

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON SHOE'S JOURNAL -- flipping open to a new handwritten entry with the title: "CONSPIRACIES CAN COME TRUE"

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
Conspiracy theories defy conventional
wisdom...

EXT. BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER - NIGHT

START on the raft, now pulled up onto the river bank...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
They promote a deluded logic to try and
explain our complex reality.

PULL BACK from the river to include two figures -- Shoe and Contrarian -- moving toward an industrial skyline.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But beneath the delusion is nothing
more than a basic need to believe.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL AREA - NIGHT

At gunpoint, the Contrarian leads Shoe across an empty lot...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
The Contrarian needed me to believe his
theory for reasons only he understood.

When Contrarian isn't looking, Shoe sneaks a peek backwards...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
All evidence told me the Contrarian
was psychotic, living in a dangerous
fantasy world. And the New Historians
were my only real hope.

SHOE'S POV - We see Arnold and the New Historians appear in the distance, lurking behind a dumpster.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The Contrarian and Shoe stand outside a warehouse. Contrarian cautiously looks both ways, then unlocks MULTIPLE PADLOCKS securing the door --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
Figured all I had to do was stall
until they could rescue me.

We RACK FOCUS TO see Arnold and the Historians getting closer.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Shoe steps into frame, surveying a sprawling, shadowy space filled with MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT and GARBAGE TRUCKS. PAN to see the "office" is filled with NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS and DOCUMENTS taped to the wall ala "A Beautiful Mind."

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)

The place was pretty much as I'd imagined -- dark and creepy.

THE CONTRARIAN steps up behind Shoe, startling him --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When the Contrarian said he'd show me his evidence, I realized just how paranoid the man really was...

ON THE Contrarian, who unzips his hoodie, removes a FOLDED LETTER enclosed in a ZIPLOCK BAG

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He'd kept his evidence on him the whole time. I couldn't believe it -- that whole river escapade was just a test! To see if he could trust me.

GRAPHIC ELEMENT: CLOSE ON Shoe reading the LETTER -- addressed to Arnold Shaffer -- which floats over Shoe's face. During this, WE HIGHLIGHT the header, which issues a warning: "*NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION - Parthia Group Operatives Only*"

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I had no idea what I was looking at... But something caught my eye: "Parthia Group" -- the name dredged up a memory from weeks earlier...

MORE GRAPHIC ELEMENTS: Images from Episode 13 now float past Shoe's face... the PHOTOS of the baby and the TRAVEL ITINERARY. We PUSH IN ON the last itinerary item: "*3:00 am - Arrive at 1000 South Owen Waters Blvd. P.G. meeting.*"

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A line I'd seen on Jack Hasting's travel itinerary about a "P.G. meeting." But before I could even consider that connection, I saw mention of the WordNet... how it was used to communicate with P.G. field operatives.

NEW ANGLE - Shoe, holding the letter, up to the light --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I could only assume the letter was just a forgery, a hoax.

(MORE)

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Because it looked like it had been
laser printed... sometime after The
Fall... but that was impossible.

Shoe suddenly reacts to --

-- PFUMP! A silenced bullet BLOODIES the Contrarian. STAY
ON The Contrarian, grimacing in pain, as a cautious Shoe
leans into frame, drawing the Contrarian's attention.

CONTRARIAN
Paul... My name is Paul Krantz...

He grabs onto Shoe's shirt, struggles to speak on camera:

CONTRARIAN (CONT'D)
Arnold... covering up... for Parthia...

SHOE cocks his head at the sound of several men's FOOTFALL --

-- The Contrarian FIRES A SHOT at the approaching men...
sending Shoe ducking for cover as more SHOTS ARE FIRED!

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
At that moment, I honestly didn't
know what to believe...

NEW ANGLE - Arnold, carrying a SILENCER GUN, encircles the
Contrarian with three ARMED New Historians. We begin a slow
PULL BACK from the Historians and Contrarian...

ARNOLD (O.S.)
Where's the letter?

CLOSE ON Contrarian as he flashes a pained, bloody smile --

CONTRARIAN
Shoemaker... will stop you.

PFUMP! PFUMP! Arnold casually fires two more silenced shots
into Contrarian, who stops moving. The slow PULL BACK should
culminate at this moment with a REACTION SHOT of Shoe, hiding
behind a truck, having witnessed this entire scene.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
I finally realized that Paul had trusted
me with with his most precious possession:
the truth. About himself, and about The
Fall.

HOLD ON Shoe's stricken face. During Shoe's narration, we
see one of the New Historian's in the background search
Contrarian's body for the letter, then shake his head "no."

ARNOLD (O.S.)
(with cold menace)
Find that letter! NOW!

As the New Historians fan out, Shoe tucks THE LETTER into his coat, ducks out of frame... and we go;

EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAWN

Against the orange glow of a new day, WE SEE the small figure of Shoemaker emerge out a back door on the warehouse. He runs down a street then veers for the safety of the woods.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)
In a matter of minutes, my whole point of view had been turned upside-down. The letter was real. And the New Historians... they were every bit the threat Paul had warned...
(beat)
That's the thing about conspiracies... sometimes they're true.

CLOSE ON Shoe's journal as it slams shut.

FADE TO BLACK: