

HOSTAGES

By J. Gordon

INT. UTILITY CLOSET - NIGHT

SAM's eyes blink open. Dizzy. Confused. Notices Killian, another teenager, staring out the little window.

SAM
Wh..? Who are you?

KILLIAN
Shhh.

Sam realizes that both hands are tied. Panics.

Killian, also tied up, still looking out the window, counting softly:

KILLIAN (CONT'D)
...sixty-two, sixty-three...

SAM
Where are we --

KILLIAN
(strong whisper)
Shut up!

SAM
Look, I don't know how I got here
but --

KILLIAN
Make me loose count and I will kill
you myself.

Sam watches Killian count and calculate.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)
...eighty seconds to the front
gate.

Killian pops both hands free!

SAM
Wait you're not -- What is going
on?!

Killian is busy, using fingernails to scratch the number 80 into the wood wall near the window.

KILLIAN
 ...not enough time. I'll never make
 it before he gets back.

Killian, quickly chews through Sam's hand restraints.

SAM
 Thank you. My name is Sam --

KILLIAN
 No. Don't tell me your name. Don't
 tell me that you're scared or you
 wanna go home. Just stay quiet and
 try to stay alive.

Sam looks at the wall around the window: MARKS AND SCRATHES
 laid out into elaborate schematics.

SAM
 Wait, is this a map?
 (beat)
 You're planning to escape.

KILLIAN
 Good. At least you're paying
 attention.

SAM
 I was at a party... Dylan's
 birthday. I started feeling dizzy
 so I went to lie down and then...
 then I can't remember anything.

Killian makes revisions to the wall.

KILLIAN
 (mumbles again)
 ...if the front gate is impossible,
 then it's gotta be the roof.

SAM
 Did someone drug me?

Beat.

KILLIAN
 I'm not gonna be able to answer all
 your questions. Here's what I do
 know: new kids come, like you. They
 scream. They struggle. They die.

Beat.

SAM

I'm fast. I'm a fast runner. I used to run the hundred-meter in track.

(off Killian's look)

I can help you. We can get out. Together.

KILLIAN

Yeah, right. You won't be here tomorrow.

SAM

Neither will you if your plan is to escape through the roof.

KILLIAN

What are you talking about?

SAM

See this?

Sam is touching a metal panel on the wall.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's the main circuit breaker.

KILLIAN

So?

SAM

So a building like this only has breakers on the inside if there's no roof access. Your plan's a dead end.

Beat.

KILLIAN

Shit.

SAM

I'm sorry but --

KILLIAN

-- No. I mean he's coming.

Killian quickly re-ties the ropes and Sam follows suit, keeping up.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)

Eyes down. Don't make any noise.

SAM

Got it.