

## ii. the blueprint

"So, picking locks are common occurrence for you?" Evelynn questioned, slightly concerned.

"Depends on the day," he replied feigning seriousness.

"Oh," she blinked frantically as if not knowing how to respond to that.

She took out her phone and turned on the flash. The apartment was dark, the only light was coming from their flashlights or the open windows. She tried to deduce things but everyone was talking and that was distracting and annoying. She didn't want to tell them to be quiet, fearing she was being rude but she couldn't concentrate at all.

"What is this place?" Henley asked.

"An apartment, obviously," muttered Evelynn annoyed at the rhetorical question. Jack seemed to be the only one that cared to listen and chuckled at her response.

Henley opened a door on her right, which happened to be the bathroom. Evelynn and everyone else was absolutely disgusted by the smell that emitted from that room. "Wow," McKinney said, surprised. "I thought my apartment was nasty."

"That's disgusting," Evelynn walked down the hallway with everyone else. They shined their flashlights on anything and everything, trying to find something. They saw a ball or whatever stuck on the door but left it alone for now.

From everything that Evelynn gathered, she can only tell that the apartment hasn't been touched in about 3 years, give or take. The recent owners were a couple, they had a falling out. No. The apartment was left in such a rush that it couldn't be something as simple as a falling out. There was also leftover furniture and things like that. From Evelynn's knowledge, the landlord wouldn't let people keep their things in the apartment. Were they close? A bribe? Or was it simply leaving quickly? There must be something about the things left here that other people wouldn't want and the landlord couldn't sell. The yellowing of the hallway wall at the bottom indicates some type of water residue. This can't be from the rain this is the second floor. Flooding? No, can't be the paper would yellow even more this is only slightly. They must need to clean a lot if they needed to clean the walls. Unfortunately, when she was caught up in her deductions of the history she realized that that didn't matter at all. Evelynn sighed and followed everyone. That was a complete waste of time she thought. Of course, the person who sent them couldn't be the last resident of the apartment that would be too obvious.

"Man," Atlas started. "It's freezing in here."

They approached what could be called the living room of the apartment. Their steps slowed as they approach whatever was on the floor. "What's that?" Henley asked to no one in particular.

"I don't know," Atlas kneeled down and grabbed the card.

"What's it say?" McKinney asked, seeing as he was not looking at the card.

"Now you don't," Atlas read aloud.

"Be vaguer please, that would be duly appreciated," Evelynn said to no one.

Henley picked up the rose that was next to the card, "A rose by any other name." Henley quoted as she placed the rose in the vase while walking backward. When she did, the water from the vase started leaking. The water flowed towards the shapes indented into the floor.

"Guys what's happening?" a confused Jack asked.

"Woah," McKinney's eyes never leaving the water. "Look at that."

"Woah," Atlas said delightfully as he put down his bag.

The water soon filled up the shaped, suddenly dry ice smoke started filling the air.

"It's gas!"

"Relax, it's dry ice."

"At least that explains why it's so cold," Evelynn informed.

"Cool"

"Wait, what do you think this is all about?" ask Atlas.

"Hang on, hang on." McKinney put his fingers to his head and closed his eyes.

"You can't possibly know," Evelynn waved her hands in exasperation.

"I got nothing."

"Okay, thank you. Thank you for the delay."

"I'm just trying to create the space for wisdom," McKinney explained.

"Okay, so you're like Buddha if he wasn't so enlightened."

"Oh, and you're like Jesus if he was arrogant and all of his miracles were fake."

Evelyn giggled at their quarrel. Henley, however, had enough of them. "Okay, lovebirds get a room. Danny, be honest, did you do this?"

"No, wait, did you?" he asked Jack.

"I wish, you?" Jack asked Evelynn.

"Do you think I'd be so confused if I did?"

"Why didn't anyone ask me if I did it?" everyone avoided direct eye contact with McKinney at that question. "Oh, great"

Atlas flipped the light switch on and off but nothing happened. He was eyeing the ball on the back of the door and Evelynn believed that they had the same thought.

"Electricity is out," you can hear Jack say.

"Well, let's check," McKinney twisted a light bulb on a small chandelier. All of a sudden, the ball attached to the back of the door light up along with two others.

In the center of the living room, there was a holographic picture that was constantly moving. "Blueprints," Henley spoke aloud everyone's thoughts. They were, in fact, blueprints of a building and the blueprint shifted yet again, showing something new each and every time it moved.

Atlas was awed, "They're incredible."

Everyone seemed to be in a trance, just stare and studying the new thing that appeared to them. Soaking in everything that they saw from the hologram.

"Who do you think did this?"

"I don't know, but I really want to meet them," Henley was still studying it. "It's a show."

"Wow," McKinney said, mesmerized by the genius.

Atlas reached in to touch the hologram but it moved away from him as he did.

"Guys," Evelynn announced to the group. "We have a lot of work to do."

As the days turned into weeks and months. Everyone got more comfortable with each other. The group was surprisingly less awkward than Evelynn would have thought. Everyone seemed to be able to get along with each other. Of course, Evelynn, who wasn't accustomed to being with such a large group, was the more quiet and shy one. She didn't feel the need to state her opinion very often but when she did you had better listen. When the quarrels took a turn for worst she would always be the one to put them straight. It's quite comical since she was one of the youngest and she seemed to be the one playing mother goose the most often.

Even though the group would see her as the one to be the peacekeeper of the group they also acknowledge that she's like a little kid. As to say, she is very oblivious to some basic things. She probably doesn't realize it herself. For example, Jack made it quite a habit of flirting with Evelynn. However, each attempt of doing so was crushed because she didn't even realize he was doing so in the first place. Usually, later in the day one of the Horsemen would bring it up. Only then would Evelynn understand that the strange statements that Jack was saying. She only assumed they were some weird gibberish. Even with the Horsemen informing her about the flirting she was still clueless about Jack's feeling towards her. Which made Jack quite frustrated but made him like her even more. Weird, isn't it?

During the year, they planned and coordinated. The blueprints would give them vague instructions. They would fill in the gaps with their own plans. It's really a three step plan, and fairly fool-proof. Step one, get Arthur Tressler to fund them. Step two, do their shows. Step three, vanish. Okay, maybe not exactly fool-proof, but was simple enough for the Horsemen.

What they needed was to prep for every one of those steps. They collected information to the times and places they needed. As they did that, they needed to figure out a way to get Tressler to notice them.

They first went with individual performances. Merritt and Evelynn worked together for a trick since their skills were similar. That didn't go well, however as Tressler did not take the bait. Their duo performance was a hit with everyone else, they had a huge crowd. Unfortunately, Tressler walked by them without sparing a glance at their direction. Jack tried his little card trick and doing his impression but that didn't work out either. Henley and Atlas did their tricks separately, much to the rest of the team's dismay. They didn't catch Tressler's attention either. After a while, with a lot of persuasion from Evelynn and Jack (Merritt didn't care), they finally performed together. It was at a bar that Tressler frequently went to, Tressler seemed interested, and he offered them sponsorship.

After winning over Tressler's trust they were his new act. For their debut, they needed a lot of time to prepare. Being the great sponsor he was he gave them anything they asked for. However, before their debut they were already earning popularity. A new project from Tressler couldn't be kept a secret for much longer. It took the public no time to figure out who they were and do their research.

Therefore, since step one was accomplished, they moved on to their shows. They already worked on their volunteer. All they needed was to confirm some dates here and there about transportation and such. With every bit of the blueprint they finish, they came closer to the Eye.

Not only that, their debut show was only a few days away.

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