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CONTINUED:

*Air Force
Colonel*

43.

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... 3pgs

The first hint of anger creeps into his expression. He walks away from her, and she watches as he heads for...

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INT. MCMURDO BASE - COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

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A small room crammed with four desks. EIGHT WORKERS bustle to and fro between the desks, radios, wall charts and maps. On the far side of the room...

An AIR FORCE COLONEL (50's, with a military bearing) deals with angry EXPEDITION TEAMS. At the front are six members of a Japanese team obviously unhappy about something.

JAPANESE TEAM LEADER

Our grant just started, Colonel.

COLONEL

And I'm sorry about that. The NSF controls a lot of things down here, but the weather ain't one of them. Do you understand, "out of my hands?"

Jerry enters, pushing past the waiting teams. The Colonel sees him coming.

COLONEL (cont'd)

Oh, boy...

The Colonel heads towards Jerry...

COLONEL (cont'd)

Mr. Shepard, I know what you're gonna say...

JERRY

...I've got eight dogs up there waiting for somebody to show up.

COLONEL

And I've got five hundred people I need to evacuate to New Zealand before this storm buries all of us.

Both men are firm in their tone. The Colonel with a job to do, Jerry not willing to take no for an answer.

JERRY

You don't understand...these dogs, these dogs are part of our team. They're part of NSF...

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(CONTINUED)

COLONEL

I know and I appreciate that, but right now I don't even know if I've got enough fuel to fly my 130s.

WORKER #1

Colonel, we've got a problem with an engine icing up!

COLONEL

So make it not a problem...

(back to Jerry)

Listen son, even if I had a spare plane, which I don't, it'd be suicide to fly inland right now. You wouldn't make it. Weather says they haven't seen a storm like this in years.

WORKER #1

We've got another engine down, we're gonna have to start movin' some of these planes inside!

COLONEL

Mr. Shepard, please, we're a little busy right now...

JERRY

Look, Colonel, all we need...

WORKER #1

You want us to do that sir?

COLONEL

Do what?

WORKER #1

Try moving some of the planes...

Jerry finally snaps.

JERRY

Hey, why don't you try holding on a minute, alright!

The room falls quiet. All eyes on Jerry. He asks the Colonel:

JERRY (cont'd)

All we need is the plane we came in on and we can be back in a few hours. That's it.

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(CONTINUED)

COLONEL

The plane you came in on went out to Christchurch this morning. The only thing left are 130's and they sure as hell can't land at that Field Base.

Jerry knows the Colonel's telling the truth.

JERRY

So my dogs are stuck out there, is that what you're telling me?

COLONEL

I'm saying we don't have a choice.

Time for the team to talk. Andy, Jerry, Cooper, Rose and Katie are all in Davis's room...along with Davis; in a wheelchair, his broken leg propped in front of him. It's an uneasy silence. Finally broken by...

ANDY

We know you're upset. We're all upset.

JERRY

I'm not goin' Andy. I'll stay here all winter if I have to.

Andy's trying to be compassionate, but also speaks with a firm tone...

ANDY

And what good would that do? You'd still be here and the dogs would still be at the base.

ROSEMARY

Jerry, there's nothing we can do. Nothing. Only plane that can land out there is gone for the next six to eight months. By that time...

She stops, not wanting to finish the thought. Reality sinks in.

JERRY

So what am I supposed to do? Just go home?

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(CONTINUED)