

Crosswired - Episode 15

SCENE 1:

Simon and Gretchen get out of a vehicle, late in the evening.

GRETCHEN You sure you won't take any money?
Well, thanks for the lift.

The vehicle pulls away and drives off into the distance.

SIMON Well, he was a friendly guy. With
you.

GRETCHEN Come on.

SIMON Come on where? We're in the middle of
a corn field. There's nothing to be
seen for miles.

GRETCHEN Then the sooner you start walking the
better.

SIMON Is it far? (pause) I said, is it far?

GRETCHEN No.

SIMON Good. I'm getting hungry. We should
have stopped. I saw a diner a few
miles back.

GRETCHEN We can't be seen here.

SIMON Well, what about the driver?

GRETCHEN You said it before. Certain risks
have to be taken. Others don't.

SIMON These operatives we're going to
see... Do they know you?

GRETCHEN We've never met. They were expecting
Marius, though.

SIMON How do you know they're still here?
If they heard the news report about
the bullshit chemical spill...

GRETCHEN Another risk to be taken.

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SIMON Gonna be a long walk back if no one's--

GRETCHEN Look, what the hell do you want me to do, huh? I'm making this up as I go, trying to keep you alive long enough to be of some kind of use to us.

SIMON And you're having second thoughts. And this cell - are they interested in keeping me alive or are they one of the ones who want me destroyed.

GRETCHEN What does it matter now? When we were having that argument we didn't know we had aliens taking over the planet. Now...

SIMON Now the enemies know who I am and that I was put there by you.

GRETCHEN Yeah.

SIMON In fact, you don't really have any use for me anymore, either.

GRETCHEN ...

SIMON I better not go. Tell them I was destroyed.

GRETCHEN Simon, we didn't just go through all that just to have you run away.

SIMON Why is this so important? You have what you need.

GRETCHEN The things you've... done. We need to know all about them. Any evidence you have that we can use to warn people.

SIMON And then, what? I get branded a war criminal or something for being part of it?

GRETCHEN Simon.

SIMON Go ahead. Say it. I knew I was harming innocent people. "Following orders". Say it.

GRETCHEN Simon, you're acting paranoid.

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SIMON (angry)
Am I? Is this just goddamn paranoia?
Huh?

He grabs Gretchen by the shoulders and shakes her.

GRETCHEN Stop! You're hurting me. Simon!

SIMON Is this just where it ends? Is it?

GRETCHEN (panicked)
Simon! Hold on! Simon! Get a grip.
It's just your neural net. Please,
Simon. Concentrate. It's just your
neural net acting up. We're going to
get you help. Someone who can fix
you.

SIMON Someone like Dr Garvin? Huh? The guy
I killed? I put a bullet through his
goddamn head, Gretchen.

GRETCHEN I know! Simon. Listen to me. Simon!
We'll find someone. I promise. We'll
make you better.

Simon lets go of her.

SIMON I'm not ready to die.

GRETCHEN (breathless)
Good. I'm not ready to see you die.

SIMON Oh god, Gretch. Is this what happened
to my father?

GRETCHEN I don't know.

SIMON I'm sorry. For everything.

GRETCHEN (pause)
I know.

SIMON I never saw my dad get angry.
Actually, that's not true. Once. My
cousin and I decided to swim out to
this buoy near a beach we used to go
to as kids. We weren't supposed to.
The currents were bad. People always

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SIMON (cont'd)

said 12 people had drowned there over the years, don't be the 13th. But we were kind of daring each other to do stupid things and the buoy came up.

GRETCHEN Oh my god, Simon. Your cousin... did he...?

SIMON He made it. We both did. But when my dad found out... That was the only time I saw him mad and, I mean, he was pissed. Actually tore the life jacket I should have been wearing apart with his bare hands. Then he threw the pieces at us and told us to get in the house and that mom would come up with a suitable punishment.

GRETCHEN What happened?

SIMON I got grounded for the whole summer. Had to cut the lawn for every one of my neighbors to "stay out of trouble". All summer! Couldn't even get paid to do it.

GRETCHEN And your cousin... what happened to him?

SIMON My uncle told him how proud he was for being so brave. They went out for ice cream sundaes.

GRETCHEN Shit.

SIMON Yeah. He went to jail a couple years ago for stealing a car or something.

GRETCHEN Karma?

SIMON Shitty parents.

GRETCHEN Look, Simon. I'm sorry I got angry with you. It's just...

SIMON I know. Knowing what I know now... I wish I could go back. I really believed I was saving lives. I got caught up in the mission. Now...

GRETCHEN Now we have a new mission. How do we keep from getting too caught up in it?

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SIMON I don't know, but we need to find a way to fix me before... you know.

GRETCHEN Yeah, I know.

SIMON Come on. Let's go find your friends.

GRETCHEN Simon? (pause) I... (she can't say it)

SIMON I know.

SCENE 2:

Boyle and Abrahms are driving, closing in on the van with Marius.

ABRAHMS You're mad.

BOYLE I'm not mad.

ABRAHMS You are. Would you rather we get stuck there forever while that guy wrote us a ticket.

BOYLE I'm not mad. I just couldn't have gotten away with it.

ABRAHMS Cuz you're a man?

BOYLE Basically, yeah.

ABRAHMS You win some, you lose some. You get career advancement and I get out of tickets. Life's not fair.

BOYLE I know.

ABRAHMS So stop being mad.

BOYLE I'm not mad!

ABRAHMS ...

BOYLE Can we get back to the task at hand?

ABRAHMS Stopping the bad guys and rescuing the prisoner without getting us or the prisoner killed?

BOYLE Yes. What you were saying about hacking into the car...

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ABRAHMS You think I was lying?

BOYLE No! Were you?

ABRAHMS I would never lie to an officer of the law. Besides, the truth shall set you free. And it did.

BOYLE And is that your plan?

ABRAHMS So, I was tracking the target on MapQuest... kidding... anyway, there's a rest stop a little ways ahead. I was thinking I could trip the sensors on the tires - make him think he got a flat and pull over.

BOYLE So then he gets out to check the tire while his armed associates wait in the van, guarding the prisoner.

ABRAHMS Oh, yeah. That's not going to work.

BOYLE What about that spin out of control and go in the river thing?

ABRAHMS Really?

BOYLE Do you have a better plan?

ABRAHMS No, not really.

BOYLE Can you get any telemetry from the vehicle?

ABRAHMS Like...

BOYLE Like if the seat belts are latched and which ones? That might help us identify how many there are and where the prisoner is located within the vehicle.

ABRAHMS Good thinking. Yeah, I can get that. These modern cars have all sorts of sensors to determine when an air bag should be deployed and when it could kill a kid.

BOYLE So, what else can you control?

ABRAHMS Well, I've already flashed the main computer so I can control pretty much

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ABRAHMS (cont'd)

anything - radio, air conditioning, brakes, air bags. If it's electronic I can control it.

BOYLE Stick with me here. What if we disable all the airbags but the one for the prisoner. Then you lock up one wheel. That should make the vehicle spin out of control--

ABRAHMS Hang on. They're pulling off at the next exit. I think they're going to a gas station.

BOYLE That gives me an idea.

SCENE 3:

Abrahms walks up to the van and knocks on the window. She speaks obnoxiously with a southern accent

ABRAHMS Hello? Excuse me? Hello?

ELECTRIC WINDOW DOWN AN INCH

GUARD Please move along ma'am.

ABRAHMS Ma'am. That's funny. Like I'm old or something. Hey, can I ask you a question?

GUARD I really need you to move along, ma'am.

ABRAHMS Look, I'm having trouble with my car and the guy inside was as useless as tits on a boar hog. I figure a guy with a nice van like you gots to be smarter.

GUARD Ma'am...

ABRAHMS I'm just trying to figure out which hole I'm supposed to put this in.

GUARD Excuse me?

ABRAHMS This washer fluid. I opened the hood and there are just all these... Oh, I know what you just thought. You naughty boy. I'll forgive you, cuz

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ABRAHMS (cont'd)

you're cute. Could you just take a look? Please? Won't take but a second.

GUARD

I really need to wait here.

ABRAHMS

Aw, there ain't hardly no one here. We're in the middle of nowhere. Heck, you gotta drive 9 miles just to hit the nowhere county line. Come on sugar. I'll make it worth your while.

GUARD

Ok. But just for a second.

The guard gets out of the vehicle and then locks the doors. Their conversation fades in the distance.

ABRAHMS

My car's just on over here a ways.

BOYLE opens the rear door, which is still unlocked.

BOYLE

Come with me.

MARIUS

Who are you?

BOYLE

We don't have time. I'm breaking you out.

MARIUS

I'm handcuffed to this seat.

A rattle of metal.

BOYLE

I come prepared.

MARIUS

Picks?

BOYLE

Part of basic training. Now come on. Keep your head down and get into the gray car. Back seat. I have to get my sidekick.

They run to the car, which is idling. Boyle drives it forward and calls out with a fake southern accent.

BOYLE (cont'd)

Lurlene? Is that you? What in tarnation you doing out here?

ABRAHMS

Billy? Hey! This fine gentleman was giving me a hand. Or two.

BOYLE

Why you little hussy. You git in this car right now and leave that man alone. I'm sorry sir, I think she's

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BOYLE (cont'd)

been playing a trick on you. Did she tell you that was her car? Lordy, girl. Your daddy's gonna whup yo ass. No come on. Our apologies mister!

Abrahms climbs into the car and they peel out.

BOYLE (cont'd) Were you able to kill their engine?

ABRAHMS Tranny. Lots of people understand engines. Transmissions are like female orgasms. Killed their radio, too.

MARIUS Are you two going to tell me what's going on?

ABRAHMS We're from the government and we're here to help.