

Crosswired
Episode 1

Written by
Steven Cardinal

Copyright (c) 2017

Final

steve@straighttalkwithsteve.net

Crosswired - Episode 1

INTRO:

SIMON speaks to the listener

SIMON In a world of secrets. Of spies,
plots, and cover-ups. Of conspiracies
and the men who pull the strings,
there's one name that always gets
mentioned. So often it seems like a
joke. But it's no joke. Not to me.
Whether or not they really go by the
name Illuminati doesn't matter.
Because they're real. I know because
I've been watching them. I just
didn't know it. Until now.

INTRO MUSIC

SCENE 1:

Simon, sitting in his office at the NSA, is on the phone with Dr GARVIN.

SIMON No, it just started.

GARVIN It's probably nothing, but I want you
to come in anyway.

SIMON I mean, the meter says I'm good.

GARVIN It doesn't sound like a blood sugar--

SIMON So... do I need to make an
appointment, doc?

GARVIN Tell ya what, bucko. I got some time
this afternoon. Shoot by at 2, and
I'll check you out. You've been doing
the exercises?

SIMON Like clockwork.

GARVIN You do take directions well.

SIMON I figure you've never wasted my time
with bullshit before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARVIN Neither of us have the patience for that, do we?

SIMON Ha! No sir. I'll see you at 2. Thanks again.

Simon hangs up the phone as his boss, Mr Kazin, approaches.

KAZIN (clears his throat)

Got a sec, Simon?

SIMON Uh, yeah. Sure, Mr Kazin.

KAZIN Wanted to take a minute to commend you on the... on the Casper Project. Very cleanly done.

SIMON Oh, uh, thanks. Cal... I mean, Mr Faraday... Well, Abyss was really his baby.

KAZIN Still. You made it work, didn't you?

SIMON Yeah, yes, sir.

KAZIN I've never seen anything like it. And, let's just say senior leadership was very impressed.

SIMON Thank you, sir.
(pause)

That's not what you're here for, though.

KAZIN I should know by now you don't miss a trick. So much of my staff is "on-spectrum", I forget I have a lousy poker face.

SIMON So what's up.

KAZIN I need you to take a few days off.

SIMON What? Why? I'm--

KAZIN You need a break. You've been spending a lot of time here of late. Can't risk burning out my brightest star.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMON I don't stay any longer than the others--

KAZIN This isn't open for debate, Simon. Take a week then come see me.

SIMON But--

KAZIN Did I hear you making an appointment of some kind for this afternoon?

SIMON Yeah, my doctor...

KAZIN Good. Go get a good check up, take the whole afternoon, then maybe go away for a bit. The shore's pretty nice.

SIMON (pause)

Yes sir.

KAZIN Good boy.

SCENE 2:

Simon enters the office of Doctor Clement Garvin, his physician who treats him for his diabetes.

SIMON Hey Val. I'm here for my 2:00.

VALERIE Doctor Garvin is just running a couple minutes behind. Have a seat and I'll let him know you're here.

SIMON Any new magazines?

VALERIE 'Fraid not. Pretty sure you've only read the American Fisherman one three times, though.

SIMON Right. What Trout Really Like. Pages 54 through 57. Ad for Thompson Boats on 55. Girl fishing in a red bikini.

VALERIE How do you do that?

SIMON It's not all that hard.

VALERIE For you, maybe. I can't remember what I had for breakfast.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMON Cinnamon toast. Coffee. Dark roast. You should really get some protein in your first meal.

VALERIE Now that's just spooky. How the heck...?

SIMON There's a little cinnamon sugar in the corner of your lips. And your mouth seems drier than normal.

VALERIE Drier?

SIMON A little... smacky. Dark roast will do that.

VALERIE So it's not my breath, at least.

SIMON Well... They say chewing fennel seeds helps.

VALERIE I better go check on Dr Garvin (pause) and brush my teeth.

SIMON Get down!

EXPLOSION

There's the sudden sound of screaming in the vicinity.

VALERIE Oh my god! What was--

SIMON Bomb, I think. You ok?

VALERIE I... I think so.

SIMON Get out of here. Take the stairs. Go on! (pause) What?

VALERIE (shocked)

Simon. Your arm.

SIMON My...

VALERIE What is that?

SCENE 3:

Simon sits at a cafe, the television in the background playing the news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEWSCASTER

...everything is in a state of flux. We're still waiting for the press conference with Mayor Banton to tell us where things stand. We'll take you to it as soon as they're ready. What we know so far is that the terrorist group KANTO has taken credit for the attack. What is still unclear is why they targeted the Union Health Center. According to Capitol police, there are 8 reported dead and over 30 injured. This is still a developing story, though, and those numbers may change, though they're unlikely to go down. We're told a bomb squad is still locking the site down. Stay tuned for more on this developing story. Again, we are awaiting Mayor Banton, who we're told will be speaking to the public any moment now. This has been the third bombing in the Capitol in the last two months. The public is rightfully fearful and confused.

GARVIN

(voice message)

This is Doctor Clement Garvin. Please leave a message. If this is urgent, please call the main office at 202-555-2368 to have me paged. (beep)

SIMON

(on cell phone)

Yeah. It's Simon. Give me a call as soon as you get this. Or come find me. I'm down at Digby's on 3rd. I'll be here another hour. It's urgent.
(hangs up)

WAITER

More coffee?

SIMON

Yeah. Glass of water with lemon, too.

WAITER

(Looking at the television)

Some crazy shit, huh?

SIMON

Yeah.

WAITER

Were you there?

SIMON

Mm-hmm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WAITER Damn. Crazy shit. Don't know what this world's coming to.

SIMON I don't even know what this world is any more.

WAITER Y'know, it's like those conspiracy theories about powerful men running the entire world from the shadows. Except they're losing their grip. Life finds a way, right?

SIMON You watch too much Hollywood.

WAITER I'm telling you man...

SIMON Can I get my coffee and water?

WAITER Yeah, sure, coming right up.

CELL PHONE RINGS

SIMON Dr Garvin. You're ok?

GARVIN (over cell phone)

 Yeah, just finished talking to the FBI. You?

SIMON I need to meet with you.

GARVIN What's wrong?

SIMON I need to show you...

GARVIN Show me...? What happened.

SIMON My apartment in 30 minutes. You have the address?

GARVIN Yeah. Yeah, I have it. Simon...

SIMON Not on this line. My apartment.

SCENE 4:

Dr Garvin arrives at Simon's apartment.

GARVIN Simon--

SIMON Were you followed?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GARVIN Followed? What's going on? Are you sure you're ok?

SIMON No. I'm not. Sit.

GARVIN I think I'd better--

SIMON Sit. (pause) What am I?

GARVIN I don't understand.

SIMON I took a piece of shrapnel. In the blast.

GARVIN Shit.

SIMON In the arm.

GARVIN Simon, I can explain it. Just let me take a look.

SIMON You knew. What the hell am I, Garvin? Some kind of robot? There are wires >

GARVIN You're upset.

SIMON In my arm--

GARVIN You've just experienced some serious trauma. Let me help you. I have my bag.

SIMON Don't touch me.

GARVIN Just an injection. Your interface is overloading.

SIMON My... my interface? God, what am I?

GARVIN Cyborg. You're just--

SIMON Cyborg?

GARVIN Just relax. Everything's going to be ok.

SIMON Nothing is ok. Stay away from me. Don't touch--

GARVIN Just a little injection. Trust me.

SIMON I said stay the hell away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Simon pulls a gun.

GARVIN What are you doing? Put that thing down. You need help.

SIMON You're not touching me.

GARVIN Simon, you're in dangerous territory. To yourself. To all of us.

SIMON Us?

GARVIN One injection. You'll rest. Then I can explain things to you.

SIMON You're going to terminate me.

GARVIN You're paranoid. It's expected. Your interface...

SIMON No. I see things very clearly. Now. And I'm not going to get any further with you, am I?

GARVIN Simon. No. Put that down. I swear. This is for your own good.

GUN SHOTS

SIMON No. That's for my own good. Goodbye Doctor Garvin.

SCENE 5:

Simon speaks to the listener.

SIMON I can remember my entire life. Growing up in Tiverton. My first girlfriend. Clam cakes at Flo's. Was it all a lie? A cyborg, he said. Human brain with a robot body. Maybe my memories are real, but how did I end up here? And why? I need answers and I'm not going to get them from the dead body on my floor. He's already getting cold and maybe the trail to the truth is too. There is something big here. This technology doesn't exist. It can't. And yet...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:
SIMON (cont'd)

Someone made me. I need to talk to
someone I trust.