were coming back that fast. The way the clouds are looking I figured you'd be lucky if they didn't delay her into next week.

Uh, sorry, Geoff Howard. I'd shake your hand but — hot mugs.

REVA

Jeff and Geoff, huh?

FINE

Yeah, but I'm the one who spells it right.

NIAL

What's the status on the hum?

FINE

We're about ready to find out. Santiago, flick the display screen on, yeah? I wanna see if I just wasted an hour of my life.

NIAL

I can get it. 'Scuse my reach.

REVA

No, it's fine. I've got it.

(THERE'S A PAUSE THAT'S JUST SLIGHTLY TOO LONG)

SOUND: A SWITCH FLICKS. A MOMENT LATER THERE'S A STEADY HUM OF STATIC.

FINE/HOWARD

(UGH)

REVA

(TRYING NOT TO SHOW SHE WAS HOLDING HER BREATH JUST NOW)

What is that?

FINE

Annoying. All the monitors have been making it since we plugged 'em in two days ago.

NIAL

Did you check the sonar—

HOWARD

And the antenna.

FINE

Twice.

NIAL

And the cable connections?

HOWARD

That was when we stopped to get the, uh, flashlight.

NIAL

In that case, Santiago, I think I've found you your first job...

4. REVA'S CABIN

REVA

Supplemental recording, April 9.

A list of potential subjects of interest follows, to be updated as necessary:

Nial Henderson, crew leader and owner of Submersible Technologies Ltd. Married 21 years to Iris Anderson, not present. No children. Age: 54. Primary residence: Tacoma, Washington. First impression: Talkative. IRS filings obtained by our research analyst show the company's been hired for this cruise three years running, and they pay well. Biggest payday of the year, in fact.

Jeff Fine. That's Jeff with a J. Did three years as a night shift pilot before earning his promotion to day shift about 48 hours ago. Age: 32. Primary residence: Tacoma, Washington.

Geoff-with-a-G Howard's been with Submersible Tech two years, both as a night shift operator. Age: 27. Primary residence: Lakewood, Washington. Personal social media accounts are mostly locked down, but apparently he likes to Tweet about television shows. We'll see if I can make use of that.

The bridge crew appears to stay with the ship year-round, both on projects funded by our target and not. Backgrounders from head office suggest there's not much of interest there.

Research on the science side's less helpful. The files prepared for me don't add much I couldn't have gotten reading corporate press release — just the names of a couple big-time schools and some dumbed-down summaries of research. But it's still better than what I've got on Submersible Tech pilot number four — who no one at headquarters seems to have given me any intel on, so thanks for that. Name: Riley... something. Whereabouts: so far unknown.

Recording ends at 23:10.

5. DATE STAMP 2

REVA

Recording begins at 21:00 hours, April 11.

6.ROV CONTROL ROOM, NIGHT

SOUND: THE STATIC'S STILL HERE, BUT SOFTER. DOOR.

HOWARD

Did I fix it?

REVA

Picture's still fuzzy. Sorry.

HOWARD

You're kidding me. Fine swore tightening those cables worked on day shift.

(SIGHS)

Got any other ideas?

REVA

(DEADPAN)

Have you tried turning it off and on again?

HOWARD

Hah.

REVA

What about radio interference? There's a lot of fancy tech in the labs, right? Maybe someone brought along a new toy that doesn't play nice with ours.

HOWARD

Shotgun on not telling the scientists they have to stop their research because it makes our video feeds sad.

REVA

Let's call that day shift's problem.

HOWARD

Shake on it?

REVA

You got it.

SOUND: THE STATIC FADES OUT WITH A LITTLE FINAL FLOURISH.

REVA

Huh. ...never mind.

HOWARD

I bet it's aliens. Weird signals, static that comes and goes... textbook alien behaviour.

REVA

I think I'm starting to guess who the Doctor Who fan on this crew is.

HOWARD

Oh no, I'm not taking the blame for that K-9 Squad thing.

REVA

Not your flavour of nerd?

HOWARD

You wanna talk *Star Trek* casts, I'm here for it — Next Gen or bust, by the way — but the British stuff was all day shift.

REVA

Okay, one, DS9 exists, but we'll come back to that.

HOWARD

Geordi and Data, man, can't argue it.

REVA

So I should blame Fine for the fact we're stuck talking about the sub like it's a sad 1970s robot dog?

HOWARD

(LAUGHS)

Yeah, not likely. I like the guy, but he thinks reading UFC stats is a good time. It was old day shift. Nial and the other guy.

REVA

This other guy... Riley, right? What was his deal?

HOWARD

What's that mean?

REVA

All they said when I got hired was there was some kind of last minute job opening. Did he no-show?

HOWARD

No... that's not — that doesn't sound right.

REVA

Why not?

HOWARD

We all fly up together from Sea-Tac a day early so we can get the sub loaded onto the ship on time. If he wasn't there for that we could've called in another one of our guys.

REVA

So he flew all the way up here to quit?

HOWARD

Maybe — I don't know. We got the unit set up okay and went out for a couple of drinks afterward like always... and the next morning at breakfast Nial's freaking out cause we're down a person. I figure he took his stuff and left overnight.

REVA

That's a hell of a paycheque to walk away from. Did he seem like the type of guy to storm off?

HOWARD

I don't know.

REVA

You don't know what kind of guy he was?

HOWARD

I, uh... he was... I mean...

(SUDDENLY VERY COLD - EVEN ANGRY)

Look, he left and you got a job out of it. Does it matter how?

REVA

...no, guess it doesn't.

HOWARD

If that screen's working, we got a dive to run. I'm gonna get the research team in here. Get us set up.

SOUND: A DOOR SLAMS.

7. DATE STAMP 3

REVA

Recording continues at 07:00 hours, April 17.

8. MESS HALL. MORNING

SOUND: LIGHT BABBLE AND/OR CUTLERY NOISES.

(FADE UP ON...)

FINE

...I'm definitely not getting paid enough to deal with this. Nial, either I need a raise or you need to have words with her.

SOUND: SCRAPE OF A CHAIR

REVA

What's Fine complaining about now?

FINE

She's on the roster this morning.

REVA

Simmons again? Already?

FINE

See, she gets it. Nial, man, even *Santiago* gets it.

REVA

...thanks.

FINE

I just mean — new person and all—

HOWARD

Keep digging man.

NIAL

Tell you what, Jeffrey. No raise, but I can get you more bacon.

SOUND: ANOTHER CHAIR SCRAPE

Is there any left, Santiago?

REVA

They put out a fresh pan when I was getting coffee. Does this place always try to make everyone eat three times their body weight? 'Cause I didn't see my dead grandmother running the kitchen.

NIAL

You've heard the forecast for the rest of the week — can't hurt to put on some extra insulation. Speaking of which, are those fresh waffles?

FINE

(SIGHS)

Anyone want to trade shifts?

REVA / HOWARD

Nope. / No way.

HOWARD

I bet she's into you.

REVA

I doubt it.

FINE

Hey.

REVA

Howard, how many times did we kick her out of the control room on Monday?

HOWARD

Are we counting the time she went to the bathroom and one of the microbiologists stuck a chair under the door handle?

REVA

And she still managed to sneak back in to watch a sample collection.

FINE

Yeah, well the last time she was in with us she spilled an entire herbal tea on Nial and sat there while we ran round trying to clean it up — after nearly frying half the instrument panel.

REVA

I was wondering what that smell was.

HOWARD

She steals my pencils. Every single time. I've never caught her, but I know she's the one doing it.

FINE

I guess should at least be grateful that she's not following me everywhere — *right Santiago?*

REVA

...do I have the time wrong, or is the cafeteria putting out fresh eggs five minutes before the meal ends?

HOWARD

Oh yeah, that lab tech. She asked about you again this morning. Do you think maybe *she's* into—

REVA

Whatever helps you sleep at night, Howard.

9.REVA'S CABIN

REVA

Supplemental recording 15, April 17. The weather out here turned nasty fast. We were supposed to dive tonight, but it looks like everything's on hold until we ride out these swells. The researchers are up in arms, but I had a clear evening to figure out the cafeteria staff's marching orders. It only took two nip bottles of whiskey, three cups of coffee and fifty minutes of cursing ex husbands. Chalk that up as a win.

Looks like I was right — the cafeteria's putting out food for a lot more people than we've got aboard. And not the cheap stuff, either.

(PAUSE)

Follow up to recording 10: I think we can upgrade lab tech Janelle Cochrane from potential issue to full-blown problem. I've asked the rest of the crew to stop apprising her of my movements, but we'll see how well that goes. If she is a Mallux embed... I guess we deal with that when we come to it. Recording ends at 03:00 hours.

10. A QUIET ROOM

COSTELLO

(FAINT NEW STATIC)

And, one more thing. I — uh. I've always. You were like family to me, Miranda. I'm sorry about all this, I'm sorry for the mess and the — the — weird crap I'm about to get you involved in. I don't even completely understand it myself, but I figured maybe you would. I think maybe I'm okay with not coming out of this in one piece, because then I won't have to look you in the eye. Goodbye, Miranda. I love you. And trust no one.

SOUND: TAPE RECORDER CLICKS OFF

MIRANDA

So... that's what we've got. What did you think?

REVA

(DEEPLY INTERESTED, BUT TRYING TO HIDE IT)

And you say you can't remember this guy at all?

MIRANDA

I just — not exactly. No.

REVA

You worked together — let's say, conservatively, for a couple of years. All that research time, all those long hours in the labs, and you've got nothing?

MIRANDA

I know it sounds strange — and it is strange, and really, really hard to explain. But if I concentrate I know something's missing. I can feel these places where something else should be in my mind that isn't there any more.

NELLY

You know when you lose your keys right after you've set them down? You're going through everything you just did — turning on the lights, putting away your coat and shoes — waiting to get to the memory of where you put them.

MIRANDA

Right, exactly — only it's not there. You know you should remember, but you can't and — and... what's that look for?

REVA

Don't get me wrong, we both agree there's something questionable going on out here.

NELLY

I hear a 'but' coming.

REVA

But I want you to look at this from another angle. You've got a ship overstocked on food and supplies, empty cabins and absent scientists — every one of which is supposed to be getting a fat research grant, not to mention equipment funding, travel stipends, room and board...

Could be, you're seeing a group of people trying very hard to pretend they've spent millions of dollars on legitimate business.

NELLY

That's your answer for all this? White collar crime?

REVA

You have to admit, there's evidence to support— [that theory].

NELLY

Oh my *god*.

MIRANDA

You can't believe that after what we've told you. You heard Costello's tapes — you can't think this is just — just — numbers on a spreadsheet. Costello was my friend, and he was here. He's not some — some shell game for dodgy accountants. There is something *wrong* on this ship. He knew it, and he was trying to stop it, and he paid for it.

If you've been investigating for two weeks — haven't you seen anything that makes you feel strange? Or, I don't know, not right?

REVA

(HESITATES)

I've got a team in Virginia that's been working this angle for six months—

NELLY

No — hold on — that's not a no. What have you seen?

REVA

(TOO QUICKLY)

Nothing.

NELLY

(SCOFFS)

REVA

There are plenty of other explanations for anything I may or may not have seen out here that don't rely on *having a bad feeling*.

MIRANDA

Then let me explain it better. I don't understand all the pieces yet, but I have notes and I can play you more of the tapes. If we go through it—

REVA

I can't do this right now. My shift started 10 minutes ago. I've got to get moving.

MIRANDA

You're leaving?

REVA

I need to maintain my cover.

(SHE RELENTS A LITTLE)

I'm not saying no. If you can get me a copy of the manifest and anything else you think I should look at, I promise you I'll read it over.

NELLY

Yeah, sure. And then you'll tell us it's all just about tax evasion, right?

REVA

Think what you want, Cochrane. I'm in room 205. You can slip it under the door. And I don't think I have to tell either of you that this conversation never happened.

11. DATE STAMP 4

REVA

Recording continues at 03:30, April 19.

12. ROV CONTROL ROOM, NIGHT

REVA

What do you think, do I tell the bridge to take us twenty or thirty feet if we're aiming for that colony of — God, I really can't make myself say it.

HOWARD

Sea squirts?

REVA

Who names these things?

HOWARD

I dunno, it seems kinda fitting under the circumstances, right?

REVA

Please don't make the joke I think you're going to.

HOWARD

I'm just saying, it was a big storm. A lot of people—

REVA

No.

HOWARD

It looked like a war zone in the men's room.

REVA

Why did I tell McKinnley we could hold down the fort while he went for a smoke?

HOWARD

You could have gone with him. What'd he say he wanted here? Samples or pictures?

REVA

Both, I think. And why would I have gone with him?

HOWARD

'Cause you couldn't stop making googly eyes at his Benson and Hedges.

REVA

...it's been a long day.

You know what these squirt things look like? Livers. A whole bunch of disembodied livers on the bottom of the ocean.

HOWARD

Yeah, it's pretty cool isn't it? You gonna get the ship to move for us, or do you want me to give you and that pen you're chewing some privacy?

SOUND: RADIO BLIP

REVA

Bridge nav, could I have a ship move? Two metres, bearing...

HOWARD

Try 0.2.

REVA

Bearing 0.2 at 2 knots. Copy, bridge. Thanks.

SOUND: COMMS BLIP OUT

HOWARD

When'd you quit smoking?

REVA

This time?

HOWARD

Oof.

REVA

One long year.

HOWARD

And you're still...

REVA

Could be worse. A year ago I might've punched McKinnley out and taken the whole pack.

HOWARD

I guess that's progress.

REVA

You never smoked?

HOWARD

Nah, but there was this guy on day shift last year who used to go through a pack a day. It reeked in here 24/7. Don't miss that.

REVA

(SHARPLY)

I didn't know Arber smoked.

HOWARD

Huh?

REVA

The guy from last year, on day shift. That's Arber, right?

HOWARD

Uh... who?

REVA

The operator I replaced. Riley Arber.

HOWARD

Sorry. Doesn't ring a bell.

SOUND: A CHAIR IS PUSHED BACK SHARPLY

What's wrong?

REVA

(ALREADY ON HER WAY OUT OF THE ROOM)

Cover for me.

12. NELLY'S CABIN

(LATER THAT NIGHT)

SOUND: YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN'T STOP KNOCKING ON A DOOR WELL PAST THE TWO TO THREE TAPS ETIQUETTE DICTATES, BUT YOU'RE ALSO TRYING TO KEEP IT LOWKEY SO AS NOT TO WAKE UP ANYONE ELSE? THAT. FOR SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN IS COMFORTABLE. A DOOR OPENS.

NELLY

(STILL MOSTLY ASLEEP)

Luther? Was there a fire?

REVA

Santiago, remember? I need Quan's room number.

NELLY

What time is it?

REVA

Four in the morning. Do you know where Quan's cabin is?

NELLY

Come in, someone might see you out here. How come you know my room and not hers?

REVA

She never yelled at me for walking past her door.

NELLY

Right.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

Miranda's one deck up. Cabin number — why do you need to see her right now?

REVA

I want to hear that Costello tape again.

NELLY

At four in the morning?

REVA

More like 4:30. The extra numbers seemed like they'd be too much for you.

NELLY

Something's happened, hasn't it?

REVA

It might be nothing. I'll tell you once I listen to that tape.

NELLY

Sure you will.

REVA

Got me sized up already, huh Cochrane?

NELLY

Any time you want to start proving me wrong, *Santiago*...She's in room 116.

REVA

Thanks. Go back to sleep.

SOUND: THE DOOR OPENS

NELLY

(LAST DITCH FLIRTING ATTEMPT)

You know, if you're going to come round this early next time, you should at least bring a girl a coffee.

REVA

I'll keep that in mind.

NELLY

Four sugars, no milk.

REVA

Jesus, how do you still have teeth in your head?

NELLY

Right, because you don't have a sweet tooth.

REVA

What?

NELLY

The chocolate bars in my lab storage? That was a pretty bold move for someone trying to run an undercover op, by the way.

REVA

What chocolate bars?

NELLY

You took some when you went through my notes. I do keep track.

REVA

I haven't gone through your notes.

NELLY

Yeah, sure. You messed them up too — it took me twenty minutes... oh. You really didn't, did you?

REVA

No, I didn't. When did you notice the theft?

NELLY

A while ago. I don't suppose there's a secret second FBI agent on this boat?

REVA

No such luck.

NELLY

Right. I'm coming with you to Miranda's. I think it's time we start talking suspects.