

**AGENTS**

by Robert Arnold

EPISODE FOUR:

OVERNIGHT SHIFT

**CHARACTERS**

<b>VINCE</b>	<b>A depressed poet</b>
<b>ELAINE</b>	<b>A doctor</b>
<b>MADGE</b>	<b>An office manager</b>
<b>RADIO</b>	<b>An electronics expert</b>
<b>OVERSTREET</b>	<b>A Human Resources Manager</b>
<b>ANNOUNCER</b>	
<b>NEWSCASTER</b>	
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	

1 **SOUND:** DINER AMBIENCE. CONTINUES UNDER.

2 **ELAINE:** Oh, and can I get a coffee too? Cream and  
3 just a little sugar. Thanks.

4 **VINCE:** (PAUSE, HUSHED) You really think it's not  
5 safe to talk in your car?

6 **ELAINE:** No. I don't think that. I'm just -- being  
7 overly careful.

8 **VINCE:** Why?

9 **ELAINE:** Because. You brought up Madeleine Stevenson.

10 **VINCE:** Who is that?

11 **ELAINE:** Are you serious? I thought you'd been stuck  
12 in a hotel room for weeks with nothing to  
13 do. Haven't you even glanced at the news?

14 **VINCE:** (SHEEPISH) It's too depressing.

15 **ELAINE:** Madeleine Stevenson is the Secretary of  
16 State for the New Midwest Territory. This  
17 year she's been making a bid for Territory  
18 President. Running as an independent.

1 VINCE: But, I mean -- there's no way she'd ever  
2 unseat Readick, right? That guy has the  
3 whole Party machine behind him.

4 ELAINE: True. But Stevenson was making as good a  
5 showing as anyone ever has. Running on a  
6 platform of federal reunification.

7 VINCE: Bold.

8 ELAINE: Yeah, and popular. According to the polls,  
9 it was working. At least until she vanished  
10 a few weeks ago.

11 VINCE: Vanished?

12 ELAINE: She and her campaign manager disappeared  
13 from a hotel suite in Northhaven. No sign of  
14 her since. Presumed abducted and  
15 assassinated, but nobody knows for sure.

16 VINCE: So why in the world would that sniper  
17 mention her to me? (PAUSE) You don't think  
18 Mr. Jonas is mixed up in it, do you?

1 **ELAINE:** If he is, I'm sure it's for the good. But  
2 either way, until we know something more --  
3 best not to mention it to anyone. Agreed?

4 **MUSIC:** **TRANSITION.**

5

1 SOUND: TYPING. IT STOPS.

2 SOUND: ENTRY DOOR OPENS.

3 MADGE: Well! Good evening, Mr. Harris!

4 VINCE: (APPROACHING) Hello. Madge, right? Here I  
5 am, reporting for duty.

6 MADGE: Glad to hear it. Boy, you must have really  
7 made them mad.

8 VINCE: How did you know?

9 MADGE: Because. They gave you the overnight shift.

10 VINCE: Which is...?

11 MADGE: Exactly what it sounds like. Come with me.

12 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS.

13 SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

14 RADIO: (PLAYS IN BG)

15

1   **MADGE:**                   Here you go. You'll be monitoring the  
2                                   station's broadcast signals and making sure  
3                                   everything runs smoothly until the morning  
4                                   shift arrives.

5   **VINCE:**                   But -- I don't know how to work any of this  
6                                   stuff.

7   **MADGE:**                   You won't need to. Not really. Claude --  
8                                   "Radio" -- programs the equipment, so the  
9                                   overnight broadcasts are all run by  
10                                  computer. See these meters? If any of them  
11                                  go into the red -- or if the signal drops  
12                                  out completely -- you call him.

13   **VINCE:**                   Doesn't sound so bad.

14   **MADGE:**                   That part isn't. It's the other part of your  
15                                  assignment that will be a challenge.

16   **VINCE:**                   Why? What do I have to do?

17   **MADGE:**                   Stay awake.

18   **MUSIC:**                   **TRANSITION.**

19

1 ANNOUNCER: (FADES IN) These are the stories that  
2 echo... through the Cave of Whispers!

3 MUSIC: RADIO THEME MUSIC.

4 VINCE: (SNORES LIGHTLY)

5 SOUND: SOFT BUZZ.

6 VINCE: (GASPS AWAKE)

7 SOUND: SOFT BUZZ.

8 SOUND: PHONE LIFTED, BUTTON PRESSED.

9 VINCE: (SLEEPY) Uh... KNMW.

10 ELAINE: (PHONE) Hello, I'd like to request a love  
11 song from that sexy new DJ.

12 VINCE: Ha. DJ is way overstating it. No wonder Madge  
13 considers this a punishment. It's super quiet  
14 and super boring. Are you at home?

15 ELAINE: (PHONE) Actually, they've got me on  
16 assignment tonight too. (PROUDLY) Your wife  
17 is conducting a stakeout.

18 VINCE: What?



1 ELAINE: (PHONE) Don't worry, it's a lot less  
2 thrilling than it sounds. I'm parked across  
3 from this apartment building, watching to  
4 see if a certain guy comes out. If he does,  
5 I follow him.

6 VINCE: Who is he?

7 ELAINE: (PHONE) No idea. I just know what he looks  
8 like.

9 VINCE: Sounds dangerous.

10 ELAINE: (PHONE) Nah. Even if he shows his face, I'm  
11 not supposed to do anything but follow. And  
12 the lights in his apartment have been off  
13 for a while already. So I think he's asleep.

14 VINCE: Yeah, well, I guess every assignment can't  
15 be as exciting as --

16 SOUND: ELECTRONIC CRACKLE. RADIO CUTS OUT. POWERING  
17 DOWN. THEN SILENCE.

18 VINCE: Ah, crap.

19 ELAINE: (PHONE) Everything okay?

1 VINCE: Hang on.

2 SOUND: BUTTON PRESSED. AGAIN.

3 VINCE: We're off the air. I think the power just  
4 went out.

5 ELAINE: (PHONE) What did you do?

6 VINCE: Nothing. Darling, I gotta go. Be careful,  
7 okay?

8 ELAINE: (PHONE) I will. Talk to you tomorrow.

9 SOUND: PHONE HUNG UP, PICKED BACK UP.

10 SOUND: DIALING.

11 SOUND: (PHONE) PHONE LINE RINGS.

12 VINCE: Come on, come on...

13 SOUND: (PHONE) PHONE PICKED UP.

14 RADIO: (PHONE) What did you do?

15 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

16

1 SOUND: TYPING (FADES IN).

2 VINCE: So? Did I break it?

3 RADIO: Nah. Just a brownout. Happens every now and  
4 again. You know the Territory's power grid.

5 VINCE: Oh good.

6 RADIO: Everything just needed a quick reboot. We  
7 should be back up and running now.

8 VINCE: That's a relief. Sorry to wake you up and  
9 drag you out here. On my first night, too.

10 RADIO: No harm done. Lately I don't sleep much  
11 anyway. Say, Poet, what did you do to get  
12 yourself assigned to the overnight shift?

13 VINCE: "Poet," huh? Here's hoping that code name  
14 doesn't stick.

15 RADIO: Come on, spill. What did you do?

16 VINCE: Honestly? Took out a sniper with my bare  
17 hands, and saved Mr. Jonas's life.

18 RADIO: (IMPRESSED) Good for you.

1 VINCE: Apparently that's deserving of punishment in  
2 this organization.

3 RADIO: Ah, Overstreet's just a tight-ass. Always has  
4 to make his point. Don't let it get to you.

5 VINCE: Hey, since you're here -- can I ask you  
6 something I've been wondering about?

7 RADIO: You want to know why I covered for you with  
8 him, after you screwed up your training?

9 VINCE: Well... yeah.

10 RADIO: I dunno. I liked your spirit, I guess. No  
11 one's ever stood up like that before.

12 VINCE: Well, anyway. I appreciate it.

13 RADIO: Sure. You want to return the favor?

14 VINCE: (HESITANT) Okay...

15 RADIO: You can remember something for me. Ready?  
16 (PAUSE) "Stage Eleven."

17 VINCE: (PAUSE) "Stage Eleven"?

18 RADIO: You got it.

1 VINCE: What am I supposed to -- ?

2 RADIO: Just remember it. That's enough for now.

3 VINCE: Okay, but -- hang on.

4 SOUND: CELL PHONE BUZZES, ANSWERED.

5 VINCE: Elaine?

6 ELAINE: (PHONE) Vince. I couldn't get you on the  
7 station phone.

8 VINCE: Yeah, I'm in the server room with Radio. Is  
9 everything okay?

10 ELAINE: (PHONE) My guy did leave his apartment, and  
11 he's been on the move. I'm following him.  
12 Can you stay on the line with me for a bit?

13 VINCE: Of course.

14 ELAINE: (PHONE) He's been acting really sketchy. He  
15 snuck out of his place so fast I almost  
16 missed him. Then he drove to some little  
17 house in Hampton Park and was peeking in  
18 through the windows.

1 VINCE: A house in Hampton Park?

2 RADIO: (CONCERNED) Who is that?

3 ELAINE: (PHONE) Now he's back in his car and headed  
4 down Smith Street.

5 VINCE: (TO RADIO) It's Elaine. Uh, "Doc." She's  
6 tailing someone who was scoping out a house.

7 RADIO: Where's the guy now?

8 VINCE: (TO ELAINE) Where is he now?

9 ELAINE: (PHONE) Smith going west. We just crossed  
10 Maple.

11 VINCE: Wow, you're close. Be sure to wave at us  
12 when you pass by the station.

13 ELAINE: (PHONE) Sure. Here's the thing, though -- I  
14 don't think we're going past.

15 VINCE: What do you mean?

16 ELAINE: (PHONE) He just pulled into the alleyway  
17 behind KNMW.

1 RADIO: What did she say? (PAUSE) He's coming here,  
2 isn't he?

3 ELAINE: (PHONE) Vince? You don't think he's trying  
4 to get where you are, do you?

5 RADIO: Put her on speaker.

6 VINCE: Elaine, I'm putting you on speaker.

7 SOUND: BUTTON PRESSED.

8 RADIO: Doc, it's Radio. Someone's at the station?

9 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Yeah, I'm watching him. He parked  
10 in the alley and got out. Now he's looking  
11 through a side window. Hang on, he's...

12 SOUND: GLASS SHATTERS (DISTANT).

13 RADIO: (TO VINCE) Do you have a gun?

14 VINCE: What? Of course I don't have a gun!

15 SOUND: GUN HANDLED, CLIP LOADED.

16

1 RADIO: You should. I'll check it out. You stay  
2 here. Lock the door and stay on the line  
3 with Doc. Doc, if anything happens, call  
4 Omni before you call the police, okay?

5 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Please be careful.

6 RADIO: (GRINNING) All in a day's work.

7 SOUND: STEEL DOOR OPENS, CLOSES. BOLTED.

8 VINCE: Still there?

9 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Vince, he's inside. I'm worried.  
10 What could this possibly be about?

11 VINCE: It's okay. Just a break-in. I'm sure Radio can  
12 handle it. (PAUSE) Can you see anything now?

13 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Yeah. He's moving around inside  
14 the lobby. Wait, he's coming up to the front  
15 entrance. He's...

16 VINCE: What?

17 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) It looks like he's unlocking the  
18 front doors.



1 VINCE: Preparing for a quick getaway?

2 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Maybe, or else -- hang on. Radio  
3 just showed up.

4 RADIO: (SHOUTING, DISTANT)

5 SOUND: GUNFIRE (DISTANT).

6 VINCE: They're shooting.

7 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Vince, stay where you are! They're  
8 coming back down the hall toward you. They --

9 VINCE: What?

10 SOUND: GUNFIRE (CLOSER). THEN QUIET.

11 VINCE: What's going on? Can you tell?

12 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) No. No, I...

13 RADIO: (PAUSE) (CALLING) I got him!

14 VINCE: (SIGHS) Okay. Radio says he got him. Wow, I  
15 guess my coworker just shot a guy...

16 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Vince. There's another one.

17 VINCE: What?

1 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) A second man just walked up to the  
2 station. He's going in the front door. And  
3 Vince, he --

4 VINCE: What?

5 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) He's got a gun too. A big one.

6 VINCE: (PAUSE) I need to warn Radio.

7 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) No, don't! Stay put.

8 VINCE: Elaine, if they get him, they're just going  
9 to come after me next. I've got to.

10 SOUND: DOOR UNBOLTED, OPENED.

11 SOUND: RUSHING FOOTSTEPS.

12 VINCE: (PAUSE) (HISSING) Radio! Get down!

13 RADIO: Why? What --

14 VINCE: There's another one! Get down!

15 SOUND: LOUD MACHINE GUN FIRE. GLASS SHATTERING,  
16 RICOCHETS, ETC.

17 RADIO: Whoa! This one brought some real hardware!

- 1 SOUND: PISTOL FIRES BACK.
- 2 SOUND: MORE MACHINE GUN FIRE.
- 3 RADIO: Poet, quick -- get back to the server room.  
4 I'll cover you.
- 5 VINCE: What about you?
- 6 RADIO: I'm right behind you. Go. Now!
- 7 SOUND: PISTOL FIRE.
- 8 SOUND: MACHINE GUN FIRE.
- 9 SOUND: RUSHING FOOTSTEPS.
- 10 SOUND: MORE GUNFIRE.
- 11 RADIO: Close it. Stay low! Now lock it and move  
12 away.
- 13 SOUND: DOOR SLAMS, BOLTED.
- 14 SOUND: MACHINE GUN FIRE (MUFFLED).
- 15 SOUND: BULLETS THUD AGAINST STEEL.

1 RADIO: (PANTING) That's a reinforced fire door. It  
2 won't last long against that kind of ammo,  
3 but it's better than nothing.

4 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Guys! Talk to me! What's going on?

5 VINCE: He's got us pinned in the server room. For  
6 the moment, he can't get in.

7 RADIO: Yeah, and we can't get out. The second we  
8 open that door, we are Swiss cheese.

9 VINCE: Can't we call for backup?

10 SOUND: MACHINE GUN FIRE (MUFFLED).

11 SOUND: DOOR RATTLES.

12 RADIO: Sure. But we've got about thirty seconds  
13 until that door gives way.

14 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Backup's already here. Sit tight,  
15 fellas. I'm coming in.

16 VINCE: You're what?

1 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) He doesn't know I'm outside. I'll  
2 distract him. It may buy you two, three  
3 seconds to open that door and take him out.

4 VINCE: Elaine! No way! You can't --

5 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) Vince. I can. Trust me.

6 RADIO: You sure about this, Doc?

7 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) I'm open to other ideas. But you  
8 better have them quick. (PAUSE) Okay, here  
9 we go. I can see him through the doors.  
10 Radio, I don't have much cover on this side,  
11 so as soon as he starts shooting my way, you  
12 open that door and put him down, okay?

13 RADIO: You got it. Get ready with that door, Poet.

14 VINCE: Elaine, I...

15 ELAINE: (SPEAKER) I know. Me too. (A BREATH) Here  
16 goes. (TO THE SHOOTER) Hey, ugly!

17 SOUND: MACHINE GUN FIRE (MUFFLED).

18 SOUND: BOLT THROWN BACK. DOOR OPENED.

1 VINCE: Go! Go!

2 SOUND: RUSHING FOOTSTEPS.

3 SOUND: PISTOL FIRE. MACHINE GUN FIRE RETURNS. THE  
4 CHAOS OF A BRIEF FIREFIGHT. THEN CALM.

5 VINCE: (PAUSE) (CALLING) Elaine! Elaine, say  
6 something! Are you okay?

7 ELAINE: (DISTANT) I'm okay! I dove under a desk.  
8 (CLOSER) He's down. Let me get the gun away  
9 from him.

10 SOUND: GUN SKITTERS ACROSS FLOOR.

11 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS AS VINCE ENTERS THE SCENE.

12 VINCE: Oh my God. Good shooting, Radio. It looked  
13 like you were right in the line of... Radio?

14 RADIO: Uhh...

15 VINCE: Oh no. He's hit. Elaine, quick!

16 SOUND: RUSHING FOOTSTEPS.

17 RADIO: (GASPING) Remember... remember.

1 VINCE: It's okay. Hang in there, buddy. It's okay,  
2 we got a doctor right here. Everything's  
3 gonna be fine. Elaine? What can we...?

4 RADIO: (GASPING SLOWS, THEN STOPS)

5 VINCE: Elaine!

6 ELAINE: Vince. I'm sorry.

7 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

8

1 SOUND: CRIME SCENE AMBIENCE. VOICES, RADIOS.

2 OVERSTREET: Thank you, officer. If you don't mind, I need  
3 to make a few calls. I'll be in my office.

4 SOUND: CRIME SCENE SOUNDS FADE. DOOR CLOSSES.

5 OVERSTREET: You can come out now. I kept you out of it.  
6 (PAUSE) Well! You two sure have been at the  
7 center of a lot of messes lately.

8 ELAINE: Who were those men? Do you know?

9 OVERSTREET: As far as the police are concerned? Two  
10 crazed assassins acting under their own  
11 volition. But we're pretty sure they were  
12 Harding's men, seeking revenge for the  
13 botched handoff at the Columbia Hotel.

14 VINCE: How would they know to come to the station?

15 OVERSTREET: Someone must have talked.

16 ELAINE: I'm so sorry about Radio.

17 OVERSTREET: As are we all. I know you did what you  
18 could. Mr. Harris, you were here with him  
19 before the shooters broke in?



1 ELAINE: (PAUSE) Vince?

2 VINCE: (PREOCCUPIED) Huh? Oh. Yeah.

3 OVERSTREET: Did he say anything to you? Anything unusual?

4 VINCE: (PAUSE) No.

5 ELAINE: What was he trying to tell you at the end?  
6 Asking you to remember something?

7 VINCE: Yeah, I, uh... I couldn't make it out. Sorry.

8 OVERSTREET: All right, Mr. Harris. As soon as the police  
9 clear out, you go back to your hotel and get  
10 some rest. I'm taking you off active duty  
11 until further notice.

12 ELAINE: Anything I can do?

13 OVERSTREET: In fact there is. Our first shooter is dead.  
14 The second is wounded, but hanging on. He's  
15 going to need some excellent medical care.

16 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

17

1 **NEWSCASTER:** (RADIO) ...a downtown Reunification Rally that  
2 attracted several thousand demonstrators. The  
3 crowd assembled to demand a lasting peace  
4 between Territories, with many in attendance  
5 advocating a return to an overarching federal  
6 government. In response, President William  
7 Readick this evening took to the airwaves to  
8 deliver a message of hope.

9 **PRESIDENT:** (RADIO) My fellow citizens, we understand your  
10 pain. We recognize that you are suffering  
11 under the restrictions of a political system  
12 that sees adjacent territories treat one  
13 another like hostile foreign powers. And so,  
14 in response to your petitions -- and in the  
15 spirit of our late, esteemed colleague,  
16 Secretary of State Madeleine Stevenson -- I am  
17 proud to announce that this administration  
18 will renew its efforts to establish peaceful  
19 relations with all neighboring territories.  
20 The road ahead will not be easy, nor the  
21 journey quick. But I promise you... (FADES TO  
22 BACKGROUND)

23 **SOUND:** TYPING.

1 SOUND: ENTRY DOOR OPENS. TYPING STOPS.

2 MADGE: Mr. Harris! You're back!

3 VINCE: Hey Madge. God, this place is a wreck.

4 MADGE: Will be for a while. But at least we're

5 still on the air. What are you doing here?

6 After everything that happened last night...

7 VINCE: I know. I'm not here to work. Madge -- I

8 need your help.

9 MUSIC: CLOSING.

10

11 END OF EPISODE FOUR