

Sample Chapter-BLACK WATER, the China Connection

Chapter 3 **The Community**

In a small community in southeastern New York State, North of Binghamton and in the Catskill Mountains, is the town of Caldwell. It is a quiet, but prospering little town, big on hunting cabins, and skiing, with the town's location next to the state game lands and ski trails. Lately, the trend is family homes and vacation rentals around the abundance of Lakes in the area. In fact, Caldwell and the Catskills are part of a massive watershed area that supplies NYC with some of the finest drinking water to be found.

In Caldwell, driving along a winding main road and heading north in his work Van is Hank Bowers. Hank works for the county water services and he is also the town's part-time plumber. He is a likeable guy, married, in his late 50's, likes his Marlboro's and is known to down a beer or two at the local tavern. Hank is going to turn on water service on one of the cabins that is leased out for a few months. He notices the Van is getting cold and turns on the heat. The early October air is crisp and cool today, leaves are already lining the road. Up along the Hemlocks, Maple trees and pines he drives and eventually he finds the place. Hank pulls onto the gravel driveway and steps out looking at the old hunting cabin, he was happy to see it was still in pretty good shape.

After finishing up his work, Hank is putting his tools back in the truck when he notices two men standing on the front deck watching him. He notices they are Oriental, probably Chinese as they move closer.

"Water good, yes," the taller of the men asks Hank.

"Yes," Hank replies, "everything is good to go." He hands them each one a paper to sign. "You guys going to be doing some hunting up here?" He asked.

The two look at each other, hesitate a moment, “No, no we like nature, going to hike in mountain.” The tall one answers with a strange smile.

“Okay then, good luck, but be careful, there are some big bears, and soon, there will be hunters in them woods.” Hank replies as he steps in his truck and pulls out.

Well that is a first, never had an Oriental pair in a hunting cabin, he tells himself. He had a strange feeling about the men, not sure what it was, but dismissed it as he drove along the pretty red and yellow Maple trees on the road back to town.

Back at Fort Bragg, Jorge Morales, Tex Larson and Derek Smith were in the meeting room with Jason finishing off what was left of the bagels.

“Tex looked over at Jorge, “Damn, I think I lost 50 bucks at the poker game last night.”

“Too bad for big guy,” Morales replies with a grin, “your money feels good in my pocket!”

Tex’s eyes went wide as he grabbed Jorge’s hand, “You just wait, cause I’m gonna get it all back sucker, and then some, wise ass!”

Now now fellas, you need to learn to play nice!” Derek added.

“Okay enough of the bullshit,” Jason said, “that’s why I like keeping my money away from card games.” Jason got up and passed around some paperwork, “time to get serious gentleman, we got us another one coming, and soon.”

With that said everyone quieted down, looking at their files and going over the details of the coming mission.

Jason got up and turned on the display, showing a detailed map of the remote target area in New Mexico. “As you guys can see, the location is about as remote as remote gets. Capcom wants us to insert here.” Jason points to a spot on the map, “we’re going in quiet on this one, another pre-dawn drop, I figure about a mile hump to get there.”

“How many bad guys we dealing with here, Tex asks, “I know some of that terrain. It’s rough, went hunting up there with my Dad a long time ago.”

“We are not sure how many, it could be a dozen or more or just a few, but Capcom wants at least one or two of them captured if possible,” Jason replied and looked at Derek, his explosives expert, “You’re gonna blow the place to shit as we leave. Oh, and I have two more men in mind to round us out at 6 men for the mission.”

“Good idea boss, we need the firepower,” Derek added.

Jason checked his watch, “Got another meeting with the Colonel, I believe we are a go within 48 hrs. Our departure time will be at 0400hrs. I will confirm with Capcom. Get your gear ready, the new guys will be arriving later today.”

Jason looked around the table with a grin, “and don’t be too hard on them. These guys served duty in Afghanistan so they do have some experience.”

Emma was out front with Laura as she watched Jason pull up the driveway. *He’s home late, something is up*, she thought to herself.

Jason spotted them coming out the front door and his heart lightened, nothing meant more to him than his girls. “Hey baby, how we doing?” Jason asked with a smile.

“We’re good,” Emma replied, “we were hungry and ate already, your plate is on the table.” She hugged her man, “so big boy, I bet you got another mission coming.”

Jason took hold of Laura, “you read me like a book, yes we do, have to report back tomorrow evening.”

“I figured that, anything big to worry about?” Emma asked.

“Ah, just some bad guys down in New Mexico,” should be a standard op, but we will be ready for it.”

Emma closed her jacket as a gust of cold wind hit them, “You need to eat,” Emma said as they headed for the front door, “Let’s get inside, it’s getting colder out here.”

Chapter 4

DOCTOR MING AND THINGS

Back in China, Doctor Ming and his chemists had finished the first large batch of Black Water solution. They were excited about it, and looking forward to testing some of it out in the environment, at a remote location in the US.

“Everything is going as planned,” Ming told his comrades. “Our president will be happy once the initial test is complete.”

China’s President Sanshu was at another meeting with key party members and his trusted advisors, when he received word that all was about ready; the testing plan was underway and in the final stages. President Sanshu moved to the podium.

“As we know, our goal is that China will become the world’s dominant power. We are in the final planning stages to bring America to its knees, and...” he hesitated, “...if all goes well and as planned, our secret solution will soon have America in complete economic turmoil.” Sanshu paused, looking at his friends. “The time is now. The new American president is not paying attention; he has everyone fighting with each other, and we have and will take advantage of it! I say let’s do what must be done!” Some in the room applauded and President Sanshu waited, taking in his moment.

“Too long the Americans have dominated. My people need more: more land, more of *everything*, and we will obtain it!”

Ranking party member Han Zeng stood up. “I think we all understand about opportunity, but this attack on America could have serious consequences!” Han hesitated before continuing: “We must not forget we are dealing with a formidable military power.” He looked at Sanshu. “What happens if your grand plan fails?”

“I understand your concerns,” President Sanshu replied, “but we have planned carefully; everything is in place and undetected. I say we bring the Black Water in then get out, before they know what hit them.”

Heated discussion went around the table. It was clear that Sanshu had a slim majority of support, but Han and other party members were clearly concerned, worried that the situation with America could get out of hand. By the time the meeting ended, Sanshu had his plan.

Slowly, the large meeting room was becoming empty, with the exception of Doctor Ming and his group of scientists. They immediately begin their preparations to coordinate with key operatives, and get President Sanshu's sly and devious plan underway.

Back in Caldwell, the two Chinese operatives Chin and Li were going through their hiking gear. Chin, the taller of the two, had a foul mouth and a bad temper. Li was usually the quiet one, but his nerves were on edge. The two operatives were going nuts in the secluded cabin. They had no contact with the outside world and no TV or internet, only their throwaway phones, which were only set up for incoming calls. The fact that they didn't like each other and almost got into a knife fight made matters even worse.

It was an early, gray November morning, and the weather outside was cold and windy, when finally they got the orders they had been waiting over a month for.

As the operatives checked their gear, Chin was eager to make the hike up the mountain. But Li suddenly realized something: "We must wait. We don't have cleansing, deactivating solution, remember?"

What he was referring to was that the first shipment should have contained the Black Water reactive agent and deactivating, cleansing solution, but the second package never showed up. They reported it during a recent call and were assured that a new package was coming in two days.

Still, Chin, the more experienced muscle of the group, was determined to get the hell out of here. "We go and start the test, then in a few days, when our package comes, we go back and take care of it."

Li was pacing back and forth. "No, no, we have instructions! We follow the instructions!"

Chin was angry now. He gave Li a stern face and grabbed his arm. "We go now! Listen, cocksucker, no bullshit! I'll take responsibility! We go!"

Li looked at the anger building on Chin's face. "Okay, but don't touch me again!" Unknown to Chin, Li was a master in karate and a black belt. Li calmed himself. "Okay, Chin, but like you

said, your responsibility.”

The men finished packing and headed out the back door of the old cedarwood cabin. Before long, they were aboard their ATV, disappearing into the pines. There, they picked up their tracks and started following the little, yellow, plastic clips they’d used to mark the trail.