

Crosswired - Episode 11

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First Draft

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CONTINUED:

KAZIN                   Just me, you, and my... assistant. So if you want to live to see another day, I want answers.

MARIUS                   Fuck you.

KAZIN                   Hmm. That wasn't a yes or no question. Let's try this.

Kazin presses on one of Marius' wounds.

MARIUS                   (groans in pain)

KAZIN                   Let's try again. What happened here? What happened to my men?

MARIUS                   You... they attacked us. We fought back... then your helicopters, they... just exploded.

KAZIN                   Just? How'd you do it?

MARIUS                   Fuck--  
(Screams)

KAZIN                   How? (no answer) Where's the cyborg?

MARIUS                   I don't know what you're talking about.

KAZIN                   Come now. Let's not play dumb.

MARIUS                   (screams)

KAZIN                   Where is it?

MARIUS                   Destroyed. When the last chopper exploded. He was too close.

KAZIN                   Son of a...

BROWN                   Sir?

KAZIN                   (Grabs Marius by the shirt and gets in his face)

What the hell did you do to my men?

BROWN                   Sir, I have the channel setup. Mr... He's online, sir.

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KAZIN                                    Do something with our prisoner's wounds. I want him alive. For now. We need answers. Prepare to move out.

BROWN                                    Yes sir.

**SCENE 2:**

Boyle and Abrahms are in the car, idling in a rest area a couple miles away from the ambush site. Boyle is tapping on the dashboard.

ABRAHMS                                  Thinking?

BOYLE                                    What?

ABRAHMS                                  You do that when you're thinking.

BOYLE                                    What?

ABRAHMS                                  That.

Boyle stops tapping.

ABRAHMS (cont'd)                        So, are we going to move in?

BOYLE                                    Can't you get any more intel with that scanner of yours?

ABRAHMS                                  Everything's quiet. Too quiet.

BOYLE                                    What's that supposed to mean?

ABRAHMS                                  There's usually tons of background noise. Like, cellular chatter. Radio waves. But I'm not getting anything. Maybe we traveled back in time to like, dinosaur days. Like the land that time forgot.

BOYLE                                    Is that your best guess?

ABRAHMS                                  Well, if someone could suppress all that noise...

BOYLE                                    Like a jamming device?

ABRAHMS                                  It's not a matter of jamming... though, yeah, a jamming device would be a problem. But that's an active signal thing. You can tell when someone's jamming you. There's all

(MORE)

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ABRAHMS (cont'd)

this noise that just jams up the sensors. That's why they call it jamming, mon. Hey, were you around when Marley did that whole--

BOYLE

(impatient)

Bad choice of words, then. A sink.

ABRAHMS

Sink?

BOYLE

Something that can absorb radio stuff.

ABRAHMS

(offended)

I know what a sink is. And it's called EMR - electromagnetic radiation. Not "radio stuff". And, yeah. I mean, in theory. But nothing like that exists. No one has that.

BOYLE

(cautiously) We do.

ABRAHMS

We? We who? We you and me?

BOYLE

We, the agency.

ABRAHMS

(awed)

Damn.

BOYLE

It's new. Code named El Coco. Only available to a few, special units. Rules for its use are still being developed.

ABRAHMS

Coco?

BOYLE

El Coco. A story used to frighten kids. A monster that would eat them. Leaving no trace.

ABRAHMS

Whoever comes up with these code names...

BOYLE

This thing eats EMR. Very customizable. Discrete bands of wavelengths.

ABRAHMS

So if someone has that and is using it here...

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CONTINUED: (2)

BOYLE Then they're probably in the agency.

ABRAHMS Or stole it. (sudden thought) Or it's cyborg technology.

TAPPING ON DASHBOARD

ABRAHMS (cont'd) What?

Tapping stops.

BOYLE Remember when I said we may have a problem inside the agency?

ABRAHMS Uh-huh.

BOYLE I suspect whatever happened... up ahead...

ABRAHMS Damn.

BOYLE Still want to move in?

ABRAHMS Uh, no. Not really. No.

BOYLE Then figure out how to overcome this EMR sink and get me some intel we can use.

ABRAHMS Real mission impossible, huh?  
(Mission:Impossible theme) Dun-dun  
duh-duh-dun-dun

BOYLE ...

ABRAHMS Yes sir, Mr Boyle. (begins typing at her laptop). Can I ask you a question?

BOYLE Will it be a serious one?

ABRAHMS What they said... before the signal went dead. About aliens and the Chinese and the cyborg going all violent and paranoid... You think that's true?

TAPPING ON DASHBOARD

BOYLE That scenario was presented to me very recently and I scoffed at it.

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CONWAY                   Dammit. I'm sending in a search team.  
Send me coordinates.

KAZIN                     Sir, just have them contact me--

CONWAY                   Not this time. Your continued failure  
is putting us all at risk.

KAZIN                     Dammit Conway! Sir. If he's still at  
large I'm your best chance at  
recovering him. What happened here  
was completely unexpected but I  
promise, I will not be fooled again.  
Maybe I underestimated him. It will  
not happen again.

CONWAY                   Shit. This is your last chance, do  
you hear me?

KAZIN                     Yes sir.

CONWAY                   You'll have your men in 2 hours.

The call ends.

KAZIN                     Brown?

BROWN                    Sir?

KAZIN                     Has there been any evidence of the  
asset in the wreckage?

BROWN                    None yet, sir. It's a mess, though.  
Until the cleanup crew gets here--

KAZIN                     Is the prisoner secure?

BROWN                    Yes, sir.

KAZIN                     Check the perimeter for any signs of  
foot traffic. As soon as the team  
shows up we're going hunting.

**SCENE 4:**

Simon and Gretchen are walking through the woods of Western Virginia, fleeing the ambush site.

GRETCHEN                 Will you slow down? Just a little?

SIMON                     We've got to put as much distance  
between us and--

(CONTINUED)



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GRETCHEN I know! But I'm not a robot, ok? My body needs rest. My ankle--

SIMON I offered to wrap it when we stopped.

GRETCHEN I didn't want to stop then. Hell, I don't want to stop now! But I can only--

SIMON Ok. Fine. 5 minutes. Rest.

GRETCHEN It's going to be dark soon. What then? Maybe your sensors can see in the dark, but I can't. And my cell is fried, so that's no--

SIMON This area is filled with small caves. We'll find one and hide out for a bit.

GRETCHEN How do you know?

SIMON I can... sense them. Empty spaces. Echoes of water. Small animals.

GRETCHEN Then what?

SIMON ...

GRETCHEN Simon? Then what?

SIMON Then you're going to start giving me some answers.

GRETCHEN I can't.

SIMON I'm not giving you a choice.

GRETCHEN I don't have all the answers. Marius was just starting to tell me when...

SIMON Why should I trust you? And don't give me some bullshit about time invested and important projects. Why should I trust you?

GRETCHEN (considers) Why did you save me? Back there.

SIMON I need answers, Gretch.

GRETCHEN Is that the only reason?

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CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON                               Because I love you. Alright? Or I did. I don't know anymore. I'm not ready to throw that away.

GRETCHEN                           Then help me. And let me help you. If you knew everything you'd be happy to help. This cause...

SIMON                               You're goddamn terrorists! You've bombed embassies. Taken out diplomats. The clinic...

GRETCHEN                           I already explained about the clinic. And the rest... There's a good reason for it. (pause) How did your father die?

SIMON                               My father?

GRETCHEN                           You never said.

SIMON                               What does that have to do with anything?

GRETCHEN                           Please, Simon. It's important.

SIMON                               He committed suicide. The autopsy revealed he had a brain tumor. They suspect it triggered some kind of psychosis or something.

GRETCHEN                           Was he acting strange before he died?

SIMON                               I don't know. I hadn't seen him in a couple years. His job had him on the road a lot. What does this have to do with--

GRETCHEN                           What did he do for work?

SIMON                               State Department. Some kind of liaison.

GRETCHEN                           Your father was a cyborg.

SIMON                               What?

GRETCHEN                           He was one of us. A member of KANTO. He volunteered to undergo the procedure. To work undercover.

SIMON                               That's not possible.

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GRETCHEN                   It is! Marius told me while we were driving. He was committed enough to what we were doing that he volunteered. The procedure didn't work right, though. Marius said he became paranoid. Violent. They had to disable him. Terminate...

SIMON                       They killed my father?

GRETCHEN                   He accepted it. He gave up his life for the success of this mission. That's how important this is. Can't you understand that?

SIMON                       But why?

GRETCHEN                   Our government, and governments around the world, have been infiltrated by... we don't know who. They've got plans we've only scratched the surface of, but none of it is good for us. We have to find out who they are and what they're trying to accomplish. You were our eyes inside one of the most important and powerful organizations in the world. Your father was similarly placed.

SIMON                       Why me? Why him?

GRETCHEN                   I don't know, ok? Marius said we still hadn't perfected the process. You're the most successful one we've created and even you...

SIMON                       Even me what?

GRETCHEN                   You're flawed, Simon.

SIMON                       Thanks.

GRETCHEN                   I'm serious. Dr Garvin had to maintain you. Now that he's gone... We're worried what happened to your father will happen to you. Paranoia. Violence. (pause) What happened to the helicopters?

SIMON                       ...

GRETCHEN                   Was that you?

(CONTINUED)

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SIMON I was able to... manipulate... them. The electronics. The way they worked. I... short-circuited them.

GRETCHEN What?

SIMON I was angry. This sensor network. My spidey senses. They're not just a passive thing. I can... control things. Electrical things.

GRETCHEN So you zapped my phone, too?

SIMON I guess. How'd I do that?

GRETCHEN I don't know. I started to ask Marius about it - about your senses - and he seemed surprised. I don't think that was by design. Not ours, anyway.

SIMON Whose, then?

GRETCHEN Dr Warkovsky was right. Aliens. They gave the technology to the Chinese and we stole it from them. Don't you see? We need to figure out what these people are up to and we've got to stop them. And you...

SIMON I'm a ticking time bomb. (pause) How long did it take?

GRETCHEN What?

SIMON My father. To show signs.

GRETCHEN I don't know. We didn't get to... The attack started before I could find out more.

SIMON Shit.

GRETCHEN Marius knew, though. He was friends with your father. Said he... terminated your father himself. At his request.

SIMON And now he's dead. Well, I don't plan on accepting my fate the way my father did. If my time is limited then I'm going to take out as many of those bastards as I can.

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CONTINUED: (5)

GRETCHEN

What are you going to do?

SIMON

The question is what are "we" going to do.

GRETCHEN

Simon?

SIMON

Let's find one of those caves and get some rest. I'm betting someone will be searching for us pretty soon. We need to hide. You any good at foraging? We're going to need food.

GRETCHEN

I was in the girl scouts. I should be able to keep from poisoning ourselves.

SIMON

Good. Let's go. Tomorrow, we go hunting. For answers.