

Crosswired - Episode 12

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First Draft

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**SCENE 1:**

NEWSCASTER

West Virginia officials are saying that a truck carrying hazardous chemicals has overturned on Interstate 77 and that the National Guard are now on site to restrict access to the site of the spill. Traffic in both directions along I-77 near the Virginia border has been diverted to alternate, rural routes.

The truck was reportedly carrying sodium cyanide, which is a toxic chemical activated by water.

Emergency crews have stressed the importance of staying out of contact with the chemical, which health experts say could be deadly. Given the recent heavy rains brought by Hurricane Norris, this is a very dangerous situation.

There is no word yet on how long the cleanup may take, or the environmental impact of the accident. The public is being asked to avoid the area until officials declare the situation safe.

**SCENE 2:**

Kazin and Brown explore the area around the attack site.

BROWN                                   The tracks are definitely fresh, sir. They head up into those hills.

KAZIN                                    Is it the asset?

BROWN                                   With all due respect, sir, this is tracking, not fortune telling.

KAZIN                                   (bites back a retort. He's losing the respect of his men.)

Remind the men that stealth is a priority.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BROWN                                   That will slow us down, sir.

KAZIN                                    We can't afford to spook him.

BROWN                                   If it's him, he has a head start and  
no reason to move slowly. I recommend  
we--

KAZIN                                   Stealth. We are not letting him get  
the better of us.

BROWN                                   Sir...

KAZIN                                   That's an order.

BROWN                                   Yes sir.

KAZIN                                   Can you tell if the tracks are only  
one person's?

BROWN                                   There appears to be 2, sir. One set  
is smaller than the other. Different  
gait.

KAZIN                                   Keep me appraised of any other  
discoveries. If there's any sign they  
have weapons, I need to know.  
Injuries, I need to know. Anything...

BROWN                                   You need to know. Yes sir.

KAZIN                                   Let's go.

**SCENE 3:**

Simon and Gretchen are in a small cave.

GRETCHEN                               I can't always do it.

SIMON                                   Can you try it now?

GRETCHEN                               Simon, I'm tired.

SIMON                                   Just once.

GRETCHEN                               Fine.

Gretchen takes several deep breaths then settles into a very calm state.

GRETCHEN (cont'd)                    How about now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMON                   Definitely duller, but I can still sense your feelings a little bit. You're scared.

GRETCHEN                Pretty sure anyone could tell that.

SIMON                    So, how?

GRETCHEN                Back when I was living at home I was really into mindfulness. We had a meditation center that I used to go to. Anyway, after that trip to see your mom, I started practicing it again. I was afraid you'd figure out... who I was. I didn't know if it would work.

SIMON                    It did. Sorta.

GRETCHEN                Yeah, well...

SIMON                    What happened to my mom? Do you know?

GRETCHEN                No. Once we went on the run, my team cut off communications. It wasn't until we were captured at Warkovsky's that they reestablished contact. I told you that there were some of us who wanted to keep you safe. The men who tracked us to MIT... They were trying to rescue us.

SIMON                    Then why didn't we--?

GRETCHEN                I was afraid. To blow my cover. I had to let you lead.

SIMON                    And Dr Hadoop, is he part of this?

GRETCHEN                No. When you started asking questions, though, I got worried. Now that he knows...

SIMON                    What?

GRETCHEN                He's probably dead by now.

SIMON                    What are you talking about?

GRETCHEN                If anyone from KANTO knows what you told him... They'll kill him. Can't leave lose ends like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON                                     And does anyone from KANTO know?

GRETCHEN                                     ...

SIMON                                     Gretch?

GRETCHEN                                     I didn't tell anyone.

SIMON                                     So he could still be alive.

GRETCHEN                                     Maybe, yeah. Unless one of your boys got him.

SIMON                                     They're not my boys. I didn't know...

GRETCHEN                                     I'm sorry, Simon. He seemed like a very nice man, but if either side knows what you told him, how long do you think they'll let him live?

SIMON                                     And Dr Warkovsky?

GRETCHEN                                     Well, we weren't with her for very long when they caught us - maybe she'll be ok.

SIMON                                     Quite a body count you're building up. Both my parents, some innocent people at a clinic, Garvin--

GRETCHEN                                     (angered)

   So... what? You want to turn yourself in? Give up? Make all these deaths meaningless?

SIMON                                     No! I want... revenge.

GRETCHEN                                     Okay, then. We need to get back in touch with KANTO.

SIMON                                     But Marius is dead.

GRETCHEN                                     There are people higher than him. We were just one cell. First thing in the morning--

SIMON                                     (urgently)

   We need to move now.

GRETCHEN                                     What? It's pitch black out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Simon rises and begins covering the evidence of their presence.

SIMON                                 Someone's out there. I can sense them.

GRETCHEN                             What? Who?

SIMON                                 I'm not sure. I think...

GRETCHEN                             What?

SIMON                                 Kazin.

GRETCHEN                             Your boss? How can you tell?

SIMON                                 When they took us in Cambridge, I could sense the emotions of every one of his men. But not him.

GRETCHEN                             That doesn't make any sense.

SIMON                                 He was like a blank wall. Where there shouldn't be a wall. More than the absence of a person. There are men out there in the woods. And something else.

GRETCHEN                             A wall.

SIMON                                 Come on.

GRETCHEN                             But if they're out there.

SIMON                                 You think I wouldn't pick a cave without a second way out?

GRETCHEN                             Guess I better stop underestimating you, huh?

SIMON                                 Let's hope Kazin doesn't.

**SCENE 4:**

Kazin, Brown, and a couple scouts are in the woods outside the cave.

BROWN                                 The tracks lead up there. A small cave.

KAZIN                                 Have the men move in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BROWN                                   What about reinforcements? We should surround the area.

KAZIN                                   The longer we wait, the longer they have to outfox us. We need to strike quickly.

BROWN                                   Sir...

KAZIN                                   You saw what happened to our men. That... thing... up there is responsible.

BROWN                                   But we haven't finished searching the area. These hills are filled with caves.

KAZIN                                   Do those tracks belong to the cyborg?

BROWN                                   We believe so.

KAZIN                                   And do they lead into that cave?

BROWN                                   Yes sir.

KAZIN                                   And do they come out again?

BROWN                                   ...

KAZIN                                   Then have Team 2 move in. Weapons ready. Shoot anything that moves until it stops moving. Then shoot it some more.

BROWN                                   Yes sir.

Brown engages his walkie talkie

BROWN (cont'd)                       Team 2. Move in.

**SCENE 5:**

Boyle and Abrahms are still sitting in their car, pulled off the highway in the hills, listening to Abrahm's laptop. The voice they hear on the speaker is very distorted.

BROWN                                   Team 2. Move in.

SCOUT                                   Roger that.

BROWN                                   And you have full authorization to fire on sight, is that clear? He took

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:  
BROWN (cont'd)

out 3 helicopters. He is to be considered armed and dangerous.

SCOUT Fire on sight. Clear sir.

ABRAHMS And I'm cuckoo for cocoa puffs!

BOYLE How'd you crack it?

ABRAHMS Sheer brilliance. I mean, it's not really a sink. I realized that would be a bit far-fetched, so I thought maybe it was a limited distortion field. This field that generates an exact transverse wave form, but it still had to allow the original communication out in some way. Then it hit me.

BOYLE I'm gonna hit you if you don't speak English.

ABRAHMS Do you always threaten violence against women?

BOYLE Wait, you're a woman?

ABRAHMS Touche. So EMR isn't just a matter of waves. There's the whole quantum theories of Planck and Einstein in which my main man Max said that--

BOYLE You know what? Why don't you just skip the explanation. Can you get it any clearer?

ABRAHMS If you knew how miraculous it is that I even got this little bit, you'd be setting up pilgrimages to come bear witness to--

BOYLE Okay, okay. Can you keep it up?

ABRAHMS Better than you can.

BOYLE ...

ABRAHMS Sorry. That sounded funnier in my head.

ELECTRONIC DISTORTION

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

ABRAHMS (cont'd) Hang on. There's something else coming through. Different channel.

BOYLE Turn it up.

KAZIN Got him cornered. We're closing in.

CONWAY Good. And what about your prisoner?

KAZIN He's already packaged and shipped. You should have him by tonight.

CONWAY Don't screw this up.

KAZIN This will all be over in a few minutes.

ABRAHMS Prisoner?

BOYLE I'm more interested in who just said that.

ABRAHMS Who?

BOYLE Yeah. I know that voice. He's one of ours. Or, I thought he was one of ours.

ABRAHMS What do we do?

BOYLE Never interrupt your enemy when he's making a mistake.

ABRAHMS Oui, oui, mon general.

**SCENE 6:**

Simon and Gretchen are squeezing through the narrow passage of the cave.

GRETCHEN You're sure this leads out?

SIMON Yeah. There's air movement. A temperature difference.

GRETCHEN Good thing we haven't had much to eat. I think I'd get stuck.

SIMON Just keep moving.

GRETCHEN What if I do get stuck?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SIMON                                   Huh?

GRETCHEN                               If I get stuck. What will you do?

SIMON                                   Is this a test?

GRETCHEN                               I'm serious. What will--

SIMON                                   Shh.

GRETCHEN                               (quieter)  
What will you do? Try and rescue me?

SIMON                                   Gretchen.

GRETCHEN                               Simon, you need to escape. You're the one that counts.

SIMON                                   Now is not the time--

GRETCHEN                               This *is* the time. It may be our only time. Back in the van, Marius asked me if I could do what needed to be done. This may be one of those things that needs to be done.

SIMON                                   We're getting out of this together.

GRETCHEN                               But if we don't, I need you to promise to keep moving. You can't let them catch you. There's too much--

SIMON                                   You're saying I should leave you behind.

GRETCHEN                               If something happens to me... yeah. You need to find out what's going on before...

SIMON                                   Before I turn into a paranoid, homicidal maniac?

GRETCHEN                               When you put it that way, maybe we *should* let them catch you.

SIMON                                   That's really not the way I want to go out.

GRETCHEN                               If I let you, do you think you could read my mind?

SIMON                                   What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRETCHEN                    You've been able to read my emotions when my guard is down. If I open my thoughts to you do you think you could read them?

SIMON                        I don't know. There really isn't time.

GRETCHEN                    Well, keep moving, but try to read my mind.

SIMON                        For what?

GRETCHEN                    I can't exactly text you the location we were heading to meet up with KANTO. And it's not exactly an address. So, maybe you can get it from my mind.

SIMON                        Gretch...

GRETCHEN                    Just in case. Please Simon.

SIMON                        Okay. Now keep moving. It's not much further. I hear water.

GRETCHEN                    Water?

SIMON                        Probably a spring or something. All that rain from the hurricane must have fed it. (pause) How long do you think I have?

GRETCHEN                    Before you...? Well, Garvin only had to see you once a month. So at least that long.

SIMON                        So not tomorrow.

GRETCHEN                    Let's hope not.

SIMON                        And is there anyone else who knows how to... whatever Garvin was doing?

GRETCHEN                    I don't know. Marius hoped... I'm not particularly high up the food chain.

SIMON                        Just the zookeeper, huh?

GRETCHEN                    Simon...

SIMON                        How did you get assigned to me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GRETCHEN KANTO had done their research. Knew what your type was.

SIMON I don't have a type.

GRETCHEN Everyone has a type. They knew what yours was. I'm guessing your father told them all they needed to know.

SIMON You say he volunteered. Why wasn't I given that choice?

GRETCHEN ...

SIMON Why was my life torn from me?

GRETCHEN I don't know, alright? They said you were biologically compatible with the technology they developed.

SIMON Like father like son.

GRETCHEN I guess.

SIMON Still should have asked me.

GRETCHEN And what if you said no? We've been in the dark for too long.

SIMON We're almost there.

GRETCHEN I mean KANTO. Not knowing who our enemy is and what they want.

Simon reaches the end of the cave.

SIMON Shit!

GRETCHEN What is it? I can't see anything.

SIMON The exit. It's flooded.

GRETCHEN Simon?

SIMON Son of a... How long can you hold your breath?

GRETCHEN I grew up at the beach. I'm part fish.

SIMON C'mon.

They wade into the pool of water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GRETCHEN Holy shit it's cold!

SIMON Deep breath and swim as fast as you can.

GRETCHEN I don't know where I'm going!

SIMON Just keep one hand on the cave wall. Pretty sure this is just a dip under an overhang and then upward.

GRETCHEN Pretty sure?

SIMON They're here!

SCOUT There!

A gun fires. A second.

SIMON Go! Now!

GRETCHEN Simon!

SIMON Now!

They dive beneath the surface. More gunshots.

**SCENE 7:**

Gretchen breaks the surface of the pool that had the cave opening blocked.

GRETCHEN (Gasps for breath)

Oh God!

KAZIN Don't move. Agent Brown, shoot her if she moves.

BROWN Yes sir.

GRETCHEN Okay, okay! I'm not moving!

KAZIN Steady... As soon as he breaks the surface...

The pool remains calm as they wait for Simon to surface.

KAZIN (cont'd) Where the hell is he?

GRETCHEN Simon?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAZIN I said, where is he?

GRETCHEN He was right... They shot at us.

KAZIN Get them on the walkie talkie. I need to know if they got him

BROWN Yes sir. Team 2, do you copy?

A thrown stone hits Brown in the head, knocking him out.

BROWN (cont'd) Ugh!

KAZIN What the hell--

SIMON Surprise! Drop the gun, Mr Kazin.

The walkie talkie goes off

SCOUT Copy. Did you get them?

KAZIN Simon...

SIMON I said drop it. You know what I am. I can take you out as easily as I just did your man there.

KAZIN Fuck you!

Kazin fires his gun at Simon, who moves impossibly fast, avoiding the shot and throwing the rock in his hand directly at Kazin's head. It strikes with a sickening thud.

KAZIN (cont'd) Ugh!

GRETCHEN Simon! Are you okay?

SIMON Yeah.

GRETCHEN How did you...?

SIMON I sensed him. Out here. That same blank wall. So I found another way out. This whole hillside is fractured.

GRETCHEN God, I thought... Oh my god... Simon? What is that? Kazin...

SIMON Blood.

GRETCHEN But it's...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON

Green. I think we found the enemy.