

Crosswired - Episode 14

**SCENE 1:**

Dr Hadoop and Ellen are packing up the results of their work.

HADOOP Do you have the packing tape?

DANIELS Here. So, what's next?

HADOOP There's a whole pile of circuit boards over--

DANIELS No, I mean... for us. I wasn't expecting this to end so soon.

HADOOP (pause)

No. Neither was I. I never expected...

DANIELS What, doctor?

HADOOP Listen to me, Miss Daniels...

DANIELS Just Ellen. I guess you won't be my boss for much longer.

HADOOP Ellen... How much money do you have?

DANIELS Okay, that's out of left field.

HADOOP How much?

DANIELS Maybe 20 bucks. You want to order a pizza?

HADOOP I mean total. In the bank and everything.

DANIELS I dunno. A few grand. I've always been a saver. My mom--

HADOOP I think you should go, take it all out, and get far away.

DANIELS Why would I--

HADOOP Take a bus or something. To Canada. Something you can do with cash so you can't be traced.

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DANIELS I don't understand.

HADOOP This project... There's something bad going on. If they're terminating it early--

DANIELS Terminating? I thought they just moved up the--

HADOOP Whatever they're calling it... There are things happening... If I told you, you'd be in danger, I think. You may already be in danger. Get away. Go up to Montreal and then catch a flight out. Go somewhere. Anywhere. Somewhere not so friendly to the US right now. Venezuela, maybe.

DANIELS Um, yeah. Sure. I suppose I could pull something off in a few weeks.

HADOOP I mean now. Today. Go by your bank on the way home. Take your money then go pack a few things. Be gone by tonight. They'll be here at midnight. I think you should be over the border by then.

DANIELS Dr Hadoop, you're not making sense.

HADOOP And I want you to take something with you.

He hands her a thumb drive.

DANIELS A thumb drive? What are these buttons?

HADOOP That's to enter a PIN. To decrypt it. Those are the codes we're supposed to load into the transmitter module.

DANIELS This stuff is top secret.

HADOOP I know. I'll send you the PIN in sections. First 2 digits over Signal, the second 2--

DANIELS But Signal is already encrypted. Isn't it secure?

HADOOP From the NSA? (pause) The second 2 in an encrypted email. The next 2 I'll

(MORE)

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HADOOP (cont'd)

post on Slack. The last 2 are 6 3.  
You got that? You'll need them in the  
correct order.

DANIELS                   Signal, email, Slack, 6 3. Got it.  
But what about you?

HADOOP                    I'm... going away. When Conway's men  
arrive tonight they won't find me  
here.

DANIELS                   But, where will you go?

HADOOP                    Better I don't say. But I'll need to  
find you eventually. You still have  
access to the departmental website?

DANIELS                   Yeah.

HADOOP                    And you remember the session on  
steganography in year 2?

DANIELS                   Hiding messages in images?

HADOOP                    When you know where you're going to  
be, change the website banner image.  
Use Tor.

DANIELS                   Right. Man, who knew that cyber  
elective would come in handy?

HADOOP                    We're children playing with adults  
here. I need to find someone who can  
help us level the playing field. I'll  
let you know when I find him.

DANIELS                   Dr Hadoop?

HADOOP                    Yes?

DANIELS                   Good luck.

**SCENE 2:**

Simon and Gretchen have doubled back and taken Kazin's  
vehicle.

GRETCHEN                   I thought you could only hotwire an  
older car?

SIMON                     Let's see if you can teach an old dog  
new tricks.

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GRETCHEN You're not that old.

SIMON Still... Besides, these new cars are so computerized...

ENGINE STARTS

SIMON (cont'd) Ta-da! Now, what direction?

GRETCHEN West. Kansas.

SIMON To the stars, through difficulties.

GRETCHEN What's that supposed to mean?

SIMON State motto of--

GUNFIRE

GRETCHEN Shit!

SIMON Get your head down.

Simon guns the engine.

SIMON (cont'd) Keep your eye on them. Let me know when they're in their car.

GRETCHEN They're running... They're in.

EXPLOSION

GRETCHEN (cont'd) Oh my god! Simon! Did you...?

SIMON All computerized.

GRETCHEN Shit.

SIMON That should give us a little breathing room. We'll need to swap vehicles though. I'm sure this one can be tracked.

GRETCHEN Can't you just, I don't know, do your electronic thing?

SIMON Blowing things up is easy. Starting a car wasn't too bad. I guess there was a chance I could have blown us up.

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GRETCHEN                   What?

SIMON                        But I didn't.

GRETCHEN                   Simon!

SIMON                        I didn't. We're fine.

GRETCHEN                   Holy shit.

SIMON                        Gretch, we're fine. Anyway, we're going to have to take some risks if we're going to survive. This isn't a game for the weak-hearted.

GRETCHEN                   From now on I expect to be informed of the risks. Do you hear me?

SIMON                        Gretch...

GRETCHEN                   Don't Gretch me! Or give me any mansplaining bullshit. I expect to be treated like an equal.

SIMON                        (pause)

                              Okay. Deal. In return I expect honesty. Seems I'm aligned with KANTO now, I'm going to need everything you know.

GRETCHEN                   Deal.

SIMON                        So... Kazin. An alien.

GRETCHEN                   I sure as hell didn't expect that.

SIMON                        Is it like a puzzle piece for you? Does it all make sense now? Because if it does, I'd really like to understand how.

GRETCHEN                   I don't know. It's... If aliens have infiltrated the governments of major powers... If they're in control...

SIMON                        They have to have an end goal. Clearly they didn't just pop up and conquer us.

GRETCHEN                   So they can't be invincible. And if Kazin was one of them... What does that mean to you?

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BOYLE Are we still gaining?

ABRAHMS Assuming nothing bad happens, we should catch up to them in another... 10-15 minutes.

BOYLE Good.

ABRAHMS So... You said we wouldn't need traditional weapons.

BOYLE I sure as hell hope not.

ABRAHMS So, how do we stop them? I mean, if they're armed and have a prisoner we want to recover alive...

BOYLE You know the story of David and Goliath?

ABRAHMS My last name is Abrahms.

BOYLE Fair enough. Well, David came up with a plan in his people's time of need. Desperate but strong in his faith. He made use of what he had available - a staff, a sling, a few stones.

ABRAHMS This is your plan, is it?

BOYLE I have faith in you. I've watched you on that laptop. The things you've done. I think you'll find a way to stop them so I can rescue the hostage.

ABRAHMS No pressure or anything.

BOYLE We didn't take jobs with the agency to avoid pressure.

ABRAHMS No sir. I wasn't expecting to be chasing after bad guys who've betrayed the Agency, either.

BOYLE It always hurts worse when you've found a brother gone bad.

ABRAHMS Or sister.

BOYLE Yeah. You got any?

ABRAHMS Any what?

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BOYLE Brothers or sisters?

ABRAHMS Older sister. Jock type. Does real estate now.

BOYLE Close?

ABRAHMS No. We... No. How about you?

BOYLE I'm one of 7.

ABRAHMS Damn. Didn't have cable back then, huh?

BOYLE They were pretty religious. Having a big family was part of the plan.

ABRAHMS Are you?

BOYLE Religious? Not so much. Not formally, at least. Always believed there was something up there. Bigger than us.

ABRAHMS And now it turns out they may be aliens.

BOYLE I've always been aware of the crackpot theories and translations that suggested there were aliens in the Bible, y'know? I just...

ABRAHMS So you think that Marius guy was telling the truth?

BOYLE I think he believed what he was saying. Does that mean it's the truth?

ABRAHMS Point taken. So, aliens make contact, give the Chinese a bunch of technology in exchange for... what?

BOYLE It's bigger than the Chinese. If Conway and Kazin were in on it, it's way bigger than just the Chinese.

APPROACHING POLICE SIREN

BOYLE (cont'd) Shit. What's that?

ABRAHMS Cop. Statie. How fast you going?

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BOYLE Shit.

ABRAHMS Can you outrun them?

BOYLE Can you jam them?

ABRAHMS I'll have to stop tracking the  
hostage.

BOYLE Shit.

Boyle pulls the car over. The police car follows and the  
officer approaches the car.

BOYLE (cont'd) Good morning officer.

OFFICER License and registration.

BOYLE Yes, sir. Look, I don't... (to  
Abrahms) Open the glove box, will  
you... (to Officer) I don't know know  
if there's any--

ABRAHMS Is this it?

BOYLE No. It's the--

OFFICER Any idea how fast you were going,  
sir?

BOYLE Yes, sir. (to Abrahms) No, that.  
Right there.

ABRAHMS This?

BOYLE You see--

ABRAHMS (leaning over)

Officer, we're secret agents and  
we're tracking--

BOYLE Abrahms...

ABRAHMS --a dangerous group of thugs. There's  
a hostage.

OFFICER A hostage, huh?

ABRAHMS Yeah, and we've got to catch up to  
them in the next 20 minutes or  
there's going to be, like, this  
international crisis.

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OFFICER                    Let me guess. The hostage is a Russian diplomat. Or Ukrainian.

ABRAHMS                    Actually, he's--

BOYLE                      I'm sorry officer. If you could just write us up quick we'll be on our way.

OFFICER                    So, what are you going to do if you catch up to them?

BOYLE                      You really don't have to humor her, sir. If you could just--

ABRAHMS                    Well, I thought we were going to need weapons, like guns and stuff, but my boss here, he says we're going to hack them. Use technology against them, you know?

OFFICER                    (humoring her)

                            Like, laser pointers or something?

ABRAHMS                    Ha! As if. No, so I remembered at a DEFCON conference recently, these hackers demonstrated that they could take over a car remotely, using just the cellular network. So I was thinking if I could find the IP address of the vehicle, and I'd do that by watching for an identifier rapidly moving across cell towers in line with the target's known whereabouts, I could shut it down, or maybe make it spin out of control.

OFFICER                    Wouldn't that put civilians at risk? Or your hostage?

ABRAHMS                    Good point. Well, maybe I can do it when they're going over a bridge. Make them, like, flip into a river. Then my boss, who's an excellent swimmer, by the way...

OFFICER                    (skeptical)

                            A swimmer.

BOYLE                      Actually, officer. I was--

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ABRAHMS All-state. Well, a long time ago, obviously.

BOYLE Hey!

ABRAHMS Still, he could dive in, save the hostage and we send in the troops to capture the bad guys.

OFFICER And that's why I caught you driving 90 on the Interstate today, is that it? You're sort of a Jane Bond?

ABRAHMS Mirriam Abrahms.

BOYLE Mirriam?

ABRAHMS It's Hebrew. Means rebellious.

OFFICER I tell you what. I've a feeling I'd regret doing all the paperwork on this, so I'm going to let you folks off with a warning today.

BOYLE Officer, if you could just... Wait, really?

OFFICER Sir, please keep it under the speed limit, at least until you're out of my jurisdiction? State line is about 7 miles that way.

BOYLE Uh, yes sir. Thanks.

ABRAHMS Officer, you've probably saved a life today. Hundreds maybe!

OFFICER (walking away)  
Retirement can not come fast enough.

The officer returns to his vehicle. Boyle begins tapping his fingers on the dashboard.

ABRAHMS So, what are you waiting for? Let's go? We gotta catch up.

BOYLE (sighs)

The car pulls out and accelerates.