



THE RED CIRCLE™

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ONE SHOT  
OCT '09

# THE WEB

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STRACZYNSKI

ROGER  
ROBINSON

HILARY  
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MORNING. A SMALL PRIVATE AIRFIELD JUST OUTSIDE SAN FRANCISCO.

HAVE A PLEASANT FLIGHT HOME, MR. RAYMOND, AND A GOOD FOURTH OF JULY.

I INTEND TO.

WILL YOU BE NEEDING ANYTHING--

--SPECIAL--

--DURING THE FLIGHT, MR. RAYMOND?

YES, SIR.

FOOD. BOOZE. MAGAZINES. BOOZE. FOOD.

ANYTHING ELSE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

GOOD MORNING, MR. RAYMOND. OUR FLIGHT TIME TO LONG ISLAND WILL BE ABOUT SIX HOURS, TWENTY MINUTES. YOUR USUAL CAR WILL BE WAITING UPON ARRIVAL TO TAKE YOU TO THE HAMPTONS.

HAS THE REST OF THE FAMILY ARRIVED?

THE LAST ARE DUE IN TONIGHT AT SIX.

SO SIT BACK, RELAX, AND HAVE A PLEASANT FLIGHT.

DAILY PLANET  
SEARCH FOR MISSING SURVIVOR CONTINUES

JULY FOURTH. REUNIONS. NEVER MET ONE I LIKED. LIES AND PROMISES AND RECONCILIATIONS AND FALSE SMILES. SPINNING WEBS TO ADVANCE FUTURE FAVORS.

THE TRACER-FIRE OF GENETICS IN SEARCH OF EASY TARGETS AND ADVANTAGES GAINED.

INSULTS WHISPERED BEHIND COMPLIMENTS GIVEN.

AND NOT ONE OF THEM CONVINCED THAT I'M ANYTHING OTHER THAN A WASTE OF MONEY AND DNA. WELL, THEY'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY, NOT THIS YEAR, BUT NEXT.





NOT LETTING THEM KNOW THE TRUTH THIS YEAR, NOT LETTING THEM SEE THAT THEY'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT ME ALL THIS TIME, NOT GRINDING THEIR FACES INTO THE DIRT, THAT'S GOING TO BE HARD.

BUT NECESSARY.

AND HARDLY UNEXPECTED.

AFTER ALL...WE ALL HAVE OUR LITTLE SECRETS.

# THE WEB

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BE IT  
EVER SO  
HUMBLE...



LOOKS LIKE  
DAVID BEAT ME  
HERE.

IN THAT HEAP.  
HE BARELY MADE  
IT UP THE  
DRIVEWAY.

BARELY.



WILL YOU BE  
STAYING THE  
NIGHT, SIR, OR  
HEADING BACK  
INTO THE  
CITY?

DEPENDS ON  
HOW QUICKLY I  
GET INTO A  
FIGHT.

OF  
COURSE,  
SIR.

I'LL LISTEN  
FOR THE  
SOUND OF  
GUNPLAY.



THE HARDEST PART OF THESE  
FAMILY GATHERINGS IS KNOWING  
HOW IT'S ALL GOING TO GO  
BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS.

UNCLE WILSON WILL  
BE D.O.A.--DRUNK ON  
ARRIVAL...COMPLAINING  
BITTERLY ABOUT HOW  
MY FATHER LEFT SO  
MUCH OF HIS MONEY  
TO MOTHER AND ME  
WHEN HE HELPED  
MAKE DAD'S EMPIRE.

CONVENIENTLY  
FORGETTING TO  
MENTION THE  
TEN MILLION HE  
"BORROWED" FROM  
THE FIRM WHEN DAD'S  
BACK WAS TURNED.

MOTHER WILL BE  
STUCK LISTENING  
TO THE USUAL  
COMPLAINTS ABOUT  
THE FOOD, THE  
RUDE MANNERS OF  
THE STAFF, THE  
NOISE, HER DRESS,  
AND THE DECOR.

RUMORS  
TO THE  
CONTRARY, IF  
GUNPLAY STARTS,  
THIS IS WHERE IT'LL  
HAPPEN.

AND THEN  
THERE'S  
DAVID.

REALLY GOOD TO  
SEE YOU, JOHN.  
YOU'RE LOOKING  
GREAT. MAN, I  
MISS YOU.

I LOVE MY  
BROTHER.

I HATE MY  
BROTHER.



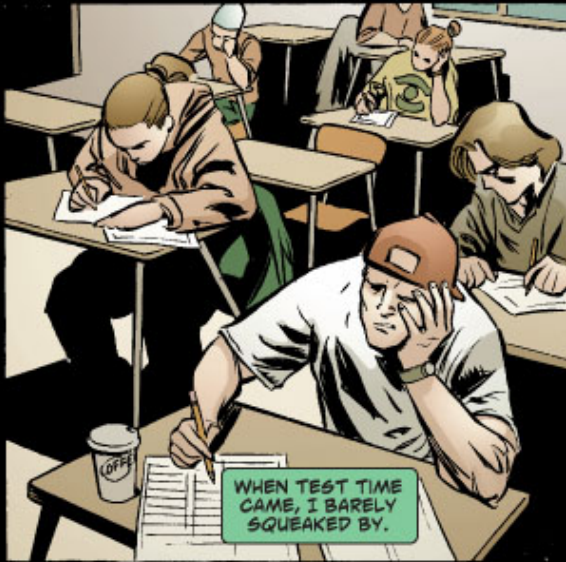
OUR RELATIONSHIP  
IS...COMPLICATED.



WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, I MAJORED IN PARTY. ALSO BABES. AND AS HEIR APPARENT TO THE RAYMOND ESTATE, THERE WERE ALWAYS PLENTY OF BOTH.



DAVID, WHO WAS A YEAR BEHIND ME, MAJORED IN SOCIAL WORK AND SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE COMPANY OF THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT GAVE MY DAD THE WILLIES.



WHEN TEST TIME CAME, I BARELY SQUEAKED BY.



DAVID ACED EVERY SUBJECT HE EVER TOUCHED.

I TOOK MY ONE MILLION DOLLAR GRADUATION BONUS AND HEADED FOR EUROPE.



DAVID DIDN'T WANT IT.

HE SPENT ALL HIS FREE TIME ORGANIZING SHELTERS AND LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE. STARTED A FREE LEGAL AID OFFICE AND A HEALTH CLINIC THAT GOT ALL KINDS OF AWARDS FROM THE CITY.





THEN OUR FATHER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER...AND THE LAST NAIL WAS DRIVEN INTO MY PERSONALITY.

I CALLED MY ATTORNEY TODAY TO HAVE HIM AMEND MY WILL.

I FIGURED HE'D CALLED ME THERE TO TELL ME THAT HE WAS LEAVING IT ALL TO DAVID. DAVID WAS A HERO. EVERYBODY LOVED DAVID.



I WAS WRONG.

I'M LEAVING ELAINE ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF HER IN STYLE THE REST OF HER LIFE...AND PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF ALL OF IT. FIVE BILLION DOLLARS.

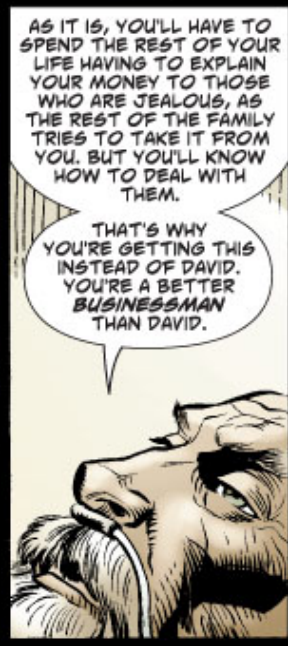
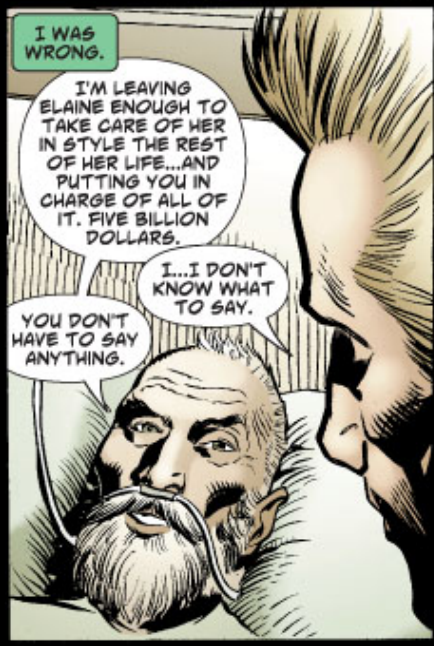
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.

AS IT IS, YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE HAVING TO EXPLAIN YOUR MONEY TO THOSE WHO ARE JEALOUS, AS THE REST OF THE FAMILY TRIES TO TAKE IT FROM YOU. BUT YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GETTING THIS INSTEAD OF DAVID. YOU'RE A BETTER BUSINESSMAN THAN DAVID.

BUT DAVID...DAVID IS THE BETTER MAN.



IT'S A HARD THING TO BE LOOKING DOWN AT YOUR FATHER DYING AND THINKING OF ALL THE WAYS YOU'D LIKE TO KILL HIM.

FOR HIS INSENSITIVITY.

FOR HIS CRUELTY.

FOR HIS HONESTY.



BECAUSE AT THAT MOMENT, MY FATHER WAS RIGHT.

BUT THAT WAS THEN. THIS IS NOW. AND THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE.

--SO YOU REALLY SHOULD COME DOWNTOWN SOME TIME, JOHN. WE'RE DOING SUCH GOOD THINGS, WE--

EXCUSE ME, JOHNNY--









IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SYSTEM?

NO, SIR, THE SPECS ARE JUST AS WE DISCUSSED.

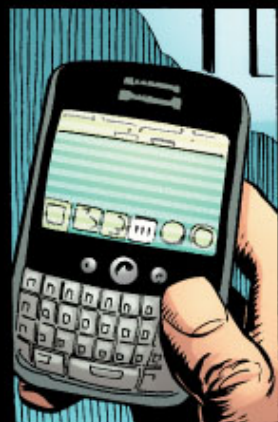
I MEAN, NORMALLY I AT LEAST KNOW THE NAME OF THE PERSON I'M WORKING FOR, AND--

YES, BUT--

THEN THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER AGAIN.

HAVING FINISHED THE JOB, I HAVE TO SAY I'M STILL A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT ALL THIS.

WERE YOU ABLE TO CASH THE CHECKS?



IT'S ME. ARE THE ADS READY TO GO?

YES, SIR...WE'VE GOT PRINT, TV, RADIO, INTERNET, YOU NAME IT. THEY'LL HIT TOMORROW MORNING, TIME ON TARGET, AND RUN FOR SIX MONTHS STRAIGHT.

PERFECT.



YOUR LAST CHECK WILL BE DEPOSITED TODAY. AFTER THAT, THIS NUMBER WILL NO LONGER BE OPERATIVE. IF ANYONE ASKS ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THE ADS, TELL THEM THE TRUTH...THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS ARRANGED ANONYMOUSLY.

OF COURSE, SIR. THANK YOU, SIR.

GOODBYE.