

Cowrite Script Week Three:
Way of the Protege

EXT. WALTERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A black SUV sits parked directly across the street. Raul has his cell phone pressed to his ear while squeezing a cow-shaped foam stress ball.

RAUL
(into phone)
Of course I have the right house.
I've been here before, remember?
Yeah, two others went inside. One
of them, a kid.
(beat)
The kid.

INT. WALTERS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walters is frustrated at the elevation of the situation. Ava and Jonas still have their weapons drawn on each other.

WALTERS
He's my next door neighbor, Jonas.

AVA
That means he has his own house.
Why is he in yours? What does he
know?
(to Jonas)
Just drop it, kid.

JONAS
You first.

WALTERS
For crying out loud...

JONAS
Who is she? What was that hologram
thing? How do I know she's not
going to shoot me when I put this
gun down?

WALTERS
She isn't going to shoo--

Ava FIRES.

EXT. WALTERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Raul, still in his vehicle, jumps at the sound of the unexpected gunshot.

(CONTINUED)

RAUL
(startled)
The hell??

Panicked, he readies his silencer.

INT. WALTERS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walters rubs his eyebrows in intense irritation.

WALTERS
I can't believe you, Ava. You
shot...

Jonas is holding his hand, shocked. He's fine.

WALTERS (CONT'D)
... my gun.

Walters' Browning is now on the floor.

JONAS
(amazed)
Right out of my hand!

EXT. WALTERS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Raul starts up his car.

RAUL
(sneering)
I'll be back for you soon, Harry.

INT. WALTERS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walters peers through the blinds of his window and sees the SUV pulling away.

WALTERS
Looks like we almost had another
guest.

JONAS
Was it the...
(makes bunny quotes)
"Exterminator"?

AVA
What's he talking about, Harry?

HARRY

Jonas, you should go home.

JONAS

But why? I thought you were in trouble. That's why I came here.

HARRY

Isn't your Mother worried about you?

JONAS

Probably didn't notice I left.

(points to Ava)

I... I thought she was an assassin. Here to finish off the job. I'm sorry.

HARRY

Worse. My ex-wife.

AVA

Thanks, Harry.

HARRY

Though she will be the death of me someday, so you weren't far off.

AVA

(re: obsidian)

We need to get this out of here.

JONAS

Yeah, what is that?

WALTERS

Jonas. No more questions.

AVA

This is why we never had any kids. Please do something about him. You've already put his life at risk by living next door.

WALTERS

Christ, I'm retired. Doesn't that mean anything anymore?

Ava opens the bedroom door and holds it open for Jonas.

AVA (CONT'D)

Let's go. Out.

(CONTINUED)

JONAS

Bu.. but...

AVA

C'mon, you're leaving.

WALTERS

(to Ava)

Okay, enough of that. I'll handle this.

AVA

Fine. Make me look like the bad guy.

WALTERS

You need no assistance from me, Ava.

Ava grabs some cigarettes from her purse and heads downstairs.

WALTERS

Wait. Ave.

AVA (O.S.)

Now I understand why you never remarried.

Walters shoots Jonas a "thanks a lot" look.

JONAS

I guess now we're even.

WALTERS

Son. You have no idea just how much bigger than you this is. You need to go.

JONAS

You're a spy, Mr. Walters. Aren't you? You are.

WALTERS

Of course I'm not.

JONAS

Well, you were.

WALTERS

That has nothing to do with you.

(CONTINUED)

JONAS

I want to be your protege.

WALTERS

That can't happen. Not now, not ever. You're a decent kid. Enjoy that while it lasts.

JONAS

The kid part? Or the decency part? I hope the latter.

WALTERS

There's nothing I can do for you.

JONAS

I'll keep nagging.

WALTERS

Hardly the characteristics of a real spy.

JONAS

I could help you.

WALTERS

I'm not going to be responsible for you.

JONAS

Because you think it's too dangerous? Because you think I can't handle myself?

WALTERS

That's understating it a bit, but yeah.

JONAS

Mr. Walters. I just want something to look forward to.

WALTERS

Look forward to going home.

INT. WALTERS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ava fixes herself some coffee. Harry is escorting Jonas out the back door.

(CONTINUED)

INT. JONAS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jonas crawls into bed.

JONAS
 (under breath)
 You can't say no to me in my
 dreams, Mr. Walters.

INT. GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Jonas sits across from Freddie.

FREDDIE
 Frankfurter Friday. I hate
 frankfurter Fridays.

JONAS
 That device I saw. I'd never seen
 anything like that before. I'm
 thinking they're protecting it. But
 from what? From who?

FREDDIE
 It doesn't matter, because all of
 that didn't happen. Just like you
didn't make friends with Nora only
 to blow it minutes later.

JONAS
 If I wanted to lie to you, don't
 you think I would have at least
 made myself look good?

Nora comes into Jonas' peripheral.

JONAS (CONT'D)
 Look, there she is.
 (calling out)
 Nora! Hey Nora! Hi... Hello...

Nora ignores Jonas'. She knows exactly what she is doing.
 Freddie observes this one-way exchange.

FREDDIE
 Yeah... yeah, see? She doesn't know
 who you are.

INT. GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Jonas is cramming stuff into his locker.

EXT. GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

The loner walks alone, as loners often do.

INT. RAUL'S CAR - SAME

Raul observes Jonas from his vehicle. Two other thugs accompany him.

RAUL
(smirking)
Live bait for our big fish.

He puts the car in DRIVE and trails Jonas slowly.

EXT. GROVE HIGH SCHOOL - SAME

Jonas suspects he's being followed, but doesn't turn around. He picks up his pace.

The car behind him veers closer beside him. Jonas starts to walk faster but the car speeds up, revving its engine to intimidate Jonas.

One of the vehicle's doors springs open, a thug ready to jump out after him--

-- until another vehicle SLAMS into the back of Raul and his thugs, causing their car to collide with a fire hydrant.

JONAS
(wide-eyed)
Crud.

The second vehicle's door swings open. It's Walters.

WALTERS
Get in.

Jonas hops in the passenger side.

Walters speeds off, leaving Raul and his men incapacitated for the moment.

(CONTINUED)

JONAS

You forgot to exchange insurance information with them. Who were those guys??

WALTERS

(gripping wheel)

The bad guys.

JONAS

So why the change of heart?

WALTERS

No change of heart. Unfortunately you've involved yourself in this, and I made the mistake of thinking *they* weren't aware of that.

JONAS

Am I in danger?

WALTERS

You, and perhaps others.