

COVERT OPERATIONS

Written by  
SL Eastwood

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Version 1

Obsidian Elephant Productions

FADE IN:

**INT. VIDEO CONFERENCE. DAY**

The conference screen is split three ways with the word "ESTABLISHING SECURE CONNECTION..." strobing over black screens.

Two screens connect to reveal 2 women. AGENT BRIGHTMAN and MS EVERETT. The third screen is still connecting.

EVERETT

Hello? Agent Brightman, can you hear me?

BRIGHTMAN

Yes, loud and clear, Ma'am.

EVERETT

Ok. I assume you are safe and well?

BRIGHTMAN

Yes. I was able to get across the border safely and meet with my handler.

Everett frowns at the screen thoughtfully.

EVERETT

Looks like Mr Mather is struggling to make the secure connection. Since we're pressed for time I suspect we should just move ahead with this meeting.

BRIGHTMAN

I agree.

EVERETT

Last you reported you had lost contact with the asset. Have you managed to—

The third screen connects in a flurry of energy, opening with backwards facing camera.

MATHERS

—Hello, everyone, sorry I'm late. I had trouble with the VPN. Have we started the meeting?

Everett and Brightman both squint at the screen.

EVERETT

-Malcolm, you're on backwards facing camera.

MATHERS

What?

EVERETT

You're on backwards facing camera!

BRIGHTMAN

You're on backwards facing camera...

MATHERS

Oh buggeration!

Movement as Mr Mather starts fiddling with his camera. He huffs as he struggles to adjust the settings.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Blathering thing!

Mather reverses the camera but somehow accidentally switches to a LEMONADE FILTER.

MATHERS (cont'd)

Ok, is that better?

The two women stare in horror.

BRIGHTMAN

Um... Sir, I think you've hit one of the filter settings.

MATHERS

I've what?

EVERETT

You're a bloody lemonade, Malcolm!

Mathers starts jabbing at the screen, causing the lemonade to bobble around energetically.

MATHERS

How do I turn it off?

Everett rubs her brow exasperatedly.

BRIGHTMAN

You... um... you just need to press on the screen and you should have the options to-

MATHERS

-Where?

BRIGHTMAN

Are you pressing the screen?

MATHERS

Yes!

Everett checks her watch and shakes her head.

EVERETT

Might I remind you our secure line expires in less than 3 minutes?

MATHERS

Yes, right you are Ms Everett. Let's carry on.

EVERETT

Where you able to regain contact with the asset?

BRIGHTMAN

Not yet. I believe he might have been compromised in the attack.

EVERETT

What steps are you taking to regain contact?

MATHERS

Sodding thing!

Mathers leans close to the screen, obviously still trying to turn off the filter and it distracts Brightman.

BRIGHTMAN

We've sent a rendezvous package to the agreed safe address and I'm working...

MATHERS

...Gah...

BRIGHTMAN

...I'm working on passing over the asset to another agent since I have been compromised there.

MATHERS

Who invented these?!

EVERETT

(talking louder over Mather)

We'll need an update urgently, it's of the utmost importance that we get this asset back online.

BRIGHTMAN

We're doing everything we can.

MATHERS(O.S)  
We could be looking at the potential  
outbreak of world war 3! It's a case  
of life and death here!

Both Everett and Brightman stare at Mathers, dumbfounded.

Mathers now has (insert whichever is funniest filter)

MATHERS  
...What?

FADE OUT