

"The Scene"  
Episode 17  
Final Draft  
January 26, 2006

OPENING CREDITS

SUPER:

Episode 17  
Monday, January 30th, 2006  
3:37pm

We open on a sterile conference room as a hand-held camera begins recording. In the room are three FBI agents: Barry Brenner, a lean, dark-haired man in his early forties; Alan Means, a scruffy twentysomething, and Don Burroughs, a straight-laced Midwesterner. All three men are wearing suits and ties, and reviewing notes as they sip coffee from paper cups.

Brenner:  
You rolling, Phil?

Phil (off camera):  
Yeah.

Burroughs:  
You forgot to say 'action,' Coppola.

Phil (off camera):  
Very clever.

Burroughs:  
Where's Healy?

Brenner:  
I dunno. He should have been here  
fifteen minutes ago.

Means:  
Yeah, he was on a call. It's  
probably just running a little  
long.

(Jim Healy, a gray-haired, serious-looking man in his early fifties  
walks into the room).

Brenner:  
Speak of the devil.

Healy:  
Sorry, gents. I assume you've had  
a chance to review the

materials?

(They mutter agreements).

Healy:

Good. Don, would you care to go over the  
brief?

Burroughs:

Sure.

Healy:

(checking his watch). Just so you  
know, I've got video conference  
at four.

Burroughs:

No problem.

(Burroughs stands up and moves to the head of the table)

Burroughs:

All right. As you know, I've been  
working this case for about 3  
years. While we haven't achieved  
the original objective, we've  
been able to expand the scope to  
include some more ambitious  
goals. We got our first break on  
the case on February two, 2004  
when we successfully apprehended  
Edward Koenig, a.k.a. "Teflon".

Healy:

Sorry to interrupt you, Don, but  
could we back up a moment and  
review Koenig's role. That way  
Barry and his guys can get a sense  
of the significance.

Burroughs:

You all received the brief I e-mailed out last  
Wednesday?

(nods all around)

Burroughs:

Good. As I stated in that  
document, Koenig was the number  
two man in an elite ripping group  
known as CPX. They were formed in  
2001 and responsible for the theft  
and distribution of an estimated  
\$175 million of illicit IP. Given

their high profile in piracy circles, they were a natural first target for "Top Down".

Healy:

Barry, are you clear on the group structure?

Brenner:

I've got a basic grasp of it, but I wouldn't mind a refresher.

Burroughs:

Okay.

Means:

Just go easy on the techno-babble, all right? Some of us here aren't Microsoft certified.

Burroughs:

(Chuckles). I'll do my best. The structure differs slightly from group to group, but from what we know, CPXs hierarchy is fairly typical. The setup works like this.

(He turns to the white board and picks up a dry-erase pen).

There's a head guy - a leader who basically runs the show. In our case, his nick is "Drosan". (He writes 'Leader - Drosan' on the board). The group leader is usually the one who can deliver sources - and thereby the movies - or, in some cases, he's the source himself.

Brenner:

Is Drosan the group's source?

Burroughs:

No, but I'll get to that in a minute. Below the leader you have an affiliations guy who gets the group access to topsites. Our guy's name is "Slipknot". (He writes 'Affils - Slipknot' below 'Drosan'). Koenig is convinced he's European, but we have no way of verifying that.

Means:

Hey, Don. Define 'topsite' for me.

Burroughs:

A highly encrypted FTP server that distributes IP to the piracy networks. At any given time there's about 20 major ones. Basically, they're the first points of entry for pirated material on the Internet.

Means:

Kay, got it.

Burroughs:

Anyway, after affiliations you have an encoder. His job is to take raw DVD files and turn them into a format that can be easily transferred. The encoder's name here is "Pyro". (He writes 'Encoder - Pyro' next to 'Slipknot'). He's American, probably from the Midwest, and he's young - I'd put him at around 16 or 17. There's also a courier, Coda. (He writes 'Courier - Coda' next to 'Pyro'). His job is to take the encoded files and upload them onto the topsites.

Brenner:

And where does Koenig fit in?

Burroughs:

Koenig was the operations man. He would watch over everything and make sure it all went smoothly. Because of his age, he was a natural fit - he was kind of like a mentor to the others, especially Drosan.

Brenner:

Explain something to me: I met Koenig that once and I could never understand his motivation. I mean, he had a job, a kid, an ex-wife. What the hell was he doing this for? It's not like he was making any money, right?

Burroughs:

(He draws a breath, thinking about

it). Look at it this way: Ed's wife is doing some other guy; his career is a dead-end; his house is a dump. But online - in The Scene - Ed doesn't have to be Ed. He gets to be *Teflon*. People admire him, they seek his advice. I actually think it's why a lot of these guys do it. It's a power thing.

Means:  
How'd you get him?

Burroughs:  
We tracked him for about six months, posing as a kid. Eventually we gained his confidence. He'd protected his IP address pretty well but then he got sloppy and sent us an e-mail. We were able to get some paperwork from the court and trace the address back to him through Yahoo.

Brenner:  
You told him you had movies for him or something? Is that how you hooked him?

Burroughs:  
Actually, no. It was sort of the opposite. We posed as a noobie.  
(Sadly) He was all too willing to take us under his wing.

Means:  
Do I detect a wistful note of sympathy in your voice, Agent Burroughs?

Burroughs:  
(Grinning) Ed and I have spent a lot of time together. It's like lots of witnesses you guys have probably worked with. It's hard not to feel sorry for him sometimes.

Means:  
He's a dumbass if you ask me.

Healy:

Let's keep this moving, okay? Tell them about the source.

Burroughs:

Right. CPX's main source is called "Trooper". (He draws a call-out line and writes 'Source - Trooper'). Based on the movies they release, we believe he's in the entertainment business at some level - at an editing house or maybe even a studio.

Brenner:

I'm surprised you haven't nailed him by now. If he's pulling the movies out of a studio, you'd think it'd be traceable.

Healy:

You're partly right. Of all the group members, Trooper's the one we feel best about, but it's a bit more complicated than you think. We'll get to that shortly. (He nods to Burroughs).

Brenner:

But this source, 'Trooper,' he's the guy you've been leveraging or no?

Burroughs:

No. There's another player here named Timothy Brudiger. His nick is "Gryffin".

Healy:

Okay, before we go on, I know we've talked about this, but it bears repeating. Nothing about this area of the investigation is to go beyond these walls. Brudiger is key to the larger picture, and the slightest hint that something's wrong could jeopardize the whole operation. The work Don's group has done is having an effect, and Brudiger and company have become very skittish.

Brenner:

Understood.

Means:

All right, but I don't see what the big deal is, honestly. If he got spooked we could always do to him what we did to Koenig.

Burroughs:

Koenig's a special case, Al. He's older, and he's got more to lose.

Means:

You're saying just cause he's a kid he's got nothing to lose? How about college?

Burroughs:

What I mean is, Koenig had a job; he had responsibilities. We come down on the kid and it'll be us and his daddy's lawyer duking it out for three months. In the meantime, he'll be offline and we'll lose all of his connections.

Healy:

Look, we'd like to keep milking Brudiger for his contacts. They're disparate and they rarely speak to one another. As Don indicated, there's a significant downside to arresting him, and I see no upside at this time.

Brenner:

So Brudiger has no idea he's wired?

Burroughs:

None whatsoever.

Brenner:

Wow, that is beautiful. Congratulations.

Bourroughs:

We lucked into it..

(Healy motions to Burroughs who sits down)

Healy:

Thanks, Don. So that's the abbreviated history.

Brenner:

One more question before we move on: I'm not clear about the

relationship between Brudiger and the ripping group. The connection is through Koenig?

Burroughs:

That's right. Koenig had three or four kids like Brudiger working for him outside of CPX. He used them for little errands like buying pieces of hardware. It was a way of insulating himself. He'd pay them through Paypal, and then they'd make the purchase and the shipment.

Brenner:

And they'd do this in hopes of one day joining CPX?

Healy:

Exactly. Koenig traded on the group's prestige. Occasionally, he'd even provide what's known as "leech access" to one of their topsites. A little trip to the IP candy store would go a long way apparently.

Means:

So that's the angle you took when you approached him? You claimed to be one of these kids?

Burroughs:

Right.

Means:

I see.

Healy:

Now, as Don mentioned earlier, Brudiger has enabled us to broadly expand Top Down. Through him, Don's people have infiltrated ripping groups on three continents. We've also made arrests in Madrid, Brussels, and elsewhere. Per Don's recommendation, we've publicized these arrests, but we've been judicious about it. A lot of our work has purposefully been kept out of the papers..

nervous.

Burroughs:

We want these guys nervous, but not too

Brenner:

Got it.

Means:

If you've infiltrated some of the bigger groups, why not just post C&Ds on their servers. You'd scare the living shit out of the little bastards and probably shut the whole scene down for six months.

Healy:

Shutting down the scene for six months would be great, but we have an opportunity for more. We want high-profile arrests. We also want to have a team of insiders, so when the scene comes back online again - and let's not kid ourselves, it *will* come back online. We'll have a prophylactic. (He checks his watch again). All right, I have to go. I'm sure Don can answer any further questions you have. We appreciate your cooperation, and we're happy to have you on board.

(Healy rises and shakes their hands)

Means/Brenner:

Thanks. Thank you.

(Healy exits).

Brenner:

So, nuts and bolts, you want our guys online for a while observing, and then we'll use them expand the scope until as far as possible.

Burroughs:

Right. We'll get you up to speed on the lingo and technology - it won't take long. Then we'll get everyone in a room and coordinate the sting toward the end of the year.

Means:

Maybe I'm missing something here,  
but why would you wait eleven  
months to do this? I mean, you  
could make some big busts, and  
like Healy just said, the thing  
will come back online again no  
matter what we do?

(Burroughs and Brenner smile at one another)

Brenner:

Forgive the youngster. He knows  
not the ways of the world.

Means:

(Grinning) What's that supposed to mean?

Brenner:

Al, in case you didn't pick up on  
this, Top Down is a pretty high-  
profile operation -- the kind of  
operation that can help advance  
careers. Lots of careers. Get it?

Means:

(embarrassed) Ah.

Brenner:

Hey Don, not to tread on sensitive  
territory or anything, but I'm  
still not clear on one point: You  
keep referring to "CPX," but that  
name doesn't exist anymore, right?

Burroughs:

(Not happy with the question).  
Yes, that's right. They use a  
different name now: "Dust."

Brenner:

What happened with that?

(an awkward silence)

Burroughs:

Candidly: we fucked up. Somehow  
the leader, Drosan, got wind of  
the operation. He figured out that  
Koenig had been turned and they  
left him twisting in the wind.

Means:

You think Koenig tipped him off?

Burroughs:

I personally checked every one of his keystrokes. There was no way he could have communicated with CPX without our seeing it.

Brenner:

(Nodding). So how does CPX - or, um, Dust - play into the end game now? I mean, you lost your inside man, right?

Burroughs:

Right.

Brenner:

Are you going to use Brudiger?

Burroughs:

We tried that. We had Ed push Brudiger toward Dust, but they wouldn't let Brudiger in.

Means:

Koenig is still in touch with Brudiger?

Burroughs:

Oh yes. Brudiger has no idea that Koenig's working for us.

Means:

(Nodding) So how are you going to take down Dust?

Burroughs:

(Grinning). The thing I learned about these kids is, you don't go after them. You let them come to you. Alright, Phil. Meeting's over. Shut that damn thing off.

Fade out

Super:

Episode 18 will hit the scene in early March, 2006  
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