Wrong People in the Wrong Jobs

Ву

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EXT - CITY STREET - DUSK

SQUELCHING, incoherent instructions are being transmitted over a police vehicle's radio. The police captain is relaying the information from a bomb specialist to a distracted rookie on the scene of a bomb defusing situation via a two-way radio.

CAPTAIN SPENCE (56/M)

(In an urgent tone)
Thad, Thad?! Do you copy, over?

THAD(38/M)

Using a two-way radio clipped to his collar.

Copy Captain!!

CAPTAIN SPENCE

(In a hopeful yet worried tone)

Thad, Agent Snow is in route but will not arrive in time, he is relaying me specific instructions. I need YOU to diffuse this bomb. Your timing is spot on today, rookie!

INT - EFRAM'S BAGEL PALACE - SAME

Initial shot of "EFRAM'S BAGEL PALACE" sign. Thad is laying underneath a counter, face-to-face with the bomb. He's wearing a nondescript black baseball cap with a one-ear headset over the top of it.

INTERCUT -TWO WAY RADIO CONVERSATION

THAD

(speaking with food in his mouth)

Thad has half of a bagel crammed into his mouth and a blob of cream cheese on his cheek.

Uh...yeah Cap, I was surveying the area when I got dispatched.

CAPTAIN SPENCE (V.O)

Thad, you're not eating a bagel are you?

THAD

Thad Quickly grabbed a napkin and spit the bagel into it, still with cream cheese on his face

NO!... No Cap, I'm ready for those instructions.

CONTINUED: 2.

CUT back to the captain.

CAPTAIN SPENCE

ooo...k... I need you to stay... (said with a clenched jaw) FOCUSED Thad.

More squelching, garbled speech over the police radio is heard

There are three wires. A red, an orange and a blue wire. Do you see them?

THAD

Thad was looking around or looking at something other than the bomb, then back to it when the Captain speaks.

Uh, yeah, I do.

CAPTAIN SPENCE

You will eventually be cutting the blue wire.

Quick CUT back to Thad. Thad started to reach for the blue wire.

But don't clip it yet!!(v.o)

Thad reacted to the captain's barked order and whacked his head on the counter top above him.

CUT back to Captain

Grab the orange wire, CAREFULLY! Untwist it from the terminal. Do THAT first!

DREAM - IN AN ORANGE TREE ORCHARD

He and his girlfriend, Gigi, are holding hands with over-exaggerated smiles and looking at each other. He helps Gigi climb a ladder that is leaning against an orange tree. Both are giggling unnecessarily. Gigi hands Thad a basket full of oranges.

GIGI

You got it Thad?

BACK TO SCENE

INT - EFRAM'S BAGEL PALACE- NIGHT

INTERCUT- TWO WAY RADIO CONVERSATION

CAPTAIN SPENCE(V.O)

You got it Thad?...Thad!!! You got that, right?! Orange, the orange wire.

THAD

(mumbling to himself)

uh...what?

Ye... Yea! Got it Captain.

Thad quickly yanked the orange wire. Sparks fly but nothing serious happened. He flinched again and again smacked his head on the counter top.

CAPTAIN SPENCE (V.O)

Remember...Gently.

THAD

He rubbed his head and answered with clenched teeth Yea. Got it, gently.

He pretended he actually did it gently then bobbed his head around and counted to five Mississippis in his head.

Ok. Got it. Done. No problem.

CUT back to the captain.

CAPTAIN SPENCE

Awesome Thad. Awesome work.

More muffled instructions are heard from Agent Snow.

Now...to the right of the orange
wire is the red wire. Untwist the
red wire from the terminal,
again...GENTLY.

DREAM- THAD'S DRIVEWAY IN THE 1980'S-DAY

Thad stared at the red wire. His eyes blurred as he faded off into dreamland again. Thad is washing his red Camaro Iroc Z. He is also slicking his mullet back with the soapy water from the bucket. He is wearing a Motley Crue t-shirt with the sleeves ripped off. His jeans are poorly cut directly above his knees. Quiet Riot's "We're not gonna take it" is vibrating from the over-sized sub-woofer in the trunk. Music fades out on ..'gonna take it' while Thad fades back into reality. The captain's face and Dee Snyder's face are morphed in Thad's mind.

BACK TO SCENE

INT - EFRAM'S BAGEL PALACE- NIGHT

INTERCUT- TWO WAY RADIO CONVERSATION

CAPTAIN SPENCE

Take it....Thad?! Are you with me?!

More muffled instructions came from Agent Snow.

Take both wires, the red and the orange and twist them together.

That should disable the countdown timer for now and buy us a little more time.

The timer read two minutes and thirty five seconds. CUT back to Thad. He pretended he heard all of the instructions, Thad twisted the red wire where the orange was and vice versa.

CAPTAIN SPENCE(V.O.)
How's that working out Thad?

THAD

Good Cap. Just finishing up now.

He lazily looked at the timer and realized that the clock is counting down faster.

(said quickly) SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!

CUT back to the captain who pulled his two way radio away from his face and looked at it confused and horrified at the same time.

CAPTAIN SPENCE

What Thad?! Talk to me!

THAD (V.O.)

The countdown clock is counting down faster now!!!

CUT to Thad.

THAD

SHIT! FUCK!!!

MATCH CUT to the captain while you hear the rest of Thad's cursing.

Shit!! What do I do now?!?!(V.O)

CAPTAIN SPENCE

CONTINUED: 5.

The captain banged the two way on his forehead while the button was pressed, took a breath in deeply and blew out heavily inadvertently into the mic.

CUT to Thad as he looked at his radio confused at the noises coming from Spence's mic.

CUT back to captain. He raised his head off the two way and up to his mouth. He responded in a very calm but defeated tone.

What did you do Thad?

CUT to Thad.

THAD um...well... I...uh

CUT to Captain Spence

CAPTAIN SPENCE

Nevermind Thad....

Agent Snow can be heard slightly more clear now calling for Captain Spence. Captain Spence held the vehicle's mic away to override Agent Snow's instructions.

.... just go ahead and cut the blue wire now. How much time do you have left?

THAD

Thad glanced at the clock.

(spoken in matter of fact type tone)

55 seconds.

Thad then realized the severity of his screw up. Panic mode set in. His brain is clearly on overload and it appears dramatically in his ghost-like face. Flustered, he picked up the bomb in both hands, ran in a couple circles around the bagel shop with it for no apparent reason. In the meantime, the captain questioned his status over the two way but it all got lost in Thad's self-induced chaos. Thad heard nothing.

CUT to the captain with the microphone raised in the air of the same arm his defeated face was buried in, slumped over on the roof of this squad car. He quickly jerked his head up when he heard the bagel store's door crash open. EXT - ON THE STREET- NIGHT

Thad busted through the door, the bomb held over his head.

THAD
I got it!!!!!!!!!!!!

The captain stared at Thad with his eyes wide open. He dropped both the two way radio and the police car's microphone at the same time. An enormous explosion is felt from at least two square miles. Thad's almost lifeless body lay in the midst of the scene. Bagels fell sporadically beside him. He blew his final breathe a mere millisecond prior to a large heap of cream cheese splattering on his face.