

## Chapter 203

### Detective Flavian Moreno's POV

When I decided to stop by the hospital today to see the kids, I never imagined I'd find chaos. I had just finished an investigation nearby and was in the car with three officers when I mentioned wanting to visit my friends and their babies. Officer Renata was driving and got excited, wanting to meet the quadruplets. Soon everyone wanted to meet the babies too. We had been tracking Joseph for some time, my team was very committed to it, and at one point or another, they had all met Alexander and Catherine.

Renata insisted on stopping at the gift shop to buy chocolates for Catherine and stuffed animals. Soon everyone was splitting the bill at the shop - we bought metallic balloons, chocolates, and plush toys. We were soon standing in front of the nursery window, watching those tiny ones sleeping. I found it strange right away that there were only three babies in the nursery. I took a quick look and asked the security guard, who said one of the babies had been taken for tests.

"But why just one?" I asked, and he couldn't answer. This set off huge alarm bells for me.

I saw a nurse heading toward the nursery door and decided to ask why only one baby was getting tests, if there was any problem. She looked me up and down, noting my tactical uniform and the ID on my bulletproof vest that I was still wearing after the earlier operation, as well as my badge hanging around my neck. She asked me to wait a moment, went inside, checked the computer in the corner of the nursery, and came back to speak with me.

"Detective, I think we have a problem. None of the babies have any test



orders. I'm going to alert hospital security."

"Do that immediately!" I told her. "Which way did they go?" I asked the security guard, who was already nervous, and he pointed toward the door. I pulled my phone from my pocket and called the hospital director. "Molina, lock down the hospital now, one of Catherine and Alexander's babies is missing. Be quick!"

Before hanging up, I already heard the alarm announcing a code pink, meaning a child was missing. I knew this would seal off the entire hospital in seconds. I went through the door the guard had indicated and, taking long strides, almost running, asked about a security guard accompanying a nurse. I reached the fire escape door and managed to open it. I found the security guard unconscious there, pulled him inside the floor, and the security door locked as soon as I let it go.

A doctor quickly arrived at my side and helped me wake up the security guard, who had a cut on his head. He explained what happened, saying he only remembered being struck on the head right after entering the fire escape and that he found it strange when the nurse went in there. The doctor said he needed to suture the wound and run tests to check for any other problem, so I left him taking care of the security guard and went back to explain what happened to the rest of the team, but the door I had passed through, between one wing and another on the floor, was already locked.

I picked up the phone and called Molina again. He quickly unlocked the door. I asked him to unlock the fire escape door for me, which he did, and he waited with two security guards while two others accompanied me. I flew down the stairs but found nothing. The hospital was huge, and I would need reinforcements.

I returned to the floor and Molina locked the door. We moved to the




nursery wing and found the hospital's head of security stressed out and yelling at his team.

"Molina, do you have the footage?" I asked.

"Yes, come with me! I've already asked them to check it."

I called the three police officers who were with me, and we followed Molina to a support room with a round table and four chairs. There was already a laptop turned on there, and the head of security pressed play. In the footage, we could see the supposed nurse leaving with the baby and being stopped by the security guard, who sent another guard to accompany her.

Switching between cameras, we followed their route until the woman quickened her pace and entered the fire escape, the security guard went after her waving his arms, and then we had no more footage.

We checked the entrance footage and saw the woman entering the hospital and passing through the turnstile with an ID badge. We didn't see her leaving, and nobody had left the hospital from the moment the baby left the nursery until the doors were locked, which was fortunately a very small window of time. During that timeframe, we didn't see anyone acting suspiciously or carrying anything, not even a backpack or bag, in the hospital reception. We checked the emergency exit, and it was also sealed with no one having left. The adjacent service exits were the same, all sealed and no one had gone out. The baby had to be inside the hospital. And I wouldn't leave any stone unturned until I found them. But there was one detail - we were looking for two people, who might or might not be together, because we knew the woman was holding the baby and couldn't have struck the security guard with such force, so there had to be someone else with her. 



"Let's go, we need to talk to Alexander and Catherine. Molina, I think it would be better to move the other three babies to the room with their parents. That will make it easier to maintain security and might help keep Catherine calmer. Plus, it'll free up more men to help with the search," I suggested to the doctor.

"That's a good idea, I'll arrange it," Molina agreed and turned to the hospital security guard who was there. "Keep watching the footage, see if she left the stairs on any floor, also check if anyone else went out, watch everything!"

We went to Catherine's room, and Alexander's security guard was already there explaining what had happened. Catherine was beside herself. When I entered, Alexander looked at me as if I could perform a miracle; he was trying to keep his composure. I felt his relief when I told him to stay with his wife and that I would look for the baby. They trusted me, and I wouldn't let them down. 1

"I can't believe I'm going through this again, Flavian," Alexander said as he walked me to the door.

"Stay calm, my friend, everything will be alright. I'm going to scan this hospital. Call me if anything comes up." I left the room and divided the teams.

The hospital had twenty floors, and we were on the fifteenth. Besides me and my three officers, there were seven of Alexander's security guards - four I left at the room's door, one was getting treatment for the cut on his head from the blow, and I took the others with me.

The elevators were locked down because of the code pink, so we could only move between floors using the stairs. All doors were locked. Molina had given me the master security key and a privileged access card; I





would have access to all floors and rooms. I would take that hospital apart like it was made of Legos, but I would find the baby. 1

We started the search on the maternity floor, where we were. Found nothing. We went to the fire escape, and I locked the door. We would sweep from top to bottom, since we were on the fifteenth floor.

More than four hours had passed since we began. I sent updates to Molina and Alexander at each floor. Now we were on the first floor. It was the administrative level. We started searching and found nothing. I was furious about this - it seemed like the woman and her accomplice had been swallowed by the earth.

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