

“Kidnapped, how, when, explain?”

“Sue Lee was scheduled to see Jimmy Han, in Honolulu but didn’t show. He contacted her partner Bartholomew, who received word. She would be delayed due to weather.

Communication throughout the Pacific was iffy for almost a week until the typhoon subsided.” Tej paused to let Alex absorb what he told him.

“There must be more, to bring you here, my patience is running thin Tej, out with it.”

“Easy Old Boy, don’t kill the messenger, Sir Jonathan received this,” handing Alex a copy of the gram sent to Sylvester.

I have Sue Lee Ono instructions will follow.

“There's more, we almost captured your sniper. He was traced to an abandoned house not far from where your ambush took place. Before we got to him, he had been shot, executed would be my best guess. I tried to get more information about his identity through headquarters—we were told by the Americans to drop the inquiry.”

“Why would he still be around Katmandu?” Alex shifted his weight onto his right side, a move that did not go unnoticed by Tej.

“We assumed he wasn’t hanging around for our dazzling summer. My best guess he was waiting for the payoff since he was shot shortly after the attempt on you. My cousin determined the time of death from the ashes in the fireplace. I won’t go into all that, it’s a native thing.”

“Why would Sir Jonathan receive a ransom note and not Walker Ono Shipping for money? Sue Lee is a partner, very wealthy. Furthermore, how are the two incidents related?”

“We are not sure if they are. You see. Jonathan received the ransom note after he asked me to snoop around. Even though

we were working for different governments, we correlated on similar assignments.”

“But you’re retired from MI6, how could you, wait. I see. British intelligence would not be officially involved. Neither would the Americans since I’m supposedly dead. If there is someone on the inside betraying either agency such as a Russian spy....

“Alex's voice trailed off as he watched Sylvester and Mario talking to Finn and Mary. “How much is Sylvester involved in this caper?”

“He only knows of the Sue Lee kidnapping, and that I was sent by Sir Jonathan to help because you are somewhat disadvantaged old thing.”

Alex shifted his weight again, standing on a hillside was not comfortable for him.

“Obviously, you are both here due to a lead about Sue Lee’s disappearance.” Alex felt his stomach muscles tense as he fought back the fear he felt for her.

“Yes,” Tej took a piece of paper from his shirt pocket.” A young neighbor saw a strange-looking Van pulling a trailer parked in the alley behind Sue Lees’s apartment. When it left, he followed on his bicycle until he got to the Golden Gate bridge. It was heading north the boy told this to a Mr. Kane a retired San Francisco policeman. Mr. Kane contacted his fishing buddy, who is a captain for the Northern California Highway Patrol.” Tej turned the note over to read the other side. “The van was reported by a station attended in Medford, Oregon pulling a strange-looking trailer. He told this to an Oregon patrolman in the coffee shop, now the Oregon patrol is looking for the van. I say you yanks have a wonderful system of volunteers.”

“The boy is Tommy. I deputize him to keep an eye on Sue Lee. Kane is Sue Lee’s cousin, a retired homicide detective now the

owner of a bar. He has connections on both sides of the fence. Nevertheless, how do you know Sue Lee is in the van?"

"A piece of torn clothing was found by the boy in the alley. Another part of the same material was found by the attended in Oregon."

Tej turned watching Mario and Sylvester start up the hill, his jet-black hair reflecting in the morning sun Alex considered for a moment, finding Sue Lee on his own. However, under the circumstances due to his injuries, he needed someone physically capable.

He had in the past admired Tej's incredible strength. They were together on their first assignment in Amsterdam to help the underground disrupt the Germans. What could go wrong did? It was a disaster two other agents were killed. The only thing that got them out alive was their combined actions under fire. After that horrific experience, their friendship became a bond knowing they could trust each other.

Perhaps, that too was why Sir Jonathan chose Tej. Jonathan had a natural skill when it came to making up teams. "I tried it alone. It didn't work out he saved my life in Katmandu what more do I need?" That thought quickly made up his mind.

"Oregon is our objective. I need to pack a few things we can take Sue Lee's car."

"I heard the last part I will follow by sea. Mario is bringing a ship-to-shore radio. He will attach while you get ready,"

Sylvester said, opening the door to Sue Lee's car when there was a loud roar overhead, a plane shot passed above them banking towards Bodega Bay.

Alex recognized it, saying, "It's a PBY-5 Catalina."

"I say, did you call in the Coast Guard Sylvester," Tej said as they watched it land in front of Finn's Marina.

“My friend Jane sent me, Sir Jonathan said you boys need some help, Captain James Bowen, at your service. Alex, I see you are recovering if so let's go find your lady? Load your gear abroad, don't worry about a car. I have friends in Oregon who are in the air and on the ground searching as we speak. If we need ground transport, they will provide it.”

“They too were Flying Tigers,” Tej asked with admiration?

“You know about us then?”

“You are well-known in my part of the world. I'm from Katmandu. We met before when you evacuated Alex,” Tej held out his hand.

“I'll be damned, of course. It is hard to recognize you without all that fur on,” The captain said vigorously shaking Tej's hand.

Sylvester interrupted, “Sorry to break up this reunion, but Mario has finished loading the supplies aboard the plane for the two of you. He received the coordinates from your copilot Chin. We must get underway to keep up. We will have our radios aboard the La Vie to monitor your frequency, good-luck gentlemen.”

Sylvester turned to Alex, “not to worry old son. We will find her.”