

Chapter 13

It's 4:00 AM on a crisp Tuesday morning when the phone rings. Dee answers; "Hello?"

She hears a male voice; "I have two spills that must to be removed this morning. The details were put through your mail slot." Click

Edward is standing next to her; "The job we were told about a few months ago is happening this morning. The man on the phone said our instructions were put through the mail slot. Go get them while I call everyone and get them here. I'll also call Uncle Herbert so he can call James."

Without a word, Edward goes downstairs and finds a folded sheet of paper. Printed are the instructions: Burr Ridge Forest Preserve. Be parked, on the street, next to the entrance no later than 5:15 AM. You will receive further instructions there.

When you see an unmarked police car leave, enter and drive to the far end of the parking lot. There will only be two cars parked. The stains to be removed will be a few feet in front of them.

Remove any items from the vehicles that would make an investigator think the owners are returning. Leave the registrations. There are multiple garbage cans nearby. There will be a large female hat and sunglasses in one vehicle. There will be a pair of male sunglasses and a newspaper boy hat in the other vehicle. Both of you will need those for your disguises.

In one of the cars, you will find payment in full and two tickets for a flight to San Diego in the name of John and Jane Smith.

Drive both cars to the airport and park them next to each other. Put on your disguises. Wear the sunglasses and hats you found in the cars. Enjoy your flight. Once you arrive, go to a restroom toilet, remove your makeup and disguises, then throw them in the trash. Shave off your beard. Throw the hat and glasses away. Take a taxi to the bus station and purchase two tickets to Las Vegas and enjoy yourselves for a couple for a couple of days. Do not act like big spenders! You will draw too much attention.

Take a bus back here. Do not fly! Plane tickets require passenger names. Bus tickets do not.

The crew arrives at the office. With Dee driving, everyone arrives at the destination at 5:08AM. A couple of minutes later, a unmarked police car pulls next to the truck. The driver looks at the name on the truck: Specialize Waste Disposal.

He drives forward to block the parking lot entry. Dee and Edward see the man pick up the police radio microphone. He couldn't have said more than a word or two.

At 5:15 exactly, a city garbage truck pulls up. The unmarked police car turns and enters the forest preserve and disappears down the winding parking lot road.

The garbage truck pulls next to Dee. The man in the garbage truck passenger seat looks over; "Don't look at me. Stay looking forward. When that unmarked car leaves, go inside and do your job. I'm going to block the driveway so you won't be interrupted."

Moments later, the unmarked car returns and stops. The driver signals Dee to go inside.

She drives the twisting road to the farthest rear parking lot where she sees the two cars. She turns the truck to be blocking anyone's view.

While the crew is wrapping the two bodies, Edward and Dee find everything as they were told. Payment is found in a brown bag on the front seat of what presumably was the man's car. In the trunk is a doctor's bag. Edward does not look inside. In the glove compartment are two airline tickets to San Diego. (Not first class) The names are Mister and Mrs. John Smith. Same as the car registration. Edward finds the newspaper boy hat and sunglasses.

The big hat and sunglasses are in what must be the newly deceased woman's car.

The crew has wrapped the bodies in army surplus blankets and loaded them in record time because there's no crime scene to clean up. Both victims were shot in the back of the head while on the grass in the woods.

Edward hands Larry the brown paper bag; "There's four grand here. Take the money from here and pay everyone double when you unload at the funeral parlor. Pay Dee's uncle Herbert double also.

When you get back to the office, and park the truck, wait until Bruno and Albert leave. Then put the money bag and the doctor's case in the floor hiding place."

Edward takes out a pack of bills; "We're going to need this."

"You're trusting a black man with a brown paper bag stuffed with money?"

"I'm trusting a friend. Should I be worried?"

"No, I'm just shocked you would trust me with this."

"You're my friend. If I can't trust you, I'm screwed. When you get to the office, move out the big counsel floor radio/record player. There's a trap door underneath. Put the money and the doctor's bag in there."

"I'm sorry Ed, I've had you wrong. You really do trust me. You're an alright guy."
Because Larry is a huge man, he almost takes Edward's breath away with a hug.

Turning to Dee; "I see why you love this man. He's alright."

"I know that. I'm glad to see you do too."

Dee and Edward enter the cars and follow the crew to the parking entrance. The garbage truck exited the driveway and everyone went on their way.

At the airport parking lot, Dee first puts on her makeup. Then she put on the gloves, hat and lastly the sunglasses. While she's busy, Edward writes the names of John and Jane Smith on their carry on overnight bag tags.

Edward has mug shaving soap and a new double edge safety razor in his overnight bag. He puts on the paperboy cap and sunglasses that were in the car.

While walking to the airport terminal; “I wish I had my lipstick. I feel naked without it.”

“Honey, if you had your lipstick on, you would attract every man in the airport by how beautiful you are.”

“I don't know about that. If one person says *look at the negro trying to look white*, there will be blood.”

“Nobody is going to say anything. I'll check us in at the gate. There's nothing to worry about.”

“Are you going to want me to keep looking like this?”

They stop before the terminal entrance; “I would still love you with or without makeup. Today we're actors. Actors wear makeup.”

“In your case it's only a beard.”

“I can't wait to shave it off. Now are you okay with this? Should I hold your hand? Maybe get you a glass of warm milk and a blanket?”

She starts chuckling; “You can always hold my hand. Now would be a good time because I've never flown before. As for the warm milk, I'd go to sleep.”

The check in at the gate was uneventful. Their seats were in the middle of the plane. While waiting for takeoff, Dee whispers in Edward's ear; “This is the first time I'm sitting in the middle of anything. It's always been sit in the back of the bus. Being white has it's privileges.”

He whispers back; “Just stop it. This is act one of a play we've been cast in. We need to act like two ordinary travelers and not draw attention.”

She smiles and still in a whisper; “When we take off, I'll ask for a blanket. You can unbuckle your pants, I'll go under the blanket and take care of you. Just like I do at home.”

He gently lifts the front brim of her hat and plants a kiss on her lips. Afterwards; “As much as I would enjoy that, I don't want us getting arrested when we land.”

“We could get a hotel room in San Diego for a few hours. After all, I am a woman with many wants and needs.”

“When they come around with the drink cart, I'll ask for a big glass of warm milk. Maybe you'll sleep through the flight.”

“And then I'd have dreams about what I want to do to you and with you.”

Over the intercom; “There is no smoking during take off and landing. Put out all smoking materials. Make sure your meal trays are in the upward position and your seat belts are fastened.”

Dee has her face down as the stewardess walks down the isle making sure everything is okay. She also

lowers her head whenever someone walks down the aisle going to the bathroom.

Because this is her first flight, Dee was surprised when drinks are served. She had an orange juice and vodka. When the in flight meal came, she was thrilled. The rest of the flight was uneventful.

Upon reaching San Diego and leaving the plane; “I need to find the restrooms and get this shit off my face. And before you say it, I'll go in a stall and do every thing there. I'll wait until I can throw the hat and glasses in the trash without people watching.”

Edward is standing there smiling. This is slightly annoying her; “What's your problem?”

“I get to see my wife, business partner and best friend in the world be two people in one day.”

“Oh stop it already. Which do you like better?”

“The woman I married is the only woman for me.”

“I barely had enough time to comb my hair and put on some lipstick that night.”

“Oh it didn't matter. The bride was the most beautiful woman in the world, the same as she is today.”

“I love you too, but we need to change back to who we really are. Then my husband; oh I like the sound of that. Then we need to find the bus station and buy tickets to Vegas.”

“And if the bus isn't leaving for several hours?”

“We find a hotel and make passionate love until we pass out from exhaustion. Then catch the bus when we recover.”

Dee sees the huge grin on his face; “We need to go before you hyperventilate.”

They found out of the way restrooms. 20 minutes later, they met and took a taxi to the bus station. The trip from San Diego to Las Vegas takes over 8 hours. The next bus leaves in 45 minutes. There's still 2 open seats available.

Dee tells the clerk; “We have a few things we need to do before we leave. When is the next bus leaving after this one?”

“Noon tomorrow. Would you want to buy your tickets now? That guarantees both of your seats.”

“Yes. I'll buy them now. And where's the nearest hotel.”

“The Misty Star is down the street. As you leave, turn left. You can't miss it.”

After Dee pays for the tickets, they walk to the Misty Star. Edward pays for the room using the name Mister and Mrs. Lester Rollins. The sleazy clerk never looked up. He was looking at some girly magazine as he passed them the room key.

Outside the office, Dee asks; “Where did you come up with the name Lester Rollins?”

“He was my best friend in boot camp.”

“Do you know what happened to him?”

“He kept complaining his right arm hurt. Finally they took an x-ray and found he has a bullet lodged in his forearm.”

“Didn't they remove it?”

“No. They discharged him as unfit for service.”

When they reach their room, Edward opens the door; “Well it looks clean. It even has air conditioning.”

Dee almost pushes him through the door; “Who cares. I want a shower and then I want some attention. I want to work off this stress I have built up.”

She looks to her; “We never had a honeymoon. I was hoping for so much better than this for you.”

“Sweetheart, you're here, I'm here, there's a bed and a shower. What more do we need?”

Edward undresses in record time. Dee looks and asks; “Let's skip the shower. I can see your a man with needs and I'm a woman with needs right now!”

The following day around 11:30, the satisfied couple is boarding the bus to Las Vegas. Edward has changed the names on the overnight bag tags to Mister and Mrs. Lester Rollins. Their sitting towards the middle rear and it's almost empty.

Thinking they're beyond ear shot of anyone, Edward asks; “Maybe we can get married while we're in Las Vegas.”

Before Dee could respond, a gentleman of color who they did not know is sitting in front of them arises and speaks to them over his seat.

“No you cannot. Marriage between a negro and a white is illegal in twenty eight states, including Nevada. They're called anti-miscegenation laws. Asking to be married could result in bad consequences. They may say no or have both of you arrested.”

A woman of perhaps Asian decent is now looking over the top of her seat next to the man; “We were married in Minnesota; that's where we're from. Our marriage there is legal.”

“By the way; I'm Melvin and she's my wife Junna. We've both been to jail for being together a few times.”

“And Melvin is a lawyer. So take my advise, keep your affair to yourselves. You never know who's going to be on the bus with you.”

“There's always some fool who want's to cause trouble.”

With a smile on Jenna's face; “So what do you two do for a living?”

“We own a waste removal service. Dee is also our accountant.”

“Oh that must be so nice to have your own business. What type of waste does your business remove?”

Dee answers; “Sometimes businesses have special waste that needs to be removed that can't be done by normal means. That's when we provide a specialized service to eliminate problems.”

“That sounds interesting. Enjoy the ride.”

The couple returned to sitting in their seats. Edward has been doing his best to keep a straight face.

The long ride was interrupted only once for a 45 minute stop over where Dee purchased a couple newspapers and Edward bought himself a couple of popular magazines. (Look and Life)

Upon reaching Las Vegas, they found a small hotel. Because of the new hotels being built downtown and on Highway 91 (the strip), the owner is glad to have Dee and Edward as customers staying a couple of nights.

They went to a couple of the casinos. Dee set them a budget of \$100 each to gamble. Edward lost \$50 one day and the other \$50 the next. Dee played blackjack at several casinos. She made a little under \$500 in two days.

They left Las Vegas Thursday on the 1:30AM bus. They finally arrived in Kansas City Friday at 7:45AM. Taxi ride home and they are thankful the bus rides are over!

They see a note on the table to call Big Mike when they return. Neither of them want to talk to anyone right now.

Edward kissed Dee then; “I'm going to my room to get some real sleep without waking you up when I snore or have to pee.”

She melts his heart with that smile; “Thank you. When you wake up, it won't be a bad thing if you come join me.”

With a smile on his face, he lets out with a low growl.