

**ESCAPE**

by

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## Escape

### CHARACTERS

McKENZIE: F, 18+  
SERGEANT: M, 18+

### SETTING

Canadian NORAD Region,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### AT RISE

McKENZIE and SERGEANT are sitting facing the audience, ostensibly looking at radar screens. SERGEANT is listening to the song "Into the Night" by Benny Maradones on his iPod or phone. He begins to sing. It is likely helpful for the audience if they can hear the songs that SERGEANT is listening to.

SERGEANT (singing softly)

♪ She's just sixteen years old, leave her alone, they say. ♪

*McKENZIE looks quizzically at SERGEANT*

SERGEANT

♪ Sep-par-rated by fools, who don't know what love is yet. ♪

McKENZIE

What the hell are you listening to?

*SERGEANT removes his earbuds*

SERGEANT

Huh?

McKENZIE

What. The Hell. Are you listening to?

SERGEANT

"Into The Night."

*McKENZIE stares at SERGEANT*

SERGEANT

It's a classic, a smooth rock classic. It was a huge hit in the 70s.

*McKENZIE stares at SERGEANT*

SERGEANT

What?

McKENZIE

Smooth classic rock?

SERGEANT

Yeah. You know, "yacht rock." Classic 70s smooth grooves, eh?

McKENZIE

Ah.

*SERGEANT starts to put his earbuds back in*

McKENZIE

From the "smooth pedophile collection" I take it?

SERGEANT

From the *what*?

McKENZIE

Have you even listened to the lyrics?

SERGEANT

Well... I mean, sure.

McKENZIE

And you're cool with that?

SERGEANT

Jeez, it's just a song.

McKENZIE

With everything going on recently, you're o.k. singing along to a song about a guy who's perving on a teenager. Who wants to "show her a love like she's never seen"?

SERGEANT

It was a big hit-- WAIT! I didn't get that far, you do know the song.

McKENZIE

Of course I know the song, it was a huge hit.

SERGEANT

A HA!

McKENZIE

But that doesn't make it ok now. Today. At work. Maybe before, but not after.

SERGEANT

After what?

McKENZIE

After society, male society, finally woke up and realized that older dudes lusting after teenage girls is not, you know, ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR IN A CIVILIZED WORLD.

SERGEANT

Well, I didn't mean--

*SERGEANT is interrupted by an alarm from his console*

McKENZIE

Are you seeing this?

SERGEANT

Yeah... you better get on the horn to NORAD Cheyenne Mountain.

*McKENZIE picks up a phone on the console*

McKENZIE (into the phone)

Yes, this is Chief Warrant Officer McKenzie, Senior Watch Officer at Canada Region. (beat) Yes, Ma'am, we have a bogey in Canada West, near--

*McKENZIE turns to SERGEANT*

SERGEANT

Prince Rupert, Ma'am.

McKENZIE (into phone)  
Prince Rupert, B.C., Ma'am. (beat) Moving northwest, Ma'am,  
at, um, unusual speed. (beat) Unusually fast, Ma'am.

SERGEANT  
It's stopped.

*McKENZIE turns to SERGEANT*

McKENZIE (to SERGEANT)  
What do you mean *stopped*?

SERGEANT  
I mean stopped. As in not moving. No altitude change either.  
So, hovering, I guess.

McKENZIE (into phone)  
Yes, sorry Ma'am, I was just confirming-- (beat) Yes, Ma'am,  
completely stationary, hovering for lack of a better word, at--

*McKENZIE turns to SERGEANT*

SERGEANT  
Flight level six-nine-zero.

McKENZIE  
Sixty-nine thousand feet. (beat) Yes, Ma'am, that is unusually  
high. (beat) Copy that.

*McKENZIE hangs up the phone*

McKENZIE  
We're to monitor and report anything unusual.

SERGEANT  
Anything unusual?

McKENZIE  
Anything *else* unusual. I'm going to run some telemetry, you got  
this?

SERGEANT  
Yeah, it's just sitting there. I got it.

*McKENZIE begins to work on the computer in front of her, SERGEANT puts his earbuds back in and begins listening to "Escape (the Piña Colada Song)" by Rupert Holmes*

SERGEANT (singing softly)  
♪ I was tired of my lady, we'd been together too long, like a worn-out recording, of a favourite song. ♪

*McKENZIE hears this and slowly turns to SERGEANT*

SERGEANT (singing softly)  
♪ So while she lay there sleeping, I read the paper in bed, and in the personal columns, there was this letter I read. ♪

McKENZIE  
You have got to be kidding me.

*SERGEANT takes out his earbuds*

SERGEANT  
Huh? Oh come on? You cannot be objecting to the Piña Colada song?

McKENZIE  
You mean the song about the guy who, while laying in bed *next to his girlfriend*, whom he charmingly calls his "old lady," is reading the personal column and composing a reply so that he can *cheat on her*? That one?

SERGEANT  
Well, I mean... It's so catchy tho!

McKENZIE  
Sure, fine, it's catchy. But the guy doesn't think about *her* because he's tired of the "same old dull routine." Those are actual lyrics. And, the song's called "Escape," by the way. Rupert Holmes.

SERGEANT  
You, uh, know an awful lot about these songs--

McKENZIE  
Entirely beside the point!

*The console phone rings*

McKENZIE (into phone)  
C.W.O. McKenzie. (beat) Yes, Ma'am. (beat) Yes, Ma'am,  
standing by.

*McKENZIE turns to SERGEANT*

McKENZIE  
Check your screen, Sergeant.

SERGEANT  
Its gone!

McKENZIE (into phone)  
Confirmed, Ma'am. (beat) Yes, Ma'am, thank you, you have a  
good evening as well.

*McKENZIE hangs up the phone*

SERGEANT  
What the hell just happened? Did they... I mean, did we, you  
know... uh, eliminate the bogey?

McKENZIE  
Glitch.

SERGEANT  
Glitch?

McKENZIE  
Glitch. System glitch.

SERGEANT  
So there was no, um, flying saucer--

McKENZIE  
You mean bogey, Sergeant? No, no bogey.

SERGEANT  
Oh, ok. Good, I guess.

McKENZIE  
As you were.

SERGEANT  
Copy that.

*SERGEANT puts his earbuds back in*

SERGEANT (singing softly)  
♪ If you like piña coladas, and getting caught in the rain ♪

*MCKENZIE smirks and joins in*

MCKENZIE and SERGEANT (singing)  
♪ If you're not into yoga, if you have half a brain. If you  
like making love at midnight, in the dunes of the cape, I'm the  
love that you've looked for, write to me and escape. Yes I  
like Piña Coladas, getting caught in the rain... ♪

END OF PLAY