

Crosswired - Episode 13

**SCENE 1:**

NEWSCASTER

North Korea said Thursday that this week's test of a new cruise missile is proof of its advanced ability to strike US ships with accuracy never before seen from the small nation.

The missile is the 5th such launch in the past 60 days, during which time US and South Korean military have been ramping up what has been called "provocative action" against North Korea.

This follows the detection of new airborne systems being deployed near the North/South border that some reports are calling unmanned drones, but US officials have been unwilling to confirm.

In response, the US has deployed 2 additional battleships to the area. International experts fear the rising tensions may soon spill over into outright conflict. We'll have more on this development as well as the latest in the battle for Fallujah coming up tonight at 6.

**SCENE 2:**

Boyle and Abrahms are still sitting in the car listening. Boyle is tapping on the dashboard.

SCOUT

Come in, Team 1. This is Team 2. Come in Team 1. We've lost the target. Over.

ABRAHMS

This guy is good. What do you think happened?

BOYLE

I think the cyborg was underestimated again.

ABRAHMS

So, what now? (pause) Mr Boyle?

(CONTINUED)

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BOYLE (to himself) God help me. (to Abrahms) We're heading back to DC.

ABRAHMS We're giving up?

BOYLE That prisoner that's being transported. I want him. And I don't want the guy at the other end to get him first.

Boyle starts the car and pulls out.

ABRAHMS So, who...?

BOYLE Name's Conway. Bigwig in IAD. I want you scanning every frequency, hitting every satellite, hell, even the Chinese ones... I want that prisoner's location.

ABRAHMS What's one more miracle?

BOYLE And I'm probably not done yet.

ABRAHMS With three miracles you get fortune cookie.

Boyle grabs his smart phone and places a call.

CELL PHONE DIAL

ASTER Yes? Who is this?

BOYLE Madam Director? It's me.

ASTER Thank the baby (Jesus)... Did you get him?

BOYLE No, ma'am. We're heading back your way.

ASTER What happened?

BOYLE We weren't the only ones chasing him. TAO. IAD...

ASTER Son of a... Kazin?

BOYLE Pretty sure. Conway sent him.

ASTER Are you positive?

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CONTINUED: (2)

BOYLE (pause) The asset has escaped and, right now, I think he can take better care of himself than I can. There's a KANTO op heading your way. Requesting permission to intercept.

ASTER But--

BOYLE This guy created the cyborg. Knows more about the mission than the kid does.

ASTER I'll organize a team--

BOYLE We're tracking him.  
(to Abrahms)

We are tracking him, aren't we?

ABRAHMS I'm trying...

BOYLE We're tracking him. It'll be hours before they get to you.

ABRAHMS (concerned)

Roger... are you armed?

BOYLE Are we armed? Uh, well...

ABRAHMS (leans over to the phone)

Yeah, we got a trunk full of weapons. 44's, 45's. A couple 46's--

BOYLE (low)

Will you stop.  
(to Aster)

We've got it covered, Madam Director.

ASTER Agent Abrahms is no soldier.

BOYLE No, ma'am. She isn't.

ABRAHMS What did she just say? Was it about me?

BOYLE But I trust her. We can handle it. I've a feeling we won't need any weapons. Traditional ones, at least.

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ASTER                                   What do you need from me?

BOYLE                                   If you don't hear from us in 2  
hours... Assume the worst. Oh, and  
can you do something about Conway?

ASTER                                   Consider it done.

**SCENE 3:**

MIT - Dr Hadoop's office. He's poring over some data readouts from the satellite computers he's programming with his assistant ELLEN DANIELS.

HADOOP                                  No, no, no... This isn't right.  
(calling out) Miss Daniels?

DANIELS                                 (comes over)

Dr Hadoop?

HADOOP                                 What am I looking at?

DANIELS                                 That's the radio frequency you told  
me to--

HADOOP                                 Yes, but it's wrong.

DANIELS                                 It's 1420 Megahertz.

HADOOP                                 Here, yes. It needs to be 1420 in  
space. Not here. Do the math!

DANIELS                                 Yes, Doctor. Sorry. I'm not thinking  
clearly.

HADOOP                                 (pause)

Sorry. I know you've been putting in  
a lot of hours.

DANIELS                                 It's ok. (pause) Do you think it will  
launch?

HADOOP                                 Most definitely.

DANIELS                                 It's kinda cool, huh? Having your  
name attached to something like that?  
That goes into space?

HADOOP                                 I don't think anyone will ever know  
we were involved.

(CONTINUED)

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DANIELS                   But we'll know. And they'll... others will know.

HADOOP                    Is that what you're in this for? The glory?

DANIELS                   I just think it's exciting, trying to establish contact with aliens. I hope they're out there.

HADOOP                    What if they are? What if they aren't friendly?

DANIELS                   Oh, I don't believe that. I think anyone... antagonistic would already have found us. No, I think they're out there waiting for us to be ready.

HADOOP                    And you think we're ready? So many nations at war or on the brink. Sea levels rising. Extreme weather...

DANIELS                   Well, maybe they're like good parents. Giving us enough freedom to explore our limits and then able to step in when we finally call for help. That takes a certain amount of maturity to admit you need help, doesn't it?

HADOOP                    And you think that's to be the message with this satellite? Help?

DANIELS                   A person can dream.

HADOOP                    Yes, well, dreams are all well and good, but we've got a lot of work to do before this thing can be launched.

DANIELS                   Why do you think it's being commissioned by... well... (lowers voice) the NSA?

HADOOP                    That's the 100 million dollar question, isn't it? And why I don't think this is a call for help.

DANIELS                   But it can't spy. It doesn't have any weapons. It's just...

HADOOP                    It's just a beacon.

DANIELS                   Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HADOOP Remember what I told you about Dr Warkovsky?

DANIELS The lady who... killed herself? Yeah.

HADOOP She had no reason to... She didn't leave a note.

DANIELS But the reports say she had the gun in her hand. In a locked bathroom.

HADOOP And was experiencing headaches and disorientation right beforehand and--

DANIELS Right after you both left the NSA.

HADOOP And it's not the first. The mother of... a friend, killed herself for no apparent reason. Blew herself up. It was reported as an accident but...

DANIELS (picks up his train of thought)

Wait a minute. You're not talking drugs or something. You're talking... What are you talking about?

HADOOP Mind control.

DANIELS Mind... And you think this satellite...?

HADOOP I don't know. But there are interfaces we've been asked to design that are... extensible. A plug-in module...

DANIELS Could be added to leverage the transmitter we've designed. Still, that's an awfully big leap.

HADOOP I agree. Just my ramblings. Let's get back to work, shall we?

DANIELS Yeah, sure.

HADOOP Go adjust the transmitter for the corrected frequency, kick off another test routine and go home.

DANIELS I don't mind staying. It's--

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HADOOP                   Go. I'll turn out the lights. I'm pretty tired myself.

DANIELS                  Yes, doctor.

Daniels exits.

HADOOP                   (sighs)

PHONE RINGS

HADOOP (cont'd)         Hello?

CONWAY                  Dr Hadoop!

HADOOP                  Good morning sir.

CONWAY                  How's progress?

HADOOP                  It's coming along. We're just testing the transmitter module--

CONWAY                  Good, good. Listen, we've had some changes to mission scope and I need to move up delivery.

HADOOP                  Move up? I already told you we couldn't get the--

CONWAY                  Yes, yes. I'm aware of your concerns. Situational necessity. I'm going to need everything you have - equipment, data... everything.

HADOOP                  Everything?

CONWAY                  Package it up. I'll have men there tonight to get it. You still have that loading dock on the east side available?

HADOOP                  Yes, sir. But I don't--

CONWAY                  Good. I expect the area to be secured. My men will make sure of it when they get there.

HADOOP                  Sir, with all due respect, the satellite... it isn't finished yet. We're still trying to lock down the communication spectrum. We haven't

(MORE)

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CONTINUED: (4)  
HADOOP (cont'd)

been given enough data on the target--

CONWAY

I've given you everything I could. As long as you followed the specs, there won't--

HADOOP

Of course, we're following them to the letter, but accounting for discrepancies that could occur would make the system more reliable. As it is, there's a margin--

CONWAY

As it is will be fine, Doctor. My men will be there at midnight. Is that understood?

There's a knock on the door on Conway's end.

CONWAY (cont'd)

I have to go. Get it all packed up. (calling out) Who is it--?

The phone call ends.

HADOOP

Shit. (calls out) Miss Daniels?

**SCENE 4:**

Aster knocks and enters Conway's office.

DOOR KNOCK AND OPEN

CONWAY

Who is it--? Madam Director... This is an unexpected--

ASTER

Sit, Conway. I need to know where Kazin is.

CONWAY

Kazin? I already told you he went--

ASTER

I know what you told me. Is that the story you're sticking with?

CONWAY

Story? (considers) No, ma'am. No more stories.

ASTER

Where is he?

CONWAY

I let him go after the Dougherty kid.

ASTER

Are you out of your goddamn mind?

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CONWAY                   He wanted to make things right...

ASTER                    Don't give me that--

CONWAY                   Maybe it was a mistake. It was a judgment call and I'll stand by it.

ASTER                    You'll probably hang for it.

CONWAY                   I beg your pardon?

ASTER                    Your man wasn't sent to retrieve Simon. He was sent to destroy--

CONWAY                   Now see here--

ASTER                    No, you see here. Who are you and what do you want? You've been playing a game of your own, but the game is up now. You will tell me what's going on. Here, or in an interrogation room.

CONWAY                   I'm not going to any interrogation room.

ASTER                    Men!

2 armed guards enter the office.

CONWAY                   And what have we here?

ASTER                    Men, take Mr Conway to interrogation room 3. And use the east passage.

GUARD 1                  Come with us... Madam Director.

ASTER                    I beg your pardon.

GUN COCK

GUARD 1                  Come along quietly, ma'am.

ASTER                    What the hell is going on here. Arrest this man--

CONWAY                   I'm afraid that's not going to happen, Madam Director. You see, these men are mine. Take her away.

ASTER                    What? No! No! Conway? You won't get away with this!

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ASTER (cont'd)