

Crosswired - Episode 19

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First Draft

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SCENE 1:

Ellen sits in an airport in Montreal at the ticket counter.

DANIELS Can I get an aisle seat?

EMPLOYEE Let me just check. It's a pretty full flight. Yes, Miss Daniels. There's one. Do you mind that it's an exit row?

DANIELS Huh? Uh, no. That's fine.

EMPLOYEE Alright. Let me just check your luggage, then, and I'll--

DANIELS Oh, I don't have any. I mean, just this.

EMPLOYEE All the way to Caracas?

DANIELS Oh, it's ok. I have family down there. Already shipped my stuff. I like to travel light.

EMPLOYEE Right, well...

A security alert pops up on the screen that only the gate agent can see.

EMPLOYEE (cont'd) (evasive)

 Hmm. It looks like that plane might be having a problem. There's a delay.

DANIELS What? Why?

EMPLOYEE Why don't you stand aside for a few minutes until I know more. I'll process a few more passengers and then...

DANIELS Shit! I can't wait here.

EMPLOYEE Miss, really. Just hang tight.

Ellen runs off from the counter.

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EMPLOYEE (cont'd) (shouting)

Miss! Security! Stop her! Security!
Code Orange!

Ellen runs out of the main airport entrance, cuts in front of some cars, which skid to a halt, and launches herself into the unattended open trunk of a taxi cab. She latches the lid behind her.

DANIELS (mumbles)

Come on Mr taxi man. Come on. Get me outta here. Shit! The website.

CELL PHONE KEYPAD BEEPS

SCENE 2:

Brookfield Park. Dr Hadoop is walking, looking for Simon. He sits on a park bench, nervously.

HADOOP Where is he?

SIMON Psst!

HADOOP (startled)

God! Simon?

SIMON Dr Hadoop! Over here, in the bushes.

Hadoop walks over to the bushes where Simon is hiding.

SIMON (cont'd) You ok?

HADOOP Yes. Simon? You... you don't look so good.

SIMON Not a lot of 5 star hotels and hot baths when you're on the run.

HADOOP It's something else, though. It's...

SIMON Decay?

HADOOP Maybe. What's wrong?

SIMON Apparently I have an expiration date. Best used before soon. I need your help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HADOOP Anything.

SIMON The codes.

HADOOP I don't have them yet. Shit! Ms Daniels. Hang on, I have to check on her.

Hadoop pulls out his cell phone, accesses the departmental website and downloads an image.

SIMON What are you doing?

HADOOP I asked Ellen to embed her location in an image. She was trying to get to South America.

SIMON Stego? Nice.

HADOOP It's about as secure as I know.

SIMON Well, I doubt anyone is testing hashes on the site.

HADOOP This makes no sense.

SIMON Doctor?

HADOOP It says... taxi.

SIMON We need to reach her right now.

HADOOP I didn't trust Signal.

SIMON Pretty sure we're beyond trust. Call her.

HADOOP Ok.

Hadoop contacts Ellen over Signal. She is being jostled around as she talks.

DANIELS Dr Hadoop?

HADOOP Where are you, Miss Daniels?

DANIELS In the... trunk... of a taxi. Had to get away... from security.

HADOOP Yes, but where?

DANIELS Still in Montreal. Never got out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON Give me that. Ms Daniels? My name is Simon. I'm an old student of Dr Hadoop's. We don't have time. I need you to take the codes you were given and get them to someone. Can you do that?

DANIELS There's a... tire iron in my back.

SIMON Ellen, is it? Ellen, this is important.

HADOOP Make sure she got the key.

SIMON Right. Ellen, did you get the key?

DANIELS Yeah. I got 'em. Signal, email, Slack, 6 3.

SIMON I'm going to send you the number of an agent. I want you to send those codes to her, is that clear?

DANIELS Yeah. Clear. As soon as I can get out of this--

SIMON No! Now! As soon as I hang up.

DANIELS Jesus--

SIMON Just do it!

HADOOP Simon... Give me that. Please. Ellen? Can you do this for us?

DANIELS Yeah. Fine. Send me the number.

HADOOP What's the number?

SIMON Give that to me. (he texts some numbers) Here you go.

DANIELS Got it. I'll send it as soon as--

SIMON Right now. While we're on. I need to know.

DANIELS Son of a... You sure you're one of the good guys?

SIMON Just do it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANIELS Ok! Sent. Hang on. The car just stopped. I hear...

TRUNK OPENS

DANIELS (cont'd) Thank god, I... Oh shit!

GUN SHOT

SIMON Ellen?

HADOOP What was that? What happened?

SIMON They took out another one.

SCENE 3:

Gretchen, Jada, Bannister and the rest of the cell are in a van, heading east. Gretchen is speaking with Boyle on Jada's cell phone.

GRETCHEN Yeah, she's with us now. We're trying to catch up to Simon.

BOYLE Right. Let's hope he stays away long enough for us to get Aster out. We'll rendezvous in Colesville and decide what to do from there.

GRETCHEN Right. Good luck, Mr Boyle... Wait! Let me talk to Marius.

BOYLE She wants to talk to you.

MARIUS Gretchen?

GRETCHEN I need to ask you something. You said you terminated Simon's father. How?

MARIUS You're thinking...

GRETCHEN That I may need to do the same. He's getting unstable, Marius. If he... he could blow the whole thing.

MARIUS Do you still have the device you used to disable him? Back in DC?

GRETCHEN Yeah.

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CONTINUED:

MARIUS There's a code. 602214.

GRETCHEN That sounds familiar.

MARIUS Enter that on the keypad and you'll enable his self-destruct routine. Push the button and...

GRETCHEN I hope I don't have to use it.

MARIUS I know. Whatever you do, though, don't be standing too close. It's designed to destroy any evidence of his mission. His black box.

GRETCHEN Right. Thanks.

Gretchen hangs up and hands the phone back to Jada.

GRETCHEN (cont'd) Why is nothing easy?

BANNISTER Well, I'm glad Marius is ok. When I couldn't reach anyone I got nervous.

GRETCHEN What do you know about Dr Garvin's work with Simon?

BANNISTER Well, each month he'd extract data and then have it sent to me. I'd process it and pass it along to KANTO.

GRETCHEN How'd he extract the data?

BANNISTER There's a chip under his tongue. Storage device. Pop it out and plug in a fresh one.

GRETCHEN And what about the rest. The treatments to keep him... sane.

BANNISTER Totally above my pay grade. I'm immunogenetics. Not cyborg repair.

GRETCHEN Shit.

BANNISTER Sorry. I know he meant a lot to you.

GRETCHEN Means a lot. He's not dead. And he means a lot to all of us. Not just me. How much of our operations has he witnessed since his last appointment

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)
GRETCHEN (cont'd)

with Dr Garvin? How much has he recorded?

BANNISTER

If he falls into the wrong hands...

GRETCHEN

They'll destroy us and the truth will never get out. We need him for what he knows. What they've had him do. We need as much evidence on our side... Not just that they're aliens, but that they've been manipulating us. Controlling things.

BANNISTER

But to what end?

GRETCHEN

That's the piece we need before we go public. Without that... we lose.

JADA

So now we have to retrieve him.

GRETCHEN

Last night he kept talking about Conway, but Marius and the NSA agents... they're already on that and with a big head start.

JADA

So where are we heading?

GRETCHEN

Let's just keep heading east and hope Agent Boyle calls with some good news.

JADA

Well, get comfortable. It's a long drive.

SCENE 4:

Boyle drives while Abrahms continues working on her laptop. Marius is asleep in the back seat. Music still blares.

ABRAHMS

Okay, how does this sound?

BOYLE

What?

Abrahms turns down the music.

ABRAHMS

I said, how does this sound? I figure getting on the base is easy enough. I'm sending a comm from Conway to the gate letting them know we're coming and to be escorted to the--

BOYLE

Escorted? No, say "directed".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABRAHMS Good point. Directed to the detention area. I've already compromised Conway's private key, so it will look all official. I cracked his messaging. Anything they send him will get routed through my laptop first.

BOYLE So far so good.

ABRAHMS Remember that con movie with Julia Roberts? Her ex-bf and a bunch of other guys break into a casino?

BOYLE Ocean's Eleven?

ABRAHMS Yeah. The part where they loop some bogus video into the monitor feed. I'll do the same thing on whatever room they're keeping Aster in.

BOYLE I thought that was just Hollywood?

ABRAHMS Mr Boyle, if they can imagine it, I can make it happen.

SIGNAL TEXT MESSAGE

ABRAHMS (cont'd) Hang on. I just got...

BOYLE What?

ABRAHMS It's from the cyborg kid. Has a coded attachment.

BOYLE What's it say?

ABRAHMS Please decrypt ASAP. Probably alien.

BOYLE Decrypt? Can you do that?

ABRAHMS Without a key? Not likely. Not without a super computer and a time machine.

BOYLE Shit.

ABRAHMS Of course, that assumes it's encrypted with a good key. Or even encrypted at all. I think there may be patterns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOYLE Then it's not encrypted.

ABRAHMS Still gonna take some time.

BOYLE Which we don't have.

ABRAHMS As soon as we get Aster out, I'll start on that.

BOYLE You get this done and there's more than a directorship in your--

ABRAHMS Offer of a directorship, Mr Boyle.

BOYLE Right. More than that in your future, Agent Abrahms.

ABRAHMS I'm thinking a private jet with my own pilot. For starters.

BOYLE So, back to the plan.

ABRAHMS Right. So, with a video loop we'll be able to hide the fact...

Conversation fades out.

SCENE 5:

Conway is at his desk, an Agent stands before him.

AGENT Mr Conway? The unit has been repackaged and loaded.

CONWAY No anomalies?

AGENT Clean as a whistle, sir.

CONWAY Right. You got a driver?

AGENT Yes, sir. Agent Lazarus.

CONWAY Good--

CELL BEEP

CONWAY (cont'd) Hang on.

Conway reads the message.

AGENT Should I tell him to go?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONWAY Not yet. (pause) Damn. Tell him to hang on. I have to take care of something. Then I'm going with you.

AGENT Sir?

CONWAY Do you have a sidearm handy?

AGENT Yes, sir.

CONWAY Come with me.

CONWAY LOADS A GUN

SCENE 6:

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

ABRAHMS So far so good.

BOYLE You said getting onto the base would be the easy part, though.

ABRAHMS And I was right. 1 for 1. So, I got the video server, which block did they say?

BOYLE 3 Echo Bravo.

ABRAHMS Right. So...

KEYBOARD TYPING

ABRAHMS (cont'd) There. And there she is. 2 for 2. She looks bored. Or napping.

BOYLE She's not harmed at least.

MARIUS So, now what?

ABRAHMS I'm cloning a section of the video feed. It's actually pretty easy, since she's not moving around. As long as she stays still a little bit longer I can make a clean loop and then feed it back in. (pause) Like... so. Boom! Still batting a thousand!

BOYLE Right. That spot over there... Look sheltered enough to you, Marius?

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CONTINUED:

MARIUS Yeah. That should work.

BOYLE Ok. When we hit the stairs, Agent Abrahms will trigger the electronic locks to flip. We'll run in, grab her, and be back in a jiffy.

ABRAHMS I was always more of a Peter Pan fan.

BOYLE Come on, Marius. Abrahms, stay here. Signal us if anything looks off.

ABRAHMS What could go wrong? I got this.

BOYLE No sign of Conway?

ABRAHMS Nope. His office is dark. Probably went home sick.

BOYLE Do aliens get the flu?

ABRAHMS Let's hope. Could be a plan B. We could call in Orson Wells to narrate. I love that radio drama stuff.

BOYLE Get behind the wheel, just in case. Audio feed working?

ABRAHMS Check.

BOYLE Let's go.

Boyle and Marius exit the car. Abrahms slides over and turns her attention to the codes Simon sent over.

ABRAHMS Now let's take a look at these codes. Gonna need some jams to make sense of this.

She puts on some music to help her concentrate. Makes some guitar noises.

ABRAHMS (cont'd) B-wang. Bam! Bwa-bwa-bwa!

The following takes place in the background over Abrahm's feed.

BOYLE Ready?

MARIUS Let's do it.

DOOR OPEN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASTER What's going... Roger?

BOYLE Come on. Let's get you out of here.
You ok?

ASTER Yes, but we need to get out of here
quick. Conway--

ABRAHMS Why aren't you moving? Come one feed,
why...? Shit! Oh shit! Get out of
there!

DOOR SLAM

CONWAY Stop right there!

ABRAHMS No!

BOYLE Conway! How...

CONWAY You work for a spy agency, Agent
Boyle. There are spies everywhere. Of
course, the only good spy is a dead
one. When they don't work for you.

ABRAHMS Get out of there! It's a trap! The
lights...

GUNFIRE

BOYLE (grunts in pain)

...

ASTER Roger! I can't see!

ABRAHMS Now! Get out!

MARIUS Aster! With me! Here!

CONWAY Shit! Get those lights back on!

AGENT (groans)

...

GUNFIRE

DOOR SLAMS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUNNING DOWN STAIRS

MARIUS Get in the car.

ABRAHMS It was a setup! The video!

MARIUS Go! Go! Go!

ASTER Roger?

BOYLE (breathless and in pain)

 You heard him. Go!

ABRAHMS They must have been expecting us. The video. It was already a fake.

ASTER Conway. He was waiting for you.

ABRAHMS But...

BOYLE No time. Get us out. Kill the gates. Whatever you have to...

ABRAHMS And then what? They'll be after us.

BOYLE ...

ABRAHMS Mr Boyle? What do we do?

ASTER Just move! He's hurt bad.

ABRAHMS How'd they find out?

ASTER We're a spy agency. They must have--

BOYLE (groans in great pain)

 Ah!

 Ms Aster... You be sure to offer this agent a directorship someday. Okay?

ASTER What?

BOYLE (groans)

 ...

ASTER Roger? Roger?

ABRAHMS Mr Boyle?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ASTER

He's dead.