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Chapter 33: Snap Crackle Pop

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy.

Chapter 33: Snap Crackle Pop

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT)

Scene One: The Crow's inner sanctum. Interior. Night.

SOUND: (ominous, foundry, dynamo)

CASSIE

Stop it! You're squeezing her too hard!

THE CROW

You want hard? I'll give you hard!

NARRATOR

The Crow clamped his hands around Jet's neck, causing Jet to bite his wrist.

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THE CROW (enraged)

Aghhh—you filthy miserable—

NARRATOR

Jet squirmed out of his grasp, ran to Cassie and leaped into her arms. The Crow stormed across the room holding his hand throbbing with the blood from Jet's bite.

THE CROW

I will destroy you!

NARRATOR

Cassie fled in terror. The look in the Crow's eyes was terrible enough but all the yelling and commotion brought more Icemen. More Icemen with more Rottweilers and more guns. Adding to Cassie's confusion was all the noise chattering in her earbuds. Commands from the Emperor's Intel service squawked, and panicky questions bounced among Memyselfandi, Sly and Assam, still stuck in the COM hub. On top of all that, an alarm had been triggered, echoing over loudspeakers at a deafening volume.

SOUND: (pulsing alarm)

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INTEL SERVICE OPERATOR ("telephone" effect)

Take stairwell G4. Repeat: Take stairwell G4.

CASSIE

Who...who said that?

NARRATOR

The voice was so distorted over Cassie's earbuds she couldn't tell whether it was someone from the Emperor's Intel service or the Crow's security guards. She had no time to think so she dashed around a corner, saw a sign for G4 and scrambled down the stairs.

MUSIC: (chase = AgitProp-RDo+OGD-a-120323?)

SOUND: (distant chaotic voices over "radio" band effects)

NARRATOR

Assam and Memyselfandi were also hearing messages in their earbuds.

INTEL SERVICE OPERATOR ("telephone" effect)

Exit COM hub IMMEDIATELY! Repeat: Exit COM hub IMMEDIATELY!

SOUND: (distant chaotic voices over "radio" band effects)

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NARRATOR

When Cassie got to the bottom of the stairwell she pressed the handle on the door labeled G4. She ran down another corridor, this one painted bright red with stencilled black letters and numbers, none of which made any sense to her.

INTEL SERVICE OPERATOR ("telephone" effect)

Turn right at the GEN sign! That's G-E-N, GEN, turn right.

NARRATOR

This corridor was painted in black and yellow stripes, the universal sign for caution. At the end of the corridor was an iron door marked with a high voltage warning sign: two crossed lightning bolts and the words, **DANGER! GENERATOR DYNAMO. 500,000 VOLTS.**

CASSIE

Oh no Jet...what should I do?

NARRATOR

The Crow, surrounded by his goons, had caught up with her. Danger or no, Cassie had nowhere to go but through the door.

THE CROW

Seize him!

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MUSIC: (chase)

SOUND: (cavernous, foundry, dynamo)

NARRATOR

Cassie pushed open the door and ran into a large area like a factory floor. Massive I-beam girders rose up to a high ceiling vented with dingy skylights. Giant machines and rusted tanks surrounded her. Stairs and ladders led to a network of iron catwalks above her.

CASSIE

Jet, those skylights up there are really high...maybe they lead to an escape! But...what if we get all the way up there and run into a dead end?

ICEMAN

Shoot to kill, sir?

THE CROW

No. Killing the Monegrin would be too easy, put him out of his misery too quickly. First I'm going to torture him. And I'll start by torturing that filthy black creature he keeps as a pet. I'll skin it alive before his sobbing eyes.

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ICEMAN (aghast)

Mother of the motherless mothers!

NARRATOR

The Crow was flopping like a fish out of water, bouncing on top of cables, his skin bubbling black and crisp, smoke venting out of his mouth like a hog roasting on a spit.

SOUND: (zapping, snapping, crackling, popping)

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE IN)

NARRATOR

Next: Now that the Strangers were foolish enough to strike at the Crow, his loyal Icemen will make them pay. But what they don't know is that Cassie and Quintilianis still have a few surprises in store.

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE OUT)

[end Chapter 33]