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Chapter 97

On file, Hazel's parents were said to have been residing in their family holiday cottage in a quiet countryside. It would have passed off as an innocuous choice if that countryside hadn't been Itam - the place where Monica Upshaw was found dead.

Upon hacking the Land Office's records, they also found that the Robinsons owned three other cottages in remote locations, one of them being Jagah, though the far end of Jagah from where Catrine Carter was later found.

After several mavericks confirmed the information, Greg mused, "Really confident or really idiotic to have the properties registered under their actual names."

"I'd say the former," Kenji offered numbly. "They probably got away with things before and didn't see the need to take such..." he waved at the screen. "...tedious precautions."

"Over-confident idiots," Greg murmured. Even if they were confident that they weren't going to get caught then, there was no guarantee that they wouldn't be exposed in the future. Changes in time, good practices, and leaders were factors that would always be beyond one's control, and precautions should have been taken even when times were good he knew this from experience.

The more hilarious finding for the duke was that - with another few more clicks - they pinpointed the retired Robinsons most recent location in Itam, heightening suspicions that they really were behind the Monica Upshaw murder. Why they'd do it remains the question. Was it because they had something against Ferdinand or the professionals he hired to keep his mistresses safe? Or were they commissioned by Larissa herself?

Patterson didn't think so. Larissa looked like she'd given up trying to go

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after all the women her husband was sleeping with.

The four of them in the kitchen contacted Millicent - who felt left out that she wasn't invited to what she gathered as an intel circle - and they asked if she could get the archers stationed near all of the Robinsons' cottages to check out if the place was occupied, with Greg insisting they took a few lycan warriors with them.

If the cottage had no signs of occupation in the next five hours, leave and don't bother trespassing. No one knew if the Robinsons had been careful enough to install security cameras around the property where the footage would be accessible through their phones or other devices from anywhere around the world.

Before Millicent deployed her troops, Patterson added - unnecessarily, in case the Chief Archer was hesitant - that since Millicent was chief, she didn't need authorization because self-authorization was apparently a form of authorization as well, a response that got a lot of narrowed eyes and judgmental looks around the kitchen counter, even from Millicent herself at her end of the line. The newly-minted chief didn't care if Valor or Ferdinand didn't authorize it. If Sush gave the greenlight, it was a go.

All that was left to do was wait and hope no casualties would be reported during the search for the psycho's parents.

At the three-hour mark, one of the teams reported that the lights in the house just came on, and a man that matched the retired octopus's profile had come out and sat on the old wooden bench outside.

The location?

Itam.

"Over-confident idiots," Greg muttered again.

Linking the kingdom for back-up of warriors and mavericks - with Lucy specifically informing Greg not to engage in any forms of attack until they got there, the four in the kitchen then met Millicent at the hangar holding Greg's jet.



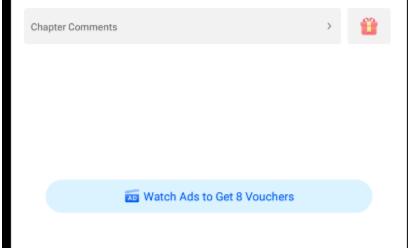


Prepared with the newly-designed masks and goggles, plus a bulletproof bodysuit underneath, they kept reminding each other that they don't know for sure whether the Robinsons were the actual culprits, each finding themselves unable to reach an alternative conclusion. The issue arose as to how they'd bring in the retirees based on "reasonable grounds for suspicion" when none of them had been authorized by Valor to do just that.

Sush flipped open her laptop and began forging a search warrant while Kenji worked on placing it into the system in case the Robinsons decided to check or call their daughter to have her do the checking.

They'd expected to only be confronting two Robinsons, so their plan became a little flimsy when their watchers reported that Hazel had just stepped foot into the perimeter. And she spooked them when the thin line of her lips curled into an almost imperceptible sinister smirk despite not making eye contact with any of them.

"She's expecting us," Kenji uttered, exhaling like all hope was lost.



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