

The Cleaners

by

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FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN.

GEORGE

We have come here today to address an issue regarding one of your students. William Russell.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Three boys stand around a teacher's desk. They are all dressed in suits and nice shoes.

BRAD hands the teacher a manila folder labeled "William Russell". He has flowing hair, obviously a lady's man. The teacher opens it and nods.

TEACHER

Ah yes. I gave him a detention today. He created a ruckus in my class. He knocked over a few desks.

BRAD

Well, you see that's the problem. That wasn't William's fault.

TEACHER

Oh, it wasn't? I don't believe you three were in my class and therefore-

GEORGE slams a pair of shoes on the desk with the laces tied together. He has a gruff look about him, almost tired. He looks like he has been in the business for a while. The teacher disgustedly looks at the shoes.

MATT

(calmly)

Could you please read me the label on the inside of these shoes?

After a moment, the teacher picks up the shoes and looks inside of them, and looks up at MATT. Matt wears Clark Kent-esque glasses and his hair is slicked.

TEACHER

William Russell.

BRAD

Hm. Now, tell me. Do you think you could walk safely in these? I mean, I sure couldn't.

TEACHER

(unsure)

Well, I suppose I may trip-

GEORGE

(pretending to be surprised)
You may trip?

TEACHER
Well, I am sure I would grab on to something-

MATT
Like a desk?

The teacher is silenced. George takes the folder off the desk and takes out a paper. He hands it to the teacher.

GEORGE
William Russell's conduct record. As you can see, it is untarnished. Hasn't received a single detention to date.

The teacher looks at the paper, then up at George and Brad.

TEACHER
Geez, I am really sorry guys. I had no idea-

BRAD
That's fine. Just retract the detention. I'm glad we sorted things out.

BLACK SCREEN.

GEORGE (V.O.)
Ever since teachers started handing out detentions, there have been students who want to get out of them.

MONTAGE - THE CLEANERS

-Three boys, a senior, a junior, and a sophomore walking into a library. They are GEORGE, BRAD, and MATT (respectively).

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So, when people have to get rid of these detentions, they come to us.

-A greasy boy walks up to George. This is JUDD.

JUDD
I just got a detention from Jean, but I have a music field trip that day! I can't make the detention!

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The reason they come to us...

-Brad exits a room with St. Martin, laughing.

BRAD
 Thank you for being so understanding!
 Our friend Fred will appreciate this.

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...is because we have expertise...

-Matt shakes hands with Mr. Alan, and Mr. Alan rips up a detention sheet.

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...in every area of the job.

-A shot from behind of all of them walking towards the library.

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And they know that if we fail, we are going to break them out.

-The gang enters the conference room.

GEORGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 It's a high risk job, and you can get into serious trouble doing it.

-The camera pushes in on a sign on the door that reads "The Cleaners. If we can't clean your detention, we'll break you out".

END MONTAGE.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM- DAY

George, Brad, Matt sit at the end of a table, George facing Brad. George has an exasperated expression on his face.

GEORGE
 So, the question is...why would we bring in this person that I don't know anything about?

BRAD
 George, you're over-thinking it.

GEORGE
 Well, I think you're under thinking it.

MATT
 It couldn't hurt just to meet with her.

GEORGE
 HER?!

Matt and Brad look at each other uncomfortably.

BRAD

Look, George, we're not in the second grade anymore. Girls don't have cooties.

GEORGE
That's not what I mean. You both know-

MATT
(interrupting)
We know the story.

BRAD
Quite frankly, it can't be an excuse any longer. This girl is good.

GEORGE
Well, if she's so good, why isn't she on time? Didn't you say 2:30?

INT. LIBRARY STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

A figure walks up the stairs, heading for the conference room. Only the feet of the figure are seen.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRAD
Listen, George, you need to calm down. We told her to come at 2:30, it's 2:29.

INT. LIBRARY SHELVES - CONTINUOUS

The figure approaches the conference room.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

George is becoming increasingly irritated.

GEORGE
You know, there's something to be said about punctuality.

The instant he finishes speaking, the door opens. They all turn and stare at the figure that walked in.

The figure is a freshman girl who has an air of intelligence and confidence walks in. She wears a bright red dress and is very well groomed. This is JULIA.

JULIA
Hi, I'm Julia.

GEORGE
Yes. Yes, you are. Now, we're waiting for somebody, so...

JULIA

Yeah, that'd be me. Nice to meet you.

George looks over to Matt and then to Brad.

JULIA

Listen, I get that maybe I don't seem like the kind of person that would be interested in something like this—

GEORGE

(interrupting)

Ya think?

JULIA

—but I do really think that I can be of some help to you guys. Ever since I've heard about this group, I've admired you guys.

A pause.

GEORGE

(sighs)

Yeah, that's what I thought.

JULIA

(confused)

What?

GEORGE

From the second you walked in here, I had you pegged. You're going into high school and you wanna find your place, right? So, you find out about us, and we're not really like everybody else so hey, ya gotta do it, right? Show everybody that you can maybe stand a little taller than the rest. Am I getting close here? You're the kid who watches a doctor perform surgery on TV and thinks "hey, I could do that". And I think it'd be better for you to realize nobody is handing you the scalpel anytime soon. So, as much as I appreciate your interest, but I think we're all set here. Thanks, though.

JULIA

(caught off-guard)

Ummm, okay. Brad and Matt called me. They said I had what it takes because I'm smart and I'm good with words. Sorry to waste your time.

Julia exits the room.

Brad, George, and Matt sit in an awkward silence.

GEORGE
....too much?

BRAD
Yeah.

MATT
Just a little bit, yeah.

They sit in silence again.

MATT (CONT'D)
...so should I go get her?

George lets out a long sigh.

GEORGE
Yeah.

Matt gets up and runs out of the room.

Brad and George sit in silence, then Brad turns to George.

BRAD
You aren't allowed to talk to anybody
ever again.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Matt catches up to Julia who is walking away quickly.

MATT
Julia!

Julia turns around. Matt catches up to her.

MATT (CONT'D)
Listen, the reason George was so harsh
with you is because he doesn't
really...trust girls.

JULIA
Well, why the hell not?

MATT
A while ago, he dated a girl. He found
out she was cheating on him, and he
hasn't trusted girls since. He says
he's sorry.

GEORGE (O.S.)
No, I don't!

MATT
Just come back in.

She nods, and walks into the conference room again.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia nervously approaches the desk.

GEORGE

Alright, here's the deal. Just a little something you should know. We don't mess up. Ever. Alright? We'll give you one shot. One.

JULIA

Okay.

George looks around at Brad and Matt.

BRAD

Welcome to the group. Now, we have an open case to address. We will see you later to assign jobs.

George and Brad leave the room.

MATT

(to Julia)

Okay, I know Brad filled you in on what we do, but there is a very important way to do it. Here is what goes down...

MONTAGE--THE CASE

-George and Brad are seen walking down the hallway.

MATT (V.O)

They are on their way to Mr. Jean's room.

-George and Brad enter Mr. Jean's room.

MATT (V.O) (CONT'D)

Research is key. Know your teacher. Know what they do-

-George taking notes in I.R.

-A shot of the notebook and George writing "SUPER LIBERAL". He then underlines it.

MATT (V.O) (CONT'D)

...know what they like-

-Brad is holding a guitar in Jean's room.

BRAD

Yeah, this is a nice model. My father has a bunch of them lying around. Nice sound.

Mr. Jean is very impressed and smiles.

MATT (V.O)
 Know what they eat for breakfast.

-Jean is seen at the daybreak cafe ordering a breakfast sandwich and a strawberry milk.

-George and Brad watch from a distance with binoculars.

MATT (V.O)
 The background is essential for softening the teacher up. After you finish the background, you finish the job.

-Brad and George back in Jean's room. There is a fresh liter of strawberry milk on his desk.

GEORGE
 So, for our IR project we wanted to do the effect of music between countries, and we were going to make this soundtrack for it.

BRAD
 Our good friend Judd has offered to let us use his recording studio in a few days.

GEORGE
 However, he has a detention with you today. Too bad too, because Judd's very busy with the new Occupy Walpole movement lately, and we never have any time in the studio.

BRAD
 Yeah, it's the only day we can get in there, but he has detention. We really need him for the project.

JEAN
 Boys, don't worry about it. I'll get rid of the hour. And thanks for the strawberry milk, too.

George and Brad exit the room.

-Judd approaches George and Brad in the hallway.

JUDD
 Did you guys do it? You didn't fail, did you? Are you going to have to break me out?

BRAD
 You're fine, but you have an IR project to do for us.

George and Brad walk away, leaving Judd in confusion.

END MONTAGE.

BACK AT LIBRARY

MATT (CONT'D)

And our policy states that if we fail,
we are going to break you out. So these
jobs are all important. Got all that?

JULIA

So, you break kids out?

MATT

Only if we fail.

INT. WHITTENHALL'S ROOM - DAY

There is a stereotypical popular, gossiping teenage girl sitting
in Whittenhall's room. She is texting on her phone.

WHITTENHALL

Trista, I've had enough of this. Using
your phone in class, talking back to
me, showing up late. This behavior has
to stop.

TRISTA

(under her breath)
Yeah, whatever.

WHITTENHALL

And administration especially doesn't
appreciate your tweet saying Mr. Con-
nor's Corner sucks.

TRISTA

(sarcastically)
Yeah, alright.

WHITTENHALL

He has been crying for three hours!

CONNOR (O.S.)

I'm not crying! I just have something
in my eye! I don't even care about the
tweet!

TRISTA

It was lame anyway.

WHITTENHALL

As true as that may be, it wasn't nice.

He takes out some pink slips.

TRISTA
Wait, what are you doing?

WHITTENHALL
Writing you up.

TRISTA
Whoa, you can't do that!

WHITTENHALL
Actually, I can. And I will. And I am.
You have a detention tomorrow.

TRISTA
No, I have the biggest field hockey
game of the season tomorrow! I'm their
star player! They can't play without
me!

WHITTENHALL
Tough noogies, buttercup. I'll see you
here tomorrow afternoon.

Trista exits the room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Trista looks irritated as she walks down the hallway. Suddenly, she sees George walking down the hallway, flipping through a manilla folder.

Trista tries to get in his way, but he moves in a different direction. She immediately follows him and gets in his way again. She then moves towards him, and George backs up.

TRISTA
I have a detention. I need you guys to
get rid of it for me.

GEORGE
I don't think so.

TRISTA
I'll pay. With good money. My dad in-
vented-

GEORGE
Pizza bagels. I know, and I think I'll
still pass.

TRISTA
C'mon George! I have a huge away game I
need to go to, so I really need this.
Can't we just put the past behind us?

GEORGE
Have fun in detention, Trista.

TRISTA
Oh alright, what is this really about?

GEORGE
The dumb routine is a little tired out now, don't you think? I appreciate that you thought of me...for once, but I think I'm all set.

TRISTA
You know what, you're right. I'll take the detention.

George nods appreciatively and starts to walk away.

TRISTA (CONT'D)
...and tell everybody you failed at your job.

George spins around.

GEORGE
What?

Trista starts to slowly slink towards him.

TRISTA
Everyone will think you failed. And nobody would ever come to you again because what's the point of paying people to get you out if they can't even clean your hour?

There is a long pause. Trista leans in.

TRISTA
(whispers)
I want that detention cleared by tomorrow. It was nice talking to you again, Georgie.

GEORGE
Don't call me Georgie.

Trista walks away.

George stands shocked and very annoyed.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM-LATER THAT DAY

Matt and Brad are standing behind a table.

BRAD
Are you kidding me?

MATT
Is that all she said?

George is sitting in front of Matt and Brad.

MATT
If we don't take the job then she'll
put the kibosh on our reputation?

BRAD
Wait, she'll what our reputation?

MATT AND GEORGE
(simultaneously)
She'll ruin it.

BRAD
Alright, as if it's weird that I didn't
know what that means.

Julia enters.

GEORGE
But we really can't take this job!
Whittenhall is a dangerous case! Be-
sides, Trista is not somebody we asso-
ciate with!

JULIA
Wait, is there a new job?

GEORGE
Yeah. But we aren't taking it. Too dan-
gerous.

JULIA
Wait, what? Why are you so dead set on
not taking it?

Matt pulls her aside as George and Brad start arguing over the possibilities.

MATT
You remember that thing I told you
about earlier? With the girl who
cheated on George?

JULIA
Yeah?

MATT
That's the girl who we are trying to
break out. Her name is Trista.

JULIA
So, he's prejudiced against the case?

MATT
Well I wouldn't-

JULIA

That's not fair for her though, and it's a bad stain on us!

MATT
The thing is-

JULIA
If he doesn't want to take it, I will!

MATT
We can't just-

Brad turns his head towards Julia then back to George.

BRAD
Wait!

MATT
Yeah. Sure. It's not like I had anything important to say.

BRAD
Why don't we let her take it?

Julia perks up.

JULIA
I can do it.

GEORGE
I don't know. Whittenhall is a dangerous case. And this is important.

MATT
They're always important, remember?

GEORGE
Yeah, but-

JULIA
You promised you'd give me a shot.

They all turn their heads to George.

GEORGE
(sighs)
Fine. You can take this case, but don't forget what Matt taught you. Follow every step.

INT. WHITTENHALL'S ROOM - LATER

Julia walks into the room and sits in front of the desk. Whittenhall looks up from a magnifying glass and a small butterfly and appears confused.

WHITTENHALL

Um...Have a seat. I don't believe we've met.

MATT (V.O)
Research is key. Know your teacher.

JULIA
(cheerful)
Hello, Mr. Whittenhall, my name is Julia. I have Mr. Szymanski, so we've never met.

WHITTENHALL
That would explain it. So what can I do for you, Julia?

MATT (V.O)
Know what they do...

JULIA
I understand if you're busy with your butterfly collection—by the way, I heard that there was a Tiger Swallow-tail spotting by the athletic entrance.

WHITTENHALL
No way! Are you serious?!

JULIA
100%. But first, I was wondering if I could have a minute of your time.

WHITTENHALL
(smiles)
Sure.

MATT (V.O)
...Know what they like.

Julia looks up at the sports calendar behind Mr. Whittenhall's head.

JULIA
Oh wow, looks like the big field hockey championship is tomorrow.

WHITTENHALL
Oh yeah I guess you're right.

JULIA
I'll bet you love winning.

WHITTENHALL
I love it more than anything!

JULIA

Yeah, I'm really excited to see the game! Although there is a lot of talk about us losing.

WHITTENHALL
Why is that?

JULIA
Well Trista, you know, the top scorer in the league, isn't going to be at the game.

WHITTENHALL
(disappointed)
Right.

JULIA
Well on that note, I am here to talk to you about Trista. I understand that Trista got an hour because of her behavior lately.

WHITTENHALL
Correct.

JULIA
Well you see, she actually has been more well behaved lately. How many tardies did Trista have on the first month of school?

WHITTENHALL
Seven.

JULIA
And how many last month?

WHITTENHALL
One.

JULIA
You see? She is getting better! I even have here a signed agreement from her stating that she truthfully plans on becoming more well behaved.

Julia pulls out a paper and hands it to Whittenhall.

WHITTENHALL
Hm. So it seems.

JULIA
I'm just going to cut the chase here. Trista really needs to get out of this detention. She wants this championship.

Whittenhall regards her for a moment. Suddenly, his eyes squint a little.

WHITTENHALL
How do you know all this?

JULIA
Well, I just did my research.

WHITTENHALL
Research? For what?

JULIA
Just for this club I'm in.

Whittenhall's eyes grow wide.

WHITTENHALL
Know your teacher.

JULIA
What?

WHITTENHALL
You're here with The Cleaners, aren't you?

JULIA
How do you know—

Whittenhall stands up quickly and menacingly.

WHITTENHALL
How dare you come in here with that group! I will NOT clear her hour! You and your filthy group has ruined the good reputation of this school for ages! Now GET OUT!

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - THAT DAY

George, Matt, and Brad are all standing in front of Julia.

GEORGE
You what?!

BRAD
What do you mean you failed?

GEORGE
Well I don't want to say I told you so...but-

MATT
George, come on.

JULIA
It wasn't my fault he-

GEORGE

No no. I said from the beginning that this was a bad idea because although I hate to say it SHE can't handle this. Whether we want to accept it or not let me just say what we're all thinking. Girls just can't do what we do. So sorry, Susan B. Anthony, but you don't really get a vote on this one anymore.

JULIA
It wasn't my fault.

GEORGE
What did you forget to research?

JULIA
What do you mean?

MATT
The only reason anyone can fail is lack of research. Every teacher has a breaking point, and if there isn't enough research, the breaking point will never be reached.

JULIA
Well, I don't know!

BRAD
Oh, you've got to be kidding me.

JULIA
One weird thing was that he knew the rules of The Cleaners.

MATT
What?

JULIA
You know, know your teacher and all that.

George looks up and spins around.

GEORGE
Wait...you didn't mention the Cleaners, did you?

JULIA
No, he kind of reached that conclusion on his own.

They all stand in silence.

BRAD
...you have heard the story of Whittenhall, right? Why he's such a dangerous case?

Julia shakes her head no.

Brad sighs.

BRAD

It was a long time ago.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - YEARS AGO

Title card: Forty Years Ago.

Three boys in suits sit at a table, judging a young freshman. They wear badges that state "The Cleaners".

BRAD (V.O.)

It was a better time. The 70's. Whittenhall was a freshman

JULIA (V.O.)

A freshman? Wow, he looks fantastic for his age.

BRAD (V.O.)

Agreed. Now. He was up for trial for The Cleaners, very similar to you.

YOUNG WHITTENHALL

So? What do you think of my credentials, Fiske?

YOUNG FISKE

What did you get on your physical?

YOUNG WHITTENHALL

(quickly, knowing the answer immediately)

A perfect score.

YOUNG FISKE

Hm. Erker?

YOUNG ERKER

And how did you do in our logic tests?

YOUNG WHITTENHALL

I beat all eighteen challenges.

YOUNG ERKER

Hm. Morris?

YOUNG MORRIS

What about your grade in psychology?

YOUNG WHITTENHALL

I am well trained in reading body cues and figuring out what a teacher is thinking from them.

BRAD (V.O.)
His credentials were almost perfect.

The three are impressed.

YOUNG FISKE
Your credentials are impressive, I like you. Erker?

YOUNG ERKER
I would work with you as a Cleaner. Morris?

Morris looks slowly from Whittenhall to the other two Cleaners. Then he looks slowly at Whittenhall.

YOUNG MORRIS
Is that a Nautica shirt?

YOUNG WHITTENHALL
(confused)
What?

The smiles slide off the Cleaners' faces as they stare intensely at Whittenhall.

YOUNG MORRIS
That shirt. Is it a Nautica?

YOUNG WHITTENHALL
It's...uh...um...

He looks increasingly nervous and starts to sweat.

YOUNG MORRIS
The question! IS THAT A NAUTICA?

YOUNG FISKE
What's the problem, Whittenhall?

Whittenhall panics and he starts to cry a little and runs out of the room.

YOUNG FISKE
He couldn't take the pressure.

YOUNG MORRIS
Chris Whittenhall?

YOUNG ERKER
Rejected.

He stamps a large "REJECTED" stamp on his file.

BRAD (V.O.)

From that day on, Whittenhall despised the Cleaners and everything they stood for. He vowed to end them.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - CURRENT DAY

The groups stands in silence.

MATT

Wow. So this is what it feels like to fail a mission...

JULIA

What do you mean "fail a mission"? This isn't over yet. You call yourselves men? Are we just going to let some dorky wannabe scare us away from doing our job? I know I've only been part of this group for a day-

GEORGE

You aren't in yet...

JULIA

I'm not even sure if I want to be anymore. I thought this was a serious group that would do whatever it takes to do their job and do it right. Please tell me I'm correct when I say that.

A pause.

GEORGE

I'm sorry.

George sighs and walks towards the door slowly. He turns his head slightly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'll smooth it over with Trista.

He leaves the room. A moment of silence.

BRAD

Well, that will go over well.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Trista stands with her arms crossed, angrily staring at George and Julia.

TRISTA

What do you mean, you can't do it?

GEORGE

It can't be done. Something went wro-

TRISTA
So, you're going to break me out,
right?

GEORGE
That's impossible. Nobody can break
someone out of detention.

Julia turns to him, confused.

TRISTA
Oh, I forgot that's just a gimmick you
tell your customers.

JULIA
What?

GEORGE
(sheepishly)
Well, you see, we were so good at
cleaning the hours that we never
really...had to.

TRISTA
You never had to? Or you never had the
guts?

GEORGE
I could do it if I wanted!

TRISTA
(slowly approaches him)
I thought if anyone could do it, it was
Big 'Ole Georgie.

She starts to walk away. She turns back for one more comment.

TRISTA (CONT'D)
And you wondered why I left you in the
first place.

George stands silently, not believing what she just said. He
considers it, then tries to grab her.

GEORGE
Trista!

She turns around to glare at him.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
(with a small smile)
We'll see you at 2:30. Be ready.

Julia breaks into a wide smile.

MONTAGE--THE PLAN

-George lays out blueprints of the caf and points to it.

GEORGE (V.O)
 Alright, Matt, you will be stationed
 here.

-Matt types on his laptop.

-Farrell directs the kids in detention to their seats.

-Shot of "Detention in Progress".

-Matt hacks into the security cameras in the cafeteria.

-Brad fires a blowdart at a target and hits the center of a target.

GEORGE (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Julia, you'll take the East side.

-Brad putting ropes on the table.

GEORGE (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Brad and I will be stationed on the
 roof.

-Matt looks at his laptop screen, which shows shots of the caf.

-Szymanski and Farrell are walking into the cafeteria.

-George talks to the crew while checking his clipboard.

END MONTAGE.

INT. CAF - AFTERNOON

SZYMANSKI and FARRELL are preparing their seats in detention.
 Whittenhall walks in and approaches them.

WHITTENHALL
 Hey, guys?

Szymanski and Farrell turn to face him.

WHITTENHALL
 Can you keep a special eye on everyone
 today?

FARRELL
 Why?

WHITTENHALL
 There might be a...breakout.

SZYMANSKI
 A breakout? Who would do that?

WHITTENHALL

Well, just some...doesn't matter. Just watch the entrances.

FARRELL

There are only two entrances, both in our eyesight. How could kids break in here?

Whittenhall laughs.

WHITTENHALL

Yeah, you're right. How on earth could anyone get in here?

The camera glides up and over their heads, through the ceiling.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George and Brad are on the roof with their tools and ropes. Brad begins to cut through the roof.

INT. VAN IN PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Matt is hacking on his laptop.

MATT

Alright, I'm in. Szymanski and Farrell are there. You know what to do.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Szymanski and Farrell are in the caf. Szymanski walks around the caf with Farrell, noticeably more excited than her.

SZYMANSKI

Ready for hours, Farrell?

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

MATT

(into bluetooth)
Julia, page Farrell.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Julia enters the office where Hahn and a secretary are.

JULIA

(to secretary)

Hello. I was looking for Ms. Farrell. She said that she'd be in her room after school, but she's not there.

SECRETARY

She's monitoring detention.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt speaks into the bluetooth.

MATT

You need to get Farrell out of there,
Julia.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Julia looks stressed.

JULIA

Well, I really need to talk to her.

The secretary picks up the phone.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Farrell picks up the phone.

FARRELL

Hello?

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

SECRETARY

Ms. Farrell, please report to the main
office, you have a student looking for
you.

She hangs up. Julia looks at her and smiles.

JULIA

Thank you!

Julia walks out.

SECRETARY

Wait! Where are you going?

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Ms. Farrell turns to Szymanski.

FARRELL

Ugh. I'll be right back.

SZYMANSKI

Don't worry! I'll hold down the fort
while you're gone.

Farrell begins to walk away.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

MATT

Farrell is out of the foxhole.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Brad tightens his harness as George hands him a dart.

GEORGE

Copy that. The sandman is being
dropped.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Farrell is walking away as Brad is lowered into the caf. He hangs a few feet above Szymanski.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George suddenly loses his grip on the rope.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad starts to fall.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George regains his grip and pulls hard back on the rope.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad is halted literally an inch above the ground.

Szymanski, turned away from him, doesn't notice.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George pulls hard on the rope, bringing Brad back up.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad starts to raise up toward the ceiling.

Farrell turns around, hearing the rope, but Brad disappears up to the roof right before she can see it. She only sees Szymanski walking a little bit. Szymanski waves cheerfully, and Farrell rolls her eyes and walks out.

Brad hangs directly above Szymanski as he waves to Farrell. He starts to walk away.

Brad drops again and blows a dart at Szymanski. Szymanski grabs his neck and pulls the dart out. Seconds later, he collapses on the table.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George nods as he sees Brad take Szymanski out.

GEORGE
Matt, I'm staying in position. We need
another eye in the sky.

MATT (V.O.)
Roger that.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt checks his computer monitor.

MATT
Brad, the lightning has struck. Try not
to be seen. Go!

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad nods from under the table.

BRAD
Roger that.

Brad starts sprinting towards Trista. Eventually, he reaches
Trista, who is checking her watch. It reads 2:25.

Brad quickly pulls Trista along as they dash across the caf to
the exit to the picnic area.

Just as Brad and Trista walk out, Julia struts in and makes her
way to Trista's previous seat.

As she sits down, the camera pans to reveal Ms. Farrell walking
in.

The phone rings.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt furiously types on his laptop and looks nervously at the
screen.

MATT
Hey, um, guys, we've got a problem.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Trista and Brad slow down as Brad reaches to his earpiece.

BRAD
What?

MATT (V.O.)
Incoming call. From Nighthawk.

INT. WHITTENHALL'S ROOM

Whittenhall has the phone in his hand with his feet on his desk, reclining casually in his chair.

WHITTENHALL
Hi, I have a student in detention,
Trista--

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Farrell is on the phone.

FARRELL
--Oh Trista. Yeah, I think she's here.

WHITTENHALL (V.O)
Yes, um, may I speak with her?

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt's eyes widen.

MATT
Uh-oh, guys. We've got a DEFCON 1 here,
Nighthawk has left the nest.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad and Trista are at a complete stop.

BRAD
Shoot.

TRISTA
(panicking)
What?!

MATT (V.O)
You've got to turn around and head
back.

BRAD
(incredulous)
What?!

TRISTA
What?!

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt nearly screams into the earpiece, visibly stressed.

MATT
(very slowly)
I said, put...the baby chick...back
into the nest. Pronto!

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad furiously stomps and turns around.

BRAD
Fine!

TRISTA
WHAT?!

BRAD
(screaming over his
shoulder)
We're bringing you back to the nest!

TRISTA
What the **hell** does that mean?

BRAD
Come on!

Trista scurries behind him to catch up.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Ms. Farrell turns around, phone in hand, to the students.

FARRELL
(shouting)
Trista!

Julia puts her head down, trembling, trying to conceal her identity.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad and Trista run up towards the school.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

FARRELL (CONT'D)
Trista!

JULIA
(whispering to herself)
Shoot.

Julia gets up.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad helps Trista as they climb the school.

MATT (V.O)
Hurry up, Brad. Running out of time.

BRAD
(quietly)
Not helping.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Farrell notices Szymanski knocked out on the table and leaves the phone hanging for Julia as she makes her way over to Szymanski.

Julia gulps, and, as slowly as possible, approaches the phone.

Farrell turns her back to the phone to wake up Szymanski.

The camera pushes in on Julia as she grabs the phone slowly.

EXT. ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Brad and Trista sprint across the roof towards George and the hole.

George tosses the rig and the rope to Brad.

Brad swings it over him and grabs Trista and falls into the hole skillfully as George grabs the rope.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Trista and Brad fall from the ceiling behind Farrell. Brad is quickly pulled back up into the ceiling and Trista sprints towards Julia at the phone.

Julia ducks behind the wall and passes the phone to Trista.

TRISTA

Hello?

INT. WHITTENHALL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Whittenhall grinds his teeth a little and hangs up the phone. He sits silently for a moment.

WHITTENHALL

...Cleaners.

He stands up and walks out.

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Trista quietly hangs up the phone.

Julia grabs Trista and pulls her around the corner.

JULIA

Farrell won't notice you're gone now, she's too busy with Szymanski. Let's go.

They run towards the foreign language wing.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Matt starts typing rapidly.

MATT
I don't have eyes in that hall.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Julia stops Trista and they press up against a wall.

JULIA
Why not?

INTERCUT - HALLWAY/VAN

MATT
We weren't supposed to be in there!

JULIA
Well, get into the cameras!

Matt starts typing rapidly.

From down the hallway, Whittenhall turns the corner and starts heading towards them.

In the van, an "ACCESS DENIED" message pops up on Matt's screen.

MATT
Dammit.

Whittenhall walks closer and closer.

JULIA
Hurry up! We can't proceed without visual safety.

An "ACCESS GRANTED" message pops up on Matt's computer, and then video of the hallway begins. Matt spies Whittenhall.

MATT
Warning, Nighthawk is approaching.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George and Brad are now away from the hole, walking back to the van.

GEORGE
What??

INTERCUT - HALLWAY/VAN

JULIA
Can we duck across the hall?

MATT

He's too close, he'll see you.

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE
Move to Plan B! Call in the reserves.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

MATT
(to himself)
Reserves...

Matt slams on the enter key.

MATT (CONT'D)
...Go.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Julia looks panicked. Trista has a confused look on her face.

TRISTA
What's wrong?

EXT. CAF ROOF - CONTINUOUS

George starts to run towards the edge of the building while Brad runs to the hole.

GEORGE
Execute Plan B! That is an order! Get
back in the caf!

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Matt jumps out of the van seconds later and runs to the cafeteria.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Julia grabs Trista by the arm and pulls her towards the cafeteria.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Brad arrives at the hole and covers it up with the removed piece of ceiling.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Whittenhall turns the corner towards the caf. He looks over at Farrell still struggling to wake Szymanski up. He pushes past a group of oncoming cross country runners carrying their stuff and heads towards her.

From afar, he sees Trista with her head buried in her arms.

WHITTENHALL
 So she did make it...I'd better wake
 her up...no sleeping in detention.

EXT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

George turns around the corner and runs into the caf.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Whittenhall walks towards the cafeteria. Just then, Mr. Erker and Mr. Erker come out from the teacher's lounge and step in front of him. Whittenhall tries to get around them.

MR. ERKER
 What's the matter, Whittenhall?

MR. FISKE
 Yeah, what's the rush?

WHITTENHALL
 Sorry, boys-

MR. ERKER
 We just want to talk a little.

MR. FISKE
 Yeah, catch up on good ol' times.

WHITTENHALL
 No, I can't talk to you guys right now!

INT. CAF - CONTINUOUS

Whittenhall approaches Trista, whose head is down.

All of a sudden, George strolls up to him, slightly out of breath.

GEORGE
 Hello, there.

WHITTENHALL
 (mumbles)
 Hello.

GEORGE
 Is that a Nautica shirt?

Whittenhall stops dead in his tracks.

WHITTENHALL
 What did you say?

GEORGE
 That shirt. Is it a Nautica shirt?

Whittenhall visibly becomes angry.

WHITTENHALL
You little punk!

George straightens himself up.

Whittenhall looks from Trista to George. He squints at George.

WHITTENHALL
You're a Cleaner, aren't you?

GEORGE
What?

WHITTENHALL
That's why Erker and Fiske were there!
They were there to distract me!

GEORGE
I-

WHITTENHALL
You were going to break her out,
weren't you? You came here to get
Trista!!!

George lowers his head.

WHITTENHALL (CONT'D)
You're coming with me.

Whittenhall grabs George by the wrist and drags him out.

As they leave the caf, the camera pans down to Trista. She slowly lifts her head, revealing Matt in a girl's wig. He smirks as he watches George leave.

INT. HALLWAY - FLASHBACK

Julia grabs Trista by the arm and pulls her towards the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA - FLASHBACK

Matt sprints in the other door leading outside. He runs toward Julia and Trista, who are running towards him.

As Julia runs, she whips off the dress that was her disguise for Trista, revealing normal clothes and a sweatshirt.

Matt also whips off his sweatshirt and glasses.

When they meet, Matt quickly throws the glasses and sweatshirt on Trista with the hood up while Julia throws the dress on him. Matt grabs the Trista wig, puts it on, and sits down.

Julia throws her hood on and her and Trista jump into a group of kids passing by.

At that moment, Whittenhall enters the cafeteria and spies Matt dressed as Trista, his head in his arms. He pushes past the group of kids, and we now see that Trista and Julia slip right past him, unseen.

EXT. ATHLETIC ENTRANCE - FLASHBACK

Trista and Julia sprint out the athletic doors, and Trista jumps on the bus.

TRISTA
Thank you!

Julia watches the bus go and runs inside.

INT. HALLWAY - PRESENT TIME

Julia stands dumbfounded as she watches George being escorted away. After they are out of sight, she turns to her bluetooth.

JULIA
(into bluetooth)
What the hell happened to George? How did Whittenhall get him? George is too good for that!

BRAD (V.O)
You're right, he is. We needed a distraction.

JULIA
What?

BRAD (V.O)
A distraction. If they found out that wasn't Trista, our cover would be blown.

JULIA
(quietly, to herself)
He saved the mission.

INT. OUTSIDE OF OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

George leaves the office, head down, lead by Hahn and Whittenhall.

HAHN
Why would you do such a stupid thing like breaking a student out?

GEORGE
Don't be ridiculous.

He looks at Hahn.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Nobody can break somebody out of detention.

They walk through a large crowd of students.

They both pass Brad reading a book leaning up against the wall, and he watches them pass.

Then, they pass Matt talking to a group of friends, laughing but at the same time, watching them pass.

Finally, they pass Julia looking through her backpack. Julia looks up slowly and watches them pass.

As Hahn, George, and Whittenhall walk away, George turns around. Brad, Matt, and Julia have grouped together to watch him go. Brad gives a nod to George, and then George starts to grin.

FADE OUT.