

"Scam"
by Jaime Clarke

Scene I

Narrator #1: A low humming sound is coming from the Treston Junior High computer room. There we see Billy Adidas and Jason Trimm walk in where their friends, Jaime Perry and Ray King, are working with Mary Yourg^o on the computers.

Billy: What are you doing?

Jaime: (typing) Testing a game we've invented.

Jason: Can I try?

Jaime: (as he stands up) Sure, sit down.

Narrator #2: Jason sits down to the computer as Jaime runs the program. A screen-full of words appears.

Jason: What do I do now?

Jaime: Just read the screen and wait. The computer will automatically go to the next screen.

Narrator #1: The computer goes to the next screen, but at the bottom there's a flashing cursor.

Jason: What happened?

Jaime: I don't know. (pause) I guess you must have hit the Return Key accidentally, and it broke the program.

Jason: I broke your game? (pause) Gee, I'm sorry.

Jaime: No. No. You stopped the program from running, but there's no permanent damage.

Jason: Good!

Narrator #2: The bell rings and Jaime, Ray, Mary, Jason, and Billy leave.

Billy: See you at the club!

Mary: Yeah, see you about 4:30.

Jason: I'll be there!

Scene 2

Narrator #1: Now we are at the Computerized Detectives Association (CDA) Headquarters. Roll call is just starting.

Ray: (as he checks off a list) Jaime, Perry?

Jaime: Here.

Ray: Billy Adidas?

Billy: Here.

Ray: Ray King's here (pause) Jason Trimm?

Jason: Here.

Ray: Mary Young (pause) Where's Mary?

Jaime: She said she had some chores at home, but she said she'd be here. (pause) I'll call.

Narrator #2: Jaime picks up the phone and calls Mary. Mary's father answers.

Jaime: Hello, this is Jaime.

Mr. Young: Hello, Jaime.

Jaime: Is Mary home?

Mr. Young: No. She left about a half an hour ago. She said she was meeting you.

Jaime: She's not here yet. Maybe she stopped off somewhere.

Mr. Young: Maybe, I'll call if she shows up here.

Jaime: Thanks. Bye.

Mr. Young: Goodbye. (He hangs up.)

Ray: Well?

Jaime: (as he hangs up phone) She left about a half an hour ago. She was headed here. (pause) We better go look for her.

Billy: Maybe she got sidetracked?

Jaime: Maybe. But she's never been late before.

(Everyone looks at each other!)

Jason: Let's go!!!

Scene 3

Narrator #1: Once out on the street corner, Jaime gives directions.

Jaime: Okay. Here's what we'll do: (looking at Billy) Billy, I want you to go south. Cover every place you can in a 2⁴-block radius. You have approximately 2 hours before sunset. Come back to my house when it gets dark.

Billy: (nodding his head) I'll take off now!

Jaime: Go! (Billy leaves) Okay. (Turning to Jason) Jason, I want you to go west. Cover the same distance as Billy. And be back at my house when it gets dark. (pause) Got it?

Jason: (nods his head) I'm gone!

Jaime: (to Ray) Go north. Cover the same distance. Be back at the same time.

Ray: What are you gonna' do?

Jaime: I'm going to call everyone of Mary's friends and relatives.

Ray: Okay, I'll be back in a couple of hours.

Narrator #2: Ray leaves and Jaime heads for his telephone.

Scene 4

Narrator #1: Billy is walking down the street and a kid the same size as Billy steps in front of him.

Billy: (to kid) Hey! Have you seen a girl about 5'6" and blonde?

Kid: Maybe I have and maybe I haven't. (looking hard at Billy) What's it to you?

Billy: I happen to be looking for her. Now tell me if you've seen her.

Kid: It's a secret!

Billy: So was Watergate, but somebody found out. (pause) I'm going to count to three. If you haven't told me by then, I'm gonna' get vicious. 1...2...3. (Billy steps closer to the kid) Now, are you gonna' tell me where she is?

Kid: (backing up) You're starting to make me mad!

Billy: Grrrrr!

Kid: All right! All right! I haven't seen her.

Billy: (walking away) Lucky for you. You wouldn't like me when I'm vicious.

Scene 5

Narrator #1: Billy reports back to CDA's headquarters. Jason and Ray are already there. They all turn and look at Billy.

Jason: Did you find anything?

Billy: No. (pause) What did you guys find?

Jason: Zero.

Ray: Ditto.

Jaime: I haven't found anything.
(Shutting off the computer)
We'd better call Mr. Young.

Narrator #2: Jaime picks up the phone and calls Mr. Young.

Jaime: (over telephone) Mr. Young,
this is Jaime.

Mr. Young: Did Mary show up?

Jaime: That's what I'm calling about.
There's a good chance she's
been kidnapped.

Mr. Young: (hysterical) Oh no! What am
I gonna' do? I better call
the police!

Jaime: Mr. Young. (pause) I want you
to calm down. (pause) That's
better. Now, you can't call
the police until after 24 hours.

Mr. Young: All right. You're right.
We'll...we'll wait until to-
morrow. If you hear anything,
call me.

Jaime: I will.

Mr. Young: Goodbye.

Jaime: Goodbye. (he hangs up the phone
and turns to his friends)
Mary's not at home. We're
gonna' wait until tomorrow.
(pause) So why don't you guys
go home.

Ray: Yeah. (pause) But we'll meet here first thing in the morning.

Narrator #1: Everyone leaves and Jaime sits down **looking** around and thinking.

Scene 6

Narrator #2: It's bright and early in the morning and Jaime is eating cereal when Jason, Ray, and Billy arrive.

Jason: Ready?

Jaime: (bending over his bowl) Shhh!! My cereal is talking to me...

Ray: Unless it's telling you where Mary is, I don't want to hear it.

Jaime: . You're right! (Getting up) I've got the computer warming up. Let's go!

Narrator #1: They go downstairs where Jaime's computer is running. Suddenly the screen goes blank and a message appears.

Ray: Hey! Look at this! (He motions them to the computer.)

Billy: (reading the computer screen) Computer Center... Help MY

Jason: What does it mean?

Jaime: I don't (stops dead) Hey! That doesn't say Computer Center... Help MY.

Jason: What does it say, then?

Jaime: Computer Center...Help M.Y.!

Jason, Jaime,
Billy, Ray: (together) Mary Young!!

Jaime: I'll call Mr. Young.

Narrator #2: Jaime calls Mr. Young and tells him what's coming down. Then he hangs up.

Jaime: He'll be here in a couple of minutes.

Billy: What do we do if we run into the kidnappers?

Jaime: I think royal confusion is our answer. (goes over to stereo with microphone) I'll set up my stereo system and hook some adjoining speakers up.

Ray: What if you can't find an outlet?

Jaime: I've got batteries. (to Billy) Grab that mirror (points to mirror)

Narrator #1: Billy grabs the mirror as screeching tires are heard.

Jaime: Let's go!

Narrator #2: The boys leave Jaime's room and file into the car. The car speeds off.

Scene 7

Narrator #1: The car pulls up to a dark Computer Center. The boys get out.

Jaime: Mr. Young, you stay out here.

Mr. Young: Will you be all right?

Jaime: Trust me! (to Jason, Ray, and Billy) Let's get set up!

Narrator #2: Jaime, Jason, Billy, and Ray try the front door. It's locked. Billy goes over to the window. Carefully he takes it out. He motions the rest to follow.

Jaime: (whispering) I'll get set up!

Narrator #1: Jaime sets up and quietly instructs Billy where to set up the mirror. They camouflaged the mirror in-between the bookcases and Jaime stands so his reflection is in the mirror. In the next room, Mary is being held hostage by two men and a small man named Toothpick.

Ray: (whispering) This isn't gonna work!

Jaime: (whispering) Hey! Trust me!
(into the microphone) All right!
You are surrounded! Come out
with your hands up!

Narrator #2: Jason, Billy, Ray, and Jaime look
around for results. A noise
comes from one of the two doors.
Jaime points to Ray and Billy and
then to the door.

Ray: (whispering) What?

Jaime: (whispering) Trust me!

Ray: (as he heads for the door) Na na
na na (Twilight Zone)

Jaime: (to Billy, whispering) Hey, Bill!
(Billy looks; Jaime makes an open-
the-door-motion)

Billy: (nods and puts his hand on the
doorknob; he opens the door)

Jaime: (into the microphone) "(explosions;
Machine gun fire)"

Narrator #1: Ray and Billy hit the floor. The
small man, Toothpick, runs out.

Jaime: (to Ray) Get him!

Narrator #2: Toothpick runs out the door and
Ray goes after him. Meanwhile,
the two bad men come out of the
room and see Jaime's reflection
in the mirror. They roll a gar-
bage can and push chairs toward
it.. Then, out of nowhere, Jason
and Billy jump on their backs
and pull them down.
Meanwhile, Ray chases Toothpick
down and catches him. He drags
Toothpick back to Computer Center.
Jaime and Billy bring Mary out
of the room.

Mary: Boy, am I glad to see you guys.

Jaime: C'mon. Let's get Mary home, and
these jerks downtown.

Narrator #1: Jaime escorts one of the bad men
out.

Ray: (to Billy) Downtown?! (Billy shrugs)

Scene 8

Narrator #2: Everyone is at Mr. Young's house eating sandwiches.

Jaime: (to Mary) Why did they kidnap you?

Mary: They wanted me to break into some federal banks and steal money for them.

Ray: (swallowing a bite of sandwich) And they didn't have the knowledge, so they kidnapped you!

Mary: You got it! Toothpick wanted me to do all the stealing... and take the wrap for it!

Billy: Who's Toothpick?

Jaime: He was the short guy...the mastermind.

Narrator #1: Jason picks up his sandwich to take a bite.

Billy: Hold it! Do sandwiches move? (Pause. Everyone looks puzzled.) There's something crawling out of Jason's!!!

Jason: Ahhhhhh!!! (He throws down his sandwich. Everyone laughs at him.)

(Theme Song)

THE END