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EXT. TRUTH CAMP FRONT GATE - NIGHT

Jonas drives up to the entrance with a determined look on his face.

Guards block his way. One GUARD approaches the driver side with rifle drawn.

Jonas angrily looks out.

JONAS  
Cable's expecting me.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTER

Two GUARDS enter with Jonas, and shove him in.

Cable dismisses them with a nod.

Jonas looks around, and notes his incapacitated friends in dismay.

Nora is groggily coming awake, but her face clearly shows pain from the head injury.

Walters has already been through more than anyone his age should, but he still has a look of defiance on his face.

Freddie is still bound and gagged, but he manages to grin through the gag at Jonas.

Jonas gives a small smile in return, but loses it quickly as he takes in the smug satisfaction on Cable's face.

CABLE  
Oh good. You're on time. I'd hate for you to come a minute late and find someone dead.

JONAS  
Whereas now you're going to let us all skip out of here?

CABLE  
Maybe. Certainly not before you hand me that case.

JONAS

That's where you're wrong. I think I need to see my friends safely out of here before I hand you this case.

CABLE

Haven't you learned that I hold all the cards yet?

JONAS

Not anymore. Your bargaining chip is their lives. If I think we're dead anyway, it's not much of a chip.

Cable smirks appreciatively.

CABLE

Very good. You're starting to learn how the game is played, but you've forgotten something. Now that you're here and the schematics are here, I can always just take them off of your dead body.

JONAS

No, I remembered that.

Jonas lifts up one hand to reveal what looks like a small detonator.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Think you can kill me without my hand slipping?

Cable looks grim, but with a certain amount of admiration.

CABLE

My guards should have caught that.

JONAS

I think they underestimated me.

CABLE

Me too. Oh Jonas, how I wish we had just met at Truth Camp. We could be working together now.

JONAS

That will never happen.

CABLE  
You don't think so? I'd have given  
you all the training and  
opportunities you wanted. I know  
this one has been holding out on  
you.

At the words, "this one", Cable kicks Walters.

Jonas raises his hand with the detonator threateningly.

JONAS  
Do not touch him again!

CABLE  
Not even to untie him?

JONAS  
I can't trust you not to stab him.

Cable begins to move around the room while he talks with Jonas.

The constant movement keeps Jonas tense, but Cable makes his voice very smooth, and soothing.

CABLE  
You can't trust me not to kill you  
all later, either, even if I let  
you go now.

JONAS  
I don't have a solution for that  
yet, but I've thought of it.

CABLE  
I suppose you could kill me.

JONAS  
Tempting. Really tempting, but I  
don't know whom it would tick off.

CABLE  
Good point. You can take us all out  
with that little device there, but  
I doubt that would be satisfying.

Cable moves behind Nora and strokes her hair as he says this.

Jonas tenses up even more.

JONAS  
Get your hands off of her!

CABLE

Don't worry. I think I have a solution. We can all get what we want.

JONAS

We want really different things.

CABLE

Not that different. You want your friends and family safe-

JONAS

I also don't want to put a deadly weapon into the hands of a psychopath.

CABLE

I'm no psycho, and if I like you, I will want you happy, so I will want your friends and family safe too.

JONAS

No way.

CABLE

Yes. Let's work together.

JONAS

Not a chance.

Cable now moves in front of the prisoners, ignoring them to turn his full powers of persuasion upon Jonas.

Walters and Freddie start struggling to get free, and are doing this in the background, though with little success.

CABLE

Come now, Jonas. Be reasonable. We're not really that different, are we?

JONAS

I'm not falling for that.

CABLE

You think I haven't learned about your little side business?

JONAS

I don't know what you're talking about.

CABLE

Sure you do. You fund your dreams  
with borrowed test answers; I fund  
mine with borrowed technology.

Jonas looks stung, but recovers.

JONAS

It's not the same.

Nora begins to stir more, and take in what is going on.

Having been unconscious, she was not gagged.

CABLE

Of course it is. The jocks pass the  
classes, the teachers get to grade  
perfectly decent work, and the  
school gets a winning team.  
Everybody wins, and you turn a  
profit. I just work on a larger  
scale.

JONAS

Oh sure. You're just like Santa  
Claus.

CABLE

Jonas, what have any world  
governments done to prove that they  
can handle this kind of power?  
They've created a mess and you know  
it.

JONAS

Government for the people, by the  
people, and of the people.

CABLE

The people are idiots and they  
elect worse idiots.

JONAS

It's still our choice.

CABLE

You're a bright kid Jonas. You've  
studied the CIA all your life. Do  
you know what Eisenhower said about  
it?

JONAS

That was decades ago.

CABLE

Legacy of ashes. That's what he said. And do you know why?

JONAS

Just shut up!

CABLE

There's no good legacy because there have never been worthwhile leaders. We give them good data and they ignore it or twist it or pull false data out of a hat so they can do what they want.

JONAS

It doesn't have to be that way.

CABLE

Exactly. I've taken the best and the brightest, and trained them, and now I'm going to empower them. Join us. We can use you.

NORA

Don't listen to him Jonas!

Without looking at Nora, Cable points his gun in her direction.

CABLE

I'm trying to save your life little girl!

Jonas sees the gun pointed and launches himself at Cable.

As they struggle for the gun, Jonas has dropped the case and the detonator.

Everyone begins to realize that no explosion has occurred.

As Cable realizes this, he becomes very angry.

Gaining the upper hand, Cable shoves Jonas into the wall and points the gun at him.

CABLE (CONT'D)

You lying little-

A shot rings out.

Everyone looks around, panicked.

They discover the source of the shot. A bleeding, banged-up Ava is standing in the doorway with the smoking gun.

They discover the victim. Cable is bleeding, and it looks bad.

Cable turns to Ava in shock, and goes down.

Ava slides down, using the door frame for support, and starts applying direct pressure to her wound.

JONAS

Ava!

AVA

You just can't stay out of trouble,  
can you kid? Don't worry. The  
cavalry's on the way.

Walters has finally gotten his hands free. He painfully makes his way over to Ava.

WALTERS

How are you doing?

AVA

I've been better, but I'm really  
hard to kill.

Jonas has gone over to Nora, and is working to free her, but he hears Walters and Ava, and comments.

JONAS

I'll say.  
(to Walters)  
Is she really going to be okay?

Walters nods.

WALTERS

I think she will.

Walters touches Ava's face, remembering.

WALTERS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about Cable.

Ava shrugs, then winces in pain.

AVA

Frankly, I think our marriage was  
in real trouble.

Jonas finishes untying Nora, and they both hold each other close.

Freddie, still bound and gagged, begins to make muffled protests.

This startles Jonas, who looks guilty and takes off Freddie's gag.

FREDDIE

Dudes! Guns and near death are not romantic! What is wrong with you people?

Nora laughs shakily, and Jonas works on untying Freddie.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Seriously! I'm starving, I'm cramped up, my parents are going to kill me-

Freddie's noises become muffled again as Nora puts the gag back on.

Nora interrupts Jonas's efforts with the knots to give Jonas a solid kiss.

Freddie rolls his eyes as distant sounds of helicopters and sirens begin to come in. They cavalry is on the way.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Jonas has just finished explaining to his jock friend that he is out of business

Freddie and Nora are watching in sympathy.

JOCK

You loser!

JONAS

I understand this is disruptive, and I am offering to proofread your own writings at no charge for the rest of the semester.

The jock looks at Jonas in disgust and storms away.

Jonas winces and calls after him...

JONAS (CONT'D)

We could also consider tutoring!

Jonas leans against his locker in frustration.

Freddie and Nora approach.

NORA

It's okay.

JONAS

All my former customers hate me.

FREDDIE

They just hate the thought of doing  
their own homework.

JONAS

It doesn't matter.

Jonas dejectedly begins emptying papers, CDs, and flash drives from his locker into his backpack.

CUT TO:

INT. JONAS'S BEDROOM

Jonas is now passing items from his backpack through a shredder.

Nora and Freddie are sitting on the bed, watching.

Freddie shakes his head.

FREDDIE

All that wasted income.

Nora jabs Freddie with her elbow, grimacing.

Freddie protests.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Well? He could have at least kept  
going long enough to replace his  
car, or pay for Truth.

JONAS

I don't want to go anymore anyway.

Jonas does not sound believable, but he goes on.

JONAS (CONT'D)

I mean, look at those people.  
Megalomaniacal nut jobs.

NORA

That can't be all of them, though.  
Maybe Cable just picked out the  
evil ones.

FREDDIE

Yeah, like, maybe Cable got all the  
Slytherins, but you'd be  
Griffyndor.

Jonas and Nora both give Freddie looks, but are interrupted  
by the sound of the doorbell ringing.

JONAS

Who can that be?

CUT TO:

INT. BERNSTEIN HOUSE, FRONT DOOR

Jonas, Freddie, and Nora have come downstairs.

Jonas opens the front door to two MEN in suits and dark  
glasses.

Freddie whispers to Nora.

FREDDIE

They don't look like Jehovah's  
Witnesses.

Jonas tries to ignore his friends.

JONAS

Hello. Can I help you?

1ST AGENT

Jonas Bernstein?

JONAS

Yes.

1ST AGENT

We represent MIT-sponsored Truth  
Camp. You were recommended to us by  
a colleague as a potential  
scholarship student.

JONAS

I was?

The other man removes an envelope from his jacket and offers  
it to Jonas.

2ND AGENT  
We're inviting you to attend as our  
guest.

Jonas takes the envelope, dazed.

JONAS  
But how-

1ST AGENT  
As we said, you were recommended by  
a colleague.

Nora goes to Jonas excitedly and shakes him.

NORA  
Jonas! Open it!

Still dazed, Jonas starts tearing at the envelope.  
He reads it blinking.

JONAS  
I'm going. I'm really going to  
Truth!

The situation dawns on Jonas who begins to grin broadly.  
Nora and Freddie start reading the letter over Jonas's  
shoulder.

2ND AGENT  
Well, we should be going.

FREDDIE  
Wait a second. What colleague?

1ST AGENT  
I believe that's confidential.

FREDDIE  
You wouldn't take an anonymous  
recommendation.

2ND AGENT  
Not confidential to us.

1ST AGENT  
We should be going.

FREDDIE  
It's got to be Ava.

Saying this, Freddie turns to Jonas, but sees that he and Nora are hugging.

NORA  
I can't believe you'll be gone all summer. I'll miss you.

JONAS  
I couldn't have done it without you, Nora.

Jonas suddenly turns to Freddie.

JONAS (CONT'D)  
Or you either, Freddie.

FREDDIE  
Thanks for remembering, buddy.

The agents were trying to exit, but on hearing the names stop.

1ST AGENT  
Are you possibly Nora Sinclair and Frederick Biggs?

Nora and Freddie nod.

NORA  
That's right.

FREDDIE  
Why?

The second agent sighs.

1ST AGENT  
We also have authorization to offer scholarship positions to Nora Sinclair and Frederick Biggs, if they are interested in accepting.

Nora is surprised, but Freddie is completely shocked.

FREDDIE  
You're joking!

The agent pulls two more envelopes from his jacket.

NORA  
Just when I thought this summer was going to be boring.

JONAS

This is going to be awesome!

Nora is handed her envelope.

2ND AGENT

You'll still need to fill out the applications, but there are instructions inside.

NORA

Thank you!

The agent hands Freddie his envelope.

Freddie tries to take it, but the agent's grip is not immediately released as he eyes Freddie skeptically.

FREDDIE

Hey, we were highly recommended.

The agent relents and Freddie has his magic ticket too.

1ST AGENT

This assumes that parental permission is granted.

JONAS

They will. They have to!

2ND AGENT

Then we'll see you on June 22nd.  
Until then.

The agents begin heading back down the walkway.

Jonas grabs Nora and pulls her into a kiss.

Releasing her, Jonas turns to Freddie and gives him a high five.

JONAS

Can you believe it? All three of us, wanted by the CIA!

Still in earshot, the agents turn around.

1ST AGENT

Excuse me? We're from MIT.

JONAS

Oh, I know. I just thought...

Jonas trails off awkwardly, but Freddie has no shame.

FREDDIE

It's a recruiting camp for spies.

The agent smirks.

2ND AGENT

Don't be ridiculous. The CIA  
doesn't run a summer camp.

Both agents turn and continue to their car, entering and driving away.

The teens watch them go, a little embarrassed, a little fascinated, and mainly just excited about where they go next.

They can be seen starting to celebrate through the open door as the camera pulls away.