

FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE FORTHCOMING

**BEYOND THE MIRROR IMAGE:
THE OBSERVER'S GUIDE TO QUANTUM LEAP**

TEXT AND LAYOUT ARE NOT FINALISED

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HER CHARM

SEPTEMBER 26, 1973

Wednesday September 26th-27th 1973
Boston, Massachusetts¹

Code: 2.15
Production # : 65416
First Broadcast: Wednesday February 7th 1990
47m56s

Also Known As

Course poursuite [Quick Pursuit] (France)
Zeugin im Kreuzfeuer [Witness in the Crossfire] (Germany)
Fascino [Charm] (Italy)
Nowhere to Hide (Draft Script)

Guest Starring Teri Austin, Stanley Brock, John Snyder,
Rene Assa, John Shepherd
Teleplay by Deborah Pratt & Donald P. Bellisario
Story by Paul M. Belous & Robert Wolterstorff and
Deborah Pratt & Donald P. Bellisario
Directed by Christopher T. Welch

"Uh, I think..."
"Don't think, it'll just get us into trouble."

TV Guide: Sam (Scott Bakula) leaps into an FBI agent assigned to protect a feisty but fearful woman (Teri Austin) from the murderous crook she used to work for.

Leap In: Sam is ringing a doorbell. A frustrated woman answers, and the two get into a car, which is immediately fired upon by showers of bullets.



The Q-man is now a G-man! Sam's an FBI agent trying to keep a sexy witness one step ahead of professional hit men!

B P M

guide. A new script was rewritten by Belous, Wolterstorff and Pratt, with a draft dated December 20th 1989 baring the working title *Nowhere to Hide*. In it, Andy was meant to say "something's wrong with the

steering" in Greek, Dana Barrenger's marriage is established to have lasted three years, Professor LoNigro is called Professor Bell and there is a short scene of Richardson leading Dana to the laundry truck after which came some dialogue between Richardson and Sam about the backup plan (which was lifted to earlier in the episode). Later, a hippy girl points out to Sam that his coat is hanging out of the door of the truck, Andy figures out they're not going to Baltimore before Dana does (the short scenes are swapped around), there is a suggested commercial break during the car chase (instead of just prior to the arrival at the cabin) and there's a little more bickering between Dana and Sam during that scene too ("What are you waiting for?" "It's full of dirty underwear!"). The scene of Dana and Sam driving in the dark just before they arrive at the cabin is absent, as is some of the extra arguing when they arrive. Finally, the truck rolls into the lake. These are the only changes made between the script and the aired version, for which Bellisario's credit was added.

Al's Outfits: A white shirt with blue stripes, a red tie, red waistcoat, white jacket, dark trousers and red hat from *The Right Hand of God*. This is the first televised episode where Al only wears a single outfit.

Al's Loves: He says Dana is beautiful.

Allusions

Sam quotes *The Honeymooners* when he says "to the moon!". This line is later quoted in *Odyssey*, while *Sarah's Got a Gun* makes another reference to the show.

Langly has a photo of Richard Nixon in his office. Other references to Nixon take place in *The Play's the Thing*, *Star Light*, *Star Bright* and *Up Against a Stonewall*.

In the script, Dana compares Langly to cartoon character Dudley Do-Right from *The Dudley Do-Right Show*. The author of *Song and Dance* makes a similar comparison for Sam.

Notes and Observations

- The saga sell reaches its sixth version here. The clips are identical to the one used in *Another Mother* and the script identical to that in *All-Americans*, but a stereo reverb effect is added to Deborah Pratt's voice, and the music after the *Genesis* leap is changed to one that would be used for all remaining saga sells. The reverb was also added to the HD version of *All-Americans*. The

¹ *The A-Z of Quantum Leap* inaccurately places this on

September 6th 1973. The draft script used October 26th 1973.

Quantum Leap soundtrack uses a further unique version, matching the music that premieres here with Pratt's *All-Americans* vocals (i.e. without the reverb effect). The French version retained the original music, as did all following second season episodes.

- The establishing shot of the cabin is stock footage, also used in Bellisario's show *Airwolf* as Stringfellow Hawke's cabin.
- It's never made clear in the script, but there are hints that Richardson – generally a red herring for the audience – actually is in on the plot. After all, how would Nick know about the plan to use a van to transport Dana, as Sam wouldn't have told him...
- The German DVD has three seconds missing from the start of the third act; the same material is missing from the French DVD soundtrack, though the visuals are intact (with the shot playing in silence). At the end of the third act, the incidental music is cut and ends a few seconds earlier in both versions."
- Unusually, the SFX of the van revving when out of gas is different in the German version. The French van sounds the same as the English version!

Goofs

- When Nick shoots at Dana and Sam, the windshield completely breaks apart over the hood of the car. Windshields are laminated and gunshots should create a spider-web pattern with the basic structure still holding in place. This might have made it difficult for Sam to drive, of course.
- When Sam and Dana duck inside the car at the start, the glass keeps falling for a long time – just how much glass is there in the window?
- The stunt driver is visible when Sam turns the car around after reversing out of the drive.

- Throughout the episode, Sam wears a Casio calculator watch. The world's first such watch was introduced by Pulsar in 1975, two years after this episode is set.
- Al reflects in a fire extinguisher in the FBI offices.
- When Richardson laments not tailing Sam and Dana, a clear view of the clock on his wall shows just after 4:10, as does a slightly less clear view of his watch (impressive attention to detail). The clock behind him, though out of focus, appears to show a different time – the hour isn't clear but the minutes definitely aren't showing ten past the hour.
- Dana throws some laundry bags out of the back of the truck which reappear in the following shot.
- Nick's tracking device only has lights on the areas needed to track Sam and Dana.
- When they arrive at the cabin, Sam finds the keys – Dana then walks in without unlocking the door.
- The photo of Sam (aged anywhere between sixteen and twenty) is clearly of Bakula (aged 36) without any attempt to make him look younger except flopping his hair in front of his forehead.
- When looking through the woods for Dana, Nick and Andy have two conversations about the dark without moving their lips.

End Credits: A 22-second edit of the theme, over just two stills from the episode – the lowest number of stills or clips used when the credits are in this format until *Mirror Image* which just used one. The credits scroll (for the second time, after *Catch a Falling Star*).

Review: A fun episode with plenty of laughs in the interplay between Austin and Bakula, and nice creepy performances from Snyder and Assa. Usually a TV episode with this many authors and this complex a birthing process ends up feeling messy and uneven, but once in a while a gem comes out of it – *Her Charm* is just such a story, with a genuinely surprising twist when Langly's true nature is revealed, and really makes use of Sam's position as taking over the life of someone whose background he can't possibly know to the fullest. The moment at the end with Professor LoNigro can't fail to raise a smile too.

Guest Cast: Teri Austin (Dana Barringer), Stanley Brock (Greg Richardson), John Snyder (Nick Kochifos²), Rene Assa (Andy), John Shephard (Thomas), James Hardie (Professor Sebastian LoNigro), Mark Harrigan (Peter Langly), Deborah Pratt (Narrator) [uncredited]

² *The A-Z of Quantum Leap* spells the surname Kochifas. This spelling is from the draft script.

HIDDEN IDENTITY

OCTOBER 26, 1979

BY PAUL M. BELOUS

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Hidden Identity was the original script upon which Nowhere to Hide / Her Charm was based, and differs significantly from later drafts.

Sam leaps into a dining room table with a party hat on his head and a plastic horn in his mouth. He is surrounded by his wife, Diane Potter, in her mid-thirties, and their sixteen-year-old daughter Tess, who are singing Happy Birthday (which quickly provides him with his name, Richard). Tess gives him a pet rock for his birthday, which gives him a sense of nostalgia, and Diane a new copy of the law degree he had to leave behind in Grand Rapids. The celebrations are interrupted by the arrival of Walter Leadley from the Federal Marshall's office, who demands he comes with him.

Diane panics that they've been found; Walter gives a little reassurance that they're just taking a precaution. Diane, clearly used to this scenario, immediately starts packing to leave. Walter sympathises with Richard's need for a nomadic lifestyle, and helps himself to cake as Al arrives. Al explains that Richard had been a successful defence lawyer, but had become fed up of successfully defending people he knew were guilty, so he turned in evidence and placed himself and his family into the federal witness relocation program. He's had three identities in the last two years though, as they keep being found. Walter hurries them out of the house...

...and straight into a car, as a Mercedes drives past, the passenger peppering the silence with a hail of gunfire. Walter is noticeably shaken, but Sam shakes him into control, making a getaway.

At the Federal building, Sam watches as Walter reports back to his boss, Arthur Tallmadge. Walter then advises Sam that the family is going to move to a safe house for a couple of days, and then to Raleigh, North Carolina. Al warns him that Richard and his family never make it south of the Mason-Dixon line. Sam can't do much while they're under Federal protection though, so goes along with the plan for now. He realises he's in Boston, which he recognises from his time at M.I.T., and has a specific recollection of the Berkshires, but he's not sure why. He convinces Walter to change the location they're travelling to...

The family leave in one of three identical vans, Leadley's plan being that the other two will draw off fire if the Mercedes catches up with them. They are followed secretly by a government Sedan.

Later, in one of the vans, Sam leads Walter and his family through a forested mountain area, trying to recall the location of a cabin he used to visit when he was at M.I.T. Meanwhile, at the safe house, Batalino and Merck - the driver and passenger of the Mercedes - wait, and Batalino talks on the phone to an unseen party. Frustrated by the lack of Richard and his family, they leave.

The family arrive at the cabin, which Diane loves. They, and Walter, get settled for the night, and Diane starts to press Sam on why he was so insistent on over-riding Walter's plans.

The following Day, Walter is on the phone to his boss, explaining why he broke protocol and giving him their general location. Tallmadge promises to have some people there to support him soon. And we discover that sat in his office are Batalino and Merck. The three leave together.

That night, back at the cabin, Diane tries in vain to seduce Sam, and in the nick of time Walter interrupts. Diane goes to bed while Walter and Sam have a heart-to-heart. He confesses he feels foolish for having frozen when Richard's family were under attack, and that he'd always wanted to be an FBI agent.

The next day, Sam and Al watch the sunrise and Sam tries hard to remember why he knows the cabin so well while Batalino, Merck and Tallmadge close in on them. In the cabin, Diane comforts a distressed Tess and the two end up arguing. Diane holds Tess as she cries, and suggests to Sam that they go for a walk. Once they're alone, Diane suggests to Sam that they consider leaving the witness relocation program and "take our chances".

At the cabin, Tess notices a car approaching, and alerts Walter - he checks but is relieved to see Tallmadge. The relief is momentary, though, as Batalino shoots in him in the kneecaps. Al arrives out in the woods to alert Sam, and he rushes back to the cabin to save Tess.

He gets back to find Tess making a bid for freedom, but Tallmadge spots him. Sam attacks him with a fire poker and runs off with the girl. He tells her to go and find Diane, and runs off in the other direction trying to lead Batalino and the others off the scent. They reunite and he hides Tess and Diane behind some rocks, then goes into hiding himself to set a trap for Batalino, who he defeats. He then catches Merck and fights him, wrestling for a gun which goes off in the criminal's hands, killing him. Just then, Sam's memories begin to return, flashing back to a time at M.I.T. when his life was saved by a fellow student, Jonas, with whom he'd spent time at the cabin.

Tallmadge has caught Diane and Tess, and shouts for Richard. Sam comes out of the undergrowth and tries to reason with him, but to no avail. Just then, Walter - who has crawled into his car - flings open a car door, crashing into the back of Tallmadge and catching him off balance. Tallmadge falls, hits his head, and slumps unconscious. Sam tells Walter he has decided to leave the program.

Al updates Sam on the new future - Richard and his family settle in Washington and he takes law school under a new name, and practices law once again. Walter's newfound confidence leads him to become a district supervisor. Sam, satisfied at the outcome, leaps.