

THE VOICE OF THE DELTA

BUSH LINES

Supper is at six. Your chair is still there.



AN ORIGINAL FEATURE SCREENPLAY BY GARY B. HALEY

A disgraced true-crime podcaster takes the night shift at a dying Alaska radio station and discovers that the grandmother who reads messages to the unreachable has spent four years sending one to a vanished boy, in the voice of his dead mother.

15,000 watts

One station. 200 roadless villages.

Every Thursday

One message. Eleven years. No answer.

One whiteout

Three lost boys. One voice on the radio.

THE STORY

Iris Kell had the most famous voice in true crime, until she used it to name an innocent man. Fleeing a lawsuit and the internet, she takes the overnight shift at **KTLK 670 AM** in Tulik, Alaska, a lifeline to two hundred villages with no roads and, after March, no funding.

Its heart is *Bush Lines*, where Agnes Pavila, 71, reads messages to people no phone can reach. Every Thursday she adds one more: *To Danny, wherever you're listening. Supper is at six. Your chair is still there. Mom.*

Danny vanished after his best friend went through the river ice. His mother died four years ago. Agnes has carried her message ever since, and she is going blind. When Iris starts reading for her, the station becomes home, until Iris's old instincts betray everyone who trusted her.

Then a blizzard swallows three teenage boys on the dead friend's trail. Phones and internet go dark. All that still reaches the river is one aging transmitter, one voice, and a man who stopped listening.

THE PEOPLE

IRIS KELL, 38 A gifted host learning that some stories aren't hers to tell.

AGNES PAVILA, 71 Yup'ik, dry, unshakable. The voice of the Delta for 34 years.

WALT DUNHAM, 66 Navy vet, station manager, bush pilot. Keeper of one very big secret.

DANNY PAVILA, 30 The boy who left, listening every Thursday from a frozen gold dredge.

LORRAINE & JOEY ANDREW A mother who signs her card "L." and a son set on his brother's trail.

WHY IT WORKS

- ◆ **A rare lead for a 70-something Alaska Native actress** in a deep, castable ensemble.
- ◆ **Funny first**, so the tears are earned: bingo, \$14 cereal, Steely Dan "in the license."
- ◆ **Contained and timely**: one town, one station, one storm, and a story about consent and listening.

COMPS

CODA meets Wind River with a little of The Holdovers.

"You read it exactly. It isn't yours." AGNES

WRITTEN BY GARY B. HALEY

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