

AGENTS

by Robert Arnold

EPISODE SEVEN:

FIRE ESCAPE

CHARACTERS

VINCE	A depressed poet
ELAINE	A doctor
BISHOP	A sniper
MADELEINE	A politician
BURKE	A reporter
OVERSTREET	A Human Resources Manager
FLOWERS	Mr. Overstreet's muscle
MADGE	An office manager
WAITER	
EMTS	

1 BISHOP: I don't see how. They used some serious
2 accelerant.

3 ELAINE: (COUGHS) Well, we have to do something! We
4 won't last long with this smoke.

5 BISHOP: (PAUSE) What about your shadow?

6 ELAINE: My what?

7 BISHOP: Your shadow. The woman who's been tailing us
8 all night.

9 ELAINE: What woman?

10 BISHOP: You mean you didn't know? And didn't notice?
11 Man, what kind of amateurs is your side
12 working with?

13 VINCE: Hey, cut us some slack, all right? We
14 weren't exactly trained for this.

15 ELAINE: It must be Burke.

16 VINCE: Who?

1 ELAINE: The reporter. From the hospital. She can
2 help us. Look outside! See if you see her in
3 the parking lot.

4 BISHOP: Nobody out these windows.

5 VINCE: Or here.

6 MADELEINE: I see an older model sedan in this lot.
7 Could that be her?

8 ELAINE: Let me see. (PAUSE) Maybe. Maybe so. Okay,
9 we need to get her attention.

10 VINCE: We have to get through that window.

11 MADELEINE: But it's shatterproof.

12 VINCE: Try anyway. Find the heaviest thing you can.
13 Elaine, hand me that lamp. Come on, guys.
14 Batters up.

15 ALL: (GRUNTS, EFFORT)

16 SOUND: GLASS CRACKS, BUT DOES NOT BREAK.

17 ELAINE: No good.

18 MADELEINE: (COUGHS)

1 VINCE: It's getting thick in here.

2 ELAINE: Think. Think.

3 BISHOP: Maybe we can weaken the window.

4 ELAINE: How?

5 BISHOP: Glass melts, doesn't it?

6 VINCE: You're saying --

7 BISHOP: Flowers left that can of accelerant.

8 (FADING) Let me grab it.

9 VINCE: Wait, you're saying add more fire?

10 SOUND: GAS CAN SLOSHING.

11 BISHOP: (RETURNING) You got a better idea? Stand
12 back. I'll coat it as best I can. You two --

13 SOUND: GAS SLOSHED.

14 SOUND: WHOOSH OF FLAME.

15 MADELEINE: Oh!

1 BISHOP: Stay back, Madam Secretary. You two, get
2 behind that desk there, and be ready to push
3 it through the window.

4 VINCE: Sweetheart, remind me again why I couldn't
5 stand my quiet, aimless life.

6 ELAINE: (TO BISHOP) All right. We're ready.

7 SOUND: GAS SLOSHED.

8 BISHOP: One more second...

9 ELAINE: We don't have many seconds to spare, Bishop.

10 BISHOP: Okay... okay. Let's go!

11 V, E, & B: (PUSH, GRUNT)

12 SOUND: DESK SCREECHES ACROSS FLOOR.

13 SOUND: GLASS SHATTERS.

14 BISHOP: (WITH EFFORT) Good! Keep going! Push it all
15 the way out!

16 SOUND: DESK SCREECHES, TIPS.

1 **ELAINE:** (PANTING) (PAUSE) I just hope that's enough
2 to get her attention.

3 **SOUND:** A DISTANT CRASH.

4 **SOUND:** A CAR ALARM.

5 **VINCE:** I think it'll be enough.

6 **MUSIC:** TRANSITION.

7

1 SOUND: WHOOSHING FLAME.

2 MADELEINE: (COUGHING)

3 ELAINE: Madam Secretary...

4 MADELEINE: (CHOKED) I'm all right. I'm all right.

5 ELAINE: Just stay as close as you can to that open
6 window. And breathe. Breathe!

7 SOUND: BANGING ON METAL DOOR.

8 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Dr. Margulies! Are you in there?

9 ELAINE: It's her. (CALLING) Burke! We're trapped!
10 There's a fire! You have to open the door!

11 SOUND: METAL DOOR CLATTERS.

12 BURKE: (MUFFLED) I can't! It's padlocked shut!

13 VINCE: Right, because why should anything go our
14 way tonight?

15 BISHOP: A padlock? We can get through a padlock.
16 (CALLING) Ms. Burke! Listen to me. My name is
17 Bishop. You're going to pick that lock, okay?

1 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Not part of my skill set, I'm afraid.

2 BISHOP: I'll talk you through it. Do you have a
3 hairpin?

4 BURKE: (MUFFLED) A hairpin? No. I have a scrunchie.

5 ELAINE: Not helpful, Burke.

6 BISHOP: How about a paperclip?

7 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Oh, yeah! Dozens.

8 BISHOP: All right, great. We need two. Listen close,
9 okay? Take one paperclip and straighten it
10 out. Then fold it in half to make a loop.

11 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Okay...

12 BISHOP: Okay, good, now flatten the loop, and bend
13 the whole thing at a ninety-degree angle.
14 Got it? That's your tension tool.

15 MADELEINE: (COUGHING)

16 VINCE: Breathe, Madam Secretary. Just -- (COUGHING)

17 ELAINE: Bishop...

1 BISHOP: Come on, Burke, talk to me. You got it?

2 BURKE: (MUFFLED) I... I think so.

3 BISHOP: Great. Great. Now, take your second paper
4 clip, and pull one end out at a forty-five
5 degree angle.

6 BURKE: (MUFFLED) That's all?

7 BISHOP: That's all. That's your pick. Okay, now, push
8 the loop of the tension tool into the bottom
9 of keyhole, press it in, and turn. You want
10 to apply pressure, but not too much. Just as
11 much as it would take to turn a key.

12 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Okay...

13 MADELEINE: (COUGHING, WOOZY) I'm sorry. I feel...

14 VINCE: Step on it, will you?

15 BISHOP: I'm trying. (TO BURKE) Okay, now, hold that
16 in place, and with your other hand, push the
17 pick into the top of the keyhole. Shove it
18 all the way to the back. Got it?

1 BURKE: (MUFFLED) I have no idea if I'm doing this
2 right.

3 BISHOP: You are. I'm sure you are. Now, there are
4 seven pins pressing down from the top of the
5 lock. You have to push each pin up and out of
6 the way, so that the barrel can turn and the
7 lock can open. Just push up with the pick,
8 and wiggle it a little until you feel --

9 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Oh! Hey! I think one of them moved.

10 BISHOP: Great. That's great! Come forward a little
11 and do it again. Six more, okay?

12 MADELEINE: (COUGHING)

13 BURKE: (PAUSE) I got another one!

14 ELAINE: Hang on, Madam Secretary. We're almost there.

15 MADELEINE: (COUGHING) Listen. If I don't make it --

16 ELAINE: Don't talk like that. We're all gonna make
17 it. (TO HERSELF) Come on, Burke.

18 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Three!

1 BISHOP: Okay! You've got the hang of it now. You're
2 home free.

3 MADELEINE: (COUGHS, CHOKES)

4 VINCE: Ms. Stevenson? Hey! Look at me. Elaine...

5 ELAINE: (COUGHING) It's getting harder and harder to
6 breathe in here. And the air coming through
7 the window is just feeding the fire.

8 BISHOP: Come on, Burke, talk to me.

9 BURKE: (MUFFLED) It's working! I think I --

10 BISHOP: What?

11 BURKE: (MUFFLED) Hang on... I got it! It opened!

12 SOUND: LOCK REMOVED. METAL DOOR SHUDDERS UP.

13 BISHOP: That's it! Let's go, let's go!

14 SOUND: MOVEMENT, COMMOTION. FIRE FADES TO BG.

15 BURKE: Oh my God! I can't believe it! I did it!

16 ELAINE: Burke, close it! Close the door!

17 SOUND: METAL DOOR SLAMMED. FIRE NOISES FADE.

1 VINCE: (HOARSE) Madam Secretary.

2 MADELEINE: (COUGHING) I'll be all right. I'll be all
3 right. Thank you.

4 ELAINE: Nice job, Burke.

5 BURKE: Thanks. Looks like you lead a pretty
6 exciting life after all, Doc.

7 ELAINE: Yeah. And that's the second time you've
8 saved it. So I think you've earned the right
9 to hear the truth.

10 VINCE: Shouldn't we call someone about the fire?

11 BISHOP: We will. But first we need to get out of
12 here. Come on.

13 SOUND: RUSHING FOOTSTEPS.

14 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

15

1 SOUND: RESTAURANT AMBIENCE.

2 BURKE: Thanks, Gina. We'll let you know when we're
3 ready to order some food.

4 SOUND: DOOR CLOSES. RESTAURANT AMBIENCE OUT.

5 BURKE: We'll be safe in the private room back here.
6 You can trust Gina. She and I go way back.

7 VINCE: Just -- nobody order anything grilled, okay?

8 BURKE: Dr. Margulies, you were saying?

9 ELAINE: I was saying Overstreet recruited me by
10 telling me I could work undercover to help
11 take down bad guys.

12 BISHOP: Yeah, he told me and my teammates the same
13 thing. Only he said you were the bad guys.

14 BURKE: So he's been playing each side against the
15 other.

16 VINCE: But that's dozens of agents -- seems like a
17 lot of work. What's the point?

18 BISHOP: Get the enemy to neutralize themselves.

1 ELAINE: With all of us running around fighting each
2 other, we'll be too distracted to pay
3 attention to the real bad guys.

4 VINCE: Wow. That's... infuriating.

5 MADELEINE: And you think this Mr. Overstreet
6 orchestrated the whole thing?

7 ELAINE: He's the one generating the plots and the
8 assignments to keep us busy. But he isn't
9 doing it for his own sake. He must be
10 working on behalf of someone much bigger.

11 MADELEINE: You mean The Party?

12 ELAINE: Who else?

13 VINCE: It always seems to come back to them.

14 BURKE: The Party? That's a powerful enemy to take
15 on, Doc. You sure you wanna do this?

16 ELAINE: It's already done. Sooner or later, they'll
17 realize we didn't die in that fire. So until
18 we resolve this, we're all in danger.

19 BURKE: What do we do now?

1 BISHOP: (PAUSE) I say we take the fight to him.

2 VINCE: You know what? I was thinking the exact same
3 thing.

4 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

5

1 SOUND: STREETScape. AN OUTDOOR CAFÉ.

2 OVERSTREET: ...with a side of fruit, please. Cantaloupe,
3 if you have it.

4 WAITER: Of course. And for you, sir?

5 FLOWERS: Coffee. Black.

6 WAITER: No problem. I'll be right back.

7 OVERSTREET: Thank you very much.

8 SOUND: NEWSPAPER RUSTLES.

9 OVERSTREET: (PAUSE) Well, Mr. Flowers! Another strong
10 day for the markets. If you ever decide...

11 SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH. CHAIR SCRAPES AS SOMEONE
12 SITS.

13 SOUND: NEWSPAPER FOLDED.

14 OVERSTREET: (PAUSE) Mr. Harris. I am genuinely impressed.

15 FLOWERS: Pal, you'd better --

16

1 OVERSTREET: It's all right, Mr. Flowers. No sense in
2 causing a scene. (TO VINCE) I knew we'd made a
3 mistake when they told us that no bodies were
4 discovered in the fire. Obviously we were too
5 hands-off in our approach. But -- gunning
6 people down in cold blood? Whatever you may
7 think of me, Mr. Harris, it's not a course of
8 action I'm especially comfortable with.

9 VINCE: We know what you're up to.

10 OVERSTREET: Brunch?

11 VINCE: Don't. We know you've been running two
12 parallel organizations. Pitting them against
13 each other like some kind of game.

14 OVERSTREET: And your source for this is... who? The
15 assassin?

16 VINCE: Better than the guy who actually tried to
17 kill us. But look, if it's all a sham -- if
18 Mr. Jonas isn't even real -- then who
19 recruited me? Who pulled me off the bridge
20 that night?

1 OVERSTREET: Decent actors are a dime a dozen, Mr.
2 Harris. That poor fellow is only slightly
3 less in the dark than you were.

4 VINCE: So all these agents -- these people --
5 you've lined up on both sides of this thing,
6 the people you've been moving around like
7 pieces on a chessboard -- you mean to tell
8 me they've accomplished no good at all?

9 OVERSTREET: Of course they have. Every assignment they've
10 undertaken has been good for someone.

11 VINCE: You mean someone in the Party.

12 OVERSTREET: Is it really necessary to explain this to
13 you, Mr. Harris? Those at the top wish to
14 remain at the top. In order to do so,
15 sometimes they must concoct a little
16 distraction for those at the bottom.

17 VINCE: You're taking people's restlessness and
18 their righteous anger and you're nullifying
19 it. At best! At worst, you're perverting it
20 into its exact opposite.

1 OVERSTEET: (CONT'D) You cannot possibly be any less
2 important, or any more forgotten, than you
3 already are. (PAUSE) Well, Mr. Harris? What
4 do you have to say to that?

5 VINCE: (PAUSE) Stage Eleven.

6 OVERSTREET: Excuse me?

7 VINCE: Stage Eleven.

8 BISHOP: (RADIO) Stage Eleven.

9 OVERSTREET: Have you gone completely out of your mind?
10 What exactly did you think -- ?

11 SOUND: GLASS SHATTERS.

12 OVERSTREET: Aagh!

13 VINCE: (SHOUTING) This man's been shot!

14 CROWD: (REACTS)

15 SOUND: COMMOTION, CONFUSION.

16 SOUND: VINCE'S FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY.

17 FLOWERS: Sir --

1 OVERSTREET: (STRUGGLING) I'm fine. I'm fine, you idiot,
2 it's just my leg! Go after him. Don't let
3 him get away.

4 FLOWERS: But the shooter --

5 OVERSTREET: He isn't going to do anything. These people
6 are not murderers. Go!

7 WAITER: (APPROACHING) My God, sir, are you all right?
8 We're calling an ambulance. They'll -- oh!

9 SOUND: AMBULANCE SIREN. NEAR. IT STOPS.

10 SOUND: AMBULANCE DOORS OPENED. STRETCHER CLATTERS.

11 WAITER: That was fast.

12 EMTS: (COMMOTION) It's all right, sir. Get
13 underneath him. Careful! Ready? Lift. (ETC.)

14 OVERSTREET: (GROANING) You can look forward to my
15 scathing review!

16 SOUND: AMBULANCE DOORS CLOSED.

17 SOUND: ENGINE ROARS. SIREN.

18 OVERSTREET: (SIGHS)

1 **ELAINE:** **Feeling some pain, Mr. Overstreet? Let's see**
2 **what we can do about that.**

3 **MUSIC:** **TRANSITION.**

4

1 SOUND: AMBULANCE INTERIOR. ENGINE, TRAFFIC.

2 ELAINE: That's him. Hey, Joey! That's him.

3 SOUND: AMBULANCE PULLS OVER. DOOR OPENS.

4 ELAINE: Did you lose the gorilla?

5 VINCE: Yeah. Pretty easily, in fact. Turns out he

6 is not a good tracker. Let's go, fellas.

7 SOUND: AMBULANCE DOOR CLOSES. AMBULANCE PULLS AWAY.

8 VINCE: (TO OVERSTREET) Hey there, buddy. We thought

9 we might talk here instead. Give ourselves a

10 little more privacy.

11 ELAINE: He's a bit doped up.

12 OVERSTREET: (GROGGY) You two continue to both impress

13 and annoy.

14 VINCE: Yeah, that's our sweet spot. Now, why don't

15 we pick up where we left off?

16 OVERSTREET: I genuinely did not believe you had it in

17 you to murder me.

1 ELAINE: We're not going to murder you. We're taking
2 you to the hospital, and they're gonna get
3 you all fixed up.

4 VINCE: We just wanted a chance to chat.

5 OVERSTREET: Well? You have it.

6 VINCE: Rough day, huh? Your secret's out. Your
7 records are all destroyed.

8 OVERSTREET: I told you. We can rebuild. We've done it
9 before.

10 VINCE: Yeah. But you won't.

11 OVERSTREET: No?

12 ELAINE: No. In fact, if you're smart, starting now
13 you won't tell a soul where you are. You'll
14 check into the hospital under an assumed
15 name. Then you'll heal up, get discharged,
16 forge some papers, rent a car, drive across
17 the border, and vanish. For good.

18 OVERSTREET: And why would I do that?

1 VINCE: Because. We can blow this whole thing up any
2 time we want. We have a reporter friend who is
3 very eager to break your story. And when that
4 happens, all your former agents -- on both
5 sides -- are going to come looking for you.

6 OVERSTREET: But there's no proof. It's all burned up. So
7 my agents will believe what I tell them to
8 believe.

9 VINCE: You sure you want to take that risk?

10 ELAINE: Plus, it's not just them. It's also your
11 bosses. How long do you think the Party will
12 let you publicly embarrass them before they
13 decide it's better if you just disappeared?

14 OVERSTREET: (PAUSE) What exactly do you want?

15 ELAINE: Information.

16 OVERSTREET: Such as?

17 ELAINE: Such as the names of the agents who were in
18 on your little ruse. Flowers, obviously.
19 Radio, before he had a change of heart. The
20 guy playing Jonas. Who else?

1 OVERSTREET: I'm afraid those records were destroyed in
2 the fire.

3 ELAINE: I bet you can come up with a list. If you
4 think really hard.

5 OVERSTREET: (SIGHS) Very well. Is that all?

6 VINCE: No. There's one more thing.

7 OVERSTREET: Well?

8 VINCE: Tell us what you know about this train car.

9 MUSIC: TRANSITION.

10

1 SOUND: AN OFFICE.

2 FLOWERS: (SHOUTING) Where is he? You little worm.
3 Where is he?

4 MADGE: (APPROACHING) It's all right, Adam, I'll
5 take care of this. Can I help you, sir?

6 FLOWERS: Madge. Where's Overstreet? They took him!

7 MADGE: I'm sorry, sir, but nobody by that name
8 works here.

9 FLOWERS: What? This some kinda joke?

10 MADGE: I assure you it's not, sir. Perhaps you're
11 confused. You are in a radio station.

12 FLOWERS: I know where I am, dammit! Now listen --

13 MADGE: Sir, if you can't calm down, I will have to
14 ask the Security Team to escort you out.

15 FLOWERS: Is that so? Well, I happen to know that
16 there is no Security Team here, so -- aagh!

17 SOUND: TASER CRACKLES.

18 SOUND: BODY FALLS.

1 **MADGE:** That is our Security Team. Adam, Charlotte
2 -- help me roll him out to sidewalk, will
3 you?

4 **MUSIC:** TRANSITION.

5

1 **SOUND:** DOOR OPENS, CLOSES.

2 **ELAINE:** All taken care of, Madge?

3 **MADGE:** All taken care of. If he tries again, he's
4 even stupider than he looks.

5 **BURKE:** Great. In that case, please continue.

6 **MADGE:** I was saying that we've given pink slips to
7 Wilson, Freiberg, Kovacs, and Bain. That's
8 everyone from Overstreet's list. The rest
9 are as blissfully unaware as we were.

10 **MADELEINE:** But how can you be sure that he gave up all
11 of his co-conspirators?

12 **VINCE:** We can't -- not completely. But any who are
13 left aren't going to have much to work with,
14 now that the head's been cut off.

15 **ELAINE:** We have to come clean about Mr. Overstreet,
16 and Mr. Jonas. To all the agents. Both sides.

17 **VINCE:** We will. I promise.

18 **BISHOP:** But not quite yet. We can't risk disrupting
19 the network until this is completely over.

1 **MADELIENE:** What did you learn about the train car?

2 **ELAINE:** Not much. Only that the operation is
3 considered highly classified, and that it's
4 being run by -- this man.

5 **SOUND:** PHOTOGRAPHS DROPPED, HANDLED.

6 **VINCE:** Wow. Look at those blue eyes. Very striking.

7 **MADELEINE:** I recognize him. He's a Party operative.

8 **VINCE:** They're so intense. Almost like... blue coals.

9 **ELAINE:** Vince.

10 **MADELEINE:** I don't know his name. But I know he's an
11 underhanded type -- a real snake in the
12 grass. If there is some conspiracy afoot, I'm
13 not surprised to learn that he is involved.

14 **ELAINE:** Burke, any luck on your end?

15 **BURKE:** Yeah, so -- I have a friend at the
16 Transportation Bureau. She was kind enough to
17 let me look through some railway manifests.

18 **BISHOP:** Did you find anything?

1 BURKE: Not much -- at first. But then I did some
2 math. All the railyards submit reports on the
3 amount of freight passing through each day.
4 For the most part, the weights of the
5 individual cars added up to the reported
6 total. But I found a discrepancy a few weeks
7 back. Sixty tons of excess incoming freight,
8 not accounted for in any official records.

9 MADELEINE: That must be it. The mysterious train car.

10 ELAINE: Incoming only? Meaning it's still there?

11 BURKE: Looks that way.

12 VINCE: And we have no idea what's inside?

13 ELAINE: All we know is that it's considered precious
14 cargo.

15 MADELEINE: Something the Party is willing to kill to
16 keep secret.

17 BISHOP: They could hook that train car up and roll
18 it out of there any time. We need to get to
19 it before that happens.

1 **MADELEINE:** Where is it being held?

2 **BURKE:** The northern depot. Gibson Yards.

3 **MADELEINE:** That's the largest railyard in the
4 territory. There is a strong government
5 Security Force presence there at the
6 quietest of times. And if this car is as
7 important as I think it is, you can bet on
8 that force being doubled.

9 **VINCE:** Well then. We're going to need one hell of a
10 plan, aren't we?

11 **MUSIC:** **CLOSING.**

12

13

END OF EPISODE SEVEN