

The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes
in Obsidian Hex Returns

Written by

Tom Stohlgren

Writer:
Email: tjstohlgren@gmail.com
(970) 217-4498
Representation:
Eleni Larchanidou, LL.M.
Literary & Talent Manager
+1 (310) 696-3656
email: managerelenilllm@gmail.com
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FADE IN:

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

In a traditional European tavern, somewhere between 100 and 400 years old, Detective Inspector MARIA MARTIN (25) and a Constable HENRY GRUBER (23) are having pints of ale at a corner table. Their smiles, whispers, and gazes into each other's eyes signal that they are on a date and in their own world. Henry has a British accent. A sign at the bar reads, "Tuesday Two-for-One Night."

Maria looks around suspiciously, but sees no one of consequence, such as the ghost of Sherlock Holmes.

MARIA

It's nice to be alone and not think about work for the night.

HENRY

He's not here, is he?

MARIA

(smiles)
No, he's not.

HENRY

How have you been getting along? In your head.

MARIA

He knows he's mentoring me to become a better detective, but he also knows I need room to fail and learn on my own.

(whispers)
But I don't know what I'd do without him. You don't think I'm crazy for hearing voices, do you, Henry?

HENRY

(smiles)
I'm crazy enough to love you!
(beat)
I'll grab us another pint. It's my round.

MARIA

(laughs)
I know it's a Two-for-One Night!

Henry smiles and makes his way to the bar, where the bartender, CATHERINE (CAT) DUNLOP (25), has two pints waiting. Cat has a slight Irish accent.

HENRY

Thanks, Cat. Keep my tab open.

CAT

The look suits you, Henry. You've come a long way since secondary school.

HENRY

What makes you say--

Cat quits listening and moves down the bar to greet a new patron, MAYOR ARIN DILLON (35), the town's first Indian Mayor.

Henry overhears Cat as he returns to his table.

CAT

What can I get ya, Mayor?

Henry delivers the beer and whispers to Maria.

HENRY

The Mayor came in.

MARIA

We'll be on our best behavior.

HENRY

What's he like?

MARIA

I voted for him without seeing his photo. I loved his platform on social justice issues; rumor has it that he's having a difficult time blending into the community.

HENRY

Not because he's Indian, I hope.

MARIA

He was behind bringing that new discount grocer to town. He made enemies with established business owners.

WINSTON EDWARDS (40), a high-class businessman in a sharp grey suit, enters like he owns the place, because he does.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Speak of the devil.

Henry turns to see the Businessman.

HENRY
 Winston Edwards is the richest man
 in town by several football
 pitches.

Winston strolls to the bar.

WINSTON
 Hi, Cat. I'll have two G&Ts and
 whatever the Mayor's having.

CAT
 Two gin and tonics, yes, sir, Mr.
 Edwards.

WINSTON
 Call me, Winston, Cat. You know me
 better than that!

Cat makes the G&Ts.

MAYOR
 I'm fine, thanks, Mr. Edwards.

Winston laughs and pats the Mayor hard on the back.

WINSTON
 Call me, Winston, Arin. And I
 insist.
 (glares at Cat)
 Cat! I insist.

CAT
 Yes, Mr. Edwards.

Cat pours two more pints for the Mayor, who has barely
 touched his first one.

CAT (CONT'D)
 Remember, Mr. Mayor, it's Two-for-
 One Night.

MAYOR
 How can I forget? Well, maybe
 tomorrow morning.

Cat laughs.

Two handsome, athletic men enter the tavern: TAD DOOLEY (30), an Irishman with a heavy accent, and JESUS (AKA Hey-Zeus) RIVERA (30), a Spaniard with the body and voice of a movie star. Both are impeccably dressed. They smile at Cat, and Tad holds up two fingers.

They head to one of the two dartboards on the far side of the tavern.

Cat brings them two pints of beer each.

The two gents kiss each other for good luck, toast their beers, and start throwing darts.

Another couple enters the tavern: JOHN WILSON (25), wearing carpenter's pants and boots with his best blue shirt, and

AMY WANG (25), a mysterious Asian female, who is dressed like a sophisticated businesswoman. They take a table closest to the second dartboard.

Cat brings them menus.

Maria and Henry hear a familiar booming voice at the entrance. It's female Pastor, LIZ BRIGGS (40). She wears casual Pastor attire proudly.

PASTOR
God bless all here!

Maria and Henry turn to see the Pastor marching toward them. Henry stands.

The Pastor pulls a seat over to their table.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Henry, I haven't seen you in some time.

HENRY
I've been busy with police work.

PASTOR
(to Maria)
And Detective, you've never been to our services.

The Pastor turns to see Cat, the Mayor, Winston, Tad, and Jesus.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
It's a regular denizen of Hell in here.

MARIA

(smiles)

Heaven must be the loneliest place
in the world.

Henry chuckles, gets a sharp glare from the Pastor, and shuts
up immediately.

PASTOR

That's why I'm here -- and for the
G&Ts.

The Pastor turns and yells to Cat.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Barmaid, one G&T please.

CAT

I prefer bartender or Cat, but
coming up, ma'am.

(mumbles)

And ma'am means bitch.

The Pastor isn't listening to Cat and turns her back to
Henry.

PASTOR

I'm making my way around town to
tell everyone about our "Be a
friend, Bring a friend" service
next Sunday to bring the community
together.

Cat delivers two G&Ts to the table next to Maria and Henry.

CAT

They're on a date, Pastor Briggs.

PASTOR

(to Cat)

Do you come to our services?

CAT

No, Ma'am.

The Pastor turns to see the carpenter and his Asian date.

PASTOR

That's John Wilson. His mother used
to come every Sunday, but she
passed.

They all turn and see that Amy and John are now throwing
darts next to Tad and Jesus.

Suddenly, Maria hears the voice of SHERLOCK HOLMES (61) in her head, as the Pastor walks to John.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Wasn't she the lucky one?

DI Martin's eyes open wide, and she whispers to Henry.

MARIA
He's here.

She looks around and sees Sherlock staring at the soccer game on TV. She also sees Tad and Jesus throwing darts.

HENRY
What's he doing here?

Maria whispers discretely in Holmes' direction.

MARIA
What are you doing here?

Cat glances at Maria, and Sherlock smiles innocently.

CAT
I work here.

The electricity goes out in the pub.

The Pastor trips on something, falls, and we hear a glass break.

Moments later, everyone but Holmes and Mr. Edwards has their smartphone flashlights on, scanning the room.

Amy Wang SCREAMS as her light shines on Mr. Edwards, lying face down on the floor with a dart in his lower back.

All the flashlights train on Mr. Edwards as everyone converges around the body.

The lights come back on, and everyone gasps.

CAT (CONT'D)
Oh my God, it's Mr. Edwards!

Maria checks his pulse.

PASTOR
Is he dead?

MARIA
 He's not breathing, and there's no
 pulse. Henry, call Doc and don't
 let anyone leave.

Maria sees Sherlock bending over the dart with his oversized
 magnifying glass.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Directly into the spinal cord.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
 Looks to be a syringe-type dart.

MARIA
 (miffed, to Sherlock)
 I can see that!.
 (polite to the group)
 I can see that I want everyone to
 return to the spot they were
 standing or sitting before the
 lights went out.

The patrons look puzzled as they return.

Maria leaps over to the dart-throwing lanes.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Let me see the darts you were
 throwing, please.

The four dart throwers show her two or three darts each,
 although some are stuck on the dartboards.

She examines them briefly.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
 Too small.

MARIA
 Yes, these are smaller.

She glares at them.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Stick around for an interview.
 Don't take it personally, we'll be
 interviewing everyone.

TAD
 We?

MARIA
 Henry and I.

Henry races over to Maria.

HENRY

Doc is on his way. Should I grab the crime box from your boot?

MARIA

Good idea. Slap some tape across the doors on your way in.

HENRY

You got it, Gov.

Henry exits, and Maria addresses the group as Sherlock smiles approvingly at Maria.

MARIA

I'm sorry for your loss if you were friends with the deceased.

Everyone shrugs or looks away.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We have to treat this as a suspicious death because the dart is in a difficult place to reach in his back. We can't rule out a self-inflicted injury.

MAYOR

Are we all suspects?

MARIA

Persons of interest. We could do interviews at the station or here for convenience.

CAT

You can't use the boss's office. It was painted. He told me he was stopping by to check receipts.

MARIA

Check receipts?

Cat uses air quotes and is sarcastic.

CAT

He usually means "steal from the till."

MARIA

I assumed he was wealthy.

MAYOR

The richest man in town.

Henry bounces in, holding a roll of police tape and carrying a metallic briefcase.

MARIA

Let's grab some barstools and tape off Mr. Edwards until Doc takes a look.

Henry reassures the group, while Maria takes photos of the body on her smartphone.

HENRY

This is so we don't step on him.

CAT

(smirks)

He stepped on people all over town.

MARIA

Be careful, Ms. Dunlop; statements like that could be misconstrued as a motive.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Interesting surname, Dunlop. A Scottish name from the 1200s. Usually restricted to the lower classes in the Victorian era.

Maria looks to be talking to herself as she addresses Holmes, who no one can see or hear.

MARIA

Totally useless information.

Cat takes it personally.

CAT

Look, I'm sorry, okay! It slipped out.

DI Martin's eyes open wide as everyone stares at her.

MARIA

I'm sorry, talking to myself again.

Henry tries to support Maria.

HENRY

She talks to herself all the time.

Holmes is fixated on the soccer game on television. The Mayor is also glued to the action.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

All those silly people are entertained by kicking a ball. Most fascinating.

(excited)

It's the Bayern Munich team from Bavaria!

MAYOR

And to think half of Munich was destroyed in World War II. Now look at the city!

Sherlock is stunned by the Mayor's comment. He goes ballistic.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

World War II!? That implies there was a World War I! What else did I miss since I died in 1891?

MARIA

(to Sherlock)

Some good football games. And they landed on the moon in 1969.

Holmes paces. He's agitated.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Two world wars? A moon landing? You've got to be kidding!

Maria whispers to Henry.

MARIA

Our family friend is distracted today. Please take him outside and point him to the library.

(loud to Henry)

Please fetch me extra latex gloves from the boot.

HENRY

You got it, Gov.

Henry comically coaxes Sherlock's ghost to follow him outside. The others think he's acting very strange, so Maria tries to distract them.

MARIA

Gather around everyone, and I'll explain what we're up against tonight.

The others gather around Maria.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Detectives and mystery writers refer to this as a closed-circle murder.

Henry opens the front door and exits. We see the yellow crime tape on the door.

CAT

That explains why business slowed down.

Maria ignores the comment.

MARIA

That means that no one else has entered or exited--

MAYOR

Henry exited twice.

MARIA

He didn't do it. And unless we get a confession from someone, these cases can be very difficult to solve.

DOC (45) enters in a white PED, blue shoe covers, and a blue COVID Mask. He carries a body bag under his arm.

The crowd steps away from Doc in fear.

MARIA (CONT'D)

He's okay. That's Doc. He brought most of you into the world.

DOC

Nowadays, I mostly take 'em out.
(looks at the body)
Who do we have here?

Doc gets closer and is shocked.

DOC (CONT'D)

Winston Edwards?

PASTOR
God rest his soul.

Doc turns to see the Pastor.

DOC
Hi, Liz. I'm sorry you lost another
member of your congregation.

Doc takes a pulse and examines the body.

DOC (CONT'D)
He's been poisoned. Fast-acting.
The dart hit his spinal cord, most
likely. Given the location of the
dart, we can't rule out suicide.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)
It wasn't suicide.

Doc looks around the room suspiciously.

MARIA
No one saw anything. The
electricity went out before it
happened.

The lights blink off and on twice.

Everyone gasps.

The football game on the TV is replaced by a blank screen and
a loud demonic voice of OBSIDIAN HEX (disguised and ominous).

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)
We're in charge now. Thank you all
for coming. It looks like we have a
killer to catch. So, don't try to
leave or we'll blow the place up!
We need you all here!

Maria sees Sherlock beneath the TV, looking up in awe.

MARIA
Who are you?

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)
Who do you think we are? Obsidian
Hex!

MARIA
(to the TV)
This is DI Maria Martin.
(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

Mr. Edwards is dead, but he hasn't been examined by the medical examiner yet.

Maria, Henry, and Sherlock glare at the TV in shock, while everyone else is puzzled. Sherlock and Maria whisper.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Obsidian Hex! From the Case of the Twice-Killed Chief.

MARIA

Obsidian Hex is the global cybercriminal network of hackers, extortionists, blackmailers, and killers.

Everyone gasps.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

We're not killers! We can't extort crypto from dead people. We want to know the person that killed him, or we'll blow up the tavern.

HENRY

And don't forget the deepfake video racket. They did photos of me with--

MARIA

That's enough, Henry. Doc, can I remove, examine, and bag the dart?

DOC

Carefully, so the dart contains as much poison as possible for testing.

Maria puts on latex gloves and slowly removes the dart. Henry readies an evidence bag.

She examines the dart. Sherlock looks over her shoulder.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Cyanide, Strychnine, poison frog?

MARIA

There are plenty of new, improved poisons made with synthetics on the black market.

Maria bags the dart.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Doc, does he have his phone in a coat pocket?

Doc checks.

DOC

No phone.

PASTOR

He never carries his phone on Tuesday, Two-for-One drink night.

Maria takes off her gloves and makes a note on her phone.

MAYOR

What is Obsidian Hex doing here?

HENRY

Doc Zoblin's son, Les, was associated with them, but he's not any longer.

MARIA

Are we sure? I'll call him.

PASTOR

My phone isn't working.

TAD

Mine either.

AMY

Nor mine.

MARIA

Obsidian Hex is jamming them. There'll be no Wi-Fi either.

CAT

The tavern's Internet and Wi-Fi have been disconnected.

MARIA

(to the TV)

We mean no harm. Please let the civilians go. I'll stay.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(louder)

We jammed your phones and internet to get your undivided attention. If someone killed Edwards, we want to know who?

MARIA

We haven't ruled out suicide yet,
but I'm compelled to investigate
this as a homicide.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

It's a homicide!

A map of the Tavern is displayed on the TV screen. There are seven red dots following the movement of the people in the tavern. Maria looks around for cameras.

MARIA

How are they monitoring us so
closely?

HENRY

That's spooky!

MARIA

What are we supposed to do?

HENRY

We can't stay here all night.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(louder)

This was going to be a good night
for us until Winston Edwards died!

Doc whispers to Maria.

DOC

He said, "we" and "us." There's
more than one of them!

She whispers back.

MARIA

I heard him. We have to learn who
Mr. Edwards's associates were.

(to Henry)

Assume they can hear us. Get pads
of paper for everyone to share
notes.

Henry whispers to Cat, and they head to a small office.

DOC

What's going on here?

Maria holds a finger to her lips and shows everyone.

MARIA

I don't know-- yet! But we need
Les's help. And, we need to
whisper.

Henry returns with several pads of yellow stickies and pencils. He whispers to each patron as he hands them a pad and pencil.

Maria whispers to Cat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Can you find me a large tablet of
paper and a black marker?

Cat nods 'Yes,' and returns to the office.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Does this mean there's no more
football?

Cat brings paper and a marker to Maria. Henry and Sherlock look over Maria's shoulder as she writes: "Police Emergency, Please deliver to Les Zlobin (Doc's son). Les, your Dad, Henry, and I are trapped in the Tavern by Obsidian Hex. We know it's not you, but we need your help. They may have a bomb. Buy, borrow, or steal two walkie-talkies. Keep one and bring the other to the bathroom window at the tavern. And bring your phone and laptop. Please hurry. Maria."

Maria shows the note to the others to calm fears, but it doesn't seem to help. They are pacing.

Maria slides the note under the entrance door of the Tavern, so that only a corner remains visible.

The Pastor whispers angrily at Maria.

PASTOR

Are you crazy? That note will never
reach Doc's basket-case son.

The note disappears from the door.

The patrons' eyes open wide.

They all HEAR a motor scooter RACE away.

Maria and Henry gaze at each other and share a moment.

Maria writes another note: "Help is on the way."

JOHN

I'm gonna need two more beers.

The Pastor holds up her G&T glass.

The Mayor chugs his pint and starts another one in front of him.

Doc glares at the TV.

DOC

Look, Mr. Obsidian Hex. We can't medically rule out suicide. Mr. Edwards could have pushed the poison dart into his lower back.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

It wasn't a suicide.

MARIA

We have no reason to suspect it was murder.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You'd better find a reason and a murderer, or we'll blow up the Tavern!

DOC

I'd better bag Mr. Edwards here, or he'll start to stink.

CAT

He's always stunk.

DOC

And if this is a hostage situation, I'd like a scotch or two, Catherine.

CAT

Call me Cat, Doc. We're all gonna die anyway.

The other patrons are stunned and speechless.

MARIA

(angry)

Obsidian Hex said they weren't killers!

(compassionate)

When Doc finishes up, we'll start our interview process.

Holmes stares at the blank TV. He's curious.

INT. TAVERN - LATER

SUPER: "Fifteen minutes later."

The body is in the bag, and Holmes is still staring at the blank TV, perplexed.

Maria stands at the far end of the bar and interviews Cat, while Henry interviews Amy at a corner table. They all speak in low voices.

Maria and Henry have large tablets of paper that read, "Don't speak their names, but please write down ANY known associates of Winston Edward. Circle the names of any tech-savvy connections."

MARIA

When did you meet Winston Edwards?

CAT

When I applied for the job two years ago.

MARIA

Do you know anyone who would want to harm him?

CAT

Everyone who knew him, I guess.

MARIA

Why is that?

CAT

He spoke down to everyone like he was royalty.

MARIA

Would you say you hated him?

CAT

I've learned to release my anger with frequent snide remarks. It's one of my two major faults.

Cat is no longer listening to Maria. She turns her attention to Henry and Amy.

HENRY

That's interesting, Ms. Wang.
You're a tourist and out on a date.
A first date at that!

Amy puts a hand on Henry's hand.

AMY

And you're on a date, too! What a coincidence.

HENRY

My detective doesn't believe in coincidences.

He pulls his hand back.

HENRY (CONT'D)

So you've never met Winston Edwards?

AMY

I don't think so. But he is my type. Rich.

HENRY

Thank you for your time, Ms. Wang. Will you please send your date over to me next?

AMY

You want to date him, too?

HENRY

I want to interview him.

Maria leans in to whisper to Cat. Maria points to the tablet. Cat adds a few names. Seamus O'Leary - liquor and supplies. Vernon Schmidt - Advertising/Marketing. She circles Vernon's name. Maria smiles.

Cat gets distracted by the body and turns her back to Maria.

MARIA

Is your second fault that you don't listen well?

Cat turns back to Maria.

CAT

What did you say?

MARIA

Did Mr. Edwards have strong skills with computers or technology?

Cat isn't listening again.

CAT

What?

MARIA

I said it's time for me to
interview the Mayor.

Doc and the Mayor are whispering at the bar when Maria
interrupts.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Mayor, may I ask you a
few questions at the corner table?

MAYOR

If it will help bring this
nightmare to a close. Sure.

The Mayor follows her to a corner table.

MARIA

How well did you know Mr. Edwards?

MAYOR

I drank at this tavern on Two-for-
One Nights. So did he. He was
frugal. He poured money into my
campaign only after he found out my
opposing candidate...

(points to Tad)

Was gay and had an immigrant
boyfriend.

MARIA

They're happily married.

MAYOR

If it's any consolation, I think he
hated us all.

MARIA

Do you know of anyone who would
want to harm Mr. Edwards?

MAYOR

He kept bullying me for favors.
Looking the other way for
environmental compliance, skirting
the zoning laws, and avoiding
taxes.

MARIA

That's not good.

MAYOR

And he had a peculiar sense of
humor.

(MORE)

MAYOR (CONT'D)

He'd say he wanted more ex- wives
than Henry the Eighth, and more
real estate than the Pope.

MARIA

Huh.

MAYOR

I didn't kill him, but I'm not
going to send flowers to his
funeral.

Across the tavern, Henry has a difficult time interviewing
John Wilson.

JOHN

No comment.

HENRY

I asked how long you've known
Winston Edwards.

JOHN

And I said, No comment.

HENRY

Do you know anyone who would want
to harm Mr. Edwards?

JOHN

No comment.

HENRY

Do you--

JOHN

No comment.

HENRY

Want to be here when the place
blows up?

John stands and stomps back to the dartboard and throws darts
with extra vigor.

Maria yells to Henry.

MARIA

Take a break, Henry.
(to the Pastor)
Pastor, may I ask you a few
questions?

PASTOR
If I can get a couple of G&Ts!

MARIA
Deal -- Cat?

Cat salutes sarcastically.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Pastor, how well did you know Mr. Edwards?

PASTOR
His mother was devout. He's at least an agnostic, and maybe an atheist. I hope he rots in Hell.

MARIA
I take it you didn't care for the man.

PASTOR
I did like his quirky sense of humor. He told me that he wanted me to have his twelve bastard children if I could have them in groups of six to save time.

MARIA
Huh?

Cat delivers two G&Ts to the Pastor, who doesn't even acknowledge Cat.

PASTOR
(yells)
But I don't care for people who don't accept Jesus as their Savior!

Jesus Rivera spins around from the far side of the room to stare at the Pastor. Maria and the Pastor see him.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Not you!

MARIA
Jesus is a common, traditional male name in Spain. They pronounce it Hey-Zeus.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
How would you know that, Detective?

Maria presses the Pastor, but encourages the Pastor with hand motions to keep her voice low.

MARIA

Google it! And, what about all those "Love Thy Neighbor" sermons?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

What is the Google you mentioned?

PASTOR

Don't lecture me about Google, Detective. Winston Edwards was a low-down serpent in the grass.

Holmes stares at the Pastor.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

She seems as confused as I am!

MARIA

That sounds personal.

PASTOR

We went to secondary school together. He was after bodies; I was after deep, meaningful relationships. Souls.

MARIA

Do you know anyone who would want to harm Mr. Edwards?

The Pastor pauses.

PASTOR

Two ex-wives, a dozen mistresses, and zero children, so that's a good thing.

Maria points to the tablet of paper with a few names on it.

She puts a finger to her lips and whispers very softly.

MARIA

Any names?

The Pastor writes two names: "Diane Barber and Mary Harrigan, sluts."

Maria thanks her with a half-hearted smile.

Sherlock appears to Maria with a smile and then quickly disappears.

Maria walks up to Tad and Jesus.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Henry and I need to ask you a few questions. Which one of you was a Mayoral candidate?

TAD

That's me, Tad Dooley.

JESUS

I'm Hey-Zeus Rivera.

MARIA

Henry will interview you, Hey-Zeus.

Maria walks Tad over to her table.

Henry waves Jesus over to his table.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Tell me about yourself, Tad.

Tad glares at the Mayor.

TAD

I assume the Mayor told you everything.

MARIA

How well did you know Mr. Edwards?

TAD

He contributed to my campaign until I told him I was married. He must have had it in for married people.

MARIA

Could be. Did you resent him?

TAD

No. We still drank together on Two-for-One Nights. Cheap wanker. But he did have a caustic sense of humor.

MARIA

How so?

TAD

He used to say that he didn't want to go to Heaven because none of his friends would be there.

MARIA

What was so funny about that?

TAD

I don't think he had any real friends.

MARIA

Do you have any real friends?

TAD

My husband. We don't socialize much. But tonight's our fifth anniversary, so we're painting the town rainbow. And we never miss Tuesday Two-for-One Nights. Neither did Winston.

MARIA

Do you know anyone who would want to harm Mr. Edwards?

TAD

All of his tenants. He raised the rent every six months. I assume that's what Hey-Zeus is complaining about to your Henry.

They turn to see Jesus making rude hand gestures to the body bag, while swearing in Spanish. He's attracting a lot of attention.

Henry doesn't mean to be rude, but he pronounces "Jesus" in the English-Biblical way.

HENRY

Go easy on him, Jesus. The man's dead.

JESUS

It's pronounced Hey-Zeus. It's not pronounced Jesus.

HENRY

Sorry, I grew up respecting the name "Jesus"-House of the Lord stuff.

JESUS

In my house, I was called Hey-Zeus, but Mr. Edwards would always pronounce it Jesus, so he could yell out, "Jesus wants a couple more drinks!" Or "How ya hanging, Jesus!"

HENRY

Got it, Hey-Zeus. I may slip up from time to time.
 (points up)
 Like, Hey, Zeus? How ya hanging?
 (to Jesus)
 Do you know anyone who would want to harm Mr. Edwards?

JESUS

No. I forgave him every time.
 (laughs)
 It's kinda my job!

HENRY

Thanks for your time.

Maria pulls Henry back to their original table. They whisper.

MARIA

What intel did you get?

HENRY

They each hated him, but nobody admitted to killing him.

MARIA

I got a bit more. Cat, the Mayor, the Pastor, and Tad Dooley had motives and opportunity when the lights went out, but I'm more concerned about the link to Obsidian Hex.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

That's what I'm thinking, although I'm woefully unfamiliar with the electronic marvels of your day, which seem to conceal positive and evil uses.

MARIA

I need an assurance from Doc that his son, Les, is on the side of good.

Sherlock's voice sounds far away to Maria.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Mr. Lester Zlobin is tapping
lightly on the window of the uni-
gender loo.

MARIA
That's unisex.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Not around my little girl!

Maria pats Henry's hand.

MARIA
Cover for me with a light
diversion. I'm going to the loo.

Maria exits quietly and rapidly, but without raising suspicion.

Henry yells to the group.

HENRY
If I can have your attention, while
Maria's in the loo. I'd like you to
gather around Mr. Edwards and say a
few kind words if you can.

DOC
That's a compassionate gesture,
Henry. I'll start. Mr. Edwards
always paid for his prescriptions
in cash--

CUT TO:

INT. TAVERN, LOO - CONTINUOUS

Maria sees Holmes in the loo. He's holding a pad and paper.

Les taps on the window from outside.

Maria opens the window barely enough for Les's hand to reach
in with a children's walkie-talkie.

Holmes writes a note to Maria, "Whisper in all
communications."

Maria turns on her walkie-talkie and whispers into it.

MARIA

Thanks, Les. Keep all communications on low volume and whisper.

We HEAR LES ZLOBIN (15) in a low voice.

LES (O.C.)

Is my dad okay?

SHERLOCK

That device is a child's toy!

MARIA

Everyone's fine, but worried. I want your reassurance that you're no longer associated with Obsidian Hex.

LES (O.C.)

I'm not, but I monitor their activities on the dark web so they don't come back to haunt me for leaving the group. They don't like defectors.

SHERLOCK

No one likes defectors.

MARIA

I appreciate that. I need you to contact Interpol Agent Art Simmons and tell him we need to work with you and me on a bomb threat by Obsidian Hex, with your dad, Henry, me, and six others in imminent danger.

LES (O.C.)

I can do that.

MARIA

Tell them not to approach the building. It's rigged. And you should keep a distance too.

LES (O.C.)

No can do. These walkie-talkies were mine as a kid. It says the range is 100 meters, but it's only 20 meters in real life.

MARIA

Is there a garbage bin that might
keep you safe?

LES (O.C.)

Yes, but it's full.

MARIA

Empty enough to keep you safe.
You're a real trooper, Les. We'll
make it up to you. I have to get
back.

Maria pushes Sherlock out of the loo.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I have to use the loo.

LES (O.C.)

I heard that!

BACK TO:

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Winston Edwards' memorial continues in the Tavern.

Maria joins it in progress.

CAT

In summary, I can only say this
about my drinking, drug-addicted,
womanizing, and horrible boss: I'm
going to miss his underpaying
paychecks.

Cat steps back, and Tad steps up.

TAD

(sad)

I was always taught that you
shouldn't speak ill of the dead.

(smiles, happy)

But if you can't say a bad word
about 'em after dying, when can you
say it?!

Maria steps up, pointing to the TV.

MARIA

I think we've said quite enough.

Maria shows them her tablet, which reads, "We have help from Doc's son, Les, outside the loo. We're notifying Interpol."

Maria holds up a finger to her lips and shows them the children's walkie-talkie.

The Pastor takes the news harshly and paces in anger.

Everyone else shares the brief feeling of hope.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Henry and I need to proceed with our interviews and examine your phones to better understand your recent communications and activities. This is informal, and we know you have no solicitors here, so all information is strictly voluntary.

Maria leans toward Henry and whispers.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We're stalling, but check any messages or photos with Edwards. You take the people you haven't seen.

HENRY

You got it, Gov.

Henry seeks out Cat, as Maria seeks out John.

MARIA

Mr. Wilson, may I ask you a few more questions?

John is reluctant to follow Maria.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I don't bite.

JOHN

Your Constable told you that I was uncooperative, didn't he?

MARIA

No, I saw it in your body language.

JOHN

Body language?

MARIA
We call them "tells."

JOHN
I'm intrigued.

John sits down and sits back in his chair.

MARIA
Your boots told me that you're a construction worker, and a nicer shirt tells me you're on a date. Sitting back in your chair tells me you don't trust me or the process.

JOHN
That's all ya got?

MARIA
If you were uncooperative with my Constable, it tells us you may have something to hide. Your frequent sniffing suggests you have allergies or maybe a drug issue.

John perks up at the mention of drugs, and he leans in closer.

MARIA (CONT'D)
I was going to ask you if you've had any recent communications with Mr. Edwards, but I guess that you have no comment.

John smiles insincerely.

JOHN
I will tell you that he had a bizarre sense of humor.

MARIA
How so?

JOHN
He asked me once to make him a 4-meter-long casket when he died, so it would take 12 pallbearers to carry.

MARIA
Huh.

JOHN

I told him he would be hard-pressed to name 12 friends, and he looked genuinely sad.

MARIA

That's very telling. Thanks for sharing.

JOHN

I want my solicitor present for any additional questions.

MARIA

That's also very telling, Mr. Wilson. I can't check my system for priors, and we're focused on finding Mr. Edwards' murder, so what can you tell me that might help us? Should we check any associates of his?

John glares at Maria, then looks at the few names on the tablet of Winston Edwards' associates.

JOHN

I get it. You want information on people with a better motive to kill Winston than one of the people stuck in here. That's bollocks. It's gotta be someone in here, and you're asking the question because you don't want us to panic that there's a killer in our midst.

Maria studies John.

MARIA

That's perceptive, Mr. Wilson. But you have no reason to panic.

John gets up to walk away.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Unless you're guilty.

Sherlock's ghost is standing behind Maria, listening.

John turns and smirks at Maria.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Body language, Mr. Wilson.

Maria seeks out Jesus.

Across the tavern, Henry interviews Cat.

CAT
So after his second divorce,
Winston was hot on the prowl.

HENRY
Did he hit on you?

CAT
Several times. I had all the
attributes he wanted. I was female
and breathing.

Henry laughs.

CAT (CONT'D)
Funny thing was, he spilled his
guts about his first two wives. He
had them sign prenups that left
them with nothing.

HENRY
And they signed them willingly.

CAT
Yes, because he named them as
beneficiaries for his life
insurance.

Henry is busy taking notes on his iPad.

HENRY
So who's his beneficiary now?

CAT
How the hell should I know?

Sherlock's ghost is standing behind Henry, listening.

HENRY
Good point.
(smiles)
Thanks for your time. I need to
move on.

Henry hunts down the Pastor.

Across the bar, Maria is interviewing Jesus, a name she
pronounces correctly.

MARIA
Do you think Tad resented Mr.
Edwards for supporting the Mayor?

JESUS

You'll have to ask him.

MARIA

Smart man. How about you? Did you resent Mr. Edwards when he backed the Mayor?

JESUS

I had mixed feelings. I didn't think Tad had the votes because of his Irish accent and the fact that he was gay.

MARIA

Perceptive, but sad.

JESUS

I know. But he wanted to be more of a service to the community than he perceived Mr. Dillon could provide.

MARIA

Equally perceptive.

(beat)

Do you know of any accomplices of Mr. Edwards who might want to cause him harm?

JESUS

I believe you call those red herrings, Detective. It had to be someone in the tavern, and I think the bomb threat is just that: a red herring.

MARIA

I hope you're right, Mr. Rivera.

Sherlock's ghost is standing behind Maria, listening.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Your persons of interest are a cagy bunch of wankers, but you've got this, Detective!

Maria hunts down Amy Wang.

Across the tavern, Henry whispers to Pastor.

HENRY

Pastor Briggs, are you worried by the bomb threat?

PASTOR

(smiles)

No. I'm prepared to meet my maker.

(worried)

But I don't know what to make of the Devil's voice coming out of the TV. I read all about the evil people associated with Obsidian Hex and all their sexually explicit deepfake videos online.

HENRY

Those were awful videos.

PASTOR

How did you access the videos? I'm curious to be better informed for my congregation, of course.

HENRY

They're on the dark web.

PASTOR

Don't tell me that Satan has a dark web?

HENRY

I'm sure it's humans to blame. I met one of them.

The Pastor glares at Henry.

PASTOR

Then the Devil was tempting him like he did Mr. Edwards.

HENRY

How do you think the Devil was tempting Mr. Edwards?

PASTOR

You'll have to ask the temptress of a bartender. Winston was undressing her with his eyes earlier.

HENRY

Undressing her with his eyes?

PASTOR

I saw him, plain as day.

Henry rolls his eyes in disbelief.

HENRY

Was he undressing anyone else?

PASTOR

Me, of course, and the Asian woman, and she's probably a brainwashed Buddhist. I think Winston might have been in the market for his third, fourth, and fifth wives.

Henry looks doubtful.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

I can see that you don't believe me, Henry. Your mother would be very disappointed in you right now.

She stands and stomps away.

Sherlock's ghost is standing behind Henry, rolling his eyes.

Maria's walkie-talkie blinks a light while she interviews Amy.

MARIA

I have to go to the loo again, Ms. Wang. Hold that thought.

Maria strolls to the loo.

INT. TAVERN, LOO - CONTINUOUS

Maria stands close to the window that is open a crack. She sees Les and Interpol Agent ART SIMMONS (30).

Art whispers.

ART (O.C.)

Agent Art Simmons here. Les Zlobin filled me in.

MARIA

I need full background checks on my persons of interest.

Maria drops a folded piece of paper out the window.

MARIA (CONT'D)

And I need an update on the recent activities of Obsidian Hex.

LES (O.C.)

They're becoming almost impossible to track, even on the dark web.

ART (O.C.)

Our team has found increased activity across Europe, and here, of all places, but details are scant, especially for your region.

LES (O.C.)

I found a red flag on Winston Edwards, but nothing beyond that, so far.

ART (O.C.)

Les is providing us with links we had no idea existed.

MARIA

Good work, you two. Keep it up, but I need those background checks ASAP. We may have to solve this case from the inside.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The patrons are at each other's throats, with Henry acting as a referee.

Sherlock stares up at the blank TV.

The monstrous voice interrupts them all.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You now have 60 minutes remaining!

Everyone stops bickering and freezes.

MARIA

You heard him-- or her-- Their voice is disguised.

(to Henry)

Henry, please put the tables together with a circle of seats around them.

HENRY

You got it, Gov.

Henry and Cat create a circle of chairs around the tables.

MARIA

Set your anger and fears aside.
We're going to work this through
together.

The group reluctantly sits down. Sherlock observes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I should inform you about what
we've learned about the Obsidian
Hex threats of the past.

Maria has the full attention of the worried patrons.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Their group represents several
local, regional, and international
hackers. They operate on the dark
web, with difficult-to-track
blockchain communications. They are
not tied to IP addresses like all
other forms of internet
communications.

TAD

Difficult or impossible to track.

MARIA

Difficult!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

Impossible!

MARIA

I said difficult because Interpol
has a team developing AI smart
technologies and supercomputers to
infiltrate, track, and arrest
everyone involved.

AMY

How long will that take?

MARIA

We can't say. It's never been done.

Everyone's chin falls.

Maria points to the TV and secretly presses the transmit
button on the walkie-talkie in her lap.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Do not despair. With every new occurrence, like this one, they give away more clues that will be their undoing.

HENRY

We already noticed that Obsidian Hex asked us twice to solve Winston's murder. They don't think it was suicide.

Maria uses air quotes.

MARIA

And "he" made a grammatical error.

PASTOR

What grammatical error?

MARIA

"He" said we needed to find the person that killed him, instead of who killed him.

The group nods.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Good catch, Detective.

MARIA

Simple mistakes such as that will help the Interpol cybersecurity task force better understand the level of sophistication of the algorithms we're dealing with. Interpol will use the same blockchain technologies to cluster similar errors around the globe.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Brilliant, detective!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You wasted three minutes to find the person who killed Edwards, so we don't get blamed for murder, wanker!

MARIA

(laughs)

Now we learned the cyber monster is capable of listening and learning, but it gave us another clue by using the British slang term, wanker.

Maria shows them a note on her pad and paper, "Share important information by whispering or pencil and pad."

Maria smiles as she writes another note, "Share random, idiotic comments out loud to confuse the monster's AI algorithm."

Maria shares an example by writing, "Make me a list of your movements today before coming to the Tavern." She shows it to them.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I'd like each of you to think about every digit in the number for Pi.

CAT

3.14 something?

MARIA

Now extend those significant figures forever.

Maria writes down her whereabouts. Everyone but Tad is complying.

Henry walks around the table collecting the "movements papers" as others yell out random tasks for the monster.

CAT

How many untraditional ways are there to make a gin and tonic?

PASTOR

(giggles)

Can an all-powerful being create a rock so heavy that even they cannot lift it?

Maria gives the Pastor a thumbs-up.

MAYOR

What's the maximum number of moves by a winner in a non-tie game of chess?

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

While many chess games last under 40 moves, the maximum number of chess moves is 8,848 moves by the winner.

Maria holds up a note to the Mayor, which reads, "Too easy. Try again."

HENRY

If I said, "I am lying right now," am I telling the truth?

Maria gives Henry a thumbs-up.

AMY

If you travel back in time and prevent your grandfather from meeting your grandmother, would you still exist to travel back in time?

JESUS

What lies beyond the most distant star?

Maria gives Amy and Jesus two thumbs-up signs.

Henry delivers everyone's travel schedule for the day, except Tad.

TAD

If I don't play along with your silly games, does that make me guilty?

Maria smiles at Tad and gives him a thumbs-up.

Maria studies the personal schedules.

She stands and taps the Mayor on the shoulder, and points to the table furthest from the TV.

The Mayor follows her, looking guilty.

At the table, Maria points to a name on the Mayor's schedule and the list of names on her tablet, listed as associates of Winston Edwards. Both names read, "Mary Harrigan."

The Mayor looks ashamed when Maria points out the word, 'sluts,' written by the Pastor.

The Mayor begins to write. "My wife would kill me if--"

Maria writes, "Did Edwards know?"

The Mayor writes, "If he did, I'd be the dead guy."

Maria writes, "Thanks for being honest - just now -- but you'd better tell your wife or I will. You may have put her destiny in danger."

The Mayor reads the note and looks away sadly.

The Mayor returns to his seat, yelling out a question with remorse.

MAYOR

Why do they call it "quick sand" if you sink slowly in it?

The light on Maria's walkie-talkie flashes.

She stands, hides the walkie-talkie, and sneaks away to the loo.

INT. TAVERN, LOO - CONTINUOUS

Maria races to the window and whispers into the walkie-talkie.

Interpol Agent Art Simmons responds.

ART (O.C.)

Hi, Maria. Les was kind enough to let me borrow his toy walkie-talkie.

MARIA

That's kind of him. How is he doing?

ART (O.C.)

He's in the trash bin with his laptop, surfing the dark web for signs of Obsidian Hex activity. He's coming up empty so far, but he claims they are active elsewhere in Europe, so he's still hunting.

MARIA

Great. Were you able to check for priors for my persons of interest?

ART (O.C.)

Can I slip you the confidential information through the window here?

MARIA

I suppose we should try.

Maria slips her hand through the crack in the window.

Art's bare hand caresses Maria's hand for an uncomfortably long time.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Art?

ART (O.C.)

I had to make sure it was you.

Maria giggles as Art slips a sealed envelope into the crack in the window for Maria to grab.

Maria quickly opens and scans the list. Her eyes open wide.

ART (O.C.) (CONT'D)

If you advise me on the selected list of persons of interest you'd like me to get financial records for, I'd be happy to expedite your request.

Maria's voice is a little too loud.

MARIA

Jesus, Art!

(lowering her voice)

Everyone has priors, including Jesus! I mean, Hey-Zeus.

ART (O.C.)

Do they all have motive and opportunity?

Maria stares at the list in awe.

MARIA

I'm afraid they do.

ART (O.C.)

I'll see what I can do. It may take a little time.

MARIA

We only have 40 minutes left on the bomb threat.

Art fights back tears, and his voice cracks.

ART (O.C.)
I'll hurry if it will save your
life.

(beat)
And the lives of the others, of
course!

MARIA
Thanks, Art. And thank you, Les.
I've got to run.

Maria races out.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Maria waves Henry and Cat to the far corner of the tavern as everyone looks on suspiciously.

Maria whispers to Cat so that only she and Henry can hear.

Before she begins, Sherlock appears behind Maria, but no one else can see or hear him. He studies the patrons/suspects.

MARIA
Cat, I know you were convicted of
drinking alcohol underage when you
were twelve years old.

Cat laughs and saunters back to the bar.

CAT
Probation until age 18, then the
charges were expunged. I doubt that
13 years of sobriety make me a
murderer!

The others are stunned. Cat yells.

CAT (CONT'D)
How many of you wankers have ever
seen me take a drink?

No one raises a hand.

Maria waves over, Jesus.

Jesus looks terrified as he slowly trudges over to Maria and Henry.

Jesus bows his head. Maria whispers.

MARIA

Jesus, you have exceeded the four years on your temporary work visa.

Jesus is fighting back tears, as is Henry, which everyone notices.

JESUS

I-- I know. I was hoping our marriage would make the problem go away.

MARIA

Have you received any guidance from Immigration Services?

Jesus keeps his head down and shakes it, "No."

Henry puts his arm around Jesus.

HENRY

I would be honored to vouch for you.

(whispers quieter)

As long as you're not the killer.

Jesus raises his head, and he and Maria glare at Henry.

Sherlock hits his palm to his forehead.

HENRY (CONT'D)

That came out wrong.

Jesus trudges back to Tad with his head down.

The others stare at Henry.

Maria points to Amy. She strolls over confidently to Maria and Henry.

MARIA

May I see your passport, Amy?

Amy reaches into her bra and pulls out her passport.

Maria inspects it.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We have reason to believe you're traveling under a false name.

AMY

Reason to believe, or proof?

MARIA

Indeed, we haven't had time to fully check with our foreign office, but the name Interpol has on file is Jing Wang.

Amy snickers.

AMY

What if I were to tell you that over 100 million Chinese share my surname, Wang?

Henry is a little too loud.

HENRY

Jesus.

Jesus looks up.

MARIA

Not you, Hey-Zeus.

AMY

And what if I were to tell you that Jing is a common unisex name meaning 'outstanding virtue.'

MARIA

I get it. You share the name with too many people for us to determine anything.

AMY

So my government allowed me to obtain a passport under the name Amy Wang.

(smirks)

This should make it easier for you to assess my non-existent rap sheet.

Maria's eyes and Henry's eyes open wide. Sherlock leans in to study Amy as she saunters back to John.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I'm going to keep a closer eye on her.

MARIA

Me too. Good plan.

Amy and Cat hear Maria talking to herself, and they think she's crazy.

John, Tad, and Jesus stare at Amy suspiciously.

Maria points to the Pastor.

The Pastor strolls to Maria and Henry with an innocent, almost pious look. We HEAR Angels hark.

Sherlock looks up to the Heavens with a puzzled look.

Maria leans in to whisper.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You no longer have a driver's license, is that correct?

PASTOR

(loud)

You know it is, or you wouldn't be asking.

The group glares at Maria and Henry.

MARIA

Three arrests for driving under the influence, before I got my position one year ago.

PASTOR

That's right. And you didn't learn about Tuesday Two-for-One Nights until a few weeks ago.

HENRY

How did you get here tonight?

PASTOR

My car--

MARIA

Ah-ha!

PASTOR

--has a bike rack on it, so I can cycle home safely.

(yells to Cat)

Another couple of G&Ts, barkeeper.

MARIA

Who drove your car with your bike rack here?

PASTOR

(proudly)

Winston Edwards.

(MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)

(whispers)

He was dying to come here tonight.

Henry ignores the comment.

HENRY

Who is going to drive your car back
to the rectory if you can't ride
your bicycle?

Cat delivers two more G&Ts.

PASTOR

(burps, slurs her words)

I was going to hire Les Zlobin.
He's almost 16, so he has his
Student Driver permit.

DOC

He can use a paying job.

PASTOR

I'm going to hire him as my driver
every Tuesday.

(laughs)

I'll have to get him a little
chauffeur's cap with a halo.

Sherlock hits his forehead with his palm.

The Pastor staggers back to her table, caressing her two
drinks.

Henry waves over the Mayor as he whispers to Maria.

HENRY

No parking tickets. Wow.

The Mayor sits down at the table.

MAYOR

I know you checked my record.

HENRY

Nothing major, Mayor, except for a
physical altercation with Winston
Edwards.

MAYOR

Years ago. No charges were brought.
We made up and drank here together
almost every Tuesday. End of story.

MARIA

Not quite. Mr. Edwards second ex-wife filed a complaint against you that same night.

MAYOR

For having a drink with the Mayor's first wife.

HENRY

Just a drink?

MARIA

What was the conversation about that would make his second wife care?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

He's starting to perspire.

MAYOR

It was a private conver--

MARIA

Not when it's entered into the police record. I'll know when I get back to my computer.

MAYOR

His first wife asked me if he was still using. I said I didn't know, and she slapped me before telling your Chief that I had fondled her.

Sherlock leans in to see the Mayor sweat.

MARIA

You probably did fondle her, but the Chief didn't think there was enough evidence to convict.

(glares at him)

We're done here, Mr. Mayor.

Maria waves over John and whispers to Henry.

MARIA (CONT'D)

These next two have records.

John strolls over and sits down.

JOHN

I told you I wanted my solicitor present.

Maria gets in his face.

MARIA

You're a smart man, John. You know we can't do that in this situation.

Obsidian Hex's voice is monstrously loud.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You're wasting our time. You have 30 minutes to solve the murder, or you're all gonna die. Pick any one of them.

MARIA

You heard the monster, John. You have a criminal record that goes on for several pages.

JOHN

How did you get that?

MARIA

Never mind the petty theft of Barbie dolls.

John bites his tongue.

JOHN

I was twelve!

MARIA

Or the joyriding on a motor scooter.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I can identify with that one.

JOHN

I was fourteen!

MARIA

Two more arrests by age 16.

John is furious.

JOHN

I beat up a few bullies in nearby villages.

MARIA

You sent them to the hospital.

JOHN

I roughed 'em up but never killed anyone. They deserved it.

MARIA

Still, we have to narrow down our suspect list somehow. We know you had the personality to do it, the means--

JOHN

Anyone could have carried that dart in with them.

MARIA

But it looks bad if someone in the group has two aggravated assault charges.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

He's hiding something!

MARIA

(glares at John)

I'll ask you again. Is there any reason you would have wanted to harm Winston Edwards?

JOHN

(calmly)

I want my solicitor now!

Maria shows her handcuffs as he strolls back to Amy.

Maria waves over Tad, who is reluctant to join them.

Tad finally steps forward, he's sniffing, and fidgety.

MARIA

Tad Dooley, we have your interesting rap sheet in hand.

Tad uses his disarming Irish accent.

TAD

I can explain me youthful indiscretions. I was a wee lad, and gay. My biggest mistake was not turning in our Parish priest.

MARIA

It says here he was 91, and you were twice his size when you beat him with his walking stick.

TAD

After he abused me when I was twelve.

MARIA

Did he sexually abuse you?

TAD

No, but he called me names and
outed me to me mum.

HENRY

Your mum didn't know?

TAD

No, she knew plenty. I'm tinkering I
didn't like priests.

HENRY

How about Mr. Edwards?

TAD

Don't tell me he was a priest!

Henry reads the rap sheet over Maria's shoulder.

HENRY

Nicking things from drug stores and
graduating to jewelry stores.

TAD

That jewelry store didn't press
charges.

MARIA

It was owned by your auntie.

TAD

Wasn't I the fool?

MARIA

Did you have any reason to dislike
Mr. Edwards?

TAD

Everyone's my friend.

Tad begins to walk away, but Maria calls him back and
examines his face carefully.

MARIA

Tad, there is also the matter of
your sniffles.

Tad acts surprised and puzzled.

TAD

Me sniffles. Me hay fever.

MARIA

High energy dart throwing, earlier, dilated pupils, bloodshot eyes, runny nose, white powder residue on your collar, and increased restlessness and fidgeting.

TAD

We call that circumcision evidence.

MARIA

Circumstantial evidence.

TAD

I want me solicitor.

Tad walks back to Jesus.

The light on Maria's walkie-talkie flashes.

She stands, hides the walkie-talkie, and sneaks away to the loo.

INT. TAVERN, LOO - CONTINUOUS

Maria races to the window and whispers into the walkie-talkie.

MARIA

I'm here, Art.

Interpol Agent Art Simmons responds.

ART (O.C.)

Because Obsidian Hex is involved, we had probable cause to follow the money on all your persons of interest.

Art's hand reaches into the bathroom window with several sheets of paper folded in half.

Maria scans the pages with open eyes.

MARIA

They'll be uncomfortable if this information gets out, and some will be targets.

ART (O.C.)

You have some damning evidence on several subjects.

(MORE)

ART (O.C.) (CONT'D)

We have an agent meeting with Winston Edwards's solicitor to get a copy of his will and life insurance policies.

MARIA

In a murder investigation, they have to comply.

ART (O.C.)

They do, but they can stall up to 24 hours, and that wouldn't help you.

MARIA

No, that could get us killed.
(beat)
How is Les doing?

ART

Les is scanning the dark web for all recent activities of Obsidian Hex. He showed me some of his results, but he doesn't have hard evidence yet. Good kid, though.

MARIA

Thanks for your help. And Les's help too.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Maria sneaks back into the tavern, with a map of the tavern shown on the TV with red dots indicating people. The demonic voice of Obsidian Hex speaks.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

One of you has visited the loo three times in an hour--

MARIA

That was me, Detective Martin. I have a UTI.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

That sounds suspicious. We're looking that up. If you're lying--

MARIA

It's a urinary tract infection.

Obsidian Hex, Sherlock, Tad, Jesus, and the Mayor make "Ewww" sounds.

Maria whispers to Holmes and Henry.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We know Obsidian Hex is male.

HENRY

Or a group of males.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I don't understand. They urinate too.

Doc addresses the TV.

DOC

UTIs are significantly more common in women due to a shorter urethra, facilitating bacterial entry. UTIs in men are rarer, often linked to an enlarged prostate or kidney stones.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

That's TMI. Too much information.

(yells)

And you now have only 27 minutes left to find the murderer. Obsidian Hex doesn't kill people.

MARIA

Point of clarification, Mr. Hex.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(angry)

Obsidian Hex.

MARIA

Obsidian Hex. Blowing up the tavern and killing us all sure sounds like murder to me.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(obstinate)

No, we could call it a bombing gone wrong. An accident.

(beat)

Oops.

Everyone in the tavern turns angry.

CAT

That's not fair!

MAYOR

I object!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(screams)

Then find the murderer!

Cat raises a pint of beer and a G&T from behind the bar.

CAT

Drinks are on the house!

The patrons trudge to the bar.

DOC

I'll have a scotch, please.

Maria pulls the Mayor aside to a corner table where Henry awaits.

The ghost of Sherlock Holmes stands in the corner. He looks suspiciously at the Mayor.

MARIA

Mr. Mayor, we were able to obtain a record of your personal finances--

The Mayor collapses into a chair while the patrons at the bar complain to Cat.

Doc holds up one glass of scotch.

DOC

I thought it was Tuesday Two for one night.

CAT

If we're all alive in 26 minutes, I'll pour you another.

The patrons sulk.

Meanwhile, the Mayor sadly confesses to Maria.

MAYOR

You saw my television subscription bills?

HENRY

Adult entertainment isn't a crime.

MARIA

No, but monthly payments to Winston Edwards raise a few red flags.

Sherlock sees the Mayor sink into the chair.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Press him, Detective.

MARIA
Perhaps you can explain.

HENRY
Was it a consulting fee for
potential real estate investments?

The Mayor turns his head sideways to Henry's question.

MAYOR
No--

HENRY
Was it for adult entertainment?

MARIA
(to Henry)
Let's let the Mayor tell us.

The Mayor pauses.

MAYOR
He was blackmailing me.

HENRY
For what?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
I'm listening.

MAYOR
Winston knew that I spent the
campaign money he gave me on my
wife's alimony.

MARIA
How did he know?

MAYOR
My ex-wife told him.
(looks away)
In bed.

MARIA
So he blackmailed you to keep the
story from the press.

MAYOR

It would have ruined me. Plus, he only charged me 200 Euros a month, so it was like paying back the alimony money I took from him.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

He appears to be ruined anyway.

MARIA

Did you kill Winston Edwards?

MAYOR

No, he bought me drinks once a month, and he was wanker, but he talked to me, and that was nice.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

He was on your payroll.

MARIA

Why didn't you report him to the police for blackmail?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Bad press.

MAYOR

Bad press.

MARIA

The story will come out now when you make your official statement at the station.

MAYOR

(loud, scared)

Unless we're all blown up by then.

All the patrons turn to glare at the Mayor.

Maria, Henry, and Sherlock roll their eyes in disgust as the Mayor returns to the bar.

The others stare at the Mayor, perplexed.

TAD

Looks like they have a new lead suspect!

Maria waves Cat over to the table in the corner.

Cat throws a towel on the bar and trudges over.

MARIA

Did you know the Mayor was being blackmailed?

CAT

I deduced that the Mayor paid Winston on the first of the month because Winston never bought drinks for anybody, and only once a month for the Mayor. But I had no way to tell.

MARIA

We were able to look into your financial records.

CAT

Not much of a record. I'm a financial underachiever.

Henry is overly compassionate.

HENRY

Don't feel bad. Many of us have trouble saving--

MARIA

But your situation is more desperate. You had to trade your car in for a scooter, your rent is past due,--

HENRY

But only by a few months. You can move in with--

MARIA

And you're on record for calling your employer, Mr. Edwards,
(looks at her iPad)
A cheapskate, drug addict,
womanizer, and an unlikable guy.

CAT

I don't hide my feelings well.

MARIA

That's what we call a slow-burning motive building up over a year.

Cat looks away.

Maria writes a question to Cat that reads, "Why did you close your bank account this morning? Was it because you owed Mr. Edwards back rent?"

Cat writes on the pad and paper, "Solicitor-client privilege."

Sherlock and Henry nod approvingly and shrug.

Maria writes a question to Cat that reads, "Why did you seek a solicitor later in the morning?"

Maria glares at Cat.

Cat writes, "I'm getting a restraining order."

Maria writes, "That's fair. From anyone here?"

Cat pauses, then writes, "My wanker step-brother, Tad Dooley."

Maria, Sherlock, Henry, and Cat stare over at the bar to see Tad glaring back.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Your troubles eased when Winston died -- but that's also a motive.

Cat trudges back to the bar as Maria waves John over.

At the bar, the Pastor chuckles at Cat.

PASTOR

I think they have a new primary suspect.

Henry and Sherlock whisper to Maria.

HENRY

It's not her, she's too kind.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

It's not her, she's too honest.

As John passes Cat, he bumps her with his shoulder and glares at her.

John sits down, folds his arms, and acts tough.

JOHN

I'm not saying a word without my solicitor present.

Maria chuckles.

MARIA

We have your financial records. You can't afford a solicitor, and you've been unemployed for eight weeks. Is that all true?

John looks away.

HENRY

Were you looking to beat your date
at darts so she'd pick up your bill
at the bar tonight?

John looks the other way and makes eye contact with Amy, who
is shaking his head 'Yes.'

JOHN

She conned me. She pretended to be
horrible until we bet for drinks.
She's a ringer!

MARIA

I caught glimpses of your faces.
That said it all.

HENRY

I hope you didn't bet more than
drinks!

John glares at Henry.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

He lost more than his dignity.

John sniffs a few times, gets up, and returns to the bar.

JOHN

I demand my solicitor.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(yells)

You are all wasting time!

Maria waves the Pastor over.

The Pastor smirks, acts tipsy, and carries a G&T.

MARIA

You're drinking a little heavy
tonight.

The Pastor laughs.

PASTOR

What are you? A cop?

Henry laughs until Maria glares at him.

MARIA

We were able to get your church's financial records from your Church Lady, Mrs. Cervantes.

PASTOR

She wouldn't betray me.

MARIA

My Interpol friend told her Mr. Edwards had passed, and she volunteered that she'll miss his 200-Euro cash contribution to the church after the first Tuesday of every month.

The Pastor burps.

PASTOR

The old bat.

MARIA

Then she volunteered that Mr. Edwards would drop by at all hours of the night to pray about his marital problems-- always following a night at his tavern.

Sherlock is curious and leans in.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Would he now?

MARIA

Why would Mr. Edwards make such a generous contribution to a church he never attended?

The tipsy Pastor pushes up her breasts.

PASTOR

You'll have to ask him.

HENRY

Maybe you didn't hate him as much as you claimed.

MARIA

Were you getting paid for religious services?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Is that what they call it now?

The Pastor stands, slams down her drink, and whispers too loudly to Maria (which everyone hears).

PASTOR

Let's just say, Winston kept coming back religiously, month after month, married or not.

The Pastor stomps back to the bar. Doc toasts the Pastor with a new glass of scotch and slurs his words.

DOC

Looksh like a new primary shush-pect.

The Pastor shoots Doc an evil look.

Maria calls Tad over with a stern look.

Tad looks guilty of something as he walks over and sits down. He sniffs as John does, and Sherlock takes notice.

Everyone whispers.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

(sarcastic)

They can't all be allergies!

MARIA

(glares at Tad)

You didn't reveal that you were Cat's stepbrother.

TAD

You never asked.

MARIA

We have your financial records. What else are you hiding?

TAD

I was doing great until that wanker Winston found another subcontractor for maintenance on all his rental properties.

HENRY

Did he give you two weeks' notice?

TAD

(angry)

Two days.

MARIA
Your cash cow dried up.

TAD
Good carpenters can always find
work.

MARIA
But Winston filed grievances with
the courts that your work was
shoddy and overpriced.

Tad stands, angry.

JOHN
Because I wouldn't buy drugs from
him.

He walks slowly back to the bar.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Another dissatisfied customer.

HENRY
Another primary suspect.

Maria points to Jesus.

Jesus walks casually over to Maria.

JESUS
Yes, Detective?

MARIA
Why can't we get a hold of your
financial records in Spain?

JESUS
My financial records are boring. An
open book. I'll send you anything
you need to know when we get the
Internet and Wi-Fi back up.

MARIA
Give me the short version.

Jesus points up.

JESUS
I inherited a decent amount from my
father, God rest his soul.

MARIA
How decent?

JESUS

Not really. It was my father's old bank in Spain, Banco Santander, but he cut me off for being gay.

MARIA

I'm sorry, Hey-Zeus. That's all for now, Henry.

Jesus wanders back to Tad, and they smile.

Maria waves a hand to call Amy over to the table.

Amy reaches the table and sits down with a smug look.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Amy Wang, we could not access your financial records in China.

AMY

I'm not surprised. We're private people.

MARIA

I'll cut to the chase. Do you have anything to gain financially from the death of Winston Edwards?

AMY

I had never met the man--

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

(angry)

The time is up, Detective. Solve the case now, or we'll blow the tavern up! This death was not caused by Obsidian Hex!

Amy races back to Tad as Maria's walkie-talkie blinks.

Maria races to the TV to plead with Obsidian Hex.

MARIA

You have to give me ten more minutes, and I have to pee first because of my UTI.

Maria RACES to the loo.

Obsidian Hex sounds impatient and upset.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

What is it with you people and the frequent need to use the loo?

INT. TAVERN, LOO - CONTINUOUS

Maria races to the open window and hears Art whisper.

MARIA

What have you got for me, and this better be good.

Art hands a white rat through the window.

ART (O.C.)

This is Arnold. He's a bomb detecting rat that has never failed.

MARIA

So far. What do I do with him?

Maria takes the rat.

ART (O.C.)

Put him on the floor and have Henry open all the doors, closets, and cupboards. He'll stop if he finds anything.

MARIA

Great. Then, I'll let you know so you can find us in the rubble.

ART (O.C.)

We have a Bomb-Squad on standby.

MARIA

Did you get Winston's new will from his solicitor?

Art hands a copy through the window.

Maria scans it.

MARIA (CONT'D)

This explains a lot, but doesn't point to the killer.

ART (O.C.)

Les found something out about Obsidian Hex that he says is important.

LES (O.C.)

The dark web showed extremely high Obsidian Hex activity here, in Romania, and in China.

(MORE)

LES (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'm afraid that Winston Edwards was heavily involved, but he wanted out.

MARIA

And they're not the kind of organization that lets you walk away.

LES (O.C.)

I got lucky because I kept records.

MARIA

I don't think Winston was as smart as you, Les. Thank you too for all your help.

Maria holds up the rat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We have to find a killer and a bomb.

Maria puts the rat down, and he scurries off.

Maria races out.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Maria grabs a tablet and a marker and makes a quick sign to show to the others, "Ignore the rat. He works for us!"

She shows the sign to the group.

Jesus and the Pastor put their feet up on their seats.

She whispers to Henry and Sherlock.

MARIA

Open all the closet doors and cupboards for the rat. Watch to see if he stops.

Henry races to open doors. Holmes stands petrified.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I'm petrified of rats. In the case of--

MARIA

(yells to Doc)

Doc, could you check Winston's pockets for me?

Doc starts to unzip the body bag.

Holmes is still frozen.

DOC
(tipsy)
What am I looking for, Maria?

Maria looks toward Sherlock.

MARIA
Just do it!

Everyone is alarmed, assuming Maria is speaking to Doc.

Holmes races off to find Henry and the rat.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Something small.

PASTOR
Check the front pockets of his
pants.

MARIA
His coat pockets, Doc.

They all look on with great interest. Obsidian Hex is angry.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)
You're wasting time.

Maria turns and yells at the TV.

MARIA
Do you want to find the murderer or
not?

Henry races in from the back room following the rat.

Holmes, in fright, follows Henry as the patrons scramble to
avoid the rat.

The rat turns abruptly and runs back to the backroom.

Henry and Holmes struggle to keep up.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)
What's going on! I could blow this
place up at any time.

MARIA
 (yells to the TV)
 I'll have the case solved in
 minutes!

Henry returns with Sherlock (whom only Maria sees). They shake their heads "No," and shrug.

Maria gives them a thumbs-up sign.

Doc is excited when he finds a beautiful ENGAGEMENT RING and hands it to Maria.

The group gathers around to stare at the large diamond.

PASTOR
 I knew it! He was going to propose
 to me tonight.

Everyone looks at the Pastor like she's crazy.

Sherlock and Henry stand next to Maria.

MARIA
 That's all we needed to know.
 (to the group)
 Gather the chairs in a semi-circle
 and take a seat.

While Cat and the patrons get seated, Maria opens up the front door to let in Art and Les. Art displays his Interpol Agent badge while Les holds a rat cage in one hand and a laptop in the other. The laptop is fitted with a satellite Internet USB.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 This is Interpol Agent Art Simmons,
 and an Interpol trainee who shall
 remain anonymous.

Doc steps to hug his son as he holds a finger to his lips to signal Les not to speak.

Les hugs then gives his dad a thumbs-up sign, sits down, and opens his laptop.

MAYOR
 (to Les)
 There's no Internet or Wi-Fi.

LES
 There is for me!

Obsidian Hex grumbles, but Maria speaks over the voice.

MARIA

Winston invited the Pastor, Henry, Tad, and John tonight, knowing that Jesus and I would tag along.

HENRY

To celebrate Tuesday Two-for-One Night.

MARIA

They weren't good friends -- not even friends really, but he wanted you here for his special occasion.

JOHN

(scoffs)

Getting stabbed with a poison dart?

Maria looks around slowly.

MARIA

Wait! I need help here. Henry? Sherlock?

PASTOR

You think your dim-witted assistant is Sherlock Holmes.

MARIA

Ignore her, Henry.

DOC

She hears helpful voices in her head.

Maria hears the voice of her long-dead MUM (60) in her head.

MUM (V.O.)

Do you need me, dear?

Maria covers her ears with her hands and shakes her head, "No," while the others look on, perplexed.

MUM (V.O.)

Fine, but tell Sherlock I'll be watching. We'll talk later.

Maria uncovers her ears and quickly regains her composure.

Sherlock appears, but only Maria can see him. They both pace back and forth as they speak, but only Maria can hear Holmes.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
I'm growing more fond of you two.
Keep going! I'm enjoying your
progress.

MARIA
You all volunteered to be here
tonight because you always came on
Two-for-One Nights. But no one knew
that Winston had rewritten his will
and was going to propose to Cat.

The Pastor and Cat are stunned.

	CAT	PASTOR
Me?		Propose to Cat?!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Stranger things have happened.

MARIA
His will confirms it.

PASTOR
But Winston told me they had never
even kissed.

CAT
He was delusional! I would have
said no immediately!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Tell them about the will.

MARIA
I will-- I mean, about the will--
(gazes at Cat)
Winston was swearing off drugs and
dealing. He was tired of being an
addict.

Sherlock looks away.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Poor soul. I get that.

Maria walks behind John and Tad and pats them on the back.

MARIA
He might have been trying to set an
example to others he strung along.

Maria stops pacing and gazes at Holmes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

He knew he had made mistakes in life.

ART

As his finances showed.

MARIA

Winston Edwards was nearly broke.

The crowd gasps.

DOC

The richest man in town had the poorest life.

MARIA

He expected to celebrate his engagement tonight, and he didn't expect to die!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

We didn't kill him!

CAT

Last week, after work, Winston and I were alone at closing. I told him that I was furious that he was addicted to cocaine and for pushing drugs on our customers.

Cat glares at Ted and John. They glare back.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

This is none of my concern.

Maria yells at the TV.

MARIA

Oh, but it is.

Sherlock shakes his finger at the TV. He's furious.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Not only did you disrupt the football match on the light box, but I have deduced that you used nefarious electronic machines to bankrupt Winston Edwards!

MARIA

Winston's financial records show that his cryptocurrency accounts were syphoned off this past year by a mysterious consortium of hackers, better known as Obsidian Hex, across Europe.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You can't prove it!

LES

(yells)

We can now!

MARIA

With the exceptions of the ownership of this tavern, a small number of real estate holdings, and a life insurance policy, Winston Edwards was broke!

PASTOR

Is he leaving the rest to the Church?

MAYOR

Or to the town?

The Pastor and Mayor glare at each other.

DOC

So, who killed him?

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

So, who killed him?

Maria and Sherlock raise fists to the TV.

MARIA

We're getting to that!

SHERLOCK

We're getting to that!

Art hands Maria a smartphone and a folded piece of paper.

Maria uses air quotes for the word "secret."

MARIA (CONT'D)

Luckily, our favorite Interpol Agent, Art, was able to retrieve Winston's burner phone from his secret "glove compartment" in his car, and Art's assistant was able to crack his "secret" passcode to unlock it.

LES

It was 1-1-1-1-1-1.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Genius is too big a word here.

MARIA
He left a year of text messages
between him and each of you. These
will help as we review each of the
suspects. These texts are from last
week.
(glares at Tad)
Tad, please stand.

Tad doesn't stand. He looks away.

MARIA (CONT'D)
(reads)
"T," you're behind on your rent,
and I'm cutting you off on "C."

TAD
That could mean anything.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Uh-huh!

MARIA
This one is to John's number. "J,"
you're behind on your rent, and I'm
cutting you off on "C."

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Uh-huh!

MARIA
Here's one from Cat. 'Boss, we need
to order more Gin and Scotch for
next Tuesday if the luses are
coming.' Winston responded,
'Thanks, I'll order it.'

The Pastor and Doc look away.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Nothing about being behind on the
rent or buying cocaine.

MARIA
Innocent, compared to some.

Maria and Holmes are pacing again.

MARIA (CONT'D)
We have one text from a year ago
from Winston to the Mayor.

The crowd gasps.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Hey, Mayor, I'll tell your ex-wife and everybody in town that you slept with my first ex-wife unless you pay me 200 Euros on the first Tuesday of every month. But I'll buy the first round, you cheating bass turd.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Fish feces?

Maria winks at the Mayor.

MARIA

We'll assume that the spelling auto-correct feature was on his phone, but it proves that Tad, John, and the Mayor had a motive to kill him.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

What about the Asian woman?

MARIA

Many homicides are intertwined with greed.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Follow the money!

MARIA (CONT'D)

Follow the money!

MARIA (CONT'D)

Here is where Winston's new and previous wills shed some light.

Everyone leans in to hear the details.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Start with the previous will for dramatic purposes.

MARIA

The previous will is now irrelevant, but it should be noted that the Mayor was the witness in both cases.

The suspects glare at the Mayor.

MAYOR

He didn't let me read either of them.

PASTOR

He told me that I would get everything.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
Uh-huh!

MARIA

Uh-huh!

MARIA (CONT'D)

The new will specifically exclude Winston's ex-wives and anyone claiming to be his offspring, because he was sterile as a result of a horse-riding accident when he was twelve.

The crowd gasps and makes irritating faces.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

What about his drinking mates?

MARIA

He specifically excluded and named his drinking buddies and drug customers.

The Pastor, Tad, John, Doc, and the Mayor shake their angry fists at the body bag.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I, too, had great difficulty making friends. If it wasn't for Dr. John Watson and my housekeeper, Mrs. Hudson--

MARIA

(interrupts Holmes)

Wouldn't have enough pallbearers for a proper burial.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

Get on with it! Who killed him?

MARIA

We're getting to that!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

We're getting to that!

LES

I hacked the hackers! The Internet and Wi-Fi are restored.

Everyone, but Maria, Henry, and Holmes, cheer loudly and grab their phones to reconnect.

Henry grabs his nightstick and pounds a wooden table to get their attention as Maria yells.

MARIA

Put your phones away now, or you'll lose them for a month for impeding an investigation!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

I want the name of that rotten hacker in your midst!

HENRY

(Yells at the TV)
No bomb, no threat!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Finish up. We're losing them.

MARIA

Who killed Winston Edwards?

The patrons glare at each other with suspicion.

Holmes follows Maria as she gets face-to-face with each suspect. She stands over the body bag.

MARIA (CONT'D)

It wasn't a suicide. It was Winston's engagement night.

Maria walks to Cat.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Cat was shocked when she saw the engagement ring -- and not in that Hallmark way. She wasn't a drinking buddy or a drug user. She can talk a rude streak, but she's not pushy or a pushover.

Maria's eyes meet Cat's eyes.

Maria moves to the Mayor.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Winston trusted you enough to witness his will, but that might have been because you shared infidelity secrets.

The Mayor gets teary-eyed.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Even if they cheated with each other's ex-wives, I think you were cordial friends.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

But because Winston was
blackmailing you, you might have
wanted him out of the way.

The Mayor looks away.

Les is hacking away on his laptop.

Maria walks to John, Tad, and Jesus.

MARIA (CONT'D)

John needed more repair work from
Winston's real estate ventures, and
Tad and Hey-Zeus were planning on
adopting a baby.

The crowd offers a collective, "Awe."

MARIA (CONT'D)

But they had their motives for
murder related to money and drug
problems.

The crowd offers a collective, "Ewww."

Maria moves on to the Pastor.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Did the Pastor learn that Winston
changed his will and was cutting
her off?

PASTOR

Hell no!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Oooh. That was harsh.

MARIA

Winston's last text exchange with
you was to arrange to give you a
ride to tonight's Two-for-One
Night. His new will did specify
that if anything happened to him,
he would give you his fancy car
with the stipulation that you
couldn't drive it--

The Pastor smiles in a heartwarming way.

PASTOR

Here on Tuesday nights!

MARIA

Exactly.

Maria paces to the middle of the room, and Sherlock follows.

MARIA (CONT'D)

The text exchange was for thirty-two minutes. It was sweet and endearing. They were like lonely schoolyard mates, hanging out, without hanging out. It was nothing serious, and I think both of them understood that. He didn't mention his impending proposal to Cat.

The Pastor shakes her head, "No."

MARIA (CONT'D)

But being cut out of his will might be a motive for murder.

Maria turns to Les, who is frantically hacking on his computer.

LES

Almost got it.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

Got what? Who is that wanker hacker of yours?

MARIA

That leaves only one suspect: Amy, an outsider compared to the rest of you. It's always easiest to pin a murder on an outsider.

The other suspects glare at Amy.

Amy reaches into the other side of her bra and pulls out a Chinese Government passport bearing the warning, "Diplomatic Immunity." She hands it to Maria.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Amy had nothing to lose; she's the ambassador's daughter - and could claim diplomatic immunity. But she also had nothing to gain.

Art steps forward to question Amy. They lock eyes, smile, and share a moment, which everyone sees.

ART

What is the real reason you are here, Ms. Wang?

MARIA

It's not just to hustle John, is it?

AMY

If you must know, my country is assessing external cybersecurity threats from many sources.

MARIA

Obsidian Hex!

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

What country is that, Ms. Wang?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Again, genius is too strong a word.

MARIA

Never mind. But why are you at this pub tonight?

AMY

I finessed a date with John to eavesdrop. Our Intel suggested a strong presence of Obsidian Hex activity connected to Winston Edwards in your town, and in another town I'll be traveling to tomorrow.

Les hops up excited.

LES

Râmnicu Vâlcea, a city in Romania often dubbed "Hackerville." It's famous for being a global hub of cybercrime.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

Uh-oh! Gotta go!

The TV returns to the football match.

Holmes rushes to the TV.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

What's the score? What's the score?

ART
Obsidian Hex is behind a major
skimming operation of
cryptocurrency transactions
throughout Europe.

Les returns to hacking.

AMY
And now Asia.

MARIA
They wiped out Winston's crypto
wallet, but he was on to them.

LES
I have the Revolut cash payout for
Obsidian Hex.

Jesus's eyes open wide.

MARIA
It's Hey-Zeus Rivera, isn't it?

All eyes turn to Jesus.

LES
Obsidian Hex paid Jesus 100,000
Euros and sent him a small package
by courier yesterday.

Jesus stands sorrowfully.

JESUS
We wanted to adopt a child, but Tad
was losing work, and he was hiding
me from deportation. I'm not a
citizen yet, and I'm poor. We
needed the money to flee the
country.

MARIA
I thought your father owned the
largest bank in Spain?

JESUS
He's a night watchman.

MARIA
Did you kill Winston Edwards?

SILENCE

AMY
No, he did not. I did.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. TAVERN - EARLIER

The lights go out in the pub.

AMY (V.O.)
The moment the lights went out, I leapt to Hey-Zeus, who was taking something out of his pocket. He was 2 meters away from Winston at the bar.

JESUS (V.O.)
I had the dart, but all I could think about was adopting a child.

Amy barely sees Jesus, but his hands are shaking in panic.

Amy rips the dart from Jesus's hand and throws it forcefully at Winston's back.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Henry, Maria, and Art slowly begin to close in on Amy.

Cat disappears behind the bar.

AMY
I have excellent night vision, and my dart-throwing skills are unmatched.

JOHN
I told you she was a ringer.

MARIA
I'm sorry, Amy. Diplomatic immunity or not, you'll have to come with us back to the station.

The lights and the TV go out again.

MARIA (CONT'D)
(yells)
Freeze, everyone!

DOC

You see, our friend was more than a sleazy real estate developer, womanizer, and drug dealer after all.

Maria pats Doc on the back.

MARIA

He was an underworld crime figure, too.

PASTOR

Let's give him a hell of a wake.

CAT

Next Tuesday?

HENRY

Next Tuesday?

The group cheers.

INT. TAVERN - LATER

The bar is dimly lit. Cat, Maria, Henry, and Sherlock remain behind.

Cat sadly wipes down the bar as Maria and Henry console her. Sherlock stares at the blank TV.

MARIA

I'm sorry for your loss, Cat, but Winston's will is clear that he left the tavern, his remaining real estate holdings, and his life insurance policy to you.

CAT

I'm worried for Hey-Zeus. If Obsidian Hex finds out he didn't kill Winston, they might come after him.

HENRY

We won't say a word, will we, Gov?

MARIA

As long as Tad stays clean.

Cat smiles.

They hear a hot sports car start up outside.

PASTOR (O.C.)

Yippee!

The car screeches and races away.

CAT

I gave the Pastor the spare keys
for his car.

(beat)

That Les Zlobin is a great hacker.

MARIA

Art told me Interpol will hire him
to work on the Obsidian Hex case.

CAT

Huh. Good for him.

HENRY

Are you going to be okay, Cat?

Cat looks away with a smile.

CAT

With the tavern, four apartment
buildings, and half a million
Euros, I should be okay.

HENRY

Will you still have Tuesday Two-for-
One Nights?

CAT

It's what Winston would have
wanted: a weekly wake.

They hear the police motor scooter start up outside.

It peels out.

HENRY

There he goes again.

CAT

Who?

MARIA

Sherlock Holmes, of course.

Cat looks at them like they're crazy.

Henry and Maria lock arms and head to the door.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Good date night.

HENRY
The best.

MARIA
Goodnight, Cat.

HENRY
Goodnight, Cat.

Cat smiles.

CAT
Goodnight. See you next Tuesday.

Maria and Henry exit.

Cat takes out a burner phone and sends a text message: "Les Zlobin is Interpol's new hacker. Amy Wang and Agent Art Simmons are heading your way. Time to relocate. I've got apartments for rent. The Boss.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)
I thought as much!

Cat looks around, stunned. She does not see Holmes eavesdropping from the darkest corner of the tavern.

SHERLOCK
My plans, if I may be so bold, were to mentor my young Detective Inspector, Maria Martin, on a case or two, before parting ways. I've grown quite fond of her and her Mum, and I see now that she's up against a most evil adversary.

He watches Cat lock the front door and secretly escape through the back door.

Holmes sighs into the camera.

SHERLOCK (CONT'D)
I may have to stick around for another case or two. She and Henry may need me.

FADE OUT.

THE END