

Chapter 33: Bad Day in Dry Gulch Day 17

Along the Potomac River:

“Wake up Ray, we have Burkett on the move,” say Maria as she puts down the binoculars.

“Where’s he going?” ask Ray.

“We had better call for backup. It appears he is going down to the boat house.”

“Urchin 21, Dumbo is leaving the circus for the River. We can not see where he is going. We assume he is exercising and will return. We can not follow from here without ‘cause or instructions. Please send water and car backup. Over.”

“Roger that, assets moving now. Out”

Edison, New Jersey Bagel Shop:

Just before lunch time East Coast time, a heavily encrypted conversation originates from the Edison, New Jersey bagel shop.

“Cutout completed,” announces the First Gentleman, Wayne Duffy. “

“How?” asks the Top Predator.

“Bill Colby style in a kayak.”

“The scale-up starts when?”

“In thirty-six hours or so, I deliver the ‘GO’ in Ulcinj as I go out the door to semi-retirement with my friend.”

“Yes, yes. Enjoy.”

“Good-bye.”

After finishing a bagel sandwich and coffee the First Gentleman exits. His limousine drives him to Newark Liberty International Airport. His mistress awaits him there for the flight to Paris and on to Venice – Tivat and then to Ulcinj.

Moments after the First Gentleman leaves as a young female cleans the table. As she stoops across the table and wipes with a spray and towel she removes the audio recording device from under

the table. The bus-girl walks to the back of the shop, walks out the back-door to a waiting van. The van has a logo of a Plumber with a plunger and a smile. The sign on the door reads 'Asymmetric Services Affordable Rates and First Class Service'.

"Marcus you were right people are creatures of habit. Mr. Burkett's limousine driver remembered the big job he had, the tip, and the where the stops were made. The bagel shop owner cooperated with a little help from our local field office. All we had to do was spread a bit of your money and send Angie in to set the recording device and then to pull it. She also learned a new skill set, busing tables and cutting bagels. She may never want to work with us again.

"You will be getting billed at the normal rates."

"Roger that. Thanks to you and Asymmetric Services team again. How is the team in Ulcinj doing?"

"I do not think you have any need to know do you?"

"No, you are correct-a-mundo. Thanks again."

Along the Potomac River:

About mid-afternoon Urchin 21 calls Agent Marcus about the 'now missing' Burkett.

"Do you have the search warrant?"

"Yea. I just hope that it is not too late. We have a Federal warrant that alleges foul play is involved with the disappearance of Herb Burkett. You are authorized to search the estate for a kayak, working papers, briefcase, computer, sporting type clothing, and dirty clothes. You are also authorized to search the garage and any vehicles on the grounds. I am sending the Federal warrant now."

Urchin 21 arrives at the estate announcing the presences of Federal agents, a warrant to search the estate, outlying structures, the garage, and vehicles. After about two hours of looking around all that was determined was that Burkett still has a kayak on the water, he did take a life vest, paddle, and helmet with him.

Just before sundown, one the Coast Guard teams discovers a paddle near the bank about a half mile downstream from where the Burkett estate is located. The maid recognizes the paddle and an emblem that is on it.

The search halts due to darkness. It will resume tomorrow with first light.