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Title: Dan's Kidnapping

"Hey, maybe I should go home now. It's getting late."

"OK, Dan, I'll call your mom and tell her that you'll be home soon," responded Tom.

"OK. Bye," Daniel called back as he jogged down the steps of Tom's house.

"Boom." The thunder sounded loud in the sky. "It really is cold tonight," Dan said to himself as he began the long walk home. "Wet, cold, and really late," he thought. Daniel could barely see his hand in front of his face. As Dan walked, he thought about how he and Tom had spent the afternoon. They played board games, video games, and a little sports.

Dan also remembered seeing the figure of a man completely dressed in black in the periphery of his vision when they played outside. A man who seemed to be watching him and Tom. Suddenly Dan was scared. "Is a vampire or a witch following me?" he thought? He walked faster. Now he was sure he hear something behind him, and he started to run. Dan just began a scream when his voice was muffled by a hand. His eyes began to fade, he could see less, hear less and then . . . nothing . . .

Dan woke up to find himself lying on a cot in a pitch black room. Dan was too frightened to think straight. He didn't want to get up, not knowing what was on the floor under his cot and for some reason he was really tired anyway. Dan decided to close his eyes while he got his bearings, and after about a minute he drifted off to sleep. A sudden noise brought Dan fully awake and this time he had the courage and will to get up. It was morning now. Dan could see what was around him, but it wasn't much to look at.

In his "cell" Dan had a sink and a toilet stall in the corner of the room. So he went to wash his face. "Knock, knock." Dan heard noises coming from the door. He ran behind his cot and hid. Some men came through the door. Dan peeked at them from underneath the bed. They were tall, burly men, completely clothed in black. Even their shoes and undershirts were black.

The men began looking around the room. Dan didn't know what to do. "These guys are going to kill me for sure," he thought. They found him of course. It didn't take that long in such a small space. One of the men told him, "Your parents better cough up one million dollars in the next 24 hours, or you're history, Bub. Let's go. You're going to call your parents and tell them." They drove Dan out to the countryside and when they were in the, "middle of nowhere," as Dan thought about the place where they stopped, the black-clothed men dialed Dan's home phone number and prompted him to deliver his message. After Dan spoke, his kidnappers took the phone and threw it into the nearest large body of water they passed by. Then they drove back to their hideout and put Dan back in his cell.

Meanwhile, at Dan's home his parents had called the police. The police had pretty much moved into Dan's family home along with a lot of bags containing Dunkin' Donuts coffee and well, donuts, and lots of communications equipment. The milieu of officers included two in particular with a strong interest in solving this case. Patrol Officer Jordan and Detective Raymond felt personally involved because they both had had similar events happen to their own relatives.

Officer Jordan and Det. Raymond were very intrigued by the phone call. The police were able to pinpoint the location the call had originated from. They were considering whether to send a police officer to check the area out, but they had to consider that the kidnappers might have set a trap. What kind of a trap, they weren't sure. But it's better to play it safe when you're dealing with

people threatening to kill another member of the human race. The officers told their commander that they were going to check the area out.

On the way to the call location, Officer Jordan and Det. Raymond talked about the situation. They were both heavily angered, but they didn't let their emotions get in their way. After three hours they arrived at the spot. They got out of the detective's unmarked police vehicle and started looking around. They weren't having any luck until Officer Jordan spotted something.

"Hey, Ray, come look at this," Jordan yelled across the field they were both looking in.

"What is it," asked Det. Raymond when he got close enough to see the dark stain on the ground near Jordan's feet.

"It's a track of oil and it leads directly into that dark warehouse," replied Officer Jordan.

"The kidnapers clearly want us to go in there, so we definitely shouldn't go. They didn't disappear into the water, we didn't see any other tracks on the way over here when we were headed Eastbound either, so let's go west," proposed Det. Raymond.

"OK, Ray. Get in the car, I'll drive," said Jordan.

On their way the policemen looked everywhere until Det. Raymond spotted a warehouse that was dimly lit. Officer Jordan made the call for backup. In an hour, thirty-six S.W.A.T. members had arrived. they split up into three groups: Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. The police officers all knew Dan didn't have much time, so they surrounded the warehouse and went in soon after securing the perimeter. Det. Raymond was in charge of Group A, and Officer Jordan led Group B. Groups A & B entered the building, with Group C maintaining the integrity of the perimeter around it.



"Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!" The two S.W.A.T. groups were fighting it out with Dan's kidnapers. There were many kidnapers, and the S.W.A.T. teams were fully engaged. Officer Jordan and Det. Raymond each took two men each from their respective groups and headed underground into the basement area. They figured that's where Dan would be.

When they got down the stairs, Officer Jordan spotted a door. Det. Raymond opened it carefully, and there was Dan, lying on a table. He was in pretty good shape, but half starved. Apparently, the kidnapers hadn't fed him for the entire day and everyone knows that teenagers need to eat constantly in order to stay alive. By that time, the battle raging upstairs had been decided in favor of the S.W.A.T. officers and it was safe to bring Dan out of the building.



Officer Jordan and Det. Raymond escorted Dan outside, where they were met by tons of police, medics and reporters, but the only two people Dan had eyes for were his parents. Dan was able to go back home with his parents, and give his follow-up statement from the comfort of his own family's living room. Most of the kidnapers were put in jail, minus a few killed in the battle. Det. Raymond and Officer Jordan were both promoted to sergeant, effectively immediately, and the S.W.A.T. members were each awarded two medals in a ceremony which took place outside the county court house. One for bravery and one for skill.