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Sociology, Community



ACT 1

New York, 2014. Taking a break from his freelance programming work, JOSH stretches on his office chair, placing both his arm above his head. Then he begins typing fast and firm: wannahengout. com. He enters a chat room and as he scrolls down his mouse he is informed that CHRISTINE has just entered. He is intrigued by this user's nickname, as it is the only normal nickname. He approaches CHRISTINE, typing fast, while looking at the screen. He explains that he was attracted by her simple nickname. They start talking about their likes and dislikes. CHRISTINE says to JOSH that she is allergic to cherries. And JOSH also confesses that he is allergic to many things, including to ropes, but not to cherries.

They continue talking for about two hours, sharing personal information about each other. CHRISTINE tells JOSH that she is a student in Detroit and JOSH lets her know that he leaves on his own, doing some computer work in New York. JOSH finds out CHRISTINE'S precise address in Detroit, by checking her IP address.

They meet up online regularly during two weeks and chat for hours, discussing about what they did during the day, telling stories from their childhood, until their virtual meetings become a habit for both of them.

On a Thursday afternoon, JOSH tells CHRISTINE that he had been stalked for two days by a man in a Black-trench coat. Not taking him seriously, CHRISTINE says that if that guy would enter the chat room they met on, his ID would be: "darkerthannight_4u". JOSH does not taste her joke and he tells her that he is frightened. Then he calls her. CHRISTINE sees a secret call on her phone and answers.

ACT II

On the phone, JOSH shares his concerns regarding the person who is following him, but the girl does not take him seriously. He tells her that he believes that a hacking group might enter his firewall and once this happens somebody will come after him. He tells CHRISTINE that "they" might come after her too, not specifying who "they" are. He says huskily that he will send her a package explaining more. Before giving more details, JOSH is grabbed by the man in the Black-trench coat, but he has time to delete his chat history, protecting CHRISTINE from being found.

The call suddenly stops and CHRISTINE cannot hear JOSH anymore. On the other end of the line, JOSH drops his phone as he is electroshocked by the man in the Black-trench coat. The man carries JOSH down, puts him in his old Fiat and drives away.

After two days, when she hears nothing from JOSH, CHRISTINE becomes worried. Moreover, she permanently checks the chat room, indicating that she misses JOSH and their chats. She receives a package from JOSH, as the boy informed her. The package contains information about a hacking group in Detroit, involved in information terrorism. She goes to the police to inform them that JOSH is missing. She tells the police officers how she met JOSH and what they have been discussing, hoping to offer them useful information to find him. The police officers make fun of her story, but not the CAPTAIN, and they search for JOSH at his command.

The CAPTAIN, a man in his fifties, wearing a pair of glasses that cannot hide a scar on his left cheek, comforts the girl, telling her that he would help her. The following day CHRISTINE receives a call from police, informing her that JOSH does not exist. The CAPTAIN handled he matter himself, hiding all the information on JOSH's existence. However, he investigates CHRISTINE and is curious to learn what she and JOSH talked about that might obstruct his activity. However, he does not find the chat history, as JOSH had previously deleted it. In the meantime he follows CHRISTINE.

As she puts down the phone, after talking to the policeman who informs her that JOSH does not exist, CHRISTINE starts searching online cases on missing persons. At this point she reaches the story of Mr. BARGAIN X., who, in his personal blog, discusses about how he lost his son 10 years ago and never found him. After searching for his son continuously, Mr. BARGAIN X. has become a private investigator, examining cases of kidnapping or mysterious disappearances. She contacts MR. BARGAIN X and settles a meeting with him, where she brings her laptop.

CHRISTINE meets the P. I. in a fast food restaurant. The P. I. informs her that the operation she presents is very dangerous, asking her if she really wants to be involved. She accepts all the risks and asks if he can help her find JOSH. The P. I. tells her about similar cases that he investigated. Based on the common patterns, it seems that an organized crime hacking group is stalking teenagers with passion for programming and IT and approaches them. The hacking group members are posing as governmental agents, proposing the teenagers programming jobs. After they complete their job, teenagers disappear and nobody knows anything about them. The P. I. thinks that this program is running for at least 10 years, as his son, STEVE, was also a passionate programmer and might have been a victim of the same hacking group.

As the P. I. delivers this information, three armed men enter the fast food restaurant, wearing dark glasses and black rags. They shoot towards the P. I. and CHRISTINE, but she places her laptop in front of her, managing to scape one bullet. As she runs, CHRISTINE sees that the third attacker had a scar on his left cheek, near his eye and she remembered where she saw the same scar: at the police CAPTAIN. The CAPTAIN is the head of the hackers and has been using his position to identify people like JOSH.

As he tries to escape from the bullets, the P. I. gets shot. Being severely injured, he cannot follow CHRISTINE. But the third attacker runs after her. Holding her laptop tight, the girl runts into a crowded street, where she manages to escape in the motley crowd.

Not knowing whom she can trust anymore, she does not go home, but instead she exchanges her clothes with a beggar's outfit and goes to the CAPTAIN's police section. She sees him as he enters the section and waits for him outside. When he exits she follows him. He walks for three blocks and he enters a dark alley. It is around 20: 00 P. M. and it's getting darker every minute. The CAPTAIN enters a garage, but CHRISTINE can go no further so she decides to wait outside, posing as a beggar. When the CAPTAIN leaves, he forgets to lock the door of the garage. She waits for the CAPTAIN to turn the corner of the street and enters the garage, stepping carefully inside. In a dim light she can see from a distance three men roped on chairs. One of them has a severe rash. She goes to him first and unleashes him from his rope, than she unleashes the other two. The three men are dizzy, under the influence of drugs administered by the CAPTAIN.

CHRISTINE tells JOSH who she is. With the little energy he has, JOSH touches

her face, and tries to kiss her, but realizes he is too weak.

She helps him walk outside the garage, leaving the other two to find their own way out. All this time, the man in the Black-trench coat watches the scene, but does nothing. CHRISTINE takes a cab and goes to her aunt's house.

Act III

While JOSH recovers from drugs, sleeping in the living room of CHRISTINE's aunt's, the girl calls the firefighters, reporting a fire in the garage.

Later, she sees in the news that the other two men were rescued by the firemen. The rescued teenagers reported the CAPTAIN and the fact that he kept them hostages, forcing them to steal government information. The CAPTAIN sold the governmental data to a Russian terrorism group, after killing his hostages. The CAPTAIN's organized crime hacking group was discovered and the CAPTAIN is now arrested. The victims also reported a man with a Black-trench coat, who could not be found.