

## From Spy School

JANE, 17, a typical American teenager in 1961.  
BRACK, her secret CIA martial arts and math instructor.

JANE *(to the audience)*

And so began my training as a super-secret CIA spy.  
*(BRACK MILO enters)*

BRACK

This begins your training as a super-secret CIA spy. First, I will break you. Then, I will rebuild you. I will test you as you have never been tested before –

*(suddenly)*  
Three plus five!

JANE

Eight?

BRACK

Impressive.  
*(suddenly)*  
Cosine of 3 pi!

JANE

Aarrhghghg! Six?

BRACK

Six?

JANE

Is advanced math really necessary?

BRACK

You disgust me. Again!  
*(suddenly)*

Two trains leave a station travelling in opposite directions! Train A is traveling at 40 miles per hour, Train B is traveling at 60 miles per hour! Train A must stop every fifteen minutes for a five-minute bathroom break! After two hours how far are the trains apart! How far are the trains apart! HOW FAR!

JANE

I don't know!  
*(she crumples to the floor.)*

BRACK

Now you have been broken. If the Russians capture you, be assured, they will not stop at simple

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math. They know Calculus as well.

JANE

Oh how I hate them!

BRACK

Yes. Focus your hate. It will make you strong. Probably won't teach you math though. Now it is time for: physical training.

JANE *(to the audience)*

So we did –

BRACK

Push-ups!

*(JANE does a push-up)*

Sit-ups!

*(JANE does a sit-up)*

Toe touches!

*(JANE does a toe touch.)*

Those windmill thingies!

*(JANE does a windmill thingie.)*

Good. Very good. But not good enough!

*(He attacks! And then stops before hitting her with a karate chop.)*

You weren't ready.

JANE

You didn't say you were going to attack me.

BRACK

Does the viper tell the mouse when it will strike?

*(no answer)*

Does it?

JANE

I don't think vipers can talk.

BRACK

They can't! But even if they could they wouldn't say anything! You must be prepared for any confrontation at any time – any time!

*(he attacks again! And stops)*

You weren't prepared.

JANE

Sorry.

*(he attacks again!)*

Stop doing that!

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BRACK

I will. But then I will start again – when you least expect it –  
*(he attacks again! This time she dodges.)*

A ha. You are learning. Good. Now come back over here for a congratulatory hug.  
*(she comes back for a hug and he attacks! She dodges again.)*

Nice.

JANE *(to the audience)*

My favorite part, though, apart from the math and calisthenics and random attacks –  
*(she turns to look at him, but he doesn't attack this time.)*

Was the deadly martial arts training.

BRACK

Now we begin deadly martial arts training.  
*(he takes out two pencils.)*

Here is your weapon.

JANE

A pencil?

BRACK

Any weapon is deadly in the hands of a skilled attacker. I once killed a man with a cup of coffee.

JANE

How did you do that?

BRACK

I put poison in it. En garde!  
*(He attacks with the pencil, she isn't able to deflect it.)*

Not good enough. Follow me.

*(He begins a complicated series of martial arts moves with the pencil.)*

Forehand Strike. Forehand Strike. Parry. Back. Back. Backhand Strike. Backhand Strike. Up.  
Down. Left Strike. Spin. Jump. Witty Remark.

*(Now your turn.)*

JANE

Forehand Strike?

BRACK

And then?

JANE

Um... I forget?

BRACK

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Forehandstrike, forehandstrike, parry, back, back, backhand strike, backhand strike, up, down, left strike, spin, jump, witty remark.

JANE

Forehand strike. Forehand strike. Parry. Back. Back.

BRACK (*overlapping*)

Yes! Feel it!

JANE (*continuous*)

Backhand Strike. Backhand Strike. Up. Down. Left strike. Spin. Jump. Witty Remark.

BRACK (*overlapping*)

Yes! Yes! More! More! You don't say witty remark, you make a witty remark.

JANE

Oh. Um.

BRACK

En Garde!

*(He attacks – JANE blocks with the pencil – they begin a choreographed fight sequence.)*  
Witty Remark now!

JANE

Um... I see your penmanship is improving.  
*(BRACK nods in appreciation.)*

BRACK

You are learning.