

"JACK"

7.
7

7

CONTINUED: (2)

SC. 1/1

REVISED
2/18

CHARLIE

Shut up!

Charlie punches the screen, letting out his aggression. Somehow it shuts up and Charlie looks pleased. He looks back at the kid.

START

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(short)

Hey.

The boy bursts into tears.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Christ. Hey. Stop crying! Kid!

Jack's face is still streaming. He clutches an action figure: CAPTAIN STRONG, a muscled hero wearing a green costume and holding a sword (or scepter, or anything long like a baton).

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

T said stop crying!

Jack still cries.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Just... What do you want? Your dad? I'm taking you there. I'm taking you to your dad right now.

Jack hears the word dad and he settles down though he's still a little scared.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

That's right. Now stay cool.
(regards Captain Strong)
What's that?

Jack holds up the action figure but doesn't say anything.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well, what is it?

JACK

(shaky)
Captain Strong.

CHARLIE

You think Captain Strong cries?

Jack nods no.

P. 1/5

(CONTINUED)

CARJACK

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
No. He stays cool... Right?

The kid doesn't answer but breathes heavy. Charlie searches for words.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What's your name, kid?

JACK
(winded)
Jack.

CHARLIE
Jack. Charlie.

Jack's breathing is getting wheezy. Yellow snot drips from his nose, a result of his crying. Charlie nearly rolls his eyes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Jesus.

Charlie searches around the car, tosses the baseball bat to the side and notices a FOLDED PAPER with Jack's photo and type. Below that he finds napkins.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Here.

Jack wipes away the snot, and some tears.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
We're going to your dad right now.
Cool?
(off Jack's silence)
I said cool?

Jack shakes his head yes.

Charlie spots "WASHINGTON - EXIT NOW". He takes the exit, his mind on his words.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Cool.

Jack starts to breathe heavy. In and out. Panting.

CARJACK

"JACK"

9.

8 EXT. UNDER THE FREEWAY - MOMENTS LATER 8

It's damp and dark. Three HOMELESS MEN hunch over a fire and a HOOKER fist-fights a PIMP.

9 BLACK MERCEDEZ - CONTINUOUS 9

Charlie stops the car, and looks around, realizing this isn't the best place to leave a little kid.

CHARLIE

Christ.

Jack's breathing is getting worse. The air goes in and out with a scratchy sound.

Charlie turns around and notices Jack's breathing. It's deep and looks like it hurts. He pushes himself into his seat, curling his fingers into a ball.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

You gotta be kidding me.

(to Jack)

Kid you can't do this right now.

You gotta go.

Jack doesn't even hear him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You need an inhaler? You have one?

Charlie looks around the car. Tosses the blanket, and Captain Strong aside. Nothing.

He opens the glove box. An envelope filled with cash falls out along with a bottle of pills. Charlie eyes the cash suspiciously.

Jack starts whipping his head back in forth, writhing like a fish with no water, and it catches Charlie's attention again.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

No! Don't do that!

Charlie grabs the boy's head, stopping him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I know what to do. You just have to count to five-- no, count down. Breathe in and count down from five. Look at me.

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(CONTINUED)

CARJACK

"JACK"

10.
9

9

CONTINUED:

Jack is still in a panic.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Goddamnit kid, I don't have Jacke
for this! LOOK AT ME!

Jack opens his eyes, as painful as it is.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
My brother had attacks too but we
couldn't afford an inhaler. So we
would count. Just say it. Five.

Jack quivers. Slowly, painfully, he breathes in and slowly
exhales the word.

JACK
Fiiive.

CHARLIE
Four.

JACK
(shaking)
Focour.

CHARLIE
Again. Breathe. Three.

JACK
Three.

Jack's body eases down.

CHARLIE
Cool. Two.

JACK
(easier)
Two.

Charlie waits.

JACK (CONT'D)
O... One.

CHARLIE
One. You cool now?

It's not perfect but it did the trick for now. Jack nods.
There's a quiet moment and Jack gives him a heart-melting
smile.

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(CONTINUED)

CARJACK

"JACK"

11.
9

9

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
Thanks Charlie.

END

Charlie seems touched by Jack's words but instantly pulls back and covers up with the hoodie.

CHARLIE
Alright, out--

Then a noise from outside grabs their attention.

OUTSIDE - The economy car barrels in, honking loudly. Charlie quickly grabs the baseball bat.

Michael jumps out of the car but Charlie is out first, holding the bat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Don't move!

Michael stays at the door but shouts.

MICHAEL
Jack! You okay?

CHARLIE
He's fine. Hold on a sec.

INSIDE - Charlie reaches back and opens Jack's door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
K, kid. Out.

Jack can hear Michael shouting outside. He slowly slips out, absently leaving the Captain Strong action figure behind.

He gives Charlie another smile.

JACK
Bye.

Charlie looks away.

OUTSIDE - Michael calls out frantically.

MICHAEL
Jack! Come toward my voice.

CLOSE ON Jack. He can hear Michael but walks slowly.

Charlie gets in and shuts the door, watching Jack move painfully slow toward Michael.

CARJACK

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(CONTINUED)