

The bloody trap

John Garnett was one of the most talented sleuths in Los Angeles. He was quite tall, athletic but also extremely cunning and quick-witted. A lot of mates seemed jealous, because John was very young and became quickly skilled in investigations. Some of them described him as an atypical detective, who often took risks to solve the cases. John lived in a small flat in the suburbs of Los Angeles. Indeed, he thought he didn't need a bigger property because he was single and he spent the most of his time working at the police station.

But one night, while he was working on an insignificant case in the precinct station, he heard the phone ringing. He was alone, in his office room, reading the files to detail with the help of a lamp. The whole building was off but we could notice from outside a light in the second stage. At first, the inspector felt surprised, because he was a specialist in the murder investigations, and it was rare that he received a call so late. He answered the phone anyway and then, a deep voice which gave goosebumps started to speak strangely. It must be modified, and John felt briefly scared. This voice told him that Mr Wurstein was planning an attack. John asked the voice to reveal his identity, but the anonymous man hung up just after that. So, the inspector realized that this mystery would be exciting to solve, but he preferred for the moment to come back home to have a good night.

The next day, John woke up at 7 am and called his associate Steve to join him earlier than usual at the police station. Steve was very helpful because he had a different character; he was very careful which allowed him to limit his friend's excessive dauntlessness. John was so impatient that he didn't even have a breakfast. As soon as he arrived at the police station, he began to search information about Mr Wurstein. According to his computer, he was a forty years old engineer, who had emigrated from Germany and had worked for many firms before being self-employed. The information showed he was 1m70 tall and also a little bit fat. On the ID photo, John saw that he was dark-haired and had a broad face with a long nose. He also found that Mr Wurstein was single and lived in a modest apartment in Los Angeles. But the thing that bothered him most was the fact that his police record was clean. Afterwards, he asked Steve to question the companies in which the engineer had been meanwhile he was going to Mr Wurstein's.

First of all, John, well hidden, waited in his car that the suspect left home before breaking into his apartment. Obviously, he was allowed to enter this property because he had got from a magistrate a search warrant that morning. Once the engineer went outside, John jumped out of his car discreetly and walked toward the building. Then, he checked if anybody had noticed him. He looked very suspicious but was not anxious. When he arrived at the flat entrance door, he took from his coat pocket a safety pin that he turned in the lock. He successfully broke into the flat and next, searched it. There were only two rooms: a bedroom and a living-room. It was very tidy, except the desk which was messy. Indeed, a lot of sheets were scattered on it. So, John searched the desk and found an interesting document. It was about the history of cars. But all of sudden, he picked up a file which confirmed all his suspicions: explosive bombs schemes. He realized immediately that Mr Wurstein was a terrorist for real. Yet he didn't really have a criminal profile. Moreover, the file was the most visible one on the desk. Why had he not hidden it? That was a relevant question. Suddenly, John heard a creaking door. That's why he hid quickly in a cupboard. He felt stressed, taken by adrenaline, and tried to listen to the slightest movements of the person. John was sure that the person was Mr Wurstein. He could even hear him receive a call. He was speaking loudly and John learnt that Mr Wurstein had an appointment the next day at noon. He could also notice that the television was switched on. So, he opened the cupboard door slowly and without noise, then he kept an eye on the engineer who was sat on a sofa his back turned to the detective, and finally crawled on the ground to leave discreetly the flat just after being behind the sofa. It was the biggest fear of his life! But the suspect had not even seen him which was really astonishing. John ran away from the building to be sure to be not seen. Just after, he jumped into his car to go to the police station where he would share the clues with Steve.

John arrived at the precinct station at 6 pm. He first asked his associate what the firms had told about Mr Wurstein. The first one was a company which built machines for agriculture. They said that Mr Wurstein had been an effective employee until he got tired of the boss named Mr Cooper. He couldn't stand his authority. The second one was a car company headed by Mr Stanley. The firm said that the engineer had worked for only a year and had taken his resignation in the aim of being self-employed. That's all Steve knew about Mr Wurstein's past career. Then, John told him what had happened in the flat and what he had discovered. Lastly, he fixed an appointment to Steve for the next day at noon at the car park where would be Mr Wurstein. John finished his work day and thought about how he would watch over Mr Wurstein at the car park.

John ordered a hotel room in front of the appointment place. He moved there at 11 am, an hour before, in order to prepare the spy equipment while Steve was staying in the street overlooking the car park. John seemed very concentrated; he knew that this investigation was a special one. At 11.50 am, he took his magnifying glasses and hid in the curtains to observe the car park. It was made of several floors and it looked full of cars. But there was nobody because people were working. The weather seemed advantageous for John. Indeed, no cloud covered the sky and the sun was shining. The heat started to raise and John was already sweaty. After a while, he saw a little man coming out of his car and another one who was tall and blond. The little man looked like the description of Mr Wurstein done by the computer. That's why the detective realized that it was the suspect. Then, John saw the blond man giving a brown bag to Mr Wurstein. But at the same moment, Steve noticed that a suspicious man in front of the car park who was dressed as an electrician was taking something fishy from his suitcase. So, he grabbed his walkie-talkie as fast as possible and warned John. The detective reacted immediately, went down the stairs in a trice, crossed the street and ran to Mr Wurstein's car while the suspicious man was about to press the detonator with a sadistic air. John hurriedly pulled Mr Wurstein of his car, but suddenly, it violently blew up. The explosion noise was extremely loud and the two men were flung in a short time. But Steve managed to arrest the terrorist and put the handcuffs. The ambulance arrived a few minutes later to rescue the victims. The neighborhood could heard the sirens and a mass of people was grouped around the disaster. John and Mr Wurstein were fortunately alive according to the rescuers but they needed to go quickly to the emergencies.

John and Mr Wurstein were treated for the moment in the hospital. The wounds were not that serious: John had broken his leg and Mr Wurstein had have a concussion. But John couldn't carry on the investigation, it was Steve who had to substitute his superior. So, he interrogated the hitman to know who the one that hired him was. First, he didn't want to answer but when Steve showed the video of him pressing the detonator, he said one name. And this name was known: it was Mr Stanley, Mr Wurstein's former boss! Steve was surprised and asked a proof to the hitman. He said that he usually wrote the name of the customers on a little notebook which was in his flat. Steve, with this revelation, decided to go to the flat to take the notebook before paying a visit to the two injured. Once in the hospital, Steve asked Mr Wurstein why Mr Stanley wanted to kill him. Lying on his bed, he hesitated before saying the truth. He started to tell his story and John, his roommate, listened to him. The engineer said he had created a car of future: a car which advances with only using a magnet directed toward the ground and don't need power sources. He explained then that Mr Stanley had discovered it and that's why he wanted to stop him. Indeed, this new discovery could cause Mr Stanley's firm end. And that's at this moment John realized he was taken in a trap. Mr Stanley knew John was the best detective of the city and he wanted to kill him too, to have a chance to be safe. For that, he had first called him anonymously that he was interested in Mr Wurstein. Then, he had sent a henchman to the engineer's apartment to put on the desk bombs schemes. When John had been to the apartment, a guy supposed to be Mr Wurstein had purposely shouted the time and place of the appointment where the bomb would have explode. That was the way John fell into the trap.

But fortunately, all the guilty persons have been arrested by the police. Mr Stanley appeared before a court and, despite his lawyer's excellent reputation, was sentenced to life imprisonment. As for the two injured, they recovered quite quickly. John Garnett went back to work three months after the accident and Steve got a promotion thanks to his help in the investigation.

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