

9.2: AROUND THE WAREHOUSE. JACKAL PUP circles the monstrous building. Each door handle rattles in his hand.

9.3: OUTER LOADING DOCK. Ultimately, JACKAL PUP finds a truck loading dock behind the building. There's a truck in an open-doored garage. We see a window cracked open, and somebody inside, GUARD 1, facing away from us from within the building.

9.4: INSIDE THE LOADING DOCK. We see JACKAL PUP sneak by the window as armed guards talk.

GUARD 1 (TROY)

You're telling me you wouldn't want to see augmented Olympics?

GUARD 2 (RAFAEL)

Biocomponents ain't cheap. The Olympics is for amateurs.

TROY

You're overthinking it, man. I just want to see rocket propelled pole vaults.

RAFAEL

If you have rockets on your feet then what's the pole for?

9.5: THE GARAGE. Only one entrance: the main door, which is heavy and metal. A scan of the ceiling reveals one camera which doesn't see JACKAL PUP yet. He takes a slingshot from his pocket and uses it to whip a spark plug into the camera, cracking it. He opens the hood of the trunk and ties a fishing line to the negative battery before climbing on top of the truck. He jumps on the top of it a few times until the car alarm goes off. It blares loudly. He hops to the rafters, and swings his legs over them. GUARDS 1 and 2 enter in single-file.

TROY

Who's there?

JACKAL PUP hangs upside down from the rafter, and times his drop to the ground and attacks on RAFAEL so the alarm makes it soundless. RAFAEL goes down quickly as TROY almost turns the corner around the front of the truck. JACKAL PUP pulls the

fishing line, turning off the car alarm, as he tackles TROY from behind and puts him in a rear-naked choke on the ground.

TROY

Get off me!

TROY bucks, but JACKAL PUP is too strong. He goes unconscious from the choke, and JACKAL PUP rolls off of him.

JACKAL PUP

Ugh.

He puts the unconscious GUARDS in the recovery position after tying their hands with a fishing line. He hides them in the truck bed and searches them.

Nothing identifying the employer.

He leaves the garage exactly as he found it. He goes outside and back towards...

9.6: 9.4: JACKAL PUP opens the cracked window and moves inside the warehouse. He's in a cramped room full of cardboard boxes. He takes a pocket knife and opens one. Inside, stacks and stacks of the crown logo napkins. He pockets a few and makes his way to the door of the room. As he opens the door, he nearly gets decapitated by a black leather boot. It's YURI's. He immediately backs up, into a traditional southpaw Muay Thai stance, except he's still holding the knife in his right hand. From the orthodox stance, she swings another kick at his body, which he catches with his left hand and throws a strong jab at her. The knife blade misses (on purpose) but his knuckles hit her eye, and she pulls her leg free. YURI quickly counters with a left hook which catches JACKAL PUP as he's moving forwards, rocking him. She kicks the knife out of his hand with her right leg, and as she attempts a punch with her right hand, JACKAL PUP turns her shoulder the wrong way and we hear a faint crunch. JACKAL PUP continues the attack and she steps backwards into the larger warehouse section. He follows her.

9.7: THE TYRUS WAREHOUSE. Biocomponents are everywhere, as well as engineers and some security. YURI trips JACKAL PUP and he falls forwards, where he's quickly surrounded by armed guards. He raises his hands.

JACKAL PUP

Too late to talk?

YURI kicks his head. Blackness.

10.1: ANOTHER WAREHOUSE

A box cutter tears tape from JACKAL PUP's wrists. He immediately takes the hood off of his head. On a stack of boxes in front of him, we see LAURA LAFAYETTE immaculately dressed in white, sitting cross legged. She's in her mid 50s or 60s, but bald? Where her hair would be, clusters of short antennae stick out. They flow with blue lights as she listens, and jut forward in a dark purple when she talks. A cardboard box sits like a table between them, on it, his six-shooter, slingshot, wallet, phone, and balaclava. JACKAL PUP grabs his six-shooter from the table in front of him and points it at LAURA.

LAURA

Put down the gun. Did you enjoy the cupcakes?

JACKAL PUP

Who are you?

LAURA

My name is Laura Lafayette. And I know who you are, who you've been, Jackal Pup. You don't have to wear the mask around me.

JACKAL PUP

How do you know who I am?

LAURA

Oh come on, you're better than that. All I own the most profitable tech company ever conceived, of course I know

who you are. But that's secondary to why I've granted you an audience, isn't it?

JACKAL PUP

They're essentially the same question.

LAURA

I hate to say it, but I'm asking for a favor.

JACKAL PUP

What kind of favor?

LAURA

A lucrative one. You found me first, which means you're the one for the job. Not to mention, you can clearly handle yourself when things get messy. Somebody is killing my customers. Worse, they're stealing the technology right off their bodies. We like to ... recycle. It's not cheap, what we do.

JACKAL PUP

You chose me because I don't use your tech?

LAURA

You'd be a potential target if you did. This way, you get to be zero. Untraceable. Not on our savage's list. ... Also, no conflict of interest. That was a joke! Lighten up.

A P.I. hurriedly swings through the door.

P. I.

What's going on here?

LAURA

Yuri?

YURI steps out of the shadow and silently murders P.I. She has a black eye and gauze around her arm.

Thanks. That's what would've happened to you, if you didn't get here first. Or if you didn't put up enough of a fight before. But you did. Congratulations.

JACKAL PUP

What does our killer look like?

LAURA

Good question. I don't have an answer for you.

JACKAL PUP

You have cameras covering every block of the city. How does that make any sense?

LAURA

Whoever it is, they're very intelligent. They manage to evade cameras until they're ready to attack, at which point they deactivate our technology. In fact, autopsies show that before they kill any of our users, they deactivate whatever technology is inside of them. For instance, if I have a Tyrus leg, it'll become dead weight metal.

JACKAL PUP

So if I bought your eyes, I'd go blind.

LAURA

Exactly. Think of our cameras as eyes, if you must.

JACKAL PUP

What should I do about my current cases?

LAURA

Case. You just have that barista girl.

JACKAL PUP

You know everything except a missing girl's name. It's Emma Kith.

LAURA

Well, it's now your job to forget about her. You're a Tyrus employee, which means you do Tyrus work. Unless you want Yuri to take care of you. Speaking of - here's your onboarding stipend.

A paper airplane is thrown from a random dark corner, and it unfolds by the time it lands in LAURA's hand. She hands it to JACKAL PUP. It's a credit card.

Think of the card as a blank check for anything to help you. If that means purchasing some personal effects or other earthly pleasures, so be it. Now, ask me whatever you must, to start your work.

JACKAL PUP

Where should I start looking?

LAURA

You're the investigator. Where should you start?

JACKAL PUP

Aside from the high status, is there any similarity in the victims? Do they all share the same implants, or do they have different ones?

LAURA

No similarities in bodily enhancements, no.

JACKAL PUP

There needs to be something that's constant across all of your tech. Otherwise, these attacks couldn't be so targeted. What components do all of your pieces share?

LAURA (*impressed*)

This type of thinking is exactly why, of all the people we reached out to, I was hoping for you. Only a few, and they're better seen than explained. Materials are sourced from all over the world but they all route through our Tywia Drive biotech center, South of the city. That credit card should work as an all-access pass, and I've organized a car to pick you up. It'll be here in about thirty-five. Refreshments, Yuri?

YURI brings a water bottle and a cupcake to JACKAL PUP.

JACKAL PUP

Thirty-five minutes?

LAURA

Thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty, twenty-nine..