

07. Facts

Conrad looks changed between Charles and Ellis, he can't believe it. "You had the Blade Drive, Barker? You don't mean it serious?" "Conrad, this is not important yet. First we have to think what we can do now. We don't can stay here in the hotel for the eternity, of course the FBI have to buy that. Of course I like this idea." "Charles, don't change the therm. I know that the Blade drive was stolen and now please explain me, why you have it." "Did we have in this moment no other problems, as to clear this thievery?" Heike was a little sad. She came in the room, after she brings her little children in a bed and she was glad, that they fell fast in a sleep.

"First the question, how can this happen in the zoo. It will be very interesting to know, who was that. William ... did you have any ideas?" Billy looked appalled to Heike ... "Why should I know that? Conrad made the meeting. I'm only happy, that Charles was not alone there." "Did you know, how worried we all about you?" Julia don't want really that Billy know that she was scared about him, but he was too sensible for that. He takes her in his arm and press her to his body. "I think, we had scared much more about you. You know, that we all are together, in this moment, nothing can go wrong." "Nothing can go wrong?" Selena ask, "these guys makes us believing you all are death. I will better don't think to this again, I feel queasy again." She cuddle nearly to Charles, she was so happy, that she have him back. Ellis look at these couples ... "and what is happen with me?" he ask playful. Vicky startet to smile, and gave him from the back a big hug. "So you don't have to say, that nobody look at you." The teenager take the tension out of the situation, because all need in this moment to laugh.

"What is with these canadian contact, Conrad? Could he cheating us?" "No I don't think so, he was very worried about his family, so I don't think, that he have anything to do with that. I don't know either, how Paulson made it, to follow me. The only way ... " "She had scan your phone and did observed you." Hans was not really the man who often speak, but he don't want that anyone thing bad about Thomas. "I need a internetconnection. Who can know, what Paulson all heard. This blade drive .. it is important?" Heike want to know it exactly, "I'm sure, that Thomas had nothing to do with that, Charles." "Is he your brother, Heike?" She don't answer to Conrads question, because her big son have her his Laptop. "I think this can help you. Can I do something more for you?" Heike shake her head "No" and Florian leave them alone. "What you want to do now? Charles, where is the blade drive?" William need to know it

exactly. "Safe, little brother, but why you know about that? I don't say anything about that to you." "Of course you talk about that. But you don't registration, that I had heard it. Charles, we need an idea, because I don't know, if these guys are from the FBI. If yes, we will have a lot of problems and it is not sure, and if Conrad can go back to Chicago without problems, I don't know too. They will surely know, how is here in the Hotel." Julia looked concerned up to him. She don't want to think about this, at this evening. "You don't think, that we better celebrate the affiance of Charles and Selena? I think about the rest we can think tomorrow. At this evening we can forget it, and we have a good reason, to be happy with both of them." "This sounds great, I like to celebrate it, and you?" "That is true, we have to do that. I want to order us something, because I don't think, that we have enough in the mini bar of this Hotel." Hans call the room service to order something. They had enough adventures for this day.

They went to bed late, but Heike could not sleep. She got up and went on-line. Luckily Diane, her friend from Canada, was on-line. "Who is Thomas?" It seemed that someone else could find no sleep this night. Heike turned around and could see William in the shadows. "This is my elder brother, Bill. I think you know what an elder brother is?" She did not want to let him know too much, although she did pity him a bit. "Heike, I also have one. But what does Thomas have to do with this? And how did you met Diane? I asked myself why I knew your daughter, but when Charles mentioned the lulabay. How did you met her?" Heike just smiled at him. "You don't want to say that Marie can't sing? I hope Tom will come on-line today, it would be good to have him at hand when he is needed. Bill, this blade drive.....is it important?" "Well, it could bring a lot of agents in danger, if it would fall in the wrong hands. This would be a desaster, the FBI could loose many good men." "Good men as your brother?" Heike gave him a look. "Heike, I think you know what Charles is accused of. If he says that he had acted in self-defence, I do believe him. His word is good enough for me." "Hey, I do believe you. Don't worry, I know Diane for quiet a while.....and you will laugh....you know Thomas, too." Billy set down next to her and looked at her in disbelief, he could not understand this. "How should I...." A second chat window opened. For William it become quiet an interesting night and he found out that he did not only know her brother, but that they are good friends. Damned it, why did he not tell him.....

"William, it is too dangerous for you to drive to Macedonia. As long as you stay in Germany, I have a contact you can trust. And she is not such suspicious as you and your wanted brother. Damn it, William, it is hard enough to make sure that nobody finds out who you are. What do you think what is going on here?

Diane and I, we have a lot of trouble to keep you away from the wanted persons list.....I will give you the number of the contact. Billy, my friend.....I want to see you safe. You can trust me.....and Hans is not an easy one, as you will have noticed. The three of them planned their next steps, when Thomas send them to bed.

William and Heike were a bit sleepy the next morning, but everyone was gathered at the breakfast table. The mood was not the best, but Heike knew how to make everybody laugh and she made clear that the rolls offered entertainment. "We have to make a plan, we cannot stay in the hotel forever." Selena said what everybody thought. "Don't worry, Selena. We will leave today, and I think you will like it." Heike had already arranged something. "After the breakfast, Hans will get a car and we will leave the hotel. " "Conrad, I don't know if you can return to Chicago now. I am afraid our boss will not be very happy about the last developments." Charles was in sorrow about his friend. "How can we get to Macedonia now?" "Not at all." Billy's answer was short and clear, even while his brother looked at him like he had seen a ghost. " I talked to Thomas last night. He will send two of his contacts to Macedonia. He thinks that two girls, who have nothing to do with us, are far less suspicious. We should stay in Berlin until he will contact Heike. Thomas will help you as long as you are cooperative, my brother." "Cooperative? What do you mean? And what if I am not cooperative? Who will go to Macedonia?" Billy had to smile. " Big brother, you know most of the answers, so I will only give you one. Miriam and Birte will go to Macedonia. They are already informed and will contact us this afternoon."

After the breakfast the woman packed their things. Hans left with Ellis and William to get a car. At the way back they passed by Hans apartment. "We have to risk it. We need some clothes. I have to get to my apartment." Ellis held Hans back. "Wait, I will go first. It could be dangerous for you. Who knows what was going on there in the last hours." Ellis entered the house and took the stairs to the second floor. Damned.....the apartment was already sealed by the police. Now they had no opportunity to get there to get some things. Hans did not liked that, he needed some things from the apartment. "Ellis, you stay here in the car. Use the mobile phone to warn us if someone is coming who we do not want to met." William and Hans climbed up the scaffolding again. No one was were and the window was still tilted. "Some luck at last", Hans said to William and started to open the window from outside. "Where did you learn this?" " Where did you learn to kill four people?" Ok, this was answer enough, Billy did not need to know more now. In the apartment they packed the most necessary things and Hans took some documents. He was happy that his wife kept all

these things at one place. The phone rang.....don't answer it now. In the next moment Billy's mobile phone rang. "Get out of where, there are two police cars at the front door. I don't want them to find you up there." Billy gave Hans a sign and the two of them made haste to leave the apartment.

The others already waited for them at the hotel. "Where is Conrad?" Ellis was surprised that he could see neither Conrad nor his family. "He is on the way to the airport. Conrad thinks he will be a greater help at Chicago. He believes that he has nothing to fear. I could not made him change his mind." Charles was not happy, but he knew that his friend had to do what he believed to be right. "Let's drive, even if I do not know where." They went to a small house in the south of the city. Heike and Hans were sure that they would be at peace now.

"What now, Billy?" Julia could not believe that they should really have peace for a day or two. The little Hans did not left her side and she really missed her own family. "We wait and enjoy some quiet days. I think our couple will enjoy it." He kissed Julia gently on the face. "But first of all I have to contact that two women. Charles, could you separate from Selena for a minute and give me your attention?"

The two men went next door. "The blade drive, Charles? Where is it?" "I send it to a contact in Macedonia. I see you want a name. George Mason, he had worked as a driver for the embassy and is still living there." "Can you trust this Mason?" Charles gave his brother a look. "I am afraid, little brother, I knew George better as I know you. Don't you think it is time to tell me something about you? I mean what you have done during the last years?" "We will have time for this later, buddy. How can we contact this Mason without being noticed?" It knocked at the door and Heike entered the room. "I just received the photos from Miriam and Birte. They are in Berlin and we will met them at the Congress Center at 7 o' clock." She gave two photos to the brothers.

The train station was closed and the police men stopped everyone from getting anywhere near Charles. Florian took Billy's arm:"You can't help him now. Vicky, call mama and tell her what had happened. She will know what to do."Billy was totally shocked, how could this happen to him? How should he get Charles out of this situation? "Flo, we better disappear from here. I have the impression that these men over there would like to talk to us."Vicky pointed at two police men who seam to look for them. "You are right, they saw us together with

Charles. We will be arrested as well if we don't disappear now. But to where? ” Billy still felt helpless, he hoped that the teenagers would come up with something, but what could they do? At this moment two trains arrived and they managed to disappear into the crowd of passengers and to enter one train. After the train left the station and no police men were to be seen, they relaxed a bit. But they recognized that some passengers gave them suspicious looks, they obviously had seen what had happened at the station.

“Try to behave normal, I know, that is not easy. We have to leave the train.” Billy did not want to risk more police men enter the train at the next station. “Ok, we leave the train and get a taxi. But first we search a quiet place to use the phone.” Florian really needed to talk to his mum, she would know what to do, she always does. They left the train at the next station and were happy to see no police. Billy could only think about his brother. What would they do to him? They searched for a quiet place and Vicky called home to tell the others what had happened.

“Charles is what?” Heike could not believe it, but there was no time to deal with that news. They had to make haste to get Charles out as fast as possible. “Ok, come here on the direct way. I want no more adventures for you. I will see what I can do. I hope I will know more till you are home. Do us all a favor and stay calm. If you have the money, take a taxi, but stay at the main road, so the taxi driver cannot lead the police here. Don't worry, we will find a solution.” “What's wrong with Charles?” Everybody could hear the fear in Selena's voice as she asked the question. Heike was very sorry, but she could not save her from this and the others also looked at her. “Don't worry, Selena. He is ok. He will not feel all too well, but he is not wounded.” “Heike, this is not an answer to my question. What is wrong with him? Something is wrong, or what was this phone call about? Tell me the truth.” “Our dear Charles managed

to get arrested. He seems to believe that we can do miracles here.” Heike tried to keep her humor, although she did not feel like laughing. Julia and Selena looked at her totally shocked, what should they do now? “ We have to wait what Billy and the kids will tell us, when we will see. The good thing is that nothing can happen to Charles at the moment.

Heike hoped that this would comfort Selena, but she was not sure. It seemed to take an eternity for Billy with Florian and Vicky to join the others. Everyone could see how devastated Billy was about his brother's arrest and also the teenagers had seen better days. “I should have gone with him.” Ellis could not help it, he believed that he could have avoided the arrest if he instead of Billy would have been with Charles. “What would you have done? There were so many people, no one expected the police to recognize us in this crowd. Damned, it was you and your Conrad who lead the FBI here.” “Stop that!” Hans voice was loud, he did not like the situation, but to quarrel would not help anyone. “I think I know what to do. But for this it is important that we all work together. There is no tolerance for mistakes.....the slightest mistake and we are in the worst kind of trouble you can imagine.” “Hans, I don't want to be ungrateful, but Buddy is my brother. And I don't like the idea that he is in prison right now.” “Well, one night will not kill him. So, we will plan what to do now. Trust me, we will get him out. How was the meeting with the women? Have they been there and will they get the package?” “Yes, they have been there and they will contact us when they return with the package. But without Charles it is useless. He will have changed the access code and only he knows what is the new code. He did not tell us.”

Ellis looked from one to the other. “Could anybody tell me, what you are talking about? Why don't I get the information?” William lifted an eyebrow and looked Ellis straight in the eyes. “Because I do not know you and I do not trust you.”

“Charles is my partner! I am worried about him and I want to help to get him out of prison. What kind of a access code do you need? Damned, let me help you. You may come to know me later.”

“What I know about you is enough to make me suspicious.” William had checked his brother's partner a while ago. He had to use his contacts and even Charles knew nothing about it. Ellis looked him straight in the eye. “What do you mean? What about playing with open cards? This would be adequate, because nobody here knows anything about you. Except that you are Charles little brother. “ “This is all you need to know. How is your brother? Or is he again in prison for you?”

“How do you get to the idea that he.....” “Do you really think I would not find out? Had the FBI used this to make you betray Charles?” Ellis could not believe it. How did Billy come to such an idea? “I am not getting blackmailed by anyone and my brother was not in prison for me. How did you come to this?” “Boys, don't you think we have other problems right now?” Heike stopped the conversation. “First of all we have to get Charles out of prison. Second we need the access code, no matter how or from whom. God, I really hope that this code had not fallen in the wrong hands. But first of all we have to free Charles and we must work together. Are you fine with what I am saying, gentlemen?” Hans had difficulties not to smile as he saw Billy's and Ellis faces. They had not expected their quarrel to be ended like that. He had made several phone calls, and his connections had been useful. “Sit down. It is quite late, but I found out that they want to transfer Charles to court tomorrow morning at 10:00. Their will be a hearing about his extradition to the United States. I am surprised that this takes place so fast, but the better for us.” “What is the use of this? We cannot find him a lawyer so fast and if he is once on a plane to Chicago, it is too late.” Ellis could not believe that it had been so easy to arrest his partner. “Well, we have to make sure that Charles will never reach the courtroom. Do

we know the exact way the police will take?” “Exactly Billy, this is my point. I have the route, it seems that no one expects that someone could try to save Charles. But I tell you right away, this will not be easy. And we are only three.” Hans was not optimistic, this was going to be hard. “Hans, Julia and I are also here. You do not expect us to sit around doing nothing while Charles is in prison? We will help you, so we are five, this should be enough.” Selena really wanted to help and Hans was happy that he did not need to ask her. He knew Heike would do the same if she could. “Ok, we need to plan every step. There is a zero tolerance for mistakes. I should have taken better care of him.” Billy blamed himself for Charles being arrested. Julia embraced him. “You are not to blame. It could have happened everywhere. We will get him out, I promise you.” “Ok, let's do it. We have a lot of work to do and we are running out of time. Billy, I am afraid the three of us need to use our training more now.” Hans gave Billy and Ellis a serious look. Would the two of them be able to ignore their personal problems? He was not sure. “I think we should free Charles in the old fashioned way. He will have to hide for a while after that. It would be too risky for him to be seen somewhere.” They sit together half the night, making a detailed plan. There was no tolerance for mistakes and they all knew it.

At the next morning they had to get up early. Florian and Victoria were told to go to the zoo with the little ones. Heike could not use her kids around today. Marie and Hansi were excited and could not wait to go. The others started as soon as they were on the way. They had to hire two cars. Hans had get them faked number plates for the cars, so it would not be that easy to find them. Everything went well at the car rental and the men changed the plates in a quiet street. Thank God the cars had no advertisement of the car rental on them and the number plates would help them to keep the police away from

them. They informed Heike about their progress. Now they had to get to their positions and wait for the police bus with Charles. It seemed to take an eternity. Finally Heike gave them the sign to start.

Julia and Billy drove in front of the police bus, Selena had to arrange an accident to make the police car stop. Ellis tried to comfort them, the two women had never done anything like that before. Hans drove right behind the police bus, everything was working as they planned. Ellis looked at the other car and Billy gave him the sign. "Selena, now!" Selena nodded, she gave a little speed and changed the line. Julia managed to stop her car, but the police bus could not stop. They heard a bang and another one. Hans had hit the police bus from behind. Selena prayed that Charles was really in that bus. She got out of the car. "Oh my God, I have not seen you. Are you alright? You are not hurt, are you?" Julia also left the car and so did the driver of the police bus. Julia quarreled with him at once. "Are you blind? You are sitting on top of the traffic and still cannot see that this idiot is changing the line. You may have stopped the car." The two women were very much annoyed. In the meantime the men had left the car, masks over their faces. Billy was the first: "Do what I tell and no one will be hurt. Hands over your head and do not play the hero. Tell your buddies to slowly leave the bus." Obviously this wasn't clear enough because Ellis shouted: "Get out of the car and do not move." He gave a warning shot, that scared the hell out of the women. Hans tried to open the back of the bus. He shot at the door and opened it. "Get out of the car.....all of you. And no false movements." Billy and Ellis had given Selena and Julia weapons, so that they could keep the police men under control. Billy went to the back of the transporter to help Hans. He came right to stop an attack from one of the police men. He knocked him down with a blow. Hans had no difficulties to deal with the other one. Two men in handcuffs were sitting in the bus, but first the

police men had to be stopped from calling help. Ellis used the handcuffs to chain one police man to the car and and Billy and Hans forced the other two into the back of the bus. When Billy asked: "Had anybody called a taxi?" He looked at Charles and could see the relief in his face. Billy took his brother out of the car and into the one that Hans drove. "Hey, I want to get out of here too." The second prisoner hoped that they would free him. "Sorry, my friend. We have orders for one man only. " Hans closed the doors. They had to get out as soon as possible. They gave speed and at the next crossroads they drove to different directions. The hunt was started.