

**The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes  
in The AI Assassins**

Written by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: Three Nights Ago

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

In a traditional European tavern, somewhere between 100 and 400 years old, DI MARIA MARTIN (25) and a Constable HENRY GRUBER (23; in uniform) are about to exit at closing time. The bartender, CATHERINE (CAT) DUNLOP (25), has a slight Irish accent.

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 (V.O.)  
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  
I may have to stick around for another case or two. She and Henry may need me.

EXT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

While Maria gets in Henry's car, Henry slowly walks across the street.

A driverless black SUV races down the street and hits Henry before he can jump out of the way.

Maria hops out of Henry's car as the SUV speeds away.

Maria calls for an ambulance and attends to Henry.

Sherlock is there in seconds, comforting them both.

SHERLOCK  
I suspected that you'd still require my services.

MARIA  
Driverless car! No plates!

Holmes is stunned.

SHERLOCK  
Driverless automobile? The case is afoot. And a driverless foot, at that!

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The exterior of the hospital is dimly lit.

A male ASSASSIN (20s) in an all-black athletic suit stares at a security camera over the Hospital entrance. He wears thick "computerized eyeglasses" with tiny white earbuds, and skintight black latex gloves.

He removes a small iPad (computer) from inside his shirt to sync with his eyeglasses and earbuds, which blink red lights when connected.

He taps on a few keys, and the red light on the hospital security camera goes out.

He returns the iPad to his shirt and strolls up to the front doors.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

Henry lies unconscious in a hospital bed and is hooked to every conceivable monitor in the room. He has a bandage around his forehead and an IV connected to three hanging bags of medicine.

Maria sits in a chair and stares at the wall clock, which reads 9:15 PM.

DR. NORA EVANS (30), a beautiful doctor in a white lab coat, pokes her head in the door.

DR. EVANS  
May I come in?

Maria is startled.

MARIA  
Dr. Evans, what are you doing here  
this late?

The doctor maintains a quiet, peaceful voice.

DR. EVANS  
My last rounds of the evening. I  
thought I'd check on my favorite  
patient.

She smiles and sighs at Henry before taking a flashlight, a small pen, and an iPad out of her pocket to examine and record Henry's eyes.

She carefully lifts the eyelid and moves the light from left to right and up and down.

She repeats it for the other eye.

Maria speaks softly.

MARIA

No voluntary movement yet, but I've been watching the monitors, and his vital signs appear steady.

Dr. Evans smiles at Maria.

DR. EVANS

I see some color returning to his face. Three operations took a lot out of him, but he's a fighter.

Dr. Evans pats his arm.

DR. EVANS (CONT'D)

I'll check on him first thing in the morning.

She shows Maria her phone.

DR. EVANS (CONT'D)

I can see all his monitors on my phone. I'll check them routinely this evening. You get home and get some rest. I'll call you if I see any changes.

Maria stands and hugs Dr. Evans.

MARIA

Maybe just a while longer. Special thanks for all you're doing for him.

DR. EVANS

There's coffee and snacks in the break room. Help yourself. And you have my direct number.

Dr. Evans exits the room and heads right, down the hallway.

Maria HEARS footsteps coming down the left side of the hallway.

She jumps to shut the door and turn off the lights.

Tense moments.

The footsteps approach, and Maria takes out her nightstick and prepares to strike.

The door opens, and an elderly man pokes his head through the door.

Maria stops in the nick of time from striking him as she sees the shadowy face of MARVIN JENKINS (60s), the Security Guard.

MARVIN

Hi, Detective Inspector. I started my shift, so you got nothin' to worry about.

Maria puts her nightstick away.

MARIA

Thanks, Marvin. I'll tell Henry you're looking out for him.

Marvin pulls his head back and exits right, down the hallway.

Maria sits up in the dark, eyeing the monitors.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I guess it's safe for me to use the loo down the hallway. I don't want to stink up your loo.

She exits Henry's room.

INT. HOSPITAL, STAIRWELL - SAME TIME

The Assassin climbs the stairs while assessing a map of the hospital layout, which is visible on his eyeglasses.

With his right hand, he takes out a Glock pistol with a suppressor (silencer) on it.

On the wrist of his shooting hand is a thin smartwatch with target sensors (an outline of a human body with a red dot on the heart).

He moves on to a door and a sign that reads "Second Floor."

He puts his left finger to his left earbud and listens.

He quietly opens the door.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Assassin creeps down the hallway. His glasses display the door numbers as he approaches them.

He stops outside Room 207.

His eyeglasses indicate a warm body on the bed inside the room.

He opens the door with his left hand.

The room is pitch dark.

He lifts his pistol as his smartwatch target indicator and eyeglasses fix on the body on the bed.

He fires twice. ZIP ZIP.

He shuts the door and disappears.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - MORNING

Maria awakens to a woman's SCREAM down the hall.

She jumps up and sees that Henry is non-responsive, but the monitors show he's breathing and his heart rate is normal.

She exits his room and RACES toward the scream with her nightstick in her hand.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM 207 - CONTINUOUS

Maria RACES to Room 207 to see a Cleaning Woman crying and Dr. Evans racing down the hall toward them.

Maria peeks inside the room to see Marvin has been shot and killed.

Dr. Evans races in.

DR. EVANS

Marvin?

MARIA

He's been shot.

Dr. Evans checks for a pulse. The blood-stained bed says it all.

DR. EVANS  
Room 207. We moved Henry from this  
room yesterday.

Maria paces in sorrow.

MARIA  
As a precaution. On my orders. Move  
him daily, I said.

DR. EVANS  
It's not your fault, Detective.  
Marvin often took naps in an  
unoccupied room when he felt weak.

Maria sees a half-eaten donut and an empty coffee cup on the  
side table.

MARIA  
Decaf, I bet.  
(turns to Dr. Evans)  
I'll call Doc Zlobin, the Coroner.  
We'll need the security camera  
footage from last night. I'll do  
our CSI work when Doc gets here,  
and interview staff later in the  
day.

DR. EVANS  
This is horrible.

MARIA  
We'll have to move Henry again, on  
the hush-hush.

Dr. Evans guides the Cleaning Woman away.

The moment Maria shuts the door, she sends a text to Doc.

Sherlock Holmes (61) appears from nowhere.

SHERLOCK  
Who is this poor security guard?

MARIA  
Where have you been? I haven't  
heard from you or seen you since  
the accident.

SHERLOCK  
Henry? That was no accident.

MARIA

You just drove away on our police motor scooter.

SHERLOCK

I drove a block, stashed the scooter, and dropped in on Cat, the bartender.

MARIA

You went back to the tavern?

SHERLOCK

I deduced that Cat was more involved with Obsidian Hex than we imagined. Naturally, I was correct.

MARIA

I knew she had cut off the electricity twice. I had my suspicions.

SHERLOCK

You didn't tell me!

MARIA

You disappeared. We have to catch her red-handed. Where have you been?

SHERLOCK

Your mum and I had tea.

MARIA

For three days.

Sherlock begins a Spanish dance, the Bolero.

SHERLOCK

Lively woman.

MARIA

She's been dead for ten years!

SHERLOCK

Lively spirit. She's teaching me Spanish dancing: the Bolero, and Sevillanas, but we're moving on to the Zambra.

Maria ignores Sherlock and begins taking photos of the crime scene.

SHERLOCK (CONT'D)

Is Henry improving? I've dropped in on him every six hours to check his IV drip rate and medical light boxes.

MARIA

Monitors.

SHERLOCK

Blood pressure. Dr. Evans calls it BP. Heart rhythm, P-Q-R-S-T. Pulse rate, 0-2 level, lots of detailed measurements. Marvelous inventions, these medical light-boxes.

MARIA

You've been spying on Dr. Evans.

SHERLOCK

Every time she makes her rounds.  
(points down)  
She doesn't change the drainage bags. Nurses do that. RN Witkowski is my favorite.

MARIA

What did you learn about Cat?

There's a loud knock at the door.

Sherlock disappears.

DOC ZLOBIN (45) enters with a medical kit and a body bag.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Hi, Doc, glad you got here so quickly.

DOC

I make many trips from the hospital to our little morgue. Who do we have today?

MARIA

Marvin Jenkins, 60, a security guard caught napping on the job.

DOC

So they shot him?

MARIA

I think Henry was the real target.  
Henry was recently moved from this  
room.

DOC

That's awful. Not for Henry, but  
for Mr. Jenkins.

Maria and Doc examine the body.

MARIA

Two gunshots to the chest, I'm  
guessing 9-millimeter. I was down  
the hall in the loo, so he used a  
suppressor. I'll need a TOD and  
save me the slugs for ballistics.  
I'll send you a gurney and help  
from hospital staff to get him  
loaded into your van. I've got to  
get back to Henry.

Doc turns to Maria, sadly. He hugs her.

DOC

I've been worried sick about him.

MARIA

He'll recover, Doc.  
(sadly)  
If we can keep him safe.

Maria exits and RACES back to Henry's room.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Maria is alarmed to see the door wide open as she gets to  
Henry's room.

She's more surprised to see a large bouquet in a vase at  
Henry's bedside, and Cat sitting in a chair holding Henry's  
hand.

MARIA

Cat? When did you--?

Cat releases Henry's hand and stands to hug Maria.

CAT

I stopped to see how Henry was  
doing.

(MORE)

CAT (CONT'D)

I called several times, but they  
won't release medical information.  
These are trying times for all of  
us.

Maria accepts the hug, but doesn't hug back, which Cat  
notices.

Then, Maria hugs back in earnest, and Cat smiles.

MARIA

It's so kind of you to visit.  
Henry's hanging in there, but he  
remains unresponsive.

They are both surprised when they hear Henry weakly mumble.

HENRY

Hello?

Maria's heart sinks as Cat turns and grabs Henry's hand.

CAT

We're here for you, Henry...  
Detective Martin and I.

Maria squeezes in to kiss Henry. Henry's eyes open wide.

MARIA

I've been here for three days and  
nights, Henry. I've got to tell Dr.  
Evans you're conscious.

Maria presses the call button on the wall.

CAT

I knew one of us needed a shower.  
(smiles at Henry)  
I'm glad I brought the flowers.

Maria glares at Cat as Dr. Evans bursts in with a smile.

DR. EVANS

Back among the living, I see. I'm  
Dr. Evans, Henry. I conducted a few  
surgeries on you the night you  
arrived, and you've been  
recuperating ever since. Detective  
Martin's been here the entire time.

CAT

I brought you the flowers, Henry.

Henry glances at the flowers.

HENRY

They must have cost a fortune.

CAT

It's a fortune that you survived.

MARIA

What do you remember, Henry?

HENRY

It was dark, and a car was coming toward me, but I didn't see a driver. I don't remember going to the hospital.

MARIA

A witness told me it was a driverless car.

DR. EVANS

You had quite a concussion.

CAT

(to Maria)

Really, what witness?

MARIA

That's not important now. What's important is that you're alive and well, and safe-- well, mostly safe.

DR. EVANS

The shooting last night.

CAT

Shooting?

DR. EVANS

Let's let Henry rest. I'll order him breakfast. Henry, eat slowly. You've been on a liquid diet.

She points to the IV, smiles, and exits.

MARIA

I'll slip out for an hour and take a shower.

HENRY

What shooting last night?

MARIA

I'll fill you in when I get back.

CAT

I'm happy to sit with Henry and watch him eat while you freshen up. It's the least I can do if you've been here for three days.

Maria frowns.

MARIA

We'll have to lock the door.

CAT

Don't worry, Detective.  
(smiles insincerely)  
He'll be in good hands.

Maria hears Sherlock's voice in her head.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I'll be right here, keeping an eye on both of them.

Maria smiles at Cat as she kisses Henry on the lips. His eyes open wide.

MARIA

That will be great! Henry, I'll see you soon.

Maria exits and shuts the door behind her.

CAT

Isn't this cozy, Henry?

INT. HENRY'S CAR - DAY

Maria races along a small country road in Henry's deluxe antique car with Sherlock in the passenger's seat, hanging on for dear life.

SHERLOCK

This isn't a horseless carriage, it's a torture device.

MARIA

This was our Chief's old car. He left it to Henry in his will.

SHERLOCK

To kill him?

MARIA

Don't be so overdramatic. Henry loves it, and it beats driving our police scooter.

(beat)

What did you see and hear with Cat in the tavern after we left?

She glances over at Sherlock to see that he's petrified.

SHERLOCK

I cannot respond during this unnatural propulsion to which I am unaccustomed.

Maria slows down so he can breathe easily.

SHERLOCK (CONT'D)

Cat was typing on her personal telegraph light-box to someone. I was only able to read the first part of the message because of the tiny font size for these old eyes.

MARIA

(anxious)

What did it say?

SHERLOCK

Les Zlobin is Interpol's new hacker, and Amy Wang and Agent Art Simmons are heading your way.

MARIA

We must assume she was warning Obsidian Hex. You need to get back to Henry's hospital room.

SHERLOCK

I'd do anything to get out of this rolling meteorite!

Maria pulls up to a cosy country estate.

EXT. MARIA'S COUNTRY ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

Maria and Holmes step out of the car.

MARIA

This is the estate that the Chief left me instead of his gold-digging French wife.

SHERLOCK  
Ah, the glorious Francesca.

MARIA  
(angry)  
She was an accomplice to his  
murder. Go check on Henry.

Sherlock disappears.

INT. MARIA'S COUNTRY ESTATE - DAY

Maria enters the front door. She doesn't see the small spy camera on the shrub next to the front door.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

Cat is seducing Henry with subtle body language (bending forward, flipping her hair, pushing her breasts out). Henry can't move much, but he squirms and can't take his eyes off Cat.

CAT  
I always thought we would make a  
cute couple.

Cat's smartwatch flashes a photo of Maria entering her country estate. Henry briefly SEES the photo too.

HENRY  
I think I remember being in a  
relationship. Head injury. You  
never know, Gov.

After saying the word, "Gov," Henry looks around the room in a panic.

CAT  
(annoyed)  
She'll come back. She always does!

Cat hears a commotion in the hallway and pokes her head out the door.

She sees Doc exiting a room down the hall with a gurney.

A white sheet covers the body.

Cat shuts the door slowly and returns to Henry's side.

CAT (CONT'D)

Was there an accident here last night, Henry?

Henry looks bewildered.

CAT (CONT'D)

Right! How would you know?

HENRY

Things are still fuzzy upstairs, mate.

Cat glances at the bouquet and vase. She spots the tiny spy camera hidden in one of the flowers.

She turns and smiles at Henry, then surprises him with a seductive kiss on the lips.

Henry's eyes open wide.

CAT

I should let you get some rest. I'll be back to visit if that's okay with you.

HENRY

(smiles)  
Fine with me, mate.

Cat looks out the door, and down both sides of the hallway before exiting the way she saw Doc.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cat walks past the room Doc exited from, and glances at the door number (207). She shakes her head in disgust and marches off, oblivious as she passes the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes.

Holmes sees Dr. Evans and a cute female Nurse's Aid (20s) heading into Henry's room. The Aid carries an enormous breakfast platter. He's quick to follow.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The Nurse's Aid sets the food tray on the swivel table, and she smiles at Henry.

Henry puckers his lips, expecting a kiss, following the kisses from Maria and Cat.

The Nurse's Aid is bewildered and flustered as she quickly departs the room.

Henry is perplexed and smiles absentmindedly.

Dr. Evans smiles wryly.

DR. EVANS  
Looks like someone's feeling better  
today.

Henry looks bewildered again.

HENRY  
Who are you?

Dr. Evans takes out her penlight and checks Henry's right eye.

DR. EVANS  
Don't you remember me?

Henry has a blank expression as she checks Henry's left eye.

HENRY  
From the past three days?

Henry shrugs.

Dr. Evans looks concerned.

DR. EVANS  
From this morning?

Henry shrugs.

Dr. Evans forces a smile.

DR. EVANS (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

HENRY  
People have been calling me Henry;  
that's as good as any. Henry gets a  
lot of kisses!

DR. EVANS  
What's your surname?

Henry shrugs.

HENRY  
Nobody calls me Sir.

Dr. Evans checks the back of his head and looks concerned.

DR. EVANS  
Eat your breakfast and rest up.  
I'll be back a little later.

Henry puckers his lips, but Dr. Evans has already turned away.

Henry looks perplexed as she exits.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - LATER

Henry's tray is empty, and he has a smile on his face as Doc enters with a helium balloon that reads "Happy Birthday."

He smiles at Henry.

DOC  
Dr. Evans told me you're having a few recovery issues with your gray matter.

Henry smiles weakly. Doc talks slowly and loudly as Maria pokes her head in the door behind Doc.

DOC (CONT'D)  
I'm Doc Zlobin. This balloon was on sale in the gift shop.

Doc tethers the balloon beneath the rim of the vase of flowers, unknowingly obscuring the hidden camera's line of sight.

Maria laughs as she enters Henry's room.

MARIA  
Henry's not deaf, Doc. He's having some memory issues.

Doc turns, surprised to see Maria.

DOC  
Hi, Maria. I have something for you.

Doc removes a plastic evidence bag with two 9-mm slugs in it. He hands it to Maria, who studied the slugs.

DOC (CONT'D)  
Our ballistics expert told me they won't do us any good.

Sherlock appears behind Maria to peek at the slugs.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I practically invented the field of ballistics for Scotland Yard. Each weapon is like a single fingerprint.

MARIA

Let me guess, a ghost gun with a handmade silencer.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Ghost gun? Handmade sound suppressor?

MARIA

Both were made with a 3-D printer, completely untraceable.

DOC

That's what they confirmed.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

But if he or she uses the pistol in another murder, we can match--

MARIA

The weapon is probably melted down already. Single-use, disposable, and immune to the evidence room and courtroom.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Hence the term, ghost gun.

DOC

(to Maria)

You're exactly right.

Maria glances sadly at Henry, who looks slightly agitated.

MARIA

That doesn't give us much to go on.

HENRY

I wish I could be of more help.

Maria confides in Henry as Doc listens in.

MARIA

We haven't been able to locate the driverless vehicle that ran you over.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

It could be in a cut shop,  
scrapyard, or out of the country by  
now.

Holmes paces in the room.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Modern criminals have so many  
advantages over their predecessors.  
This was unheard of in my day!

DOC

We're sorry, Henry.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

We see the backside of an overweight elderly woman (Cat in disguise) from the back window of a rental car, ducking down in the parking lot and monitoring the hidden camera's footage on an iPad. She wears gloves to hide her hands.

She wiggles the iPad, but still only sees the balloon.

She can still hear the conversation.

DOC (V.O.)

I didn't mean to upset him. Here,  
have some water.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

Henry's hand shakes as he stares at Maria with a perplexed look.

Henry takes the glass of water and throws it at the vase of flowers.

The vase crashes to the floor.

BACK TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL, PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The elderly woman (Cat) hears the crash, then her iPad goes dark.

She shrugs and tosses the iPad in the back seat.

She sits back, deep in thought, before sending a text message on a burner phone. It reads, To AI#27: take the trash out, watch for an assignment tonight."

Cat smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Maria sits on the bed and holds Henry's hand.

MARIA

Stay calm, Henry. It's me, Maria.  
Do you remember me?

Henry gazes at Maria, wishing he could remember.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Detective Inspector Maria Martin.

Henry is unresponsive.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You sometimes call me Gov.

At the word "Gov," Henry's eyes light up. He studies Maria's hands and the smile on her face, and his shoulders relax. He smiles.

HENRY

Maria. Maria Martin. My girlfriend.

DOC

And your boss.

Henry gazes at Doc.

HENRY

And Doc, the coroner.

Henry pauses and chuckles.

HENRY (CONT'D)

They sent the coroner for me?

They all chuckle.

Maria leans in to kiss Henry on the cheek, but he quickly turns his head to accept the kiss on his lips.

MARIA

Henry, you're back.

Henry looks around the room and sees the broken vase of flowers.

MARIA (CONT'D)

That was an accident. But the security guard was shot last night, and that wasn't an accident.

(to Doc)

You stay here with Henry. I need to check the security footage and interview a few staff members.

Maria looks out the door and in both directions down the hall before stepping out.

INT. HOSPITAL, SECURITY ROOM - DAY

SHARON DUBOIS (30) is a uniformed and puzzled security guard.

SHARON

It looks like whoever killed my dear friend Marvin disabled our security cameras between 11 PM and 11:13 PM last night.

MARIA

I'm so sorry again for your loss, but the accurate time of death may help us catch the killer.

SHARON

You look tired.

MARIA

I've got two unsolved cases. We're looking for the owners of a driverless car that hit Henry. It might be out of the country by now. And we're looking for the assassin who killed your friend Marvin.

SHARON

If there's anything I can do to help, let me know.

Maria paces and listens to a voice in her head: Sherlock Holmes.

Maria looks up and around as Sherlock speaks, and Sharon thinks Maria is a bit crazy.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Both crimes use exceptionally expensive and disposable weapons.

(MORE)

SHERLOCK (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This criminal consortium is enormously wealthy, adept at planning, and painfully poor at execution.

MARIA

I may indeed have been the target the night Henry was hit by the car. Men often insist on driving. I would have been strolling across the street to the car with Henry waiting in the driver's seat.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

And you know that you would have been sleeping in the chair in Henry's previous room, and that the assassin was probably after you more than Henry.

MARIA

The assassin was after me the entire time.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

They failed both times.

MARIA (CONT'D)

They failed both times.

Maria turns to Sharon, who thinks Maria has "issues."

MARIA (CONT'D)

First, we have to move Henry to a safer location in the hospital until he's free to leave.

SHARON

Three rooms are being repainted on the east wing.

MARIA

We'll pick one at random each night. Second, if you can immediately notify me when the front security camera is disabled, that would be most helpful.

SHARON

I get a text alarm if anything goes wrong with our security system. I'll add you to our emergency notifications list.

MARIA

We thank you... Henry and me, that is.

Maria exits, with Sharon looking puzzled.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - NOON

On a desolate forest trail, a 20-year-old male hiker dressed in upscale outdoor gear removes his small backpack and takes out an iPad.

Surrounded by trees, he turns on the iPad and sees a bright message: "Satellite Hotspot Connection."

He nods approvingly and opens a Map App, which shows his location and the trail he's on in thick forest. He appears as a red (heated) human.

He sees another red human strolling toward him on the same trail.

A 20-year-old female, ASSASSIN #27, arrives and smiles at the young man. She wears bargain-basement outdoor wear with an open-topped blouse, a floppy hat, and moccasins. She wears a small backpack and speaks in German.

ASSASSIN #27  
Sie sind Nummer 26.

Subtitle: "You are number 26."

He speaks in Romanian, but they seem to understand each other.

ASSASSIN #26  
Este numărul 27.

Subtitle: "You are number 27."

He smiles and can't take his eyes off her cleavage.

She holds out her hands. She has on flesh-colored latex gloves.

ASSASSIN #27  
Du wurdest bezahlt, oder?

Subtitle: "You got paid, yes?"

He nods, "Yes," without diverting his eyes.

ASSASSIN #27 (CONT'D)  
Ich bin hier, um ihre Ausrüstung  
abzuholen.

Subtitle: "I'm here to collect your equipment."

He nods, "Yes," again, without diverting his eyes.

He opens his backpack. He has on flesh-colored latex gloves.

Assassin #26 HEARS the voice of Obsidian Hex in his Earbuds.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)  
Comply with all instructions from  
#27. That's an order!

He hands her a pair of Earbuds, which she puts in her ears, a smart watch, which she puts on her left wrist, and a digital wristband, which she puts on her right wrist.

He hands her his iPad, which she puts in her backpack.

He watches every seductive move that she makes.

He looks down and feels around in his backpack. Meanwhile, she is taking the cap off a syringe filled with liquid.

He looks up, focused on her chest, and removes a small pistol, but he hesitates to hand it over.

She seductively grabs his wrist and jabs the syringe into his forearm.

The pistol falls from his hand as he smiles in a mixed state of shock and euphoria.

His last words as he stares at her moccasins.

ASSASSIN #26  
Mocasinii nu lasă urme de pasi.

Subtitle: "Moccasins leave no footprints."

He falls back, dead.

She grabs his backpack and removes his wallet, smartphone, and passport, and drops them at his feet.

She unbuttons his shirt and finds a money belt.

She removes the cash and puts it in her backpack, as she removes two half-liter bottles of acid.

She takes a glass beaker from her backpack, fills it with the two bottles of acid.

She ceremoniously slides the pistol into the beaker and smiles as it dissolves.

She follows with the wallet, passport, smartphone, and money belt.

She removes his latex gloves and drops them in the acid.

She takes his hand to put his fingerprints on the syringe and loads two additional vials of drugs into the young man's backpack.

She removes and drops her gloves in the acid.

She removes a water bottle from her belt and pours a solution that "neutralizes" the acid.

She empties the contents of the beaker behind a tree and returns the beaker to her backpack.

She retraces her steps as she exits.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

The same Nurse's Aid is tactfully exchanging Henry's human waste bags from the side of his hospital bed.

Maria tries to cheer up Henry.

MARIA

I've asked Interpol Agent Art Simmons for help locating the vehicle with aerial surveillance, but I'm at a loss to find Marvin's assassin without a lot more help.

HENRY

He's probably evaporated by now.

MARIA

You're probably right, but until you're healed, our office is short-staffed, and you might still be at risk when that killer learns he or she killed the wrong bloke.

HENRY

Should I be worried?

MARIA

Who takes out a professional hit on an aging security guard?

Henry looks worried.

HENRY

What if the hit was meant for you  
for being a threat to Obsidian Hex?

MARIA

I'm hardly a threat.

HENRY

I'm less of one.  
(whispers)  
But they might want to stop  
Sherlock Holmes from speaking to  
your head.

Maria is stunned.

MARIA

That's the most logical thing you  
ever said, Henry.

Holmes pops into Maria's head.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Indeed it was, Henry.  
(beat)  
The game is afoot.

Henry is stunned.

MARIA

He said...

HENRY

The game is afoot.

MARIA (CONT'D)

The game is afoot.

They both look around the room, but don't see Sherlock.

They stare at each other and laugh.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Maybe we're both going crazy.

Dr. Evans knocks once, then steps in with her iPad.

DR. EVANS

I'm doing my rounds. Henry, how are  
you feeling?

MARIA

He's verbal and alert. And--

Dr. Evans interrupts Maria with a smile.

DR. EVANS

This works better if the patient answers me.

MARIA

Oops. Sorry.

HENRY

I'm verbal and alert.

DR. EVANS

What time today did you rejoin the living?

HENRY

When that beautiful woman brought me flowers.

Maria's eyes open wide, which Henry sees.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I don't remember.

DR. EVANS

Do you feel any aches and pains?

HENRY

My ribs hurt when I move.

MARIA

Doctor, you need to release Henry so we can keep him safe. We suspect Henry might have been the target of last night's incident.

Dr. Evans removes Henry's head bandages as he smiles.

DR. EVANS

(stern)

Henry's not going anywhere! He's still under concussion protocol, he sustained many injuries, and I'm worried about internal bleeding.

MARIA

But he's not safe here, and neither am I.

Dr. Evans checks Henry's vital signs.

DR. EVANS

Can you order extra security?

MARIA

I tried that already. They assigned me to watch him.

Dr. Evans looks into Henry's eyes with a flashlight.

DR. EVANS

Henry's scans suggest it would be dangerous to move him, let alone discharge him.

She points to the floor.

DR. EVANS (CONT'D)

He's staying right here for at least another day.

Henry's eyes twirl, and he passes out.

DR. EVANS (CONT'D)

Make that two days.

MARIA

Two days might be a death sentence.

Dr. Evans types on her iPad.

DR. EVANS

I'm sorry, Detective. He's too weak to be discharged. I'll send the Nurse's Aid in to add more saline and nutrients so he can get his rest.

Dr. Evans exits, and moments later, the Nurse's Aid steps in with a new IV solution.

She hooks them up.

Maria hears Sherlock in her head as she looks around the room.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Unrecognized vehicles are pulling into the parking lot.

MARIA

We need to get Henry to a safer room.

NURSE'S AID

Who are you talking to?

MARIA

Nobody.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

No other visitors and staff are wandering about. But to be safe--

MARIA

Disguises first.

The Nurse's Aid stares at Marie.

Holmes exits the room.

NURSE'S AID

I'll go tell the doctor I've completed her instructions.

The Nurse's Aid steps out quickly.

Holmes returns minutes later with a complete set of blue scrubs and a surgical mask.

He hands them to Maria.

Maria puts them on and looks convincing as a surgeon.

MARIA

We'll need the help of a Nurse's Aid.

Maria presses the "call button."

The Nurse's Aid knocks once on the door and enters.

NURSE'S AID

I found a vase for the flowers from your first room.

Maria presses a finger to her lips to request her silence.

MARIA

We need to move Henry to a room on the east wing without raising suspicion. We think his life may be in danger.

The Nurse's Aid winks at Henry.

NURSE'S AID

I can help. Let's get Henry a surgical mask, and I'll add bandages to his head.

She wraps gauze around Henry's head down to his surgical mask.

NURSE'S AID (CONT'D)

Let's make him look heavier, too.

The Nurse's Aid grabs blankets from a cabinet and drapes them over Henry. She tosses a linen sheet over him.

MARIA

He looks huge. No one will recognize him.

The Nurse's Aid disconnects the monitors from Henry, and they get ready to move him.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Henry, keep resting.

Maria opens the door and looks up and down the hall.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Let's roll.

NURSE'S AID

I could get fired for this.

The Nurse's Aid pushes, and Marie guides the side of the gurney.

The broken vase, balloon, and the mini-camera on a flower stem lie on the floor.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - SAME TIME

A Businessman (30s) and Businesswoman (30s) enter with an iPad and stop at the front registration and smile at the Receptionist (20s).

The Receptionist shakes her head, "No," and shrugs.

In the back corner of the lobby, the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes is eavesdropping. Holmes glares at the business couple.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

It should be no surprise that over the course of my long and distinguished career, most of my essential deductions on suspects came from careful eavesdropping.

A pretty Hospital Volunteer (18) walks by and distracts Holmes from the business couple.

The smiles leave the business couples' faces.

The couple splits up, each secretly recording video as they walk in different directions.

Holmes looks up with wide eyes, not knowing which one to follow.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Maria and the Nurse's Aid guide Henry's gurney at a typical pace (for a hospital).

Maria hears Sherlock in her head.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Be extra cautious, Detective.  
Suspicious characters are about.  
Male and female, early 30s, in  
business attire. Wandering  
separately.

Maria looks around curiously as they pass a Maintenance Woman and a male Janitor who pays them little attention.

Maria and the Nurse's Aid roll Henry on.

They turn down a hallway where a sign directs them to the "East Wing."

INT. HOSPITAL, FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - SAME TIME

The Businesswoman strolls down the hallway, peeking into every open door, recording on video as she walks.

Dr. Evans strolls by.

BUSINESSMAN

Excuse me. I'm looking for Henry  
Gruber's room. The receptionist was  
unhelpful.

DR. EVANS

I'm sorry, those pesky privacy  
regulations only allow us to share  
that information with people on the  
patient's family and friends list.  
We do apologize.

Dr. Evans walks on. The Businesswoman marches on in a huff, filming all the way.

INT. HOSPITAL, SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - SAME TIME

The Businessman strolls down the hallway, peeking into every open door, recording on video as he walks.

He checks the door to Henry's old room to find it is locked.

He marches on.

Sherlock's ghost is right behind him.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

(pompous)

They always return to the scene of  
the crime.

The Businessman stops the Janitor.

BUSINESSMAN

Excuse me. I'm looking for Henry  
Gruber's room. The receptionist was  
unhelpful.

JANITOR

I'm sorry, those pesky privacy  
regulations only allow us to share  
that information with people on the  
patient's family and friends list.  
We do apologize.

The Businessman stomps down the hallway in a huff.

INT. HOSPITAL, SECURITY ROOM - SAME TIME

The Security Guard, Sharon, watches the business couple on  
two monitors.

Another monitor picks up Maria (disguised), the Nurse's Aid,  
and Henry (disguised) entering a dark room in the East Wing.  
Maria shuts the door.

INT. HOSPITAL, EAST WING - CONTINUOUS

The Businessman turns the corner in the hallway to the East  
Wing, just after the Nurse's Aid, Henry, and Maria shut the  
door to Henry's new room.

INT. HOSPITAL, EAST WING, ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Maria gets a text from the Security Guard. "Suspicious business-types roaming the corridors. One is heading your way."

Maris steps out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Disguised as a doctor with a full mask and scrubs, Maria talks into her phone as the Businessman approaches.

MARIA

It's an outbreak of some kind.  
Anything from the Asian bird flu to  
monkey pox.

The Businessman turns and immediately heads back down the hallway.

Holmes is frightened.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Not monkey pox! The virus is  
endemic to Central and West African  
rainforests, where it primarily  
resides in wild animals like  
rodents. This is awful!

MARIA

(mumbles)

I was throwing them off, Holmes.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Fine work, Detective.

Maria smiles and heads back to Henry's new room.

She gets an alarming text from her police station answering service, "Body of 20-year-old, no ID, suspected drug OD, found on the forest overlook trail, 3.2 km from the trailhead."

INT. HOSPITAL, EAST WING, ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cans of paint and canvas tarps line one side of the room.

The Nurse's Aid plugs Henry's cords into the monitors.

Henry smiles.

MARIA

I have to grab an OD case in the forest. I hate to leave you alone, Henry.

NURSE'S AID

My shift ends in 15 minutes. I'd be happy to sit with him.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I can sit with him.

MARIA

No, I need you with me.

The Nurse's Aid looks puzzled, which Maria sees.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Not you. I was talking to myself again.

HENRY

(to the Nurse's Aid)

She does that a lot.

Henry smiles at the Nurse's Aid, and Maria smiles at Henry.

MARIA

Thanks so much. I think he likes you. Just don't let him like you too much!

(looks around)

Don't open the door for anyone except Dr. Evans.

Maria begins to exit the room.

NURSE'S AID

But, your disguise!

MARIA

It's nice to be incognito. I may borrow it for the day.

Maria exits.

NURSE'S AID

I'm going to find a replacement vase for the flowers in your previous room. If you need me, press the Call Button.

The Nurse's Aid smiles and kisses Henry on the cheek before leaving.

Henry smiles.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - AFTERNOON

Doc is evaluating the dead body.

Maria shows up in scrubs (minus her mask).

MARIA

Hi, Doc. Who do we have here?

DOC

No ID.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Only one set of footprints other than the victim's before the good doctor arrived.

DOC

Young man, maybe 20, and a likely drug overdose.

MARIA

Who reported the body?

DOC

It was anonymous. Maybe a passerby.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

A passerby without footprints?

Maria puts on latex gloves and searches the backpack.

MARIA

Two more vials of drugs. Enough to kill a horse.

(beat)

Time of death?

DOC

Two hours ago, based on body temp.

MARIA

Did you find a phone?

DOC

No phone, car keys, or wallet.

MARIA

No phone, snacks, or water bottle?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Enlighten me, Detective.

MARIA  
It's unusual in this day and age to  
hike without a phone with GPS, and  
even more unusual to not bring  
snacks and water. He wasn't  
planning on being out here long.

DOC  
He could have been suicidal.

MARIA  
New clothes and shoes.

Maria studies his hands.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
Not a laborer. No calluses and the  
pale skin of a gamer.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Gamer?

MARIA  
Someone who plays video games all  
day, inside.

DOC  
I know what a gamer is. Les is one.

MARIA  
I'm just talking to myself out  
loud, Doc.

Maria sniffs the air.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
I smell rotten eggs. Sulfuric acid?

Maria studies the ground, finds a piece of chewing gum, and  
bags it as evidence.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Hydrogen sulfide gas?

MARIA  
Precisely.

Doc opens the victim's shirt.

DOC  
He wore a money belt.

MARIA

Which is gone, suggesting a robbery and the missing wallet, phone, and car keys.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

But no footprints.

MARIA

And, most petty thieves remove the cash from the wallet and discard it, leaving the victim's ID behind.

DOC

This doesn't make any sense.

Maria looks sadly at the victim.

MARIA

I think he was murdered!

Maria paces.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

You're thinking about connections, aren't you?

MARIA

Doc, I'll call to get you some help moving the body.

Maria races away but keeps talking.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I need my murder board.

Sherlock's ghost disappears.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

On a large whiteboard in a closed office, Maria has photos of a self-driving SUV, Marvin (the dead security guard), a masked assassin, and the dead hiker. Under the hiker are the letters "OD?"

She draws a line from the masked assassin to Marvin and stares at the board.

Sherlock appears behind her.

She writes, "Where are you?" under the SUV, then adds, "Who was controlling you?" and "Who was your intended victim?"

SHERLOCK

Who, indeed?

Under Marvin's photo, she writes, "Who was the intended victim?" and, 2 9-mm slugs, ghost gun with a suppressor."

SHERLOCK (CONT'D)

Who, indeed?

Under the masked assassin, she writes, "High-tech knockout of the hospital's security camera, inside info about Henry's room," and then she adds, "Who's paying you?"

SHERLOCK (CONT'D)

Who, indeed?

Back under the OD victim, she writes, "one set of footprints, possible destruction of evidence, and possible planting of evidence. No fingerprints on the two other vials of drugs."

MARIA

A self-driving car hits Henry. Later, a security guard is assassinated at the hospital where Henry is being treated, and now, a hacker mysteriously overdoses in a nearby forest. We're becoming the murder capital of the region, Sherlock.

SHERLOCK

You haven't yet mentioned our nemesis.

MARIA

(grunts)  
Obsidian Hex.

She writes "OH?" Under the SUV and under the masked assassin.

Then she angrily erases the two "OH?" markings.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(angry)  
We can't prove Obsidian Hex is involved! They're smart, like the way Winston Edwards was killed. They are good at not leaving clues.

Sherlock stares at the OD victim's photo.

SHERLOCK

Or destroying clues with sulphuric acid. I need to visit the OD site again.

MARIA

Exactly.

(worried)

I do know that we can't leave Henry alone for too long. I'll sneak in with my doctor's disguise and meet you in his new room.

SHERLOCK

I'll poke around to see if our curious business couple has returned for another scouting trip.

MARIA

I'll speak with the daytime security guard to see if she picked up their car on the outside camera.

Maria grabs two small security cameras from a cabinet and shows them to Sherlock.

SHERLOCK

What are those miniature items?

MARIA

Personal body cams that report to my iPad and smartphone, even if the hospital cameras go out.

Holmes studies the electronics.

SHERLOCK

Like spy cameras?

MARIA

Fool me once, shame on you.

Holmes smiles.

SHERLOCK

Fool me twice, shame on me.

MARIA

If they come back tonight, we'll be ready.

Sherlock suddenly disappears.

ART SIMMONS (35) bursts into the office wearing a Police Chief's uniform and carrying a box with a laptop computer, a name plaque, and a framed photo of him posing in his red sports car. Maria is in mid-sentence.

ART  
Surprise!

Maria is stunned and disappointed to see Art.

MARIA  
What are you doing here -- and in a police chief's uniform?

Art laughs like it's a big joke.

ART  
(pompous)  
I know, right? You were in line for the Chief's job, but they looked at your unsolved case load and offered me the job after I brought your previous chief's case to a close.

Maria looks away.

MARIA (V.O.)  
But that was Henry and me.

ART  
Then, I guess I got credit for solving Winston Edwards' case when I reported that Chinese spy, Amy Wang. She got away, though.

Maria turns and looks the other direction.

MARIA (V.O.)  
But there was no proof--

ART  
The main thing is, Interpol HQ encouraged me to take the job to guide your development as a Detective Inspector.

Art moves in for a hug, but Maria backs up.

ART (CONT'D)  
Oooh. You're absolutely right! It would be improper for your direct supervisor to make advances in the workplace. Maybe we can meet up after work. Tonight? For dinner?

MARIA

Sorry. No. I'll be keeping an eye on Henry.

ART

Some other time perhaps? Tomorrow night?

Maria ignores the question and looks Art in the eyes.

MARIA

Why didn't Headquarters let me know?

Art glances at the murder board, perplexed.

ART

After Constable Gruber was accidentally hit by a car late at night outside that tavern, things didn't look good for him.

MARIA

But, Henry's getting better.

ART

Your report never mentioned Henry's blood being checked for blood alcohol level, so HQ assumed Henry was hammered, leaving the pub.

MARIA

That wasn't the case. He was unconscious! In a coma! His life was our highest priority!

ART

Maybe, but that night didn't reflect well on him or you.

Art turns away sadly.

ART (CONT'D)

There's some concern that Henry may not be around much longer in the department.

Maria is horrified as Art gets in her face.

ART (CONT'D)

I interviewed the bartender a few hours ago.

MARIA

Cat?

ART

Catherine! She reported that both of you had been drinking heavily that night.

Art points to the assassin's photo.

ART (CONT'D)

I did some checking, and Mr. Marvin Jenkins, the Security Guard, worked as a corrections officer at the penitentiary.

MARIA

That was twenty years ago!

ART

He could have made long-lasting enemies there. You can probably stop claiming he was assassinated.

Art sits at his new desk and pulls out his name plaque, framed photo, and laptop.

Maria looks sad.

MARIA (V.O.)

I've been using that desk as my desk since the Chief--

ART

Don't worry. I'm here to help and guide you along your way for the next ten or twelve years.

Maria trudges out of the office.

MARIA

I'll go and tell Henry the good news.

ART

I'll be over to the hospital to see Constable Gruber after I get settled in.

Maria turns to see Art put his feet on the desk.

She shakes her head in disbelief as she exits the station.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - EARLY EVENING

Maria sneaks into Henry's room. Henry is awake and smiling. He doesn't have an IV, but he does have an O2 monitor, which also shows his blood pressure on one monitor.

MARIA

Henry, how are you feeling?

HENRY

Much better! My memory is coming back, and I'm off pain meds.

She smiles.

MARIA

Maybe those two go together. Has Dr. Evans been in to examine you?

Henry sits up to brag.

HENRY

She said all my signs were good and that I'll likely be discharged tomorrow. I could be back to work in a day or two!

Maria glances at the single monitor, then hugs Henry.

MARIA

That's wonderful news.

She holds his hand.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, we've been given a temporary Chief. Interpol Special Agent Art Simmons has been reassigned by HQ to help us with our unsolved crimes.

Maria looks away.

HENRY

That job was supposed to go to you!

Maria looks back with a smile.

MARIA

I'm sure it's only temporary. It's more important to get you well so you can help us catch the bad guys.

HENRY

Art's a nice guy, but I don't think we need him.

MARIA

We'll prove it by solving your hit-and-run case, Marvin's murder, and another open OD case that looks suspicious.

The bubbly Nurse's Aid enters with a vase full of flowers.

She smiles lovingly at Henry.

NURSE'S AID

Hi, Henry. I heard you're being discharged tomorrow, so I brought you a present. I found these in your first room, but the Happy Birthday balloon was gone.

The Nurse's Aid puts the flowers on the windowsill, and we barely SEE the tiny camera.

She leaps to a cabinet and pulls out a Urine Bottle.

NURSE'S AID (CONT'D)

This is also for you, and it's something I can't help you with.

Henry laughs.

HENRY

I've already been to the loo all by myself.

NURSE'S AID

That's good because we've gotten busy around here.

MARIA

Is there still another room we can move him to tonight?

NURSE'S AID

(whispers)

Directly across the hall. I'll help you move him now.

The Nurse's Aid disconnects Henry's O2 Monitor.

MARIA

Besides me, newly assigned Police Chief Art Simmons is the only one allowed to visit Henry. I'll alert Security and the front desk.

NURSE'S AID

Got it! Detective, stand outside, and when the coast is clear, open this door and the one across the Hall.

Maria exits.

Moments later, Maria opens the door.

MARIA

(whispers)

The coast is clear.

Henry is quietly moved across the wall.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Maria remains in the hallway.

The door is shut, the Nurse's aid connects Henry's O2 monitor, and Maria enters with a smile.

Maria pulls out her smartphone and shows Henry and the Nurse's Aid two live camera views of the empty hallway in both directions.

MARIA

We'll have extra security tonight.

NURSE'S AID

That's amazing!

HENRY

Do you still think I'm a target?

MARIA

We're not sure.

While staring at the live video on the phone, Maria sees the new Chief strolling down the hallway. He wears his police chief uniform and a pair of black, thick-rimmed computerized eyeglasses and tiny white Earbuds, similar to those worn by the first assassin.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I wish my mentor were here!

HENRY

The Chief? I mean, Chief Windsor?

Maria winks at Henry and whispers.

MARIA

The other voices in my head.

Sherlock suddenly appears in the corner of the room.

Henry reassures the Nurse's Aid.

HENRY

She sometimes hears helpful voices.

NURSE'S AID

(smiles at Henry)

I wish I did.

The security video on Maria's phone shows Chief Simmons walking to the door across the hall (Henry's previous room).

He starts to knock, but turns to the room where Maria and the group are gathered.

Before he can knock, Maria opens the door and pulls the Chief inside.

MARIA

Hi, Chief. How did you find us?

ART

I can tell you and Constable Gruber, but the technology is classified.

He smiles at the Nurse's Aid.

NURSE'S AID

I'm done here. I'll check in on the patient later.

The Nurse's Aid and Henry smile and share a moment before she exits the room.

Art snickers at Henry, as Holmes looks suspiciously at Art.

ART

I've been reviewing your case, Constable, and don't think we should be trusting anyone.

MARIA

What technology, Chief?

Art removes his eyeglasses and takes out his satellite smartphone from his pocket.

Holmes steps in to inspect the new technology.

ART

I can't tell you everything because you lack Top Secret security clearance, but I can tell you that I can access low-altitude drone sensors that detect warm bodies in various rooms. That information is transferred to Interpol's AI servers to my satellite phone, and then to my computerized eyeglasses.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Fascinating!

MARIA

And then to your Earbuds?

Art points to an Earbud.

ART

No, I'm listening to Mozart.

Sherlock's eyes open wide.

HENRY

How did you know which wing of the hospital I was in?

ART

I flashed my badge at the receptionist, and she told me you might be on the second floor. I knocked on three doors on the West wing before I found the East wing.

MARIA

It's possible that the assassin who killed Marvin, the Security Guard, used similar technology.

Art laughs.

ART

That's highly unlikely. Only a few government agencies worldwide have access to this technology.

MARIA

But Obsidian Hex--

ART

I've seen your Murder Board. I can tell you that in-depth knowledge of Obsidian Hex operations in Romania helped me get the assignment as your Chief, but Amy Wang and I single-handedly eliminated the entire operation in Râmnicu Vâlcea.

HENRY

Wow, Gov! That's amazing.

Art acts proudly and bravely.

ART

We surprised three highly skilled hackers who were removing computer power cables and scattered bags of crisps and cans of energy drinks. I had my trusty nightstick, but Amy shot them dead with a Glock before I could get my Taser gun out of my belt.

Maria and Holmes glance at each other suspiciously.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Hmmm!

MARIA

Hmmm!

ART

Naturally, I got a citation for my efforts, while Amy returned to China.

MARIA

What's our next move, Chief?

ART

I carefully examined Marvin Jenkins's history as a prison security guard, and I think his murder was a one-time revenge killing. We should have nothing to fear.

Maria's eyes and Sherlock's eyes open wide.

MARIA

Do you think it's safe to leave Henry alone until he is discharged tomorrow morning?

Art whispers to Maria, but Henry can hear him.

ART

I need to have a serious talk with Constable Gruber about his continued service in our department after sustaining such a serious head injury.

HENRY

My head and my hearing are fine, Sir.

ART

(smiles at Henry)

We did get a call from Mrs. Willamina Flemming that her cat is missing.

Henry is enthusiastic.

HENRY

I'll find it tomorrow, Sir.

ART

Good attitude, Constable, but you'll have to undergo post-trauma counseling and pass the Department's mental capacity tests before we can reassign you to active duty.

(smiles at Maria)

In the meantime, maybe Detective Inspector Martin can assist in finding Mrs. Flemming's cat.

(beat)

I'll take my leave now.

Art turns toward the door.

MARIA

Chief, I could use Constable Gruber's help finding the driverless vehicle that ran him over. We haven't fully investigated the OD case of the young man in the forest, and Marvin Jenkins's case is still open until we find his killer.

ART

That's why I'm here, Detective Inspector. I'll be taking the lead in those three cases. Good evening, all.

Art exits, leaving everyone stunned.

Maria leaps to hug Henry. Holmes looks sad.

MARIA

This is all temporary, Henry. Let's remain optimistic and vigilant. I'll stay with you tonight, and we'll straighten the Chief out tomorrow.

She kisses Henry on the lips.

She sends Henry a link to the security cameras she installed outside his room.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I texted you the link for the security cameras I installed. Call me if you need me.

Henry waves goodbye with his smartphone.

HENRY

Love you! I'll be fine.

She opens the door and exits. Holmes follows.

Henry watches the video on his phone as Maria walks down the hall like she's talking to someone.

Henry smiles.

HENRY (CONT'D)

We're not alone in this fight.

After a single KNOCK on the door, the Nurse's Aid enters with the vase of flowers and puts them on the windowsill.

NURSE'S AID

We almost left these in the room across the hall.

HENRY

I don't know how to thank you.

The Nurse's Aid sweeps in and kisses Henry on the lips until his eyes open wide.

The Nurse's Aid turns to leave.

NURSE'S AID

Goodnight, Henry. Remember that Call Button... for anything!

She exits. leaving Henry stunned.

INT. HOSPITAL, ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Maria talks to an invisible Holmes.

MARIA

Maybe I'll keep Henry's big car here and take the police motor scooter home in the dark so it looks like I'm guarding Henry.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Fine idea. I'll stay here and watch the entrance.

MARIA

Notify me immediately if there's anything suspicious. I worry about Henry.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Likewise. You do the same.

The elevator door opens, and Maria steps out quickly and sneaks to a back exit.

Sherlock takes one step into the lobby and stares sadly in Maria's direction until she disappears.

Holmes sounds worried, almost depressed.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I worry about you. I've lost my dearest friends, Dr. Watson and Mrs. Hudson. I don't want to lose you, too. I couldn't bear to die twice.

EXT. BACK OF HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Maria puts on a helmet and secretly drives away from the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL, LOBBY - NIGHT

The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes keeps a watchful eye on the parking lot and lobby.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

Henry yawns as he watches the security cameras on his smartphone.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Maria cruises along on the electric motor scooter.

INT. HOSPITAL, LOBBY - NIGHT

The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes spots a white "Flower Shop Van" in the darkest part of the hospital parking lot.

The driver parks next to Henry's car.

Holmes spots a heavily tattooed young woman exiting the van with two bouquets.

The delivery woman wears thick, black-rimmed eyeglasses, tiny white Earbuds, and a wristband covered with costume jewelry bracelets. As she gets closer, Holmes sees that the woman is chewing gum and has tiny white Earbuds.

Holmes's eyes open wide.

The Receptionist points down the hall on the first floor, and points her finger up to the second floor, and motions that the room is way down the hallway.

The Delivery Woman heads to the second floor.

Holmes immediately gets inside Maria's head.

SHERLOCK  
 Detective Martin!  
 (louder)  
 Detective Martin!

CUT TO:

EXT. MARIA'S COUNTRY ESTATE - SAME TIME

Marie enters the far edge of the driveway when she HEARS Holmes in her head. We can see the tiny spy camera near the front door, but Maria is too far away to activate it.

She slams on the brakes and skids to a stop.

MARIA  
 What is it now, Sherlock! I'm tired  
 and cranky!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Get back to the hospital, fast! A flower delivery woman arrived with two bouquets.

MARIA

That's not unusual.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

The Receptionist pointed right down the hall on the first floor. Then she pointed upstairs and motioned that the room was way down at the end of the floor.

MARIA

Also not unusual.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Then she carted both bouquets upstairs.

MARIA

That's not logical. Be right there. Alert the security guard.

Maria turns the scooter around and speeds away.

EXT. HOSPITAL, SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sherlock reaches the door to see a handwritten note, "Supper, back in 1 hour, Sharon."

He panics and gets into Maria's head.

EXT. HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

Maria skids to a stop on the motor scooter and rips off her helmet.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Detective! The Security Guard is out to dinner.

Maria telephones Henry, but Holmes hears her.

MARIA

Henry, soak a blanket in ice-cold water, and cover yourself with it under the hospital bed. Make the room look unused. No lights or monitors.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Got it.

HENRY (V.O.)  
Got it!

Maria pulls out a stun gun and charges into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - SAME TIME

Henry, in a hospital gown in bed, watches the hallway security cameras on his phone. He sees the strange female florist sneaking down the hallway, glancing left and right behind dark-rimmed eyeglasses. The flowers are obscuring her Glock-looking pistol and suppressor.

Henry panics as Holmes materializes in the room. Henry can't see Holmes, but he feels his presence and seems comforted.

Henry glances at the sink and sees a blanket being soaked in cold water. He doesn't see the Ghost.

Henry's eyes open wide as the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes opens the blanket and places it on the floor near the underside of the bed.

Henry whispers and presents his phone screen to the ghost.

HENRY  
Of course, to avoid body heat  
detection.

Henry wraps himself in the freezing-cold blanket and scoots himself under the bed.

Holmes unplugs the monitors, hastily makes the bed, and suddenly sees the vase and flowers.

He focuses on the tiny camera attached to one of the stems.

He takes the vase of flowers to the loo, rips off the camera, and smashes it with his heel on the floor.

Holmes shuts off all the lights.

Henry shuts off his smartphone and hides under the wet blanket, shivering, but trying to lie still.

A few seconds later, Assassin #27, in disguise and with flesh-colored latex gloves on, pushes open the door. She scans the room with her glasses, points her pistol around, and stomps her foot angrily on the floor.

She SCREAMS in German.

ASSASSIN #27

Du hast gesagt, sie wäre hier!

She drops the flowers and storms out, slamming the door.

Henry doesn't move.

One minute later, Maria swings open the door, turns on the lights, and points a stun gun around the room.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

She's gone.

Maria looks under the bed to see Henry shaking and in shock.

MARIA

You're okay now, Henry.

She helps him out from under the bed.

He stands, the cold, wet blanket falls to the floor, and he hugs Maria long and hard.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You're freezing.

Henry backs up a step.

HENRY

She spoke German. I took it in secondary school, and my dad spoke it at home. She said, "You said she'd be here!" She was reporting to someone.

MARIA

Are you sure she said she?

HENRY

Dead sure! We have to get you out of here.

MARIA

Get dressed. I'd say you are officially discharged.

Henry, unabashed, gets dressed in front of Maria.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

We followed your instructions.  
Henry was a real wet blanket.

HENRY

I panicked. I don't remember  
soaking the blanket or how I got  
under the bed.

MARIA

You were in shock and still  
recovering from a concussion.

Henry points to the crushed tiny camera on the floor of the  
loo.

Maria is shocked.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Where did you find this?

HENRY

I don't remember.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

It was in the bouquet.

MARIA

Was it from the flowers Cat brought  
you in your first hospital room?

HENRY

I think the Nurse's Aid brought  
them in.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

We should assume you two are being  
watched.

Maria glances at the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes.

MARIA

One of us should do a sweep of our  
home and office.

(to Henry)

We should hide out for tonight  
until we make a plan.

HENRY

What about our new Chief?

MARIA

We'll call him in the morning.

They race out the door, but Maria suddenly stops.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Maria carefully removes the two spy cameras from the door jams.

They head to the back door of the hospital.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Maria looks all around the parking lot.

MARIA

Our motor scooter and car are both here. We should check both for tracking devices.

HENRY

Good idea, Gov.

Maria checks the scooter first and finds nothing.

She searches the car and finds a tracking device under the car. She points to it.

MARIA

We'll use this to our advantage.

HENRY

How?

MARIA

You shouldn't drive after a concussion, so I'll drive to Doc's on the scooter.

HENRY

What about the car?

Maria glances at the Ghost.

MARIA

Holmes has driven our scooter quite often. Maybe he can drive your car home to look for bugs.

Henry's eyes and Sherlock's eyes open wide.

MARIA (CONT'D)

The bad guys will assume we're at home.

HENRY

But he's never driven a car!

Maria lends her helmet to Henry as they drive off on the scooter.

Henry glances back at Holmes, attempting to drive his car out of the parking lot. It's comical with forward and reverse issues, turning trouble, and uneven acceleration. Holmes looks frightened at times and elated at other times as he exits the parking lot.

We see a red light blinking on the tracking device.

Maria races ahead, and Henry holds on.

EXT./INT. DOC'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Maria knocks on the door.

Doc answers in a frightened panic.

DOC

I know why you're here! Now what will they do to Les?

Maria consoles Doc as they enter.

MARIA

Doc, what's going on?

DOC

I came home from the morgue to find Les had been kidnapped. They said if I went to the police, they'd kill him.

Maria's eyes and Henry's eyes open wide.

MARIA

Who took him, Doc?

Doc trudges to an old-fashioned recording device near his landline phone and presses the "Messages" button.

We HEAR a heavily disguised voice, like that used by Obsidian Hex, in Cat's tavern.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

We demand a trade of your son for Detective Maria Martin. If you go to the police, your son will be tortured and killed. You have until sunrise!

Maria and Henry stand in shock.

MARIA  
We need help.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SAME TIME

Holmes weaves from one side of the road to the other at varying speeds and with braking issues. He looks frightened.

EXT. MARIA'S COUNTRY ESTATE - NIGHT

Holmes arrives but has great difficulty maneuvering into the driveway.

The dark side of the car is captured by the spy camera positioned by the front door, but Holmes parks near the back of the home.

The car jerks to a stop. The Ghost is covered in sweat.

INT. DOC'S HOUSE - LATER

Maria is creating a facsimile of the murder board in her office from memory using her smartphone and a portable printer. All the photos are taped to Doc's kitchen cabinets.

Henry and Doc stare at her work.

Maria has photos of a self-driving SUV, Marvin (the dead security guard), a masked assassin, and the dead hiker. Under the hiker are the letters "OD?"

She uses a twine, scissors, and tape to make a line from the masked assassin.

She thinks out loud as she looks around for Sherlock, while pointing to the SUV.

MARIA  
Where are you? Who was controlling you? "Who was your intended victim?"  
(stares at Henry)  
I thought it was you. But after Marvin's murder, that encounter in your hospital room tonight, and the would-be assassin saying "she," not "he," I think all of these attempts were after me.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
I concur!

Maria smiles, hearing Holmes is in the room.

The smile leaves her face when Art sneaks in the back door with a stun gun, ready to fire.

MARIA

Chief, what are you doing here?

Doc turns sadly to Maria.

DOC

I called your office looking for you.

ART

You sounded like you were in trouble.

The printer ejects a photo of Henry in a hospital bed.

Maria tapes it to another cabinet as the printer ejects a photo of the flower delivery person approaching Henry's room.

Maria posts the flower delivery person next to Henry's photo.

ART (CONT'D)

Will someone tell me what's going on around here?

Maria points to Henry's photo.

MARIA

There was another attempt on Henry's life tonight by a second assassin, who we know was after a woman.

ART

So the flower lady didn't fire a weapon?

MARIA

No.

Art paces and speculates.

ART

So we can't assume she wasn't a delivery girl. Did you tip her for the flowers?

MARIA

She wore computerized eyeglasses,  
earbuds, and brandished a pistol,  
probably a ghost gun with a  
suppressor, like the first  
assassin.

ART

You have no evidence of either  
pistol.

DOC

My son was kidnapped tonight while  
I was at the morgue!

Art is stunned, then turns in a panic.

ART

Les? I don't believe it!

Maria glances in Sherlock's general direction.

MARIA

Doc, can we hear that phone message  
recording again?

Doc trudges to an old-fashioned recording device and presses  
"Play."

Art and Sherlock focus on the heavily disguised voice.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

We demand a trade of your son for  
Detective Maria Martin. If you go  
to the police, your son will be  
tortured and killed. You have until  
sunrise!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Identical to that used by Obsidian  
Hex in the tavern.

Art paces.

ART

Where have I heard--

MARIA

Obsidian Hex in the tavern.

HENRY

Obsidian Hex in the tavern.

ART

They have Les!

DOC

And they warned me not to notify  
the police, and you're all here?

MARIA  
Sweep for bugs!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Sweep for bugs!

Immediately, Maria, Art, Henry, and Sherlock spread out  
looking for bugs.

Maria runs downstairs.

A minute later, they meet up in the kitchen.

ART  
No cameras.

HENRY  
Nothing.

MARIA  
Les's computer lair is untouched.  
All his electronics are there: an  
iPad, a smartphone, earbuds,  
computers, and servers.

DOC  
They must have drugged him. He  
doesn't go anywhere without his  
toys.

MARIA  
They were after him.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
They are after you, Detective!

Maria looks away sadly.

MARIA  
We'll have to wait for them to call  
to work out the trade for me.

Art stares at the murder board.

ART  
We don't negotiate with terrorists!

Everyone's head drops.

MARIA  
I'm afraid we do!

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - SAME TIME

Les is tied up and blindfolded in a chair with bright lights facing him.

He can HEAR a disguised voice (Obsidian Hex) speaking to him.

OBSIDIAN HEX

Lester Zlobin, you were more  
difficult to track down than we  
imagined.

LES ZOBLIN (16) is confident, sarcastic, and irreverent to his captors.

LES

That's because you're incompetent  
wankers!

OBSIDIAN HEX

How dare you!

LES

What did you drug me with? Ecstasy?  
That shite is weak!

OBSIDIAN HEX

You're in no position to--

LES

I did some work for you. You didn't  
share the money with me, so I quit.

OBSIDIAN HEX

Nobody quits Obsidian--

LES

Cut the shite! You know I tracked  
you down in Romania. If anything  
happens to me or my dad, all my  
evidence on you from my ghost  
server goes to Interpol and to  
every open-source social network  
platform on the planet! You'll be  
ruined, and every mobster on Earth  
will come after you!

SILENCE

OBSIDIAN HEX

You're bluffing!

LES

Do you really want to take that  
gamble? Wankers! All of you!

INT. DOC'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

They're sitting around the kitchen table.

MARIA

They can't kill him. They need him  
for the trade.

ART

But they're criminal masterminds!

MARIA

They're criminals, but they're  
young. They make mistakes! Three  
failed assassination attempts, if  
you count the driverless car!

(to Henry)

Sorry, Henry.

ART

But they are after you! And they  
may have the best AI technology  
working for them.

Art pulls out his computerized eyeglasses, Earbuds, and  
satellite phone.

HENRY

That's what the flower delivery  
person had on.

Art stares at the murder board.

ART

I'll scrutinize your murder board  
and send it to Interpol servers to  
anticipate their next move.

MARIA

(angry)

We don't have time for that!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

The tracking device on your car.

MARIA

They will be breaking into our  
country home to try to assassinate  
me!

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)  
 (yells)  
 Someone is trying to kill me in my  
 own town!

Maria is shaken and on the verge of a breakdown. She paces in anger.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
 They won't find me there.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
 So they'll check here next.

MARIA  
 Damn it! They will check here next.

Art whips out his stun gun.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
 And they will be far better armed.  
 We need a plan.  
 (glares at them)  
 I'm going out to the backyard to  
 think! I need to be alone!

Maria storms out.

CUT TO:

INT. MARIA'S COUNTRY ESTATE - SAME TIME

Assassin #27 (AKA the flower delivery person) is dressed in all black, like Assassin #26 was dressed. She wanders through the dark estate with a ghost gun and silencer, a smartwatch, a wristband, and Earbuds. She moves like a trained assassin.

She moves silently and professionally from room to room.

After searching every room, she returns to the parlor and SCREAMS in German.

ASSASSIN #27  
 Du hast gesagt, sie wäre hier!

She puts a finger to an Earbud.

ASSASSIN #27 (CONT'D)  
 Doctor Zlobin?

She fires her pistol at the TV set, and it shatters.

She stomps out.

BACK TO:

INT. DOC'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Art, Doc, and Henry sit around the kitchen table and glance toward the backyard, worried about Maria.

HENRY

They attack in complete darkness  
with infrared glasses and an  
automatic pistol.

ART

She's worried that we can't protect  
her from a highly trained, well-  
armed assassin.

Doc glares at Art, who has a stun gun in front of him on the table.

DOC

I don't think we can. And fleeing  
is not an option. We have to be  
here in case Les's kidnappers call.

They stare worriedly toward the backyard.

INT. DOC'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Maria paces, occasionally glancing up at the stars. She HEARS the voice of her long-dead mother.

MUM (V.O.)

I'm worried about you, dear. You  
should get out of there.

Maria looks toward the house but keeps her voice low.

MARIA

I'm worried about them. And, don't  
get me wrong, I appreciate your  
concern for me, but at times, I  
need to figure things out for  
myself.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I agree with Mum. And I'm worried  
about you, too. Live to fight  
another day.

MUM (V.O.)

Listen to Sher, dear!

Maria speaks a little louder, but not loud enough to be heard in the kitchen.

MARIA

Sher! You have pet names for each other now.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

We talk. And we both have you to watch over.

Mum speaks in a loving tone.

MUM (V.O.)

I wish I were there to help, dear, but I'm forever grateful that you have a mentor and a father-figure like Sher to protect you, and he's advising you to get your arse out of there!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

That's not exactly what I said, Mum.

Mum's tone changes to domineering.

MUM (V.O.)

I talk, and you two listen. Those people who are after you are like a new Mafia. But instead of goons, they use geeks. Geeks with powerful guns.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

That's right, Mum, and her nemesis, Obsidian Hex, uses fancy light-boxes--

MUM (V.O.)

(snaps at Sherlock)  
Computers, Sher!

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Yes, computers that predict human behavior based on consistencies and patterns.

MARIA

(yells)

They're no smarter than a human brain. Our brains are powered by over 8 billion neurons interconnected by 200 trillion synapses. The brain is vastly superior at adaptability and pattern recognition.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)  
Obsidian Hex has three failed  
assassination attempts, and this  
will be number four!

INT. DOC'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Henry, Doc, and Henry hear every word.

HENRY  
She talks to herself. We all do.

ART  
What will she do next?

DOC  
Trust her. I do.

Maria races in from the backyard, waving her arms to get them  
to stand.

MARIA  
(excited)  
I have a plan!  
(to Henry)  
We need a warm dummy that looks  
like me.

HENRY  
I can make one.

DOC  
My wife's clothes are still in her  
closet. I haven't had the heart--

Henry races off.

HENRY  
Thanks, Doc.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
The spy cameras from the hospital.

Maria reaches into her pocket.

MARIA  
I'll put a camera on the front and  
back doors. Art, do you have  
bulletproof vests in your car?

ART  
One. But I have all the spyware I'm  
testing for Interpol:

He puts on his computerized eyeglasses, Earbuds, wristband, and smartwatch.

MARIA

Thanks, Chief. We all feel safe now. Can you get the bulletproof vest after you move your car down the street?

ART

You bet.

Art races out.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

You'll need to cool down your body temperature so you're not detected by new confounded infrared sensors.

MARIA

We don't have the time to--  
(turns to Doc)  
Do you have any fire extinguishers?

DOC

Les keeps two of those new Cold Fire extinguishers in his computer lair.

Maria races downstairs.

MARIA

Those would be ideal.

Henry races in with a dummy made of yoga pants, a turtle-neck sweater, and gardening gloves, but no head.

He plops the dummy into the couch in the parlor and tosses Maria's motorcycle helmet in on for a head.

Maria races in with two Cold Fire extinguishers.

Art races in the a bulletproof vest, a nightstick, and a taser gun.

He tosses the vest to Maria.

ART

You're the target.

Maria glances at her phone.

MARIA

Someone's coming.

Henry turns to Maria.

HENRY

Maria, what's the plan?

Maria shows the spy camera video of Assassin #27 sneaking toward them with a pistol and silencer, creeping toward them.

MARIA

Cut the lights, and whisper.

Doc turns off the lights.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You all stand in front of me and close your eyes so I can cool you down with a fire extinguisher.

Maria sprays them down with the fire extinguisher.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Stand in the corners or behind furniture.

Maria puts on the bulletproof vest and grabs her stun gun.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Throw some hot water on the dummy for thermal recognition.

MARIA

Good idea.

HENRY

What idea?

MARIA

Henry, throw hot water on the dummy to give a thermal signal. The tea kettle.

DOC

I'll get Les's cricket bat from the closet.

Doc fetches a cricket bat.

Henry races to fetch the tea kettle in the kitchen.

He reenters from the kitchen and splashes the dummy with hot water.

MARIA

Places, everyone.

Maria glances around the room:

Art stands in the corner with his taser gun aimed at the front door. He also wears his computerized eyeglasses, Earbuds, wristband, and smartwatch.

Henry is by the door to the kitchen with his nightstick ready to strike.

Doc is in the corner opposite Art. Everyone nervously awaits the assassin.

The dummy sits up on the couch.

Maria squats behind the dummy and couch.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
Detective, face me.

ART  
Maria, your body's not cold--

We HEAR the fire extinguisher spraying Maria.

She whispers.

MARIA  
I got it! Quiet, everyone.

Assassin #27 enters with her pistol drawn. Her glasses tell her to shoot the dummy on the couch.

Her hand shakes, but she shoots twice. ZIP ZIP.

Henry steps forward with his nightstick, and Doc steps forward with his cricket bat.

As Henry gets close to the Assassin, Doc trips and falls on the floor.

The assassin shoots twice in Doc's direction, ZIP ZIP, but she misses him because he fell to the floor.

Art fires the taser ZAP, but Henry steps in the way, gets shocked, and flails on the floor.

The Assassin shoots twice in Henry's direction, ZIP ZIP, but she missed him because he fell.

The assassin is about to shoot in Art's direction when Maria ZAPS the Assassin with her stun gun.

Art turns on the lights to see Doc, Henry, and the Assassin on the floor.

Henry is still flailing. Doc is slow to get up, and the Assassin is paralyzed in pain.

Maria handcuffs the Assassin, while Art and Doc attend to Henry.

The Assassin looks toward the dummy and sees two bullet holes in the couch.

Maria turns to see the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes studying the crime scene from the corner of the room.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(to Assassin #27)

You are the worst assassin ever! I saw your hand shaking the entire time. You've never shot anyone before, have you?

The Assassin looks away.

MINUTES LATER

Art takes photos as Henry, wearing latex gloves, bags the evidence. The pistol and silencer are bagged first. Henry digs slugs from the couch.

ART

Constable Gruber, I'm so sorry.

MARIA

You may as well talk; they're going to kill you anyway.

HENRY

After hitting me with 55,000 volts, you can call me Henry.

ART

That would be improper, Constable Gruber. I must maintain the aura of official respectability.

Maria yells to Art and Henry as she marches the handcuffed Assassin to the kitchen table.

MARIA

No ID and she's not talking. I read her her rights.

HENRY

"Read" her, Detective, so she knows who she's dealing with!

Assassin #27 looks tough, and she bites her lip to keep from talking.

MARIA

Good idea, Constable.

Maria strolls around the prisoner, studying her clothing and equipment from top to bottom. Maria sets her phone on a small tabletop smartphone stand so she can record the interview.

MARIA (CONT'D)

We have a 20-something, female suspect dressed like a ninja in dark clothing and latex gloves so as not to leave fingerprints. She snuck in the front door that was locked with an electronic code, so she had help. Her computerized eyeglasses, smartwatch, wristband, and Earbuds suggest she is fully equipped with Anticipatory AI Modeling Capabilities, also known as AAIMC, which was developed for espionage agencies in Europe, the US, China, Russia, Israel, and Romania.

The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes appears in the corner of the kitchen, smiling approvingly at Maria.

SHERLOCK (V.0.)

Ah! Romania! Nicely done, Detective.

Maria winks at Art.

MARIA

Some Interpol agents are also in the initial testing phase of the software for local law enforcement, but the results are strictly confidential.

Art looks away.

MARIA (CONT'D)

They don't have satellite WiFi and drone support features as yet.

(spins to Assassin #27)

None of which seems to help this first-time suspect facing four counts of attempted murder with three law enforcement targets.

Maria gets in the Assassin's face.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I hope you were paid well, because that's a life sentence as is.

Maria paces confidently.

MARIA (CONT'D)

But we'll be pinning much more on you, won't we, young lady?

Maria points at the Assassin's moccasins.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Those are the same moccasins captured by my hidden cameras in the hospital earlier tonight, and I believe we'll be able to match the ballistics from the murder of the hospital security guard, Marvin Jenkins, to the same ghost gun 3-D printer.

Henry holds up the evidence bags with the pistol, silencer, and slugs from the couch!

Assassin #27 is furious and yells in English with a strong German accent.

ASSASSIN #27

I did not kill the security guard!

MARIA

Maybe not, but the Modus operandi, AKA M.O. or "mode of operating," was identical, and the bullets will match up because 3D printers offer highly consistent products.

ASSASSIN #27

Someone else committed that crime.

MARIA

Are you referring to the young man who overdosed in the forest thirty minutes from here? But his weapon was dissolved in acid along with his ID?

Assassin #27 looks away.

Maria gets in her face again.

MARIA (CONT'D)

When we find your flower delivery van later tonight, is there a chance we'll find the same chemicals used to dissolve the other ghost gun?

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Fantastic, Detective. I couldn't be prouder.

ASSASSIN #27

Like Assassin #26, you won't live to send me to prison.

MARIA

Assassin #26? Interesting. That makes you Assassin #27. I'm betting the cute Nurses Aid will be Assassin #28 sent to kill you and dissolve your pistol!

Henry's eyes open wide, as do Sherlock's eyes.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I've gotten rusty. I didn't see that coming.

ART

That was amazing, DI Martin, but we still haven't found Mr. Lester Zoblin.

DOC

She knows more than she's telling us!

MARIA

Right you are, Doc. And, I'm worried that she won't live to go on trial unless she tells us everything she knows. Where is the driverless, black SUV that ran down Constable Gruber? Who was controlling it? Who kidnapped Les Zoblin, and where is he being held right now? Who is running Obsidian Hex, the evil consortium paying for all these crimes?

Assassin #27 laughs maniacally.

ASSASSIN #27

None of us will talk. Before we were hired, they show us our family tree with hundreds of family members. We talk, and assassins kill them all. Layers of an onion. You never get to Big Big Boss before you cry or die. They have stolen much cryptocurrency. They steal more each day! It is, how you say, hopeless!

SILENCE

Doc picks up the cricket bat, and in a fit of anger, he swings and hits both of Assassin #27's knees.

She YELPS in pain.

ART

That was uncalled for, Doc.

Assassin #27 continues to YELP.

DOC

I'll say I did it after she shot at me -- twice. Self-defense. She kidnapped my son!

ASSASSIN #27

The Nurse's Aid did that, you idiot.

Art pulls out his satellite phone.

ART

I'll get her home address and call Interpol for help.

HENRY

I'll take the suspect to lockup and meet you there with some firepower.

MARIA

I don't like guns, Henry. You know that.

HENRY

We could go with tear gas and masks.

MARIA

Art, what do you think?

ART  
I think you're leading this  
investigation, Detective!

Doc's phone RINGS and everyone freezes.

DOC  
That's Les's kidnappers! What do I  
do?

Maria races to the landline phone.

MARIA  
Tell them I've been badly shot, but  
you still want to make the trade of  
me for Les.

Doc's hand shakes as he takes the phone.

DOC  
Doctor Zlobin.

The disguised, monstrous voice of Obsidian Hex frightens the  
group.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)  
Are you ready to trade the  
Detective for your son?

DOC  
Yes, but she's been shot.

Maria holds up two fingers.

DOC (CONT'D)  
Twice.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)  
Where is her assailant?

Maria uses her fingers to motion that the assailant ran away  
out the back door.

DOC  
The assailant ran out the back  
door.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)  
Don't worry about her. We'll find  
her.

Assassin #27's eyes open wide.

DOC  
Where is my son?

OBSIDIAN HEX  
It'll text the address to the  
police, but you are to come alone  
with DI Martin, or your son, and  
you will be killed.

CLICK.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)  
My evil nemesis, Professor James  
Moriarty, in the flesh! We must  
defeat him!

Maria turns to glare in Holmes's direction. Assassin #27 sees  
this.

MARIA  
I can handle this.

Art grabs his satellite phone.

ART  
I'm calling in Interpol's SWAT  
Team.

Maria grabs his arm.

MARIA  
Don't risk it. We know what  
happened to Marvin Jenkins and  
Assassin #26, and we have to find  
out who is behind it all!

ASSASSIN #27  
I don't see why our leaders see you  
as a threat. You're a crazy  
detective who talks to herself.  
You're not a threat to Obsidian  
Hex. You're not smart enough!

All eyes are on Maria.

Maria gets in Assassin #27's face.

MARIA  
I've had self-doubts and low self-  
esteem my entire life. How smart do  
you think Assassin #26 was before  
you killed him? How smart were the  
Assassins numbered 1 through 25?  
(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

How smart were you to trade your life in prison for one payday? We fooled you in Henry's hospital room, and we fooled your thermal detection monitors and AI Anticipatory Model here.

ASSASSIN #27

The thermal sensors failed. So what?

Maria points to the dummy.

MARIA

You fired your weapon six times, and you didn't hit anyone. You even failed to hit a stationary warm dummy! You failed! You picked the wrong occupation.

ASSASSIN #27

(proudly)

Seven times. I hit your TV!

MARIA

Something you were not paid to do! We found chewing gum where Assassin #26 was killed. It will have your DNA. We'll match the bullets here to the bullet in our TV. You were at both crime scenes. You're a complete failure, and Assassin #28 is probably waiting outside to kill you!

Assassin #27 looks to the front door. She's frightened and speaks in broken English.

ASSASSIN #27

I'll tell you everything for witness protection: How they recruit hopeless people, where they train them, and how they pay them.

(points to her belt)

I forget body camera. They know nothing!

Art, Maria, and Henry circle Assassin #27 as she begins to spill her guts, but is interrupted by Maria's phone, which BUZZES.

Her phone shows a car is parking across the street from Doc's house.

MARIA

(whispers)

Cat's here. Chief and Henry, take Assassin #27 down to the basement. remain silent. Wait until I tell you to come up.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

That's the shady bartender! What does she want?

Art and Henry pull Assassin #27 to the basement as Maria dims the lights.

Maria turns to Doc.

MARIA

Doc, I need some blood for my chest. I've been shot twice.

DOC

I keep a unit of Type O Negative in my fridge.

Maria races to the fridge.

She tosses the dummy in a closet, smears blood on her chest, and leans back on the couch.

MARIA

Doc, answer the door and follow my lead.

The doorbell rings.

Doc opens the door a few centimeters with a nervous look to see Cat holding a bloody towel around her left hand.

CAT

Sorry to bother you, Doc, but I cut my hand.

DOC

I'm so sorry, Cat, but we've had a bad night here. You'll have to go to the hospital.

Cat pushes her way in.

CAT

I need a butterfly bandage, and the hospital is further away.

DOC

Okay, come in, and I'll have a look.

Cat comes in to see Maria on the couch, traumatized and in pain. Maria struggles to speak.

MARIA

Doc's son, Les, was kidnapped tonight, and I came to help him, but an assailant burst in and shot me.

DOC

I have to trade the kidnappers Maria to get Les back safely.

Cat sounds sympathetic.

CAT

That's awful. Did the assailant get away?

MARIA

Out the back door. I'm okay with the trade. I...

Maria coughs up blood.

Doc acts sorrowful.

DOC

She doesn't have long.

Cat unwraps her finger, and Doc sees the cut on the tip of Cat's middle finger.

DOC (CONT'D)

I'll get you that butterfly bandage, then we need to go.

Doc grabs a butterfly bandage and applies it to Cat's finger.

CAT

Thanks, Doc. Can I call the police for you? Or Henry?

INT. DOC'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - SAME TIME

Assassin #27 takes a deep breath, ready to scream, but Henry covers her mouth with his hand and silences her.

Art helps keep her quiet.

INT. DOC'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Maria hears a slight commotion in the basement, so she GROANS loudly in pain.

DOC

They said no police, or Les would be shot. I'm afraid you have to leave, Cat. We have to go.

Cat exits. No one sees her smile.

CAT

Call me when this is all over. This is so brave of you, Detective Martin. I don't know what to say. This is awful. So awful.

Doc closes the door.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

She'll be watching outside.

Maria sits up.

Art and Henry drag Assassin #27 upstairs. There is duct tape across her mouth.

ART

She tried to scream.

HENRY

Can't trust her.

Maria gets in Assassin #27's face.

MARIA

It's life in prison for you, but first, you're trade bait!

Assassin #27's eyes open wide. She tries to scream but can't.

ART

(to Maria)

You look convincing! Our office was texted the address. I'll text it to you and meet you there, but I'll stay out of sight.

MARIA

(to Henry)

Stay back until I call for you to bring #27 up for a trade.

HENRY

Great idea. I'm in.

Assassin #27 struggles to get free from Henry's grip.

MARIA

It's the life she chose.

Maria whispers to Art, and he nods, "Yes."

Maria whispers to Henry, and he nods, "Yes."

MARIA (CONT'D)

Let's go get 'em!

Holmes fights back tears.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I'm proud of you, Detective! So proud!

EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - PRE-DAWN

Darkness prevails in the fight with the sunrise.

The small country house has a long driveway to an old wooden garage at the back of the property.

The Nurse's Aid stands in the middle of the driveway behind Les. She wears her hospital uniform, but also has computerized glasses, a smartwatch, and Earbuds.

Les's hands are cuffed behind him, and he has a loose canvas bag over his head.

Doc helps Maria up the long driveway on the side of the house. Maria walks like she is near death.

Henry, Assassin #27, and Art are nowhere to be seen, but the Ghost of Sherlock Holmes investigates all the vantage points across the street from the driveway.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

I'll be looking for spy cameras like the one you use, Detective.

Maria nods slightly in Holmes's direction.

DOC

Son, are you okay?

LES

I'm fine. They know what will happen if they harm me, you, or my friends.

A small drone flies by overhead.

The Nurse's Aid HEARS the voice of Obsidian Hex in her Earbuds.

OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

No additional warm bodies in the vicinity.

NURSE'S AID

Copy that. I'm glad you want to trade for our captive.

Holmes looks feverishly for small cameras.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Stall them, Detective.

Maria answers weakly, as if shot and in shock.

MARIA

Why did they want to kill me?

NURSE'S AID

This is nothing personal. Obsidian Hex offered to pay my way through Medical School if I did them a few favors. Moving the flowers and reporting on your movements.

Holmes doesn't find anything.

The Nurses Aid pulls out a syringe filled with a clear liquid.

MARIA

Why kill me? I'm an inexperienced, low-ranking police detective.

The Nurse's Aid turns to Doc and Les.

NURSE'S AID

That's got me stumped too. You talk to yourself like a nutter.

(MORE)

## NURSE'S AID (CONT'D)

But the Boss, the Big Boss, and the Big Big Boss of Obsidian Hex are certain you're getting help from an Anticipatory AI Model, and they can't let anyone else use our technology. So let's get this trade over with.

## MARIA

They're going to kill you, too, Assassin #28.

The Nurse's Aid's eyes open wide.

## MARIA (CONT'D)

You'll never make it to age 21, and you'll never be a physician: They take an oath to protect lives, not destroy them.

Holmes finds a small camera with a telephoto lens on a tree trunk held by a strap tied around the tree.

He pulls the camera off, drops it onto the ground, and crushes it with his heavy shoe.

The Nurse's Aid HEARS the voice of Obsidian Hex in her Earbuds.

## OBSIDIAN HEX (V.O.)

You're on your own, kid!

## MARIA

(yells)

Constable Gruber, bring our prisoner forward.

Henry comes out of the darkness with Assassin #27 gagged and handcuffed (her hands in front of her).

The Nurse's Aid taps her Earbud but hears nothing.

## NURSE'S AID

They said there were no warm bodies in the vicinity.

## MARIA

We cooled them down with a fire extinguisher. Invisible to your thermal-sensing drone.

Assassin #27 struggles to get free.

The Nurse's Aid panics and stabs Assassin #27 with the syringe instead of Maria.

NURSE'S AID

Tell Henry that I think I loved him, so I gave Assassin #26 the wrong room, but I didn't know Marvin Jenkins was sleeping in there.

The driverless black SUV bursts through the old wooden garage door and races down the driveway to hit Maria, Les, Doc, the Nurse's Aid, and Assassin #27.

Assassin #27 surprisingly wraps her handcuffed arms around the Nurse's Aid.

Henry jumps to the left and pulls out a pistol.

Art appears next to Henry with a pistol, and they both shoot at the front right tire of the SUV.

The right tire blows out, and the SUV swerves to the right as Maria dives on Les and Doc, pushing them to the left onto the ground.

Assassin #27 dies with the Nurse's Aid in her arms in the center of the driveway. The Nurse's Aid's eyes open wide before the SUV hits them both.

The SUV narrowly misses Art and Henry before it crashes into a tree on the right side of the driveway.

Doc pulls off the canvas bag on Les's head. They smile and hug.

Les helps his father up.

MARIA

Doc, we'll need your coroner van. Henry, grab the CSI box from the boot. Chief, we can use your help with photos for the report. Doc, thanks for everything! Les, stop by my office for a debriefing later today.

Doc and Les smile and start to walk off. Les loudly describes the evening.

LES

Thanks, Maria, Art, and Henry. That was lit! On fire lit! I learned so much.

(MORE)

LES (CONT'D)

They all use eyeglasses, earbuds, and smartwatches linked to the world's largest AI data centers to train models that anticipate their opponents' next moves. They have drone support and everything.

SHERLOCK (V.O.)

Nonsense, right, Detective? The human brain is vastly superior at adaptability and pattern recognition. Those fancy light-boxes will never compete with deductive reasoning!

Maria smiles at Holmes like a proud daughter. They share a moment.

MARIA

Obsidian Hex is in for the fight of their lives.

A drone flies silently overhead with a camera pointing down.

CAT (V.O.)

We'll see about that!

FADE OUT.

**THE END**