

Crosswired - Episode 18

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First Draft

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SCENE 1:

A news report comes over the radio in Dr Hadoop's car.

NEWSCASTER Tensions remain high in Washington as protesters continue to riot before the G-20 summit meetings. Experts say the continued heat has made things worse and they predict another day of temperatures over 100. Medical facilities throughout the area have setup cooling tents, but there are worries there aren't enough to handle the record crowds in the city.

CELL PHONE RING

HADOOP Yes?

POWELL Good mornin', doctor. Still drivin'?

HADOOP Yes.

POWELL Good. Look, there's a change in plans. The people you're gonna meet... They're movin' out.

HADOOP To where?

POWELL Not sure yet. This guy you're lookin' for. He took off. Everyone thinks he's headin' to DC, though.

HADOOP Shit.

CELL PHONE BEEP

HADOOP (cont'd) Hang on, I have another call. Hello?

SIMON Dr Hadoop?

HADOOP Simon? Where are you? How did--

SIMON Are you ok?

HADOOP Yes. Hang on. I have another call I have to finish. Just a second.

(MORE)

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HADOOP (cont'd)

Mr... Look, I have to go. Call me when you know anything.

POWELL

Yeah, sure.

PHONE HANGUP BEEP

HADOOP

Simon? You there?

SIMON

Yeah. I'm here.

HADOOP

Where are you? Are you ok? Ms Williams, is she--

SIMON

Isn't with me anymore.

HADOOP

I've been trying to find you--

SIMON

We need to switch channels. This one isn't secure. It was the only way I could find you, though.

HADOOP

Sure. Signal?

SIMON

Yeah. That'll do.

They hang up the call and Hadoop waits for a Signal exchange.

SIGNAL BEEP

SIMON (cont'd)

Where are you?

HADOOP

I'm driving to Kansas. Or I was. I was trying to find you.

SIMON

Yeah, well, I needed to move. Dr Hadoop... That satellite you're building...

HADOOP

Was building. My sponsor called yesterday and said--

SIMON

Conway.

HADOOP

What? Yes. How...?

SIMON

What does the satellite do?

HADOOP

Communications. Transmitter, really. A beacon.

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SIMON What's it transmitting?

HADOOP I don't know. I was given some codes, but they're gibberish. It doesn't matter. Conway sent his men to get it all last night. My assistant and I boxed it all up then we left.

SIMON Dr Hadoop, this Conway he's... he's an alien.

HADOOP Illegal?

SIMON No, I mean a real "not from this planet" alien. Like Dr Warkovsky was telling us. My boss, Mr Kazin, was one, too.

HADOOP Simon... I--

SIMON What happened to Dr Warkovsky? I was told she committed suicide.

HADOOP That's what it looked like but... I think something was wrong. Something was... done to her. To her mind.

SIMON Some kind of mind control. Like they did to my mother.

HADOOP Yes! That's what I thought, too. Simon, I need to find you.

SIMON Well, I'm on my way to DC. There's a big summit going on--

HADOOP The G-20. It's in all the news.

SIMON I think we're going to find a bunch of aliens there.

HADOOP A bunch...? What are you planning to do?

SIMON I'm not sure yet, but we need to show the world what's going on.

HADOOP Security is so tight. The news said--

SIMON Doctor... Time is running out. I can't explain, but I need to do something and I need to do it right away. Can you help me?

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HADOOP Yes, of course.

SIMON Good. Meet me in Springfield, right outside of DC. Brookfield Park, on the Bath Street side. Do you know any cryptologists?

HADOOP Uh, yes. A couple.

SIMON Can you give them the codes you were given? Have them try to crack them with the expectation that the message isn't in a human language.

HADOOP I don't have the codes on me, but I know where they are.

SIMON We're kind of in a rush, Doctor.

HADOOP I'll get it done.

SCENE 2:

Boyle, Abrahms, and Marius are driving to Fort Meade.

ABRAHMS Mr Boyle?

BOYLE (grunts)

ABRAHMS I know we can get on base and everything, though having a guest might be a bit of a problem, but... like, how are we gonna find Aster, free her, and get her off the base?

BOYLE Let's ask our guest.

MARIUS Excuse me?

BOYLE How did you manage to get a bunch of civilians onto a secure base, past all the guards, and into a retention cell to free Mr Dougherty?

MARIUS I can't tell you that.

BOYLE Come on, pal! Tit for tat, remember? If I weren't convinced the Agency has been breached, I really wouldn't be planning on committing treason right now. Abrahms and I are all in. You are, right?

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ABRAHMS Me? Uh, yeah.

BOYLE Good. Then you better be, too, pal.

MARIUS We had inside help. No one too high up, but enough to create a couple distractions. Get some eyes off the surveillance cameras, a door left unlocked, a swipe badge left at a desk.

BOYLE These distractors, can we rely on them again?

MARIUS I have no way to contact them.

BOYLE Shit.

ABRAHMS Looks like it's on me.

BOYLE Excuse me?

ABRAHMS It looks like it's on me to get us in and out again.

BOYLE How are you gonna--

ABRAHMS I don't know yet. I have, what, a couple hours to figure it out?

BOYLE About that, yeah.

ABRAHMS Then I better get to work. Just so we're clear, this is just an extraction? Get Ms Aster out?

BOYLE We have to do something about Conway.

ABRAHMS Two missions, then. That doesn't make it any harder.

BOYLE Good.

ABRAHMS That was sarcasm.

BOYLE Fine. Primary is Aster. If we can take Conway out of the equation, we do that, too.

ABRAHMS Right. First stop, the Agency Certificate Authority. You mind if I put on some music? Helps me concentrate.

(CONTINUED)

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BOYLE Yeah, sure. I have a playlist on my phone if you want.

ABRAHMS Somehow I don't think you have what I need.

BOYLE I have some eclectic tastes.

ABRAHMS No.

BOYLE But--

ABRAHMS No.

BOYLE Fine. 2 hours, Abrahms.

Some very harsh death metal music begins to play.

SCENE 3:

Gretchen, Jada, Jackson, and Sanders are walking through the corn field back toward the road.

GRETCHEN How can it be this hot? It's not even 9.

JADA Better get used to it. Everyone says the climate's in full runaway mode.

GRETCHEN Almost everyone.

JADA Drink water. Once we get to the road we'll make for town. See if we can catch a ride east.
(pause)

What do you think he's planning?

GRETCHEN I don't know. The Simon I used to know would probably be happy just proving to the world what they are. He likes it when people notice how clever he is. But now... I think he's getting less stable and he's pretty angry. If he blames Conway and his people for everything that's been done to him...

JADA You think he'll kill Conway?

GRETCHEN If he does, that may ruin our chance to unmask him in public. A puddle of

(MORE)

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GRETCHEN (cont'd)

green blood will hardly convince the skeptics. They'll think we're off our rockers.

JADA

Aliens. Maybe we are off our rockers.

GRETCHEN

KANTO knew the tech for Simon came from them. Why do you seem surprised?

JADA

I never really believed that story. I mean, sure, obviously the tech is super advanced, but I thought China developed it and no one wanted to admit they were that far ahead of everyone else. Thought they were trying to control the narrative.

GRETCHEN

After a lifetime of hearing propaganda it's hard to believe anything.

JADA

Yeah. (pause) You said Simon thought that you and he were... what? In love?

GRETCHEN

Yeah. I was ordered to pose as his girlfriend. Keep an eye on him. Make sure he kept his appointments with Dr Garvin.

JADA

Seems there's a danger you'd get emotionally invested.

GRETCHEN

Yeah.

JADA

Did you?

GRETCHEN

Best he think I did. Especially now. If we need to pull him back from the brink, that may be the only option we have.

JACKSON

Stop here. Stay low. We're going to check the road.

Jackson and Sanders move off.

JADA

Do you... do you think there'll be fighting?

GRETCHEN

Depends. How many are there? Do they have humans on their side?

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CONWAY They're unpacking it now. Once it's out we'll run some tests.

TATAROV And this scientist... You haven't found him, yet?

CONWAY Nothing yet. Nor the assistant. We've put out a bulletin on both. Terror suspects on the loose. TSA, State Police... everyone's on alert. They won't get far.

TATAROV I don't like this, Conway.

CONWAY Neither do I, but we've given him limited information. Certainly nothing he can hurt us with.

TATAROV Are you sure? The transmission...

CONWAY It's secured. Uncrackable.

TATAROV Even so. Contact LaunchTek. Let them know we need this thing on the pad tomorrow.

CONWAY Understood. Testing shouldn't take more than a couple hours. We'll load it up after that and send it on down. (pause) This is it, huh Nikolai?

TATAROV I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss home.

CONWAY This will all be over soon. I can't wait to get out of this... shell.

TATAROV At least yours is in good shape. Mine looks like hell.

CONWAY And the summit?

TATAROV And people think the protesters are disturbed now.

CONWAY I'm sure there will be some rational minds that recognize the opportunity you bring when they hear it.

TATAROV Rational minds? You've been inside your NSA walls too long. Look out your window, or turn on the news. They've lost their goddamn minds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONWAY Yeah, well, not much to feel guilty
 about then.

TATAROV Guilty? What's that?

CONWAY (laughs)

 What's that indeed.

A knock on the door as an agent sticks his head in.

CONWAY (cont'd) Come!

AGENT It's unpacked, Mr Conway. Just kicked
 off the first test suite.

CONWAY Good.

TATAROV Let me know when the unit has
 finished it's testing and it's on its
 way south.

CONWAY You got it... Mr President.