

COWRITE WEEK 5

JULIAN
Hello, my name is Julian.

JONAS
What the-
(to McMann)
What do I do?

MCMANN
You came here looking for Julian.
Now you've found him. Ask him what
you want to know.

Jonas looks into Julian's "face" takes a deep breath, and gives it a shot.

JONAS
Umm. Hello, Julian. Harry Walters
sent me.

Julian's "face" contemplates Jonas for a moment.

JULIAN
(in Jonas' voice)
"Harry Walters sent me."

One of the LCD monitors at the work station flickers to life, flooding with data and imagery until the information coalesces into photos of a younger, more intense looking Harry Walters, and thorough background files on his exploits.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
(back to his original
voice)
Harry Walters. Retired from service
April 5, 2005. Last known address
2355 Parkview Lane. Current
whereabouts unknown.

Another monitor flickers to life. Images of Jonas cascade down the screen. High school photos, grade school images, surveillance images of Jonas visiting the Smithsonian with his mother. Stunned, Jonas watches the digital sum of his life flash on the monitor.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
"Me." Jonas Bernstein. 2349
Parkview Lane. Grove High School
class of 2010. Grade point avera-

JONAS
Wait! Julian, please wait.
(to McMann)
(MORE)

JONAS(cont'd)

Harry told me to give Julian the
"Conquest."

MCMANN

Conquest? That's what Ava stole?

JONAS

Yeah, the obsidian thing.

MCMANN

Why didn't you tell me?

JONAS

I told you! I said she took the
obsidian thing.

Helen hurries over to the monitors and sits before them.

MCMANN

Julian! Retrieve all surveillance
query hits on Harry Walters! Go
back the last three days.

(glancing at Jonas)

Supplemental retrieval on Jonas
Bersntein.

JULIAN

Processing, Helen.

MCMANN

(turning to Jonas)

Kid, tell me everyone, and I mean
EVERYONE who knows anything about
this. Then I want to hear every
detail of what happened with you,
Harry, Ava and the Conquest plans.

Jonas sees that Helen's demeanor is dead serious. He gulps
nervously and takes a deep breath before opening his mouth to
speak.

INT. CABLE'S COMMAND CENTER - DAY

Inside the tactical center of Cable's operation UNDERLINGS
(20s & 30s) are abuzz with activity while Cable sits
isolated in his glass and steel office.

On a monitor in Cable's office an elegantly dressed Asian
man, Jun Li (40s) is engaged in a video chat with Cable.
Although their exchanges are overtly courteous, tension and
threat bubble under the surface of every word.

MR. LI

That was not the date we agreed upon, Mr. Reign.

CABLE

Mr. Li. Transferring an item of this nature is extremely delicate work. For your sake, we are simply making sure that our security has not been breached. You will receive the item intact, as was agreed.

MR. LI

We agreed on Sunday, Mr. Reign. If you cannot honor that, we cannot in good faith honor the financial terms your organization has demanded.

CABLE

Mr. Li-

MR. LI

Deliver the package on Sunday, as promised, and you will receive all you have asked for. If Conquest is not in our possession in two days time I fear that renegotiations will be... problematic.

CABLE

(through gritted teeth)

Mr. Li-

MR. LI

Good day Mr. Reign.

The chat window on Cable's monitor goes dark. Cable sits in front of the dark screen for a beat. Suddenly his fist SMASHES into the sleek display sending sparks as the entire unit CRASHES to the floor. A few UNDERLINGS briefly look up and then go right back to work - best to stay out of the boss's way.

Raul, accompanied by JIMMY (20s) a wiry technician whose demeanor screams computer geek, arrives at the entrance to Cable's office. Cable turns slowly and faces them.

CABLE

Is this going to upset me?

RAUL

Depends on what kind of mood you're already in.

CABLE

I'm always hopeful, Raul. I've just learned that with you I should also expect the worst.

RAUL

We've confirmed the id's of the three kids who were with Walters. We have operatives watching their homes and schools. No hits on Walters since the hospital.

CABLE

What about Ava?

Beat.

RAUL

Not a trace.

CABLE

So, again you've come to me with a giant batch of nothing. What the hell is wrong with you jackasses? Do I have to do everything myself?

JIMMY

(timid)

Sir?

CABLE

(to Raul)

I should feed you to the goddamn Chinese!

JIMMY

Sir?

CABLE

We have less than 48 hours to retrieve Conquest and you tell me that I have a team of agents lurking around the local high school and staking out a bunch of teeny-bopper-

JIMMY

Sir!

Cable stops his tirade mid-word and stares, blinking with rage, at the runty tech. Jimmy seems startled by his own assertiveness but goes on.

JIMMY

Sir, I informed Raul that I've noticed some anomalies during our data mining. Just in the past hour.

CABLE

Anomalies?

JIMMY

Yes, sir. Specifically in queries pertaining to Walters, Ava, and the three kids. It's as if there's something tracing all our moves.

CABLE

Tracing?

JIMMY

Yeah. I tried to track the source, but it's pretty slick. There's someone with some serious Jedi skills is monitoring us.

CABLE

Can you identify the source or get a location?

JIMMY

It takes a while to dust for digital finger prints. I could have something in a few hours if I pull the other technicians of surveillance.

CABLE

Do it.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

McMann and Jonas sit at the monitors as Julian floods the screens with information. Helen watches the monitors intently.

MCMANN

We've been spotted.

JONAS

What?

MCMANN
Julian, suspend queries.

JULIAN
Suspended, Helen.

MCMANN
You need to bring the Conquest system here as soon as possible.

JONAS
Okay, let me call Freddie.

MCMANN
Jonas. We just saw that you and your friends are being closely monitored, most likely by Cable and his team. Just go and bring conquest here.

EXT. FREDDIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Jonas's Honda pulls up in front of the modest facade of the Biggs house. Jonas, still in his pizza delivery cover steps out with pizza box and his cap pulled down to hide his face.

He scans the street. It seems clear. He hurries up to the front door and RINGS the bell.

Jonas looks over both shoulders, anxiously waiting until Freddie's FOOTSTEPS are heard inside and the front door opens revealing Freddie wearing a wireless online gaming headset and a tee shirt that reads "ALL YOUR BASE ARE BELONG TO US."

FREDDIE
(chuckling, off guard)
Dude? What are you-

JONAS
We have to go get it now.

FREDDIE
What?

JONAS
NOW! We have to get it. I found Mc Mann.

FREDDIE
Did you talk to him?

JONAS

Her.

FREDDIE

Julian is a girl? Why do you get all the female attention-

JONAS

No. Julian's not a girl. McMann is- Nevermind, you two will have a lot to talk about when- JUST TAKE ME TO WHERE YOU HID THE BAR!

EXT. NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - LATER

Jonas's idles his car in the shadow of the Air and Space Museum on the National Mall. Jonas in sunglasses and cap surveys his surroundings from behind the steering wheel. Everywhere he looks there seem to be BLACK SEDANS or MEN IN BLACK lurking.

Jonas takes out his iPhone. He hesitates to use it, but finally his need to know outweighs his paranoia. He dials and Nora's perfect photo appears on the touch screen as the phone connects.

JONAS

Hey. Just checking in... Hope you're okay. Haven't heard from you in a while. Give me a call.

SFX. SATELLITE RELAY CONNECTION SHOT

We see Jonas's phone call turn into a digital signal relayed up through a communications satellite and bounce back down to earth. From a "God's Eye View" through clouds we zoom down through the clouds back to Washington D.C. Closing in fast on a warehouse complex. We zoom through the roof and into a complex of technicians at computer terminals. At last Jimmy's monitor lights up with the information on Jonas.

JIMMY

We got a hit on the kid!

EXT. NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - AT THAT MOMENT

Freddie comes barreling out of the building with a bright blue Jansport backpack slung over his shoulder. Jonas puts the phone away and opens the car door for Freddie.

JONAS

Was it okay? You got it?

FREDDIE

Yeah. My dad set me up with a secure locker when I signed up for the science outreach program. It's all good. Let's go!!

The Honda lurches into traffic.

INT. JONAS'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jonas moves through traffic as fast as he can.

FREDDIE

Alright, now can you tell me where we're going?

JONAS

You'll see, just trust me.
(beat)
Have you heard from Nora?

FREDDIE

Why would she call me? I thought she was your Princess Leia.

JONAS

Watch it.

FREDDIE

Sorry, should I have said "Pussy Galore"?

JONAS

Hey!

Jonas punches Freddie in the arm.

FREDDIE

Ow! I was just kidding.

JONAS

We just need to get this to McMa-

Suddenly the car SHAKES violently with an accompanying CRASH!

FREDDIE

Aaaahh!!!

JONAS

Aaaahh!!!

Through Jonas's rear window we see a massive BLACK SUV move in for another ram. Jonas and Freddie, still SCREAMING, brace themselves for another hit. CRASH!!! This time the Honda's rear window shatters and glass rains down on the two friends.

JONAS
Open the glove compartment!!!

FREDDIE
What?!

JONAS
Open the EFFING GLOVE COMPARTMENT!!

Freddie does so, revealing the Glock pistol they found at Harry's house earlier.

FREDDIE
Are you crazy!? What the hell am I supposed to do with that?!?

JONAS
SHOOT IT!

The SUV rams into the little Honda again. The car can't take much more of this.

Freddie grabs the pistol.

FREDDIE
What do I do?

JONAS
Fire it at them! You've seen it in the movies a million times!

Terrified, Freddie turns in his seat faces the SUV through the shattered rear window. He uses both hands to steady the gun on the SUV as it barrels toward them.

JONAS
Take the safety off!!!

FREDDIE
Wha-

It's too late. The SUV CRASHES into the car again. Freddie loses his grip on the gun and it BOUNCES through the rear window and CLATTERS onto the street.

JONAS
No!

FREDDIE

Jonas! They're going to hit again!

The SUV delivers a devastating CRASH to the Honda, sending it off the road, spewing SMOKE and sounding its death RATTLE.

Jonas and Freddie are stunned. They struggle to recover. In his rear view mirror Jonas sees the SUV pull up behind them and stop. Distant SIRENS are heard. Traffic begins to rubberneck. In the rearview mirror Jonas now sees the SUV's front door open and a MAN IN A DARK SUIT with a gun drawn steps out.

JONAS

Freddie. Freddie, come on!

Freddie is still too dazed to respond. The approaching sirens become deafening when suddenly an AMBULANCE careens into the SUV. The man in the dark suit barely leaps out of the way. The sound of CRUSHING METAL as the ambulance pulls out of the wreck of the SUV and pulls up beside Jonas and Freddie.

The passenger door swings open revealing Ava. Her face is bandaged and burned a brace holds her neck straight.

AVA

Get in! NOW!

Jonas climbs out, but Freddie is still too dazed to move.

JONAS

Freddie!

AVA

Just grab him!

POP! POP! POP! Shots from the man in the dark suit perforate the side of the Honda.

The back door of the ambulance swings open and one massive BLAST sends the hostile flying.

Jonas grabs Freddie and the Backpack and drags them painfully into the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

Before Jonas can shut the passenger door the ambulance SCREECHES off.

JONAS

How...

From behind, Jonas hears a voice.

HARRY
DO you have Conquest intact?

Jonas cranes around to look in the back of the ambulance. There, at a bank of monitors, surveillance equipment, and weaponry sits Harry Walters. His right arm is in a sling. His face is burned and a patch covers his left eye.

JONAS
Harry!

HARRY
Is Conquest secure!?

JONAS
Yes! Here.

Jonas throws the backpack to Harry. Harry opens it and pulls out the obsidian bar.

JONAS
What are you going to do?

HARRY
We are going to give this to Cable.

JONAS
What?!

HARRY
But first we need to make a modification courtesy of Julian McMann.
(beat)
Are you familiar with the espionage term "spoof," Jonas?

Jonas shakes his head. Harry smiles. It hurts to do so but his expression says "This is going to be good."

INT. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - DAY

Susannah Bernstein sits at her cubicle, typing away. She calls over the cubicle wall to her neighbor.

SUSANNAH
Hey Sam. Looks like there's a major incident down by the Mall.
(beat)
Sam?

STEPHEN

Sue?

Susanna turns around to see her supervisor, STEPHEN CHIN (40s) at her cubicle with a sharply dressed Raul.

SUSANNAH

Yes?

STEPHEN

Sue, this is Mr. Sidney Reilley from Homeland Security. He says he needs to ask you some questions?

SUSANNAH

Oh.

Cable steps forward.

RAUL

Mrs. Bernstein- it's "Mrs." correct?

SUSANNAH

That's right.

RAUL

Would you come with me?

EXT. THE SINCLAIR HOUSE - EVENING

Cable Reign, dressed as a police officer, walks up to the front door of the Sinclair house and knocks. Soon, Evelyn Sinclair (40s) answers the door. She's an older version of her lovely daughter.

EVELYN

May I help you, officer?

CABLE

Sorry to trouble you ma'am. My name is officer Hightower. By any chance is your daughter home?

EVELYN

Why, yes. Just one moment.
(she calls up the stairs)
Nora!