

ESPIONAGE FOR BEGINNERS

A girl from a coffeeshop gets some dangerous information from a dying Federal agent. When she gets her roommate involved the adventures begin.

EXT. FEDERAL BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Bursting out of a side delivery door into an alley, JOE, 45, stumbles before he gets his bearings. He is the nerd type, misfitted suit, glasses. He briskly walks toward a busy street away from the building.

Two intimidating men, BRIAN and MIKE mid-30's, bound out of the front door of the same building. They run out to the sidewalk and look madly around for Joe. They don't see him and decide to split up. Joe sees them and rushes into a nearby store.

INT. COFFEESHOP - CONTINUOUS

Joe walks quickly through the shop, passing the customers and into the backroom. Only one of the employees MELISSA, 21, sees this. She casually walks into the

BACKROOM

Right inside the door Joe is pushed up against the wall, trying to be invisible.

MELISSA

You can't be back here.

JOE

Shhhhhhh

MELISSA

No, really. The bathrooms are...

JOE

I'll give you a hundred dollars if you pretend I'm not here.

MELISSA

Why?

JOE

Two hundred

MELISSA

I don't get it. You can't be back here.

Joe sees Brian entering the front door of the coffeeshop. Joe scoots away from the door, getting closer to Melissa, but keeps his eye on Brian.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Sir, you need to leave.

Joe looks Melissa in the eyes and he means business.

JOE

Look, this is a matter of life and death. I work in the federal building down the street and I have something that could change...

POP, POP, POP (sound of a silenced gun)

Joe shakes in reaction to being shot while falling onto Melissa.

MELISSA

Oh my GOD!

As he falls completely on top of her, he shows her a thumb drive. She grabs it.

JOE

Guard this.. With your life..

He dies. She screams. Brian ducks out the front door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COFFEESHOP - SUNSET

Cops, firemen, EMT's it looks like everything with lights and a siren has descended on the coffeeshop.

Melissa sits in the back of an ambulance, blanket across her shoulders, splattered with Joe's blood. Her co-worker, FRANK, 19 walks up to her.

FRANK

Carrie told me to tell you that we aren't going to open tomorrow.

MELISSA

I'm off tomorrow.

FRANK

Okay.

Frank turns and walks away.

MELISSA

Tell Carrie I think I'm going to need more than a day!

FRANK

Whatever.

Through the crowd LAUREN, 21, Melissa's roommate and best-friend, rushes toward Melissa.

LAUREN

MEL!!!

Melissa hears and knows exactly this voice. She perks up.

MELISSA

LAUR??

Lauren runs up to Melissa. She stops short of hugging her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I'm covered in blood!

Lauren gingerly takes the blanket from Melissa's shoulders and wraps her completely in it - then hugs her.

LAUREN

That's better.

They both sit on the ledge of the ambulance.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Melly Mel, what the hell happened? Did some guy shoot himself in front of you? Do you need therapy? Or drugs? Drugs I can find. I can get you a hypnotherapist! I'd have to get his name from my mom. Do you need one? Are you okay?

MELISSA

I think I'm okay. I don't need hypnotherapy, but I might need a therapist. Drugs might be okay. And he didn't shoot himself, he was shot. Someone shot him.

LAUREN

But you're okay?

Melissa nods.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Okay. Let's go home.

The two of them walk away from the ambulance.

MELISSA

And there is something I've got to tell you.

INT. MELISSA AND LAUREN'S APARTMENT - LATER

In Melissa and Lauren's cheap but cute apartment, Melissa finished putting on a clean top, and sits on the couch holding the infamous thumb drive. Lauren stands over her and is near hysterics.

LAUREN

And you didn't give it to the
COPS?? Are you insane?!?

MELISSA

His last words were guard this with
your life! He probably would've
said and don't trust anyone!

LAUREN

Did he say that?

MELISSA

No!

LAUREN

Then maybe he would've said, give
this to the cops!

MELISSA

Guard this with your life, or just
give it to the cops? Really??

LAUREN

This is bad deal Mel. A bad deal.
This is a secret meeting in a
underground garage kinda shit.

Melissa stands up and walks over to her laptop that is
sitting on a desk.

MELISSA

Look, let's just see what's on it
and then we'll figure out who to
turns this over to. Okay?

Melissa sits down and fires up her computer. Lauren stands
next to her. She opens the file on her computer.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

It's video files.

LAUREN

Awesome, is it porn?

The video starts up. It's grainy black and white surveillance
video. Both girls squint while watching the video.

MELISSA

No, it's some guy exercising with some other guy.

LAUREN

Wait the trainer guy looks familiar. Oh yeah, remember those insanity videos my mom used to do? He's the guy! He's the insanity trainer guy.

MELISSA

He's really pushing that big guy. Should a guy that big be doing that many jumping jacks?

Melissa forwards through the video to almost the end. She stops on a screenshot of the big guy laying on the floor, dead.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Whoa! Fat guy's down, Fat guy's down!!

LAUREN

What happened?

On the VIDEO they see the big guy over exerting himself doing high knees in front of a mirror. SHAUN T, the 'Insanity Guy', walks behind him, does several small punches in his mid back and the guy drops to the ground.

Both girls stand straight up, mouths agape.

MELISSA

He did something! Did you see that?

LAUREN

He did that Kill Bill heart stopping karate shit on that guy!

MELISSA

What??

LAUREN

At the end of Kill Bill, the tall blonde chick kills the old guy that tried to kill her before by punching him in the heart a bunch of times. He did that.

Melissa sits back down and opens up another video file. It's the same gym, Shaun T, but a different big guy. Melissa scrolls through, different big guy is flat on the ground.

She opens another file, same thing.

MELISSA

Oh my God they're all the same.

LAUREN

Wouldn't people stop going to him
if big guys keep dying?

MELISSA

He's got to be moving the bodies.
Look, that's a empty gym, it's just
them. No one else knows, and if it
doesn't look like anything
suspicious he can put the bodies
anywhere!

The girls pause and look at each other. Melissa gets a
determined look in her eyes.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

We gotta find out who these big fat
guys are, and why the insanity guy
is killing them.

INT. MELISSA AND LAUREN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Melissa comes bounding into the apartment wearing her her
coffee shop uniform. She has newspapers and magazines under
her arm. Lauren is sitting at the dining table scrolling
through her phone.

MELISSA

I've got it!!

LAUREN

Aren't you supposed to be at work?

MELISSA

It's been two days! I can't walk
into that place yet. I shouldn't be
asked to.

LAUREN

True. So, what have you got?

MELISSA

I know who the guys are in the
videos. Six guys, right?

She throws down newspapers with headlines and magazines about
the deaths of these men, as she listing them off.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Two congress men, two senators, a police chief and a mayor. The mayor and the police chief guy drafted a new bill outlining physical education standards that are supposed to be met nationwide for police. One of the congressmen introduced the bill for consideration. So the other congressman and the senators have to be involved in this somehow. My dead guy at the coffeeshop found out that anyone supporting this bill was getting killed off by Shaun T, he's the insanity guy - and he was going to blow the lid off this whole thing.

Lauren, very excited, stands up.

LAUREN

He was going to blow the whistle on these guys! Dead coffeeshop guy is a freakin hero!

MELISSA

Yeah but I don't know where he was going to go with and who he was going to talk to. Dead coffeeshop guy is dead because of this.

LAUREN

I know! We go to the press! We go to CNN, we, we go to Oh what's a news paper now... Washington Post!

Lauren gets real serious.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

We go to channel five.

Melissa takes off her coffeeshop apron and throws it on the couch.

MELISSA

Yeah, we know how to find those guys. Help me grab all this, let's go.

Melissa grabs the thumb and her computer.

LAUREN

I thought we were just going to email them, you know? Or send them a tweet?

MELISSA

We have to go down there and speak to their faces. What if they're in on it? How will we know unless we look in their eyes?

Lauren grabs the magazines and newspapers.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS APARTMENT - LATER

The girls get into Melissa's car, parked on the street. After their doors are shut, Brian rounds the corner of their building. The girls drive away and Brian enters the building.

INT. MELISSA AND LAUREN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

There's a KNOCK on the door of the empty apartment. A pause and then three more KNOCKS. A pause and then the sound of the lock being picked and the door swings open. Brian stands there and looks around.

BRIAN

Hello? The door was open. Hello?

Brian enters the apartment.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I went by the coffeeshop...

He shuts the door behind him.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

...And some idiot gave me your address when I asked.

He lifts up the Teen Vogue and People magazines on the table.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

You really should talk to him about that. It's really unsafe.

He starts to toss the apartment looking for the thumb drive.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS APARTMENT - LATER

Melissa and Lauren park in front of their apartment building and get out of the car, arms full of magazines, newspapers and Melissa's laptop.

LAUREN
Stupid security. Stupid
appointments.

MELISSA
What are we going to do if we can't
even get into a local TV station?

They enter their building.

INT. HALLWAY OF THE GIRLS APARTMENT COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

The girls round the landing of the second floor and walk down the hall toward their apartment.

LAUREN
No, seriously, if we put all the
videos on Instagram it will be out
there. We'll put up the headlines
so people will make the connection.

MELISSA
To all of our friends? What is that
going to do?

LAUREN
We could tag like every news
source. We could tag that reporter
woman who Rory met in the last
episode of the Gilmore Girls.

MELISSA
We could tag Teen Vogue.

LAUREN
See?

They both stop at their apartment door, which is not quite closed. Lauren pushes it and completely opens showing a totally trashed apartment. Brian rounds a corner and all three of them stare at each other for a beat.

They all react at the same time. Brian runs for the girls, Lauren drops all the magazines and newspapers, and both girls run back down the hall.

Brian slips and slides on the magazines, giving the girls a good head start.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Once outside Lauren runs for Melissa's car. Melissa stops her.

MELISSA
I dropped my keys upstairs. Just
run! This way, this way!!

They run down the street. As soon as they duck into an alley Brian exits their building.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Melissa and Lauren run until they find a garage entrance. They both run down the ramp, Brian close behind.

INT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The girls hold hands and crouch running between the cars. They pause for a moment.

MELISSA
Where the hell is the exit? I can
never find the exit in these
things.

They run further into the garage.

Brian runs down the ramp. He stops for a moment and starts to walk. He calls out.

BRIAN
Girls! You don't know what you have
there. It doesn't concern you. Just
give me the drive.

Lauren can't help herself.

LAUREN
Why is he killing those men??

Melissa motions for her to shut up and now they have to find a new place to hide. They crawl away.

Brian now knows the direction the girls are at and walks in that area.

BRIAN

So you watched it. Shaun's been working on a better angle for this bill.

The girls find a new place to hide and Melissa opens her laptop, plugs in the thumb drive. This gives off a glow that Brian sees across the garage. He slowly walks in that direction.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

But they wouldn't listen, they wanted to cut him out.

Melissa is feverishly working and Brian is right up on them, they're trapped.

Melissa closes the laptop and both girls stand up. Lauren rips the thumb drive out of the computer and reaches out to give it to Brian.

LAUREN

Here, here just take it. I never wanted the thing.

She hands it to him.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Can we go?

BRIAN

I don't think so. And hand over the laptop

Melissa sheepishly starts to hand it over, then suddenly she gets a boost of confidence and clocks him in the side of the head with it. This knocks him down enough that the girls get away from him and run up the ramp.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

They get outside and run into Mike. They don't know who he is and plead with him.

LAUREN

Ohmigod, call the cops!

MELISSA

There's a guy down there and he's trying to kill us!

LAUREN

Kill us and take her computer!

MELISSA
 Seriously!

Brian walks out of the garage, holding the side of his head.

BRIAN
 You got me pretty good.

The girls start to run, but Mike has them by the scruff of their necks. Brian takes the laptop and smashes it against the building wall.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
 Let's take them to Shaun.

EXT. FEDERAL BUILDING - LATER

Brian and Mike, and Lauren and Melissa walk up to the Federal Building. Brian has his hand on the handle of the door when all hell descends on the building. Cops with sirens blaring and news vans. One REPORTER jumps out and runs up to the group.

REPORTER
 Are you MellyMel19?

MELISSA
 Yes I am.

He calls back to his crew.

REPORTER
 It's her!!

Cameras and reporters rush toward the girls asking questions about taking down this ring.

LAUREN
 Smashing the computer doesn't take
 it off the internet, genius.

Cops take Mike and Brian away in cuffs. Leaving the girls smiling about their achievement. They turn to the crowd.

MELISSA
 Is Teen Vogue here?

FADE TO BLACK.