

TMP Episode 2.5

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Hello, everybody, and welcome to a bonus episode of the movie Plaza. For episode 2.5, I'm just going to be going over the full breakdown of events that I originally wrote for north by Northwest. When I first wrote it, it was just too long. It would have made the episode way too long, so I decided to shorten it greatly. If you felt like when you first watched it that you couldn't quite get a good picture of what was happening, then you may enjoy this episode. So without further ado, I'm going to get right into the full breakdown of events for Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 north by Northwest. ^{2s} North by Northwest begins in a hotel where we meet Mr. Roger of Thornhill, who's played by Cary Grant. He is talking to his secretary, and immediately we can gather a few things about him, including that he's a businessman, more specifically an advertising executive, and he is going to meet with some associates. Additionally, we get the impression that he's someone who's quick on his feet, a bit of a womanizer, never short of a smart comeback and comfortable with a liar, too. ^{1s} So he's rattling off notes to his secretary through the hotel lobby and insists that she continue following him into his cab so that she may continue to take notes on his way to meet with the associates. She rides with him to the restaurant where he goes in for his meeting. When he remembers that one of the notes he gave his secretary regarding his mother was incorrect, this thought lingers on his mind when he sits for the meeting and the camera does a fast pan over to these two goon looking men wearing suits back to Mr. Thornhill. And he decides to just make the call himself quickly and gets up to go to a phone booth nearby. However, when he gets up, the two goon looking men that we saw earlier rush up to him and discreetly pull a gun on him. They warn him that they're armed and tell him that they're going to be escorting him from the building into a car and it would be best not to fight back against them. Naturally, Roger gets in the car with them and comes to the conclusion that he's been kidnapped. He makes snarky remarks and even tries to escape the car once, to no avail, and drives all the way to a house with a large sign that says Townsend. He assumes he must be at Mr. and Mrs. Townsend's house. ^{1s} So they bring him inside and into this library, where he's instructed to wait. There are a few people in the house, including The Goons and Mr. Thornhill but I'm going to try to say as few names as possible to not get too confusing. While waiting in the room, a man walks in and turns the lights out. He walks up to a lamp and turns it on, illuminating him from the back and casting his face in darkness. They might as well have put a giant neon sign above his head that said, I'm the bad guy because it's so clear that this dude is about to be public enemy number one. Much later in the film, Roger finds out that this man's name is Mr. Philip Van Damme but at this time, he believes him to be Mr. Townsend in his home. So Roger begins to question him, wondering why he's been kidnapped, and explains that he has tickets to the theater later that night with his mom that he would really prefer not to miss. Just then, Leonard, who's Mr. Van Damme's right hand man, walks in the room and Van Damme refers to Roger as Kaplan. Roger picks up on this and insists that he is not Kaplan and there must have been some sort of mix up, but Van Dam is not having any of it. Through some conversation, we find out that Van Damme kidnapped Roger because he believes him to be Mr. George Kaplan, a government agent who has been hot on his trails, attempting to prevent some sort of criminal activity from taking place. ^{1s} Van Dam and Leonard are so confident that no matter what Roger does, they believe it is all a ploy, as he's an undercover agent, so this is obviously not the case. However, Van Damme doesn't know that, and he's attempting to bribe Roger into telling him everything that he knows about his own personal criminal dealings. When Roger can't do this, Van Dam becomes frustrated and leaves him with Leonard and a reminder that he would be in touch whether he liked it or not. Then, boom. Van Dam leaves. So Roger is alone with the goons in the room with Leonard. Before Roger leaves, Leonard insists that he has a drink. Roger refuses, so the goons pin him down in what is a super awkward struggle scene. And then Leonard pours a very tall glass of bourbon and makes Roger drink it. Moving forward, Roger is a stereotypical drunk who's walking funny and slurring his words. One of the goons takes him out to a car and puts Roger in the driver's seat and himself in the passenger seat before beginning to drive. The other goon is riding with Leonard and trailing them. At some point along the way, Roger composed himself enough to push the goon out of the car and then drunkenly drove to the best of his ability abilities nearly falling off a cliff and then speeding past a police officer who pulls him over and arrests him. ^{1s} That takes us to the jail, where Roger is trying to explain to the officers that these people got him drunk and they made him drink and drive. Obviously, that sounds like a load of crap, and they don't believe him.

But they do permit him his one call, which he uses to call his mother, and asks that she picks him up in the morning and brings his lawyer. Apparently, he and his mother are pretty close, but I found the relationship to be quite odd. Anyways, in the morning, his mom brings his lawyer, who tries to defend him. But without any sort of proof, things aren't looking too good for Roger, especially because he was alone when he was arrested. So that's when he gets the idea to take them to the Townsend house and possibly speak to the people there, or at least show them that he's been there before. When they get there, he sees a woman from the night before, presumably Mr. Townsend's wife, who he quickly find out is working for Mr. Van Damme because she makes up this whole story of how he arrived there drunk last night to hang out with her and her husband. She says he got more drunk as the night went on and insisted on leaving in a cab, but he actually must have taken their neighbor's car and blah, blah, blah, she's a liar, and they're eating it up. She also says that Mr. Townsend is currently away at work at a United Nations meeting. To add to all of that, Roger tries to show them the liquor cabinet in the library where they grabbed the bourbon from, but when he opens it, it's just books inside. So the cops clearly don't believe him, and neither does his mom, who tells him to just pay the two dollar fine for the DUI, but he's insisting that there's more going on. ^{1s} Now, Mr. Thornhill is not about to give up, and he brainstorms what to do to clear his name. He comes to the conclusion that if he can just find and speak to Mr. Kaplan, then he'll be able to get things sorted out. So he returns to the hotel he was staying at and asks the concierge at the front desk if someone is staying there under the name Kaplan. Lo and behold, there is. So he goes up to the room to pay him a visit, and the hotelmaid lets him right in. During this scene, we come to find out that Mr. Kaplan is staying in that room, although no one in the hotel has actually seen him. All orders to clean the room or dry clean the suit in the closet happened remotely and required no face to face interaction. Roger is also able to rule out the possibility that he and Mr. Kaplan actually just look alike, because he tries on the suit that was dry cleaned in the closet, and it is several inches too short. This route ultimately has made him more confused than he started, so he decides to explore his next best option, which would be to go see Mr. Townsend himself and speak to him. So, boom. Roger takes the cap to the United Nations building, and with him is a photo that he has of Mr. Van Damme. He stole it from the house, who, at this time, he still believes is Mr. Townsend. He goes to the conference to speak with him, and when he arrives, he talks to the secretary at the front desk and asks for Mr. Townsend. However, when Mr. Townsend arrives and it's not Mr. Van Dam, he gets pretty confused and tries to explain to him what happened last night. Mr. Townsend said he hasn't been home, and his wife is actually deceased, so there should be no people in the house. It's good to know that right around this time, the camera cuts to show that one of the goons in the building is watching Roger talk to Mr. Townsend, and he puts a pair of gloves on. Then, right before Roger can show Mr. Townsend the photo with Mr. Van Damme, we see a knife fly in from the side of the screen, implant itself into Mr. Townsend's back, killing him nearly instantly. He falls forward into Roger's arms, who, in his stunned state, ends up catching the body, and almost as if by instinct, grabs the knife from his back. So he's standing there holding the knife, and no one saw the goon. So obviously, everyone in the room thinks Roger did it. Some photographer takes his photo, and now Roger looks like a double criminal with the DUI charge. So he flees the scene, officially putting him on the run from the police and kick starting the adventure he's about to go on. But let's put a pin in that, because the next scene does not involve any of the characters we've met so far. ^{1s} Instead of seeing where Roger goes right away we cut to a scene of what I presume is the FBI, though it may be the CIA and they're in a meeting talking about Mr. Van Damme and how he almost caught on to Mr. Kaplan. I use almost caught on loosely because it's revealed that Mr. Kaplan is not a real person but rather an elaborate decoy created by the FBI to keep Mr. Van Damme from finding the real agent that's working right under his nose. However, when they see the news headlines showing Roger they put two and two together that Mr. Van Damme thinks Roger is Mr. Kaplan and for the sake of their mission, decide to leave it that way. After all, what's better than a fake decoy but a real one? Anyways, back to Roger, who is now in a phone booth at the train station and he's talking to his mom. ^{2s} He tells her that he called the hotel and they said that Mr. Kaplan already checked out and went to the Hotel Ambassador East in Chicago. So, naturally, that's where he's going to go next. He's going to take the train as opposed to a plane because there would be nowhere to hide on a plane should someone recognize him. That's some excellent foreshadowing that he's going to be hiding out on the train. So fast forward. I'm going to skip some minor details for clarity purposes. And Roger managed to avoid the police and sneak on the train without a ticket. He almost gets caught at the last minute. But thankfully there's this young, beautiful blonde on the train who seemed more than willing to point the officers in the wrong direction. ^{1s} Her name is Eve, and Roger ends up getting seated next to her during mealtime, which then begins a terribly awkward conversation that sounds like it came right out of a 50s

wet dream in which some average middle aged man gets to sexualize a woman half his age and she's just totally into it. An example at one point, Roger says to Eve that he finds honest women generally put him at a disadvantage. Manage, she asks. Why? Because you're not honest with them. To which he says, what I mean is, the moment I meet an attractive woman, I have to start pretending I have no desire to make love to her. Cringe. I know. But of course, Eve replies, what makes you think you have to conceal it? Double cringe. So Eve also goes on to reveal that she tipped the waiter \$5 to see Roger there if he were to come into the meal car, and that she knows he's currently wanted all across the United States. Of course, pepperdins are various innuendos about how the two of them won't be doing much sleeping that night, and Roger better not eat too much. When Roger does ask about her, though, really the only information that she gives up is I'm Eve Kendall, I'm 26 and unmarried. Now you know everything. If Roger actually cared about finding out who this woman was that would be willing to host a fugitive, he may have asked her more. But I mean, really, how much could you ask a woman about herself before trusting her completely and deciding to sleep with her, right? Anyways, it's truly ridiculous to me, but whatever. The only other thing you really need to know is that Eve notices that Roger has a personal monogrammed matchbox with his initial spelling rot. ^{2s} The scene ends with the train making an unplanned stop and two officers hopping on. Roger follows Eve back to her personal train car, where she's going to hide him. So now we are in the train car and Eve appears to be alone in her room. But we know that Roger is hiding in the overhead pulled down bed. When the detectives come in and question Eve about Roger, she plays in in, telling them that she knows nothing and claiming she plans to be alone in her room all night. With the door locked, they leave. Eve opens up the overhead bin, and then it's implied that they have sex. Following that is another awkward scene where the two of them seem to be all over each other in their post coital bliss or whatever, and they keep doing this weird kiss thing where they press their faces together but never actually pucker or move their lips at all, whatever. I think it's implied that they lowkey fell in love at this point, but I don't care. Moving on, the porter knocks on the door, causing Roger to have to hide in the bathroom. When the porter comes in, Eve slips him a note that when he leaves, we see him deliver it to another train car with none other than Mr Van Damme and Leonard. The note reads, what do I do with him in the morning? And it's signed by Eve, so it looks like she's working for Van Damme, which is a bummer for Roger. We don't see them send a note back, but the next scene cuts to the train parked at the station and Eve walking alongside Roger, who's disguising himself as a train boy. He's wearing the red hat low over his eyes and carrying all of her bags. They escape the platform area, where they split briefly. Roger goes to the bathroom, where he reshapes his face, and Eve goes to the phone booth, where we see her talking to Leonard, though she says that she had reached out to Mr Kaplan. The two of them reconvene and she passes along the instructions for Roger to meet Mr. Kaplan at this bus stop in the middle of nowhere. They have their little this is where I leave you moment, and even though Eve says she'll see him again, everyone can tell that something is off with her. She ends up hurrying Roger off by lying and saying the police are coming to get him. So he scurries away and boom. Next scene. Now we are at this dusty bus stop in the middle of nowhere that is surrounded by some fields and literally nothing else. We see the multiple cars go by, and none of them pick Roger up. And we even see a man get dropped off four and then picked up by the bus. What? While he was waiting, Roger went over to talk to him and see if it was Mr. Kaplan. Of course it wasn't, and they had some small talk. During this time, the man points out this crop duster plane in the near distance and drops an observation that it's odd that where the crop duster is flying, there are no crops. Foreshadowing. Once again, the dude gets on the bus. The bus drives away, and Roger is left standing out there are looking at the plane. The more he looks at it, the better he sees it. Actually, the more he looks at it, the closer it appears. Yep, the plane is flying directly at him, and as it approaches, it dips, causing him to have to throw himself on the ground to avoid getting hit. As the plane flies by, bullets rain down, but thankfully, none of them hit Roger. The plane circles around a few more times, doing the same thing when Roger sees a nearby cornfield and decides the best thing for him to do would be to try to hide in the corn where the plane cannot see him. Obviously, he didn't think that one through very well because when he hides, the plane just comes around and dusts the crops in that area, forcing him out. He runs back toward the road and into the middle, where a large oil truck is approaching. He stays in the middle of the road, attempting to wave them down, and they stop just barely in time, knocking Roger down with the truck but not really harming him in any way. So the truck stops just over him and then swoop. In comes the plane, which crashes directly into the side of the truck, causing the driver to hop out and warn him to run because that thing is going to blow. It's at this moment that we get our classic hero running away from the explosion behind him moment. However, it's the 50s, so you can tell Carrie Grant was running from nothing and it was just being played on a screen behind him. But that's okay. It's a sign of the times. So he runs away. A few cars stop to see

the explosion, everybody hops out their vehicles and Roger takes this opportunity to do a classic GTA move and steal one of the civilians cars to help him get to the hotel that he believes Mr. Kaplan to be staying at. So even through all of this madness, he is not losing sight of his mission. He takes that car and drives to the Ambassador East in Chicago, which is where he was headed originally before Eve sent him off to the bus station. When he arrives, he asks the concierge for Mr. Kaplan, only to be told that he left much earlier that morning for Rapid City, South Dakota. He would have left even before Eve would have talked to him on the phone, which tips him off that Eve lied. Of course. While there, he also catches a glimpse of Eve, who's getting on the elevator, feeling obviously upset and betrayed. He wants to talk to her. So he watches to see what floor the elevator stops at and then turns to the concierge and says that Eve Kendall is expecting him and he just forgot her room number, but it's 400 something because it was the privacy and security were foreign concepts. The concierge tells him the number and Roger heads up to talk to her. He arrives at her room and confronts her by basically taunting her, saying things like, surprised and no getting rid of me is there. Eve tries to Bane innocence, but Roger isn't buying it. ^{1s} Then, with the most perfect timing, eve gets a call from Van Dam. And though she doesn't want to pick it up at first, Roger insists. He answers the phone in a hushed voice, writing an address in a notepad before tearing out the page and sliding it into her purse. Despite not trusting her, Roger tries to come onto Eve again. It's kind of creepy, because we know that he knows he's being played. And then Eve asks him for a big, big favor. He asks Roger to leave right now, to stay far from her and never come near her again. Except Roger isn't going to do that, and instead, he invites her to dinner. She agrees on the one condition that he cleans himself up before going out with her. So he goes into the bathroom and runs the shower. And while he's in there, Eve grabs her stuff and dips. Except Roger wasn't really taking a shower. And when he hears Eve leave, he emerges from the bathroom and grabs the notepad that she had written the address on the imprint. The pen left on the page is still visible, so using a pencil, he shades over the area and now has the address of where Eve went. So he takes the cab to get there. Considering how wanted he is and that his face is supposedly all over the newspapers, I'm not sure how he was able to get a cab, but that's beside the point. The address takes him to an art auction. When Roger walks into the art auction, he sees Eve, Van Dam and Leonard all together. Van Dam strokes the back of Eve's neck possessive, giving the impression that those two might be canodling or something. Roger sees this, and he's way pissed off. He goes up to Van Damme, demanding that he tell him what he's all about, while simultaneously throwing disses at Eve every opportunity that he gets. He objectifies her by comparing her to the art being bought and sold at the auction and basically implies that she's for the streets. Eve tells Van Dam that Roger must have followed her from the hotel room, which Van Dam obviously does not like, and it causes him to lose some of the trust that he had in her. We know this because he very symbolically removes his hand from her shoulder and is no longer touching her in any way. Bandam's attention is drawn away from the conversation at the end when this weird elephant clown art piece goes up for Bid. We don't know until much later, but inside the sculpture is a bunch of microfilm that Bandam plans on smuggling out of the country. He instructs Leonard on what to bid to ensure that they secure that item, and then goes back to talking to Roger, who he's done with. At this point, when Roger asks why Van Damme doesn't just call the police on him, he realizes that it's because if he goes to the police, he would probably be safer than if he was still out and about. This encourages him to leave, but when he goes to the doorway, it's blocked off by one of the goons. Rather than try to force his way out, roger instead decides to disturb the auction and cause a scene, eventually punching a man in the face, which causes the police to be called, and they arrest him and escort him out of the building. Once inside the cop cart, he reveals that he's Roger Thornhill, the United Nations killer. One of the cops calls the police department and is given the orders to bring Roger to the airport as opposed to the police station. So fast forward to the airport. The police escort Roger into the building and unite him with one of the FBI agents that we saw way earlier in the movie who decided to leave Roger as the decoy rather than clear his name. I'll refer to him as the professor from now on. ^{1s} So the professor meets Roger and hurries him out onto the tarmac and onto the next plane. On the walk over, the professor explains the situation happening with Van Dam and tells Roger that in order to not blow the mission, roger must go to Rapid City and continue to pretend to be Mr. Kaplan. He says that Van Dam has a cabinet in the area near Mount Rushmore which he believes he plans to use to escape the country out of within the next couple of days. Then, when Roger still finds a way to make a sly remark about Eve, the professor drops the bomb that she's actually the agent working right under Van Damme's nose, and Roger has likely put her in grave danger. If she is to be found out, van Damme will not waste any time trying to kill her. Yikes. So, as per usual, let's fast forward to Roger in Rapid City. He's meeting Mr. Van Damme at a restaurant near Mount Rushmore. At the restaurant, Roger really leans into the government spy character that is Mr. Kaplan. He tells Van

Damme that he's aware of his plans to leave the country, and in exchange for his silence, he wants Eve and to assure that all of the blame is placed on her and she spends the rest of her life uncomfortable. Remember that this is just deployed because in Van Damme's eyes, Roger is a scorned lover, when in reality, he's just trying to save her life. Mr. Van Dam doesn't really give into this, but Eve arrives right on time to tell him that she's going back to the house. Before she can leave, Roger grabs her arm and drags her away. She struggles and argues with him before pulling a gun on him and proceeding to shoot him in the stomach, after which she runs out of the restaurant and speeds off in one of the cars parked outside. Inside, the professor, who was sitting nearby, walks up to Roger's body lying on the ground and confirms that he has been shot. Suddenly, paramedics rush him out into the back of a medical vehicle and they leave. End of scene. The next scene takes place in the woods and right away we see both the medical vehicle and the car Eve sped off in parked next to each other. We then see Eve and Roger having a conversation. Eve applauds him for his acting ability, and in their conversation we also find out that the gun she shot him with contained blanks. The whole situation was an elaborate diversion to trick Van Dam into believing Mr. Kaplan is no longer a viable player, and also confirming Eve's loyalty to him. Roger also takes this time to apologize to Eve for the names he called her and though she said it was hurtful, she obviously forgives him not even 2 seconds later. They talk some more during this time and the gist of their conversation is that the two of them are still in love or whatever. And after tonight, Roger wants the two of them to go off together. 1s Bad news, though. Eve is still supposed to go off with Van Damme to another country to continue feeding information back to the FBI, and the professor could not care less about their little love story. Might I just say that that makes two of us? Roger tries to stop Eve from leaving, but the driver that took him there punches him in the face, preventing him from doing so and allowing Eve to speed off back to the cabin that Van Dam owns. They also take Roger to the hospital because he's supposed to be shot and recovering because a bunch of people just saw him get shot at the restaurant. Okay, I swear we're almost done. We just have a few more scenes to outline. You guys are doing so good. Roger is at the hospital, but he wants to be where Eve is so that he can try to prevent her from leaving the country. He lies to the professor, saying that he's forgetting about her already, and when the professor leaves the room, he takes that opportunity to sneak out. He drives all the way to the cabin and creeps up the back door, where he can overhear the conversations inside without being discovered. So he rolls up, and the conversation that he's overhearing is between Leonard and Mr. Van Dam. Eve is upstairs. At this time. Leonard is telling Van Dam that he is super suspicious of Eve and that the whole scene at the restaurant seemed fishy to him initially. Van Dam does not believe him and even accuses him of being jealous of Eve. But little does he know Leonard has a smoking gun behind his back, or more like a not smoking gun, because he managed to snag the blank gun from Eve's luggage and proceeded to fire it at Van Dam, revealing that Eve never shot Roger at all. Just like the professor said, it doesn't take long for Van Damme to decide that she needs to die, and he announces that the best way to dispose of her would be from a great height over water. Aka, he plans on throwing her out of the plane. What does Roger do in response to that? He sneaks in a second story window and plans to tell Eve, but unfortunately for him, she already went downstairs. So he stands there pondering over what to do when he realizes he still has his signature monogrammed matchbox that Eve would recognize from the train. 2s Inside the matchbox. He writes a note for her, reading, they're on to you. I'm in your room. Then, from the top of the stairs, he throws it down, and it lands in front of Eve. When she sees it, she instantly recognizes the monogram and opens it to reveal the message inside. She uses this opportunity to lie to Van Damme, saying she forgot her earrings upstairs, and then goes up and speaks to Roger. He tells her that they figured her out, and whatever she does, do not get on that plane. So she goes back downstairs and leaves with Van Dam and Leonard. She makes it all the way out to the plane on the runway before Roger is able to escape the house and swoop her up. She takes the elephant sculpture with her and hops in Roger's car. They drive to the edge of the property before running into a fence, causing them to have to get out and run through the woods. It just so happens that these woods lead out to the top of Mount Rushmore. It looks like they have nowhere to go when Van Dam and the Goons approach. But Roger Thornhill ain't no quitter and is absolutely insane. So with Eve, they begin scaling down the monument. I'm sure you could guess, but there was a struggle on the mountain, which ended in Leonard falling off the side to his death and Mr. Van Dam being arrested by the FBI. The final scene shows Eve hanging off the side of the cliff and Roger extending a hand out to her, trying to pull her up. She says that she won't make it and asks him to pull harder, to which back he replies, yes, you can. And then he says, Come along, Mrs. Thornhill, and pulls her up, transitioning to our closing scene of him pulling her up into a pulled down overhead bed on a train reminiscent of the one they spent their first night in. I guess they're married now. Love prevails. The end. 2s Okay, guys, so that was the full breakdown of events. I hope it

gave you a better picture of the movie north by Northwest. And if you didn't finish episode two with the rest of the analysis, I would highly encourage you to go back and watch it. With that being said, you can find The Movie Plaza podcast on all major streaming platforms as well as [The Movieplazapodcast.com](http://TheMovieplazapodcast.com). You can also find me on Instagram at the [movieplaza](https://www.instagram.com/movieplaza). Again, that's themoviplazapodcast.com. Or the [movie plaza](https://www.instagram.com/movieplaza). Be sure a like comment and share this podcast with your friends. Bye.