

COWRITE 9

INT./EXT. ASTON MARTIN - MOVING - NIGHT

Nora whizzing through the streets of downtown D.C. Jonas beside her, holding on for dear life.

Freddie in the back, pale with nausea.

NORA

So who the heck are these Chinese?

JONAS

No, it's C.H.Y.N.E.E.S.

NORA

Fine. But *who* is that?

JONAS

They're kind of like... the bogeyman. The Kaiser Soze of kids.

FREDDIE

What?

JONAS

Their official moniker is the Canadian Hill Youth Network East Entropy Syndicate.

Nora and Freddie exchange a look in the rearview mirror.

JONAS (CONT'D)

A bunch of punks north of the border trying to overthrow the civilized world.

(beat)

Anarchy.

NORA

How do you know so much about them?

JONAS

Doesn't matter. I just do.

EXT. MIT EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH BUILDING - WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

The kids approach the wide stone steps.

FREDDIE

Dontcha think walking straight into the front entrance is, I don't know, kinda stupid?

JONAS

Didn't really think about it.  
Until now.

FREDDIE

Unless they're expecting us to  
sneak around back because we  
couldn't possibly be dumb enough to  
actually come in the front door.

JONAS

Why would they be expecting us at  
all? They're think we're dead.

FREDDIE

That's a good point.

JONAS

N -

Jonas turns, but Nora's already gone.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

A few garbage cans glimmer under streetlight by a side exit.  
The kids tiptoe into frame, careful to stay out of the light.  
Jonas tries the door. It's shut.

FREDDIE

You didn't really think -

NORA

Hey! Double-Oh and Triple-Oh Zero.  
C'mere.

Nora is heading for the back of the alley. Looking awfully  
dark and dangerous back there. The boys follow. She tries  
to clamber up onto a ledge but it's out of reach.

NORA (CONT'D)

Who wants to give me a boost?

Both their hands shoot up.

EXT. WINDOW - A MOMENT LATER

Jonas has successfully planted Nora on the ledge. Her  
fingers are working for a way inside.

NORA

Credit card. Who's got one?

FREDDIE  
Yeah, my American Express is maxed  
out to the gills -

NORA  
Shut up. Jonas?

Jonas opens his wallet. Hands Nora a card.

She looks at it. Chuckles.

FREDDIE  
What'd you give her?

JONAS  
My lifetime membership to the  
League of Intergalactic Nations.

FREDDIE  
Oh, you sad, sad sack.

NORA (O.S.)  
Got it!

Nora jimmies the window and slips inside.

Freddie and Jonas exchange a look: who's going next? No contest. Jonas gives him a boost and Freddie's up and in. That leaves Jonas by himself.

He jumps - grabs onto the ledge with his hands. It's a pull up.

Heaves. Huffs and puffs. His body rising up against the concrete wall... and then... just as quickly, drops to the ground. He can't do it.

Dismayed. Disheartened. And worse - alone. Looks around. It's friggin' scary in this alley. Hears something skitter by the trash cans. Figures in shadow scurrying about.

He tries again - hands on the ledge - PULL! His body rising up - and this time - he drags himself into the building.

INT. MIT OUTREACH BUILDING - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

A massive concrete space, say the size of basketball court. Walters and Ava, bound hand and foot, sit in the center of the barred steel cage.

Outside the cage, the whole cast of nefarious characters: Cable, McMann, Julian, and Raul - plus a handful of mindless HENCHMEN.

CABLE

I am sorry to treat you two like animals but I have to confess... it is fitting.

AVA

You disgust me.

CABLE

I assure you, Ms. Reign, the feeling is mutual.

MCMANN

Cable, the transport has arrived.

CABLE

Excellent. On schedule as promised.

RAUL

Are you sure you don't want me to kill them now?

CABLE

No. I want to enjoy this.

Cable presses a button on a remote and a HUGE STEEL DOOR on the far wall begins to open. On the other side, a ramp leading to the outside world.

RAUL

(evil giggle)

This is gonna be good.

INT. MIT BUILDING - ANOTHER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Light from the alley spills in through windows. SNAP - a hand turns on the light. Nora's. They're in a massive -

LECTURE HALL

Freddie rushes to the lectern and begins an impromptu diatribe.

FREDDIE

(false British)

When trespassing into enemy territory it is always sound advice to have a frakin' plan!

JONAS

Would you quit it?

FREDDIE  
 If you can't do this with a sense  
 of humor, Jonas, then really,  
 what's the point?

NORA  
 Shhhhhhh! Guys hear that?

They strain to listen a beat.

FREDDIE  
 Nada. Zip. Zil -

JONAS  
 Shut up!

They listen again and then hear it: a low rumble of VOICES.  
 They press their ears to the floor.

Freddie looks at Jonas.

FREDDIE  
 Reminds me of that time your mom  
 had that guy over - whatshisname -

JONAS  
 Mr. Frankfurt.

FREDDIE  
 (singing a commercial)  
 With the ten inch frank-fur-ters!

NORA  
 What are you guys talking about?

Jonas shoots Freddie a look of death.

JONAS  
 So how do you think we get down  
 there?

NORA  
 I don't know - let me pull out my  
 map.

She makes like she's going for her pocket and then:

NORA (CONT'D)  
 How the hell should I know?!

She pokes his forehead with two fingers.

INT. MIT BUILDING - VARIOUS ROOMS - MOMENTS LATER

Following the kids as they roam the first floor. Through labs, a cafeteria, a screening room, and now -

INT. COMPUTER LAB - NIGHT

Jonas has found his Shangri-la. Freddie and then Nora follow him in to see hundreds of computers. Latest design. Cutting edge technology. The works.

JONAS

Truth Camp.  
(beat)  
I'm home.

FREDDIE

Jeeze, Jonas. We could sack York from here.

NORA

As exciting as all this geek stuff is to you guys, don't you think we need to get a move on?

JONAS

Wait.  
(listens)  
We're close.

Indeed, voices are finding their way into the room. Jonas leads the others down the center aisle to the source:

A VENT

by the far wall, in the floor, circulating air into the room.

Jonas gets down, pressing his ear to the vent.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Freddie, gimme the scope.

Freddie pulls a microscopic camera attached to a flexible metallic stem from his backpack.

Jonas threads it through the vent to the depths below. Freddie hooks the camera up to Walters' laptop. An image appears -

ON SCREEN

Fuzzy, now coming into focus: the cage, with Walters and Ava inside, and the villainous crew milling about. At the far end, the open cargo door leading out.

FREDDIE  
That's not good.

NORA  
Were you born with the gift of  
insight it did it come with a lot  
of hard work?

FREDDIE  
(ignoring her)  
What are we gonna do?

JONAS  
Maybe you were right, Freddie.  
We're way over our heads and we  
should just, you know, call the  
cops.

They all look at each other.

ALL  
Nahhhhh.

FREDDIE  
Where's the glory in that?

NORA  
I know.

JONAS  
(to Nora)  
I mean, you'd probably lose respect  
for me if I chickened out and  
called the cops. Right?

NORA  
Do what you need to do, Jonas. I'm  
calling the cops.

She stabs her cell phone -- 9-1-1 -- but Jonas flings it  
across the room. It CLANKS loudly against a computer screen  
before smashing into pieces.

JONAS

You crazy? Can't call the cops!  
They'll come and Cable will flash  
his ID and tell some convoluted  
story and get away with it and then  
probably kill Walters and Ava and  
then the cops and *then* us. No, you  
definitely cannot call the cops.

NORA

Apparently I can't.

FREDDIE

So what's plan B?

JONAS

Didn't Sun Tzu say surprise is half  
the battle?

FREDDIE

Then what's the other half?

JONAS

I don't know. Didn't finish the  
book.

VOICE (O.S.)

Know your enemy. Dumbass.

They turn - SCREAM - as

RAUL

stands before them, UZI drawn.

JONAS

Didn't see that coming.

FREDDIE

Me neither.

INT. MIT OUTREACH BUILDING - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Raul pushes the kids into the basement.

RAUL

Looky what I found sneaking 'round  
the computer lab. Just like a pack  
of rats.

JONAS

Mr. Walters!

Jonas runs to the cage.

WALTERS

Jonas - what are you doing here?

JONAS

Saving you.

WALTERS

Doing a helluva job there, kid.

JONAS

Well, you know, haven't worked out  
all the kinks just yet.

Cable approaches the kids. Cracks his neck. Notices his tux  
matches theirs.

CABLE

What's the hurry, kiddies? Why the  
rush to grow up?

JONAS

When lacking sound parenting, one  
overcompensates by growing to fill  
the void as fast as possible.

(beat)

Freud.

Cable starts cracking up. Looks over at Walters.

CABLE

Oh boy... oh, boy... he doesn't  
know, does he?

WALTERS

Cable. Let the kids go.

JONAS

I don't know what?

CABLE

You don't know!

Cable cannot contain his laughter.

WALTERS

Cable! Don't!

CABLE

Walters... Harry...

AVA

Don't you dare!

CABLE  
Ava... these two...

WALTERS  
Don't say it!

JONAS  
For chrissakes! Spit it out!

CABLE  
They're your parents!

Cable's laughter rises to a fevered pitch and then quickly trails off. You could hear a pin drop.

JONAS  
What?

Jonas is looking at Walters and Ava who are hanging their heads.

JONAS (CONT'D)  
Walters... Harry... Dad? Is it true?

Nora and Freddie exchange a look.

Raul and some henchmen exchange a look.

McMann and Julian exchange a look.

WALTERS  
You weren't supposed to find out, Jonas. It was a secret - we were going to die with it -

JONAS  
Why? Why would you lie to me?

AVA  
It's complicated, Jonas.

JONAS  
And you're my mother?!  
(to camera)  
I mean, is this totally ridiculous or what?  
(to Ava)  
What about my Mom, then?

AVA  
She's my... sister. She agreed to it along time ago.

JONAS

So my mother is your sister?

(beat, a la "Chinatown")

No she's my mother, no she's your sister, no she's my mother, no she's your sister...

(snaps back)

An ex-CIA agent is my father and I have an assassin for a mother?

(beat: fist pump)

Sweet!

FREDDIE

You got what you wanted, Jonas. A family of spies. Congratulations.

CABLE

And my condolences. You will all be dead inside an hour.

(to McMann)

Call in the transport.

MCMANN

My pleasure.

She speaks into a two-way radio.

MCMANN (CONT'D)

(into radio)

Red team - we're a go!

Through the far opening, an ENGINE RUMBLES to life.

A BLACK 18 WHEELER

backs its way into the underground facility. It's the same 18 wheeler from the opening sequence.

Jonas sidles up to Walters and Ava in the cage...

JONAS

Just do as I say and you won't get hurt.

WALTERS AND AVA

What?!

Suddenly, the rear hatch of the 18 wheeler BURSTS OPEN -

AN ARMY OF TEENAGED KIDS

spill out with machine guns and camouflage - screaming their heads off!

Cable and McMann look stunned.

Raul jerks his weapon to fire but a MINIATURE GREEN-BERET appears behind him with a swift butt-end: Raul goes down.

In about 2.2 seconds, TWENTY TEENAGED ANARCHISTS have deftly surrounded the entire group.

Their LEADER steps forward, chewing on a cheap cigar...

LEADER

I am Moses. Leader of the  
C.H.Y.N.E.E.S.

(off confused looks)

The Canadian Hill Youth Network  
East Entropy Syndicate.

(Oh's all around)

So... which one of you is Jonas?