

## Chapter 34: Tidying Up Loose Ends In Ulcinj Jumping to Day 18

Just after finishing a very late lunch at Restaurant Fisherman, Wayne Duffy, has his driver take him and his mistress to the his estate high in the olive grooves above Ulcinj Municipality along Valdanos. He leaves his mistress to freshen-up.

“Welcome to my olive groove and villa,” announces Wayne to his mistress. “Let me show the immediate grounds and introduce you to the staff.”

A little over an hour Wayne completes the tour of Villa and close outlying buildings, pool, tennis court, stables, and nine hole golf course.

“Now, I have a bit of business for the next hour or so in Ulcinj. Would you like to shop there or do you want to relax?”

“I will unwind from our trip and see to reservations for tonight’s supper. Hurry back.”

Wayne’s driver takes him to the Operations Building where he meets with Gianni Circolare and Ramesh Patel in the Main Conference Room. A conversation from the Daisy 4 is received and turns-on the red light indicating an active audio capture.

“Welcome back. Is everything good?” asks Circolare.

“No, Mr. Burkett died in a boating accident recently. I am about to retire soon so this is a double loss for Catalina Software. I have been asked to see if you are willing to assume the responsibility as the Catalina Software Engineering Senior President for Operations. Your primary responsibility will be upscaling the Sunfish to Barracuda. That will expand our operations to eight US states on the East Coast. Your counterpart Vice President for US Operations will arrive shortly to discuss the growth.

“When do you retire Mr. Duffy?” asks Ramesh.

“As soon as Mr. Circolare signs this new executive agreement.”

“Here is a prepaid cell with my number on it. Just call me when it is done and email a signed copy to me and the Catalina Software email address on the cover letter.

“If you should have questions just call. I am staying for three to five weeks before I begin my next retirement adventure.”

“Very good sir. Good luck and enjoy your retirement,” says Circolare.

“Here, here,” chimes-in Ramesh.

“I await your signature Mr. Circolare. Good day friends,” exclaims Duffy as he rises and begins to walk to the door.”

Gianni and Ramesh remain afterwards discussing the magnitude of the change and likely implications.

Randy who had been busy with trivial matters prior to the red light warning of audio capture takes off the headphones and shakes his head. He perceives that something is not right with the exchange to which he just listened.

“Brian we may have a wrinkle. Our Mr. Duffy just met with Circolare and Ramesh in the Main Conference Room. Daisy 4 made a full recording of the encounter. But it sounds like the Herb Burkett who visited here the other day is dead and Mr. Duffy is retiring immediately. The Ulcinj was left intact with Circolare now elevated to Senior President of All Operations. They mentioned something about upscaling from Sunfish to Barracuda.

“Can you call the Spook Tower to see if that Herb Burkett rat ate his last piece of cheese?”

Brian makes the call. He soon discovers that Herb Burkett is missing somewhere along the Potomac River in what may have been a kayak accident. He asks to be posted on any disposition on Herb Burkett. Brian also reports that the other executive rat is retiring and is here now in Ulcinj. Finally he reports that the Sunfish project has just up-scaled the Georgia election fraud threat to eight other East Coast states under a new title of Barracuda.

Brian is told to standby while this new information is pushed to a higher pay-grade for a decision.

About two hours later Brian receives a call. He is told that Spook Tower will set the Ransomware application mode from ransom to nuclear and launch on his command when he detects that the daily build is about to be executed. Shortly after that both the Compound and the Operations Building will receive a set of power-line overvoltage surges. The surges will be strong enough to begin smoldering digital electronics. The surges will end with a final surge which should be sufficient to spark ignition fires. The growing intensity of surges should provide adequate warning to the residents of the Compound to evacuate.

Brian agrees to the plan and agrees to call with the ‘GO’.

“Randy, contact you lady friends to determine when they intend to leave work and schedule a a supper date with them same time same place as the first meeting.

Moments later Randy reports that the ladies plan to leave at 1700 hours today and would welcome a supper date.

The remainder of the afternoon passes peacefully. Brian makes a cell call to a band of gypsies with which he is familiar.

“There might be money to be made around 1900 hours in the vicinity of the Eneida Apartment parking area near Building 2,” suggest Brian to his gypsy contact. “The full caravan is invited. Bring

your flock of sheep just for grins. A bonus will be paid and you keep all the loot you collect except cell phones, computers, note books, and paper. The usual rate will apply.”

Promptly at 1701 Brian sees the ladies climbing the external staircase to the rooftop parking lot. He calls Spook Tower to deliver the ‘GO’ command.

Armageddon strikes again. Those who have not yet left begin to experience lack of control over their computers displays. Once again the input devices such as keyboards and mouses are no longer effective. The only control they have is the master power-off button on their machines. In front of these trouble peopled their displays exhibited on screen that displayed notice:

“Your computer is a time bomb. Leave the building now!”

In frustration Ramesh yells, “No, No, No. Not again.”

He begins to dial his rouge-buyer again to report the situation when his WiFi hot spot goes dead. A small ‘boom’ and shake of an explosion follows suit disrupting the nearest cell tower. The silence from Rameh’s desk confirms a loss of cellular communication.

Frustrated he leaves the building and starts walking along the shoreline road towards the Hotel Mediterranean across Liman II beach looking for any reception he can acquire. He is being observed by Brian and Randy. Brian asks Randy to fetch Ramesh.

Randy starts walking next to Ramesh and asks, “Are you okay. You look like you have just been run-over by a ‘autista pazzo mat passa.’ You may want to relax with us at the Hotel lounge for a moment.

Putting his arm around Ramesh and being joined by Ron and Joe, Ramesh utters, “Okay.”

Exiting the elevator the four walk out to the balcony of the Hotel lounge where Brian is seated. Randy makes the introductions and sits down with Brian.

“Ramesh, please have a seat. You may be interested in this Zoom call I currently have underway with Hamza. He wants to invite you to America.”

“Heh,” responds Ramesh. Hamza and Ramesh greet each other. Hamza explains his deal and what he is doing now for his new employers.

“Thank you, Hamza,” says Brian gaining control of Ramesh’s attention.

“Are you interested in bring your talents, skills, and best developers to the US job market? We have opportunities available similar to the one that Hamza hooked if you are interested.”

“Yes, but how?”

“Shortly you are going to see a ‘real’ carnival take place this evening at the Sunfish Operations Building and the Compound. Call the ones you think might have enough talent and want to follow you to America. Have them put what few valuables they can into the laundry bags and briefcases. Then

have them place the laundry bags and briefcases in the Red van located just outside the East door of the Compound. No one will touch the items in the van. Three of my people will secure the items.

“Finally, ask them to meet you in Hotel Mediterranean Lounge for a celebration. When they arrive there and you have collected everyone take them to the concierge desk. Ask him for directions to Conference Room A. In that conference room you and your people will each be offered various opportunities from which to select. Nothing is binding. But after tonight’s soiree or show at the Eneida you may never want to go back to work for Catalina.

“Okay I will make the calls,” agrees Ramesh.

“Great. I will let the people preparing for their presentation of opportunities and your interviews know you are attending.”

“Ron will sit with you in case you have questions for me. Just have him call me. Best of luck.”

The county fair, goat rope, soiree, Krewe of Orpheus Mardi Gras Ulcinj style parade starts right on schedule. At 1830 a Red van pulls into the parking lot of the Eneida Apartments near the East door of the Compound. At 1845 hours an independent contract driver unloads his large construction dump truck loaded with demolition debris along the shore road, just North of the Hotel Maris. The driver’s partner in the following dump truck plows into the debris field and adds his load essentially creating a three foot high barricade across the entire road. The two drivers disappear into the small olive grove.

Just before 1900 hours a flock of about 380 sheep wander down from the hills above the Eneida Apartments. The flock is being moved in the general direction of the Compound’s parking area. A group of people, male and female exit the East door of the Compound and move toward the Red van. The path is still free of sheep, but closing fast. The shepherd is working four dogs herding the flock like a large amoeba ball of puffed fleece. The shepherd skillfully employs the dogs so that he can split a trail like Moses and the Red Sea, except it is a path through the splitting amoeba groups of sheep. The laundry bags and briefcases are piled in the back of the van. This group of people begins to walk toward the Liman II Beach. As what appears to be security personnel exit to see what is going on in the parking lot the shepherd whistles. The dogs respond by letting the sheep merge into one amoeba group again. The shepherd then starts the dogs pushing the herder tighter toward the security personnel.

Suddenly, there seems to be a pulsing of the lights within the Compound and the Operations Building. The pulsing seems to strengthen. About that same time a large band of gypsies begins to follow their shepherd in to the parking lot. They surge around the Red van which by now appears to be loaded and has its doors shut. As the gypsies surge past the Red van it slowly withdraws and moves toward the Liman II beach.

The pulsing of the lights increase. A smell of smoldering plastic emanates from the Compound. The Compound’s hall fire alarm is pulled. Shortly the first flames begin to appear through the windows. Smoke rises. The few remaining residents exit from the building. Various gypsies apply their talents of picking the best values. Plus anything which might result in a bonus such as computers, briefcases, folders, etc.

By now the crowd of residents, security personnel, on-lookers, and gypsies realize that Operations Building is also afire. The gypsies begin to move in mass back into the direction from which they came. The shepherd and his dogs is no where to be seen. The residents, security personnel and on-lookers are in an amoeba of sheep unable to do much but watch the fires and kick a ram or ewe.

A whistle is heard and the dogs return. They begin herding the sheep back up the hills from which they descended.

The first Ulcinj Municipality Police Officer arrives on a small dirt bike with an official logo on the front suspension shocks. He puts his dirt bike on its kick stand and begins to assess the two fires and the observations that are being yelled at him. Finally, he locates Gianni Circolare and the on-duty night manager of the Eneida Apartments. He tells them that the fire trucks are blocked at the debris barricade further down the shore road. His role is to back everyone away from the fire danger and take pictures of the disaster. He is also suppose to start a report if possible. Additional resources are working to overcome the two upended dump trucks and their spilled debris loads.

Confusion continues to reign for the remainder of the early evening as the two structures burn themselves until all combustible material has been render to ashes or charred. The buildings are not complete losses and no one was seriously injured. But the Police Officer's shift was completely ruined by the reported losses to the gypsies. He was very surprised by the number of G5 iPhones, Rolex watches and Leica cameras this group was able to lose. This is of great concern since the receipts of purchase probably were destroyed in the double fire.

Randy calls the ladies to explained that they will be late due to the barricaded shoreline road. He adds that they had to help with a fire at the Eneida and that the nearest cell tower had been disabled. So he, Ron, and Joe had to hike up to the next road and start walking until he was able to find tower bars to support a call. He suggest starting with light hors d'oeuvre . The ladies may find the guys a little sweaty, but they should arrive in about ten minutes.

The Pirate Restaurant maître d' and his wife, Dunja recognize Randy, Ron, and Joe. Dunja leads them to the table where the three ladies are seated. Sofia, Marsha, and Sarah feint annoyance until they start laughing at Randy's report of the sheep herd and gypsies. Ron reports that the Compound and the Operations Building appeared to be uninhabitable. Randy suggests that they check with someone before heading to work tomorrow.

Marsha rises and goes to the edge of the Terrace rail to call her boss, Gianni Circolare. She returns to the table shaking her head.

"The fire is still burning in both buildings. Circolare said it would be months before there will be work. He plans to start looking for another facility in Đenovići tomorrow. With his Italian technical support he can be on-line in that vicinity within a month.

"So we are out of work for at least that long."

"I know it is not on the Adriatic coast but would you consider working in Podgorica. We have some influence there with a software company with ties to the Eastern US.

"Let's order supper. While we wait I will check to insure the opportunities are still there."

They order drinks and supper. While they wait Randy moves to the Terrace railing to gaze at the sunset and to call Brian. He reports what he heard from Marsha about Circolare restarting in Đenovići within thirty-forty days. He also reports that the hook has been set for hiring the ladies for work in Podgorica at a software company.

"Well I have some good news for you. We have jobs available for all three of you in Podgorica. The bad news they would like you to start tomorrow with interview. But I explained that you ladies might want a day or two to shop for your move to the city. They said fine. But they put you on the

payroll as of tomorrow. That means I was able to negotiate a \$500 US a day per diem. While you are traveling and relocating.

“How does that sound to you.”

“I can not go. I do not want to leave my boy-friend,” says Sarah.

“That’s to be expected,” observes Randy. “But take the two day per diem and then quit. That will help Sofia and Marsha prepare for the new location.”

Just then the waiters arrives with tonight’s supper. Discussion turns to less stressful topics for the remainder of the meal.

By the end of the evening Sarah agrees to take the two days of per diem to help Sofia and Marsha. The ladies tease her about remaining behind.

At the Hotel Mediterranean Brian has a great deal of success convincing Ramesh’s chosen developers to join him and Hamza in America. Brian and Ramesh perceive the makings of a strong relationship.

Using an Eneida land-line telephone Gianni Circolare is finally able to notify Catalina Engineering of the Ulcinj catastrophe. He begins discussing a plan for picking-up the pieces and relocating but he is interrupted. Instead Circolare receives instructions for Al Moro. After the call he locates Al Moro and relays a strange set of instructs for him to have one of his people fetch Wayne Duffy for a book club. A short time later Wayne Duffy receives a call at his olive grove estates.

“Wayne, sorry to have to call you out of retirement,” apologizes The Top Predator. “But you are my nearest trusted set of eyes. Please go to Ulcinj operation this evening. There is no cell service. There has been multiple fires. People have walked off the job. I need someone on the ground who can tell me what the hell is happening.

“As soon as I can contact Al Moro, I will have him send a car for you. The car should arrive shortly,” finishes the Top Predator as he disconnects to make another call.

“Paging Al Moro, calls a bellboy. “Paging Al Moro.”

The bellboy’s paging effort attracts one of the Security Personnel who takes the bellboy to Al Moro. The bellboy leads Al Moro to a small office with an open line.

“This is Al Moro,” announces Al Moro.

“Invite Circolare and Duffy to join your book club,” and the line goes dead.

The Compound fire and the Operations Building fire are now smoldering. The Ulcinj municipal fire responders were finally able to reach the fire event site. By the time hoses were run, the Fire Captain halted that activity in favor of recovery and forensics.

Wayne Duffy's ride arrives on the scene of the Catalina disaster. Al Moro and Gianni Circolare walk over to the sedan in which Wayne is riding. Al Moro excuses the driver and takes over.

"We need to go to a place where we will have privacy, a strong cell tower bar indicator, a view of the Adriatic, and a little wine," states Moro.

"How about the Monte Berrica overlook? It has a great view of Ulcinj."

As Moro approaches Old Town Ulcinj, the cell tower bars reappear. The cell tower bars are still strong when Moro pulls into a parking space at Monte Berrica facing an overlook vista view of Ulcinj at night and the Adriatic. The view is spectacular as it is private.

Moro calls a number in the States and brings Duffy and Circolare in on a conference call. He turns on the interior lights. He then opens the door reaches for a cork screw and a bottle of wine that he brought. He pours short tumblers for all three men.

"To the Catalina Phoenix," toasts Moro as the other two men raise their tumblers.

"Gentlemen, please tell me what you see and give me your opinions.," begins the Top Predator. "Would you please go first Circolare and then Wayne you can summarize what you saw and think."

Circolare starts going into detail about the events of the day and evening.

"I will return momentarily," say Moro.

He exits the car and appears to walk off to the rear of the car for a moment of relief. Returning towards the car he appears to be adjusting his zipper and trousers. Near the trunk of the car he stops. Reaching behind his back he withdraws a Croatia made HS2000 9mm. He aims and fires twice at the head of each of the victims. The back window now has two sets of clean holes. Each set has two relatively clean bullet holes nearly touching each other through the glass. The back seating area is no longer clean.

"We have finished Pulp Fiction this evening," reports Moro.

"I understand that Patel has walked off with a number of his programmers. If you find him, ask him to join the book club."

"No, I am going to cleanup the meeting room and head for a vacation in the mountains."

"Until later then," closes the State-side cell correspondent.

Moro begins to clean the meeting room by pulling three jerry cans of fuels, a cardboard box, and a small heavy metal canister painted olive drab with Cyrillic lettering on one side. These items he places on the ground behind the trunk. He then pulls three small propane camp store bottles from the trunk and places them on the ground behind the trunk.

He opens the hood and splashes motor oil and some diesel fuel in the engine compartment near the firewall. He places one of the propane bottles against the firewall. Gently closing the hood he begins dousing the passenger compartment front and back with diesel fuel, and several containers of motor oil. He places the remaining propane bottles in the back passenger compartment.

He returns to the trunk area of the car and begins to put all the trash in the trunk. Then he pulls one of three thermite grenades from the metal canister as a fire ignition source. With the driver's door window open he reaches through in to release the parking brake lever. As anticipated the sedan gently begins to roll forward toward the overhang's drop.

Moro begins to briskly walk beside the car, draws the safety pin from Russian Army surplus thermite grenade, and lets the grenade spoon spring free. Flipping the grenade through the open window Moro does an about face and hustles up the slight incline to a safe distance.

The thermite grenade still has not ignited.

Looking his watch he waits to see if the grenade will cook-off or trip.

Finally he has to make a decision.

Not real happy with the performance of the grenade Moro utters, "maledetta spazzatura russa" <Italian: for damn Russian garbage>. In the dark he begins to climb down the overhang. Finding the sedan is not a problem. Slipping past it is a bit of a challenge but Moro manages to reach the driver's side open window. Reaching into his trouser pocket he removes his butane cigarettes lighter. He strikes a flame, tosses it through the window as a gentle 'plinking' sound is heard with the ignition of the thermite grenade engulfed the vapor fumes.

The first explosion is instantaneous and consuming. The residual heat causes subsequent explosion due to the cooking-off of the propane bottles and the two remaining surplus grenades remaining in the metal canister.

In Ulcinj at the Hotel Mediterranean, Jane receives a message from DorsalFin as she and Mark relax on the Trawler's balcony overlooking the evening's fireworks at the Sunfish Compound and Operation Building.

"I have a message from the DorsalFin facilitator. The NSA intercepted two short telephone calls from the Ulcinj area that may bear directly on tonight's operation. Apparently the top perpetrator decided to close-up shop and clean house. But the NSA is 90% certain they can identify the person by known voice pattern profiles.

"DorsalFin indicated that we may not be able to prosecute directly for everything this person caused to happen. However, we can now focus on finding a weak spot.

"The DorsalFin and Spook Tower want to discuss the opportunity for prosecution and develop a plan for closing this operation. We will have a meeting with them tomorrow at 1700 hours Ulcinj time."

"Brian is still busy working details with Ramesh as is Randy with the ladies," observes Mark.

"I will message Brian and Randy to plan for an update from DorsalFin over breakfast," closes Jane. After sending the message she says, "I am just about done for the evening. See you and the bunch in the AM."