

Crosswired - Episode 9

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Final Draft

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**SCENE 1:**

Simon speaks to the listener

SIMON

I kicked my uncle in the mouth once. Knocked out a couple teeth. I think I was around 8. He kept tickling me. I never understood how something that felt like pure torture to me could result in laughter. As if it were fun. Or funny. Looks can be deceiving.

I just reacted. I thrashed around trying to get away. To make it stop. When he held his hands up to his bloody mouth, I knew it was over.

I have control issues. I know it. I hate having no control over my own life. As I sit here in this metal box I find my anger rising. I didn't realize how much I came to rely on my intuition - my spidey senses - until I was placed in this box. It must be shielded in some way. I can't sense anything. It feels like I've had a limb cut off.

People are plotting over me. Deciding my future for me. Or whether I even get to have a future. I need to get out of here. Away from these people. I have a body capable of doing amazing things. A sensory network able to keep me out of harm's way. I just need to learn how to use them.

I won't let them cage me. Or kill me. I will get free.

**SCENE 2:**

Boyle and Abrahms have been driving for hours.

ABRAHMS

Pull over.

BOYLE

What? Where?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABRAHMS                   Wherever. She's stopped. Unless you want to run into her?

BOYLE                     Shit. Ok. That looks like a spot right there.

They pull over to the side of the road into a muddy field.

BOYLE (cont'd)           Can we get a sat image?

ABRAHMS                 Too much cloud cover. The storm...

BOYLE                    We need to know what's going on.

ABRAHMS                 Have no fear. Underdog is here.

BOYLE                    Aren't you a little young for that?

ABRAHMS                 I was a Nick kid. Besides, they made a movie.

BOYLE                    So what do you have?

ABRAHMS                 While we were listening to her call before I slipped in a little something extra.

BOYLE                    You know if I said something like that it would sound creepy.

ABRAHMS                 Serves you right. Anyway. I should be able to access the mic on her phone. As long as she doesn't have it stuffed into a pocket, we should be able to listen to everything.

BANNISTER               (muffled) It's hell out there.

**SCENE 3:**

A door swings open, gets caught by the wind and bangs loudly. Rushing in with the driven rain is Dr Bannister.

BANNISTER               It's hell out there.

GRETCHEN                Dr Bannister! We were starting to worry.

BANNISTER               That had to be the worst drive I've ever had.

GRETCHEN                Well come on. We've got to talk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BANNISTER Give me a minute. I just had--

GRETCHEN We don't have a minute. We might be bugging out.

BANNISTER You know there's a hurricane, don't you?

GRETCHEN Won't get any better cover. Nothing in the air. Even the sats are blind right now. Come on.

They walk quickly to the next room where a man - MARIUS - is sitting at a table.

GRETCHEN (cont'd) Dr Bannister, I'd like you to meet Marius.

MARIUS Forgive the mask. One can never be too careful. Please be seated, Dr Bannister. Tell me about this call you received.

BANNISTER (put off) I'm sorry, who are you?

GRETCHEN Marius is in charge here.

BANNISTER I thought you--

MARIUS The situation has escalated. I am in charge of this mission now. Tell me about the call.

BANNISTER (sits) Said his name was Boyle. Worked with Garvin on the Dougherty case. Intimated he knew what he was. I assume by all this secret squirrel nonsense that he isn't one of ours.

MARIUS Your assumptions are correct. NSA, most likely.

BANNISTER Shit.

GRETCHEN Question is, which side?

BANNISTER Side?

MARIUS Is he working for our enemies? Or is he just a fool with no idea what he's getting himself into?

GRETCHEN I know which one I hope it is.

(CONTINUED)



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BANNISTER                   When I heard the news about Camp 3. I thought sure you were dead. Or captured.

MARIUS                       The best way to throw them off the trail is to make them think they succeeded.

BANNISTER                   So that was all--

Dr Bannister is interrupted by the return of Gretchen with Simon.

MARIUS                       Have a seat Mr Dougherty. This is Dr Bannister.

SIMON                         Do I need a doctor?

BANNISTER                   I worked with Clement. The man you killed.

SIMON                         Self defense.

MARIUS                       Be that as it may, we've a bit of an issue we need your help with.

SIMON                         Well, I'm not feeling too helpful right now. I like the mask. Acne problem?

GRETCHEN                   Simon, please. You're in danger right now. We all are. If you can help us...

SIMON                         Bad form trying to play on my sympathies, Gretch.

MARIUS                       What Ms Williams is trying to say is that we have someone asking questions, a possible colleague of yours.

SIMON                         Yeah? Who?

BANNISTER                   Said his name was Boyle.

MARIUS                       Ring a bell?

SIMON                         (thinking) NSA's a pretty big place. Yeah, I've heard of a Boyle. Don't know him personally, though.

MARIUS                       And is he a field agent?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SIMON (laughs)  
No. Management. Works in DR. Disaster recovery?

MARIUS  
So you don't think he would be out looking for you?

SIMON  
Only if I were a box of donuts. I told you. He's management.

BANNISTER  
You know we have ways of learning what we want.

SIMON  
Is this where you laugh like an evil scientist?

MARIUS  
I'm afraid you're not taking this seriously.

SIMON  
Listen, whoever you are--

GRETCHEN  
Simon. Stop. We need to move, Marius. Alert the team. Get the equipment and--

MARIUS  
You are no longer in charge here. Your recommendation, however, is wise. I want everything packed up and ready to go in an hour. Return the cyborg to his box until we're ready to move him.

GRETCHEN  
Come on, Simon.

SIMON  
Don't touch me. I know the way.

**SCENE 4:**

Boyle and Abrahms are listening in the car.

SIMON  
Don't touch me. I know the way.

ABRAHMS  
Donuts. That's funny. You didn't bring any, didja?

BOYLE  
Mr Dougherty is playing a dangerous game. We may be able to salvage this.

ABRAHMS  
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOYLE Simon knows me far better than he let on. He lied to them.

ABRAHMS About the donuts?

BOYLE Yes, about the donuts. All of it. I spent many years as a field agent. Used to have to do my own disaster rercovery in the day.

ABRAHMS So, maybe he's not the enemy?

BOYLE I'm not sure who the enemy is anymore. When he was captured and brought in, it was by... let's just say we may have another problem within the Agency.

ABRAHMS Sounds like they're leaving within the hour. Do we go charging in and rescue him?

BOYLE Just me and you? Can you keep tracking the doctor's cell phone?

ABRAHMS Yeah. I mean, as long her battery doesn't die.

BOYLE Ok. I saw a gas station a little ways back. Let's go grab some snacks.

ABRAHMS Donuts?

BOYLE Stop with the donuts. We may not have much chance to stop for awhile. We better stock up.

Boyle puts the car in drive and tries to pull out of the field. The car is stuck in the mud.

BOYLE (cont'd) Son of a...

**SCENE 5:**

Kazin and Agent BROWN sit in their car a short distance from Boyle and Abrahms.

BROWN It looks like they're stuck, sir.

KAZIN We seem to be blessed with good fortune.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BROWN                   How will we track the asset if they don't get out?

KAZIN                    Check your map.

BROWN                    (looking at his smartphone) Only one way out.

KAZIN                    Turn this thing around. We'll park back of the gas station. If they stop for gas on their way out - and they'd be fools not to - we can plant a tracker on them.

BROWN                    Yes Mr Kazin. And the rest of the team?

KAZIN                    Have them fall back to the highway. Once we establish a reliable mark we'll update. Remember, capture is still our primary mission. Only I authorize the use of deadly force. Am I clear on that?

BROWN                    Yes sir.

KAZIN                    Move out.

**SCENE 6:**

Simon speaks to the listener

SIMON                    A man in a mask disabled my body and put me in a box. I never saw Gretchen. It felt like they loaded me into the back of a van. I could sense when we went out into the storm. I could hear the wind and rain. I could even sense the driver's fear.

I committed myself to exploring this sensor system of mine. Learning how it functioned. How to make it work on demand rather than as a reactionary thing. Eventually they'll have to turn my body back on. When they do, I need to be ready for action.

I was still angry. I am still angry. I don't know what I'll be able to do, but I don't think they do either. I love surprises.