

02. Trust

Charles and William took their seats as they were told. Selena was talking to Charles, but did not hear her. She laid her hand on his shoulder and it gave him a warm feeling that he forgotten existed. How about you tell me your real name, because we know it's not John. Charles looked at William and gave him a little smile. You didn't tell me William just how smart these ladies are. William gave his brother a big smile and said ladies meet my big brother Charles Barker. They exchange smiles and then Julia told them to buckle up and get ready for takeoff. Selena asked the boys what part of Europe they would like to go.

They told her Amsterdam would be great if possible, Charles had a contact there that he knew he could trust. From there he could call Conrad and find out what was going on in Chicago. Then he could make plans for the move on into the Netherlands and make sure they are safe.

Upon arrival at the airport the girls went inside and rented a car while the boys waited just out of sight. Charles knew right where to go, let me drive I know the way he said. So William and Charles got up front and the girls were in the back seat. William asked where they were headed, his brother gave him a mean look and glanced in the rear view mirror at Selena, William was taken back by his brother's look. I take it, it's somewhere bad. Yes Charles said....It called the Red Light District Billy, and it's not a pretty place for nice girls. Both boys could feel the girls looking at them, who said we were nice they both replied. They all just laughed, Charles realize it had been a while sense he had done that. He drove to the Hotel Victoria and told all three to go inside and get a suite with two rooms that he would be back.

Charles let me go with you William said ,Charles looked at him and said ,I need to do this alone Billy, you are already in this way too much and besideI need to meet with my contact alone.

Barker waited for them to get inside, then he headed to the one place he hoped was still there, it had been ten years sense he last spoke to Eric Bradshaw, former Chicago police officer and FBI Agent. He had help Barker on many mission when he needed him. Now he prayed his old friend was still

around and could help him. He pulled in and parked a few block from the Café Pacifico. He was relieved to find it still there. Inside he took his regular seat as always and waited After a few minutes someone said, would you like the usual? He knew that voice and said that would be nice. Barker then got up made his way to the table in the rear of the bar. Bradshaw join him at the table, what kinds of trouble are you in this time my old friend. The two looked at each other and shook hands. Barker told him what was going on, to Barkers disbelief, he already knew about all of it. How did you know? Barker asked him, what you think I don't keep up with things, just never thought you would show up here Charles. I had nowhere else to go for help Eric, I need to reach Conrad, can you do that for me? Barker asked. Of course I can, follow me upstairs. Barker sat there for a second and looked around, what you don't trust me now? Bradshaw said.

Upstairs the men went into Eric's office at the end of the hall. Once inside he revealed a secret wall that lead to other room. There was all Charles needed to help find the ones trying to frame him. He found some mobile phones and new passport and money; his old friend had come through for him again. Charles dials Conrad's number, when he heard his voice Barker instated. After a second Conrad said Barker is that you? YES was all Conrad heard? My god man!!!! We thought you were dead. Where are you? Are you alone Barker asked him? Yes I'm in my office. Well Barker wasn't falling for that one, can you get outside in the open where you can't be over heard and I will call you back in five minutes. The phone went dead. Charles really didn't know if it was safe to call him back, but he had no choice. He didn't want to put his brother and friends in any more danger than they were in, but then again he knew in order to keep them safe they had to be close. Just the thought of Selena being in danger scared the hell out of him. That was a feeling he didn't like.

Back at the hotel, Julia called Diane to tell her they had made it to the Netherlands safe and didn't know when they could call again. Diane said that the boys were spotted in Canada and there was police everywhere searching for them. She said so far they have turned up nothing. Julia told Selena and they couldn't decide whether to tell the boys about it, they had enough on their mind. Selena could tell Charles was at the breaking point, he needed no more stress put upon him with this information.

Barker was about to call Conrad back when Bradshaw said, Charles I have a friend that can help you if you would like. He handed him a piece of paper with a name and address on it, just as Barker took it he heard glass break and saw his friend laying on the ground. Charles couldn't believe his eyes, someone had found him. Then his thoughts went to his brother and the girls. He grabs all the stuff he could fit in his pockets and headed for the door. He had to get to the hotel without being followed, and now he was wondering if there was anyone he could trust. They had found him and he didn't know how, and had they found the hotel as well was all he could think about.

Barker made its way to the street out a side door, he couldn't make it to car he knew that. It had gotten dark and the streets were swarming with crowds of people. The neon lights illuminated the streets and people's faces; he disappeared into the crowd and hoped it would help him to escape. He walked the several blocks to the hotel making sure he wasn't followed. He made it to the front desk where William had left a package for him. The room number and the key was inside.

He took the stairs to the third floor; the room was down at the end of the hall. It was the longest walk he could ever remember taking. When he got to the door, he heard for inside, He put the key in and pushed the open door with one hand and his gun in the other. The room was empty; he could tell it had been ramming sacked. A cold chill went down his back, was he too late

All Barker could do was stand there , his mind blank for the first time in his life he didn't know what to do. Then something from behind him startled him. He whirled around with gun ready, He heard a gasp and saw William standing in the door way. What happened here Charles? Asked his brother! Barker took a deep breath and look at William. Where are the girls? He asked. They are down in the restaurant getting something to eat Charles, why? You mean you left them alone? Giving his brother an odd look and then once around the room he knew why he had asked. What happen with your contact Charles? He's dead and we need to get the girls and get out of here. They have found out where we are it was just luck you all weren't in the room at the time.

They both grab what they could of their belonging and hurried toward the elevator and William started to push the button. What are you doing? Barker asked him! His little brother was thinking way ahead of him this time. You take the stairs and I will take the elevator so we do miss the girls. He gave William a nod and headed for the stairs. Once in the lobby they made their way to the restaurant and found the girls eating there dinner. Well hello boys, care to join us? Selena asked. NO!!!! Charles replied in a harsh voice. Well excuse us, Julia said. William step in and said, look girls we have a bit of a problem at the moment and we need to leave NOW, he told them. They could see the fear in both of their faces and looking at each other started getting up from the table. They heard a lot of noise from the lobby and Barker took a quick look and said, "" Move it, out the back door now" ,,,.

They were half way across the restaurant when the bullets started flying, Barker told William to get the girls out of there in to the street. He took cover and started firing back to give them cover. He shot one in the arm and one in the leg and then decided to make a run for it. What he hadn't counted on was there being more than two. He was almost to the door, BAM; he was hit in the arm. He managed to keep going and make it out the door, but where are the others. It took him a few second to find them; Selena had a cab waiting for them. After they were in the cab, Julia said where to now Charles? Not able to think just yet, He said just drive for now and gets us away from here.

After driving for a few minutes Selena saw that Charles had been shot, Oh Charles your arm she said. You need to get to a hospital now. Barker knew couldn't go and told her he was fine .He would get it taking care later. Selena look at William and he just shook his head, you can't change his mind so don't even try. Julia looked around and asks where we are going to go now. Barker was trying to figure out a plan that would be safe for them all, but he couldn't think of one. The best thing I know is William to take you girls to the airport and get the plane ready to leave, I'll find my own way there, Barker said. They are looking for me, not any of you. William looked at his brother and said we just found each other again, you think we are going to split up your crazy Charles. He looks at his little brother and kind of laughed a little, when did you become so bossy? He asked him. Since you got me into all this mess, that's when, he told him. Selena told Charles if he didn't go to the airport with them,

no one would get on the plane. With that decided they headed for the airport.

Knowing they couldn't get through security at the airport with his arm bleeding, Charles and William entered the restroom to bandage his wound. William asked his brother if he had a plan. Barker could think of only one, but now safe it was he had no way of knowing. Come on Charles level with me on this, He said. Charles turned to face his brother and handed him the paper is contract had given him, this is all I have that may help us, but I have no idea what we may be walking into William. I have a responsibility to keep you and the girls safe above all else. William looked at it, and said where to first brother. Let's get back to the girls and talk it over, they have a say in this to, Charles said. The girls saw what was wrote on the piece of paper and agree to go there with them. Charles asked them if they could call Diane and have her book a room at The Moon Hotel in Brussels, Julia said she would call and Selena could make the flight plan, this would take them one step closer to the name on the paper. Have us landing at Brussels Int. Airport, less likely to be notice there, and then we can take a car to the Hotel, Barker told Selena. Julia spoke to Diane and she said she would make the arrangement for the hotel and Casey would rent a car in her name for them. So they all boarded the plane for takeoff and none too soon. They had been spotted and there were police coming down the runway toward them. Get this plane in the air, Barker yelled. Selena knew if they got caught now they would all go to jail for a long time. At last they were in the air and they breathed a sigh of relief .William could tell Charles had something on his mind, what is it big brother? They will be waiting for us at the airport you know that don't you? Selena giggle from the pilot seat, what's so funny Barker said. If they had the right flight information they might find us. The boys looked at each, and then back to Selena. We are going to Grimbergen Airport; it's smaller and less traffic. Not the only smart ones here boys, she said. The boys could only hope the police wouldn't think to check a smaller airport. After a while the airport was in sight, but none knew what was waiting for them when they landing, could they pull this one off, they had no choice but to try.

The airport was in sight, Selena made a circle around it first to get a good look. Nothing in sight she said. Julia made the request for landing. After they were cleared to land, all they could do was wait. If they could get on the ground and

out of the plane quick enough to get out of the view of prying eyes, Charles was thinking to himself they would be less like a sitting duck out water. While they were descending Charles told them his plan. Selena see if you can get us as close to a hanger as possible, when we come to a stop Selena and I will get off fast as possible Barker said. We will wait for the two of you to get the car and come back to the plane for our stuff. They will just think you are on vacation, Barker told them. Everything was going as planned; they were getting in the car when a police officer came toward them yelling for them HALT. They all looked at each other, jump in the car and sped away. Barker had been in Brussels before so he knew the way to the hotel.

Upon arriving at the hotel ,Barker gave Julia money for the room and her and William preceded inside to get the key, hoping they wouldn't ask for ID .They were paying in cash and Barker knew that would keep them from asking. By luck they didn't ask and they returned with key in hand .They parked the car out of sight as best they could, and went in by a side door. The room was not very big, made for just a couple, it had two beds. Charles told the girls to take the bed by the wall and they would take the one by the window so they could keep watch. Let's try and get some everyone ,it's been a long day William said , It didn't take Julia and William long to fall asleep, but Selena couldn't sleep, she was to wired up from the day. Having her near him and alone was hard for Barker, he didn't need to let his guard down but he couldn't stop watching her. Selena said, why you don't just say something when she saw him looking. Charles was glad it was a little dark so she couldn't see him blushing. She walked over to the little couch he was sitting on and sat beside him, they started talking and then William was wakening Barker up. What are you two doing? He asks. Now is not the time to be playing around Charles, Willam told him. They had falling asleep with Selena's head on his shoulder. They both just smiled and got up; not saying a word Barker went into the bathroom.

Barker was thinking that maybe they were far enough in to the Netherlands that there would not be any news report on the TV or in the papers here in Brussels for a few days. He thought it was time to see who the contact was that Bradshaw had giving him. He pulled out one of the mobile phone and dials the number, it rang about three times and women answered. Just then William bang on the door, Barker hung the phone up and opened the door, saying,

what the hell do you think you're doing? We need to know what we are going to do, William said. I know that and I'm working on it, just got to give me time William, Barker said. We don't have time Charles you know that, we need to figure something out now before it too late, William said. Julia and Selena could see that the brother were getting a little serious in their conversation , Hey boys how about some breakfast, you do need to feed us you know. The two stop and looked at them .Barker said, order room service, tell them you're hungry and order extra, then sat down on the couch. We will talk after we get some food in us, he said.

Barker wanted to call Conrad again, but he wasn't at all sure he could be trusted. After all they found him pretty fast the last time Barker spoke to him. Then he thought of Ellis Dove, he had always been on Barker side though all this, could he take the chance and trust him. He dial his number, the voice on the other end took him by surprise. How could it be, had his partner betrayed him to, the voice on the phone said Barker is that you? He was frozen in the thought of this happening and all he could do was hang up. The others looked at him and asked what was wrong, there is no one left that I can trust he said.

What are talking about Charles I am your brother and you can always trust me, William said and you should know by now that you can trust my friends to. They have put a lot on the line for you Charles, don't make light of that. All barker could think about was the voice on the other end of that phone and how his friend and partner could do this to him.....

After everyone finished their breakfast Selena replied, I 'm tired now think I will take a little nap, then we can talk. She made her way to the bed and Julia said I need to get out and walk, this room is too little. She was heading to the door when Barker said Stop! She turned to look at him .You can't go out there alone, it may not be safe. I can't just sit here Charles; I'll go crazy she said. William you go with her it will better anyway, you two are here on vacation so act like a couple, he said. We need to keep that appearance up; no one can find out that Selena and myself are here he said. Can you handle that William grinning at his little brother remembering how shy he was with girls? William didn't like being told what to do by Charles or the comment, but he knew it was best. So he gave Barker a snarl look and went out the door with Julia. With Selena a sleep,

he stretched out on the couch and closed his eyes to think on the past few days. All that had happened was going around in his head like a merry-go-round spinning, then it stopped on one face,,,,,,,,,,,, Selena. It made a smile come over his face then he seems to relax .

Barker was awakened by the burst of the door being opened , two men in suits with guns drawn was coming in the room. He got one shot off as he rose from the couch and turned toward the other man, but it was too late. He had Selena with a gun to her head. Don't move Barker , the man yelled . Barker saw the fear in her eyes and knew he had only one chance to save her , he took a deep breath and squeezed the trigger . There was a moment of silences before Barker heard Selena scream and the man drop to the floor. She ran crying into his arms and the smell of her hair was overwhelming to him, he started pulling her away to see if she was alright and then all of the sudden he was kissing her passionately .He wasn't sure if he was dreaming or not and didn't really care , all he knew was that he didn't want to stop. I thought I told you two this wasn't the time to be playing around William said. Then Julia screamed and he saw the dead bodies on the floor. Are you two alright ? William asked . She had a little scare that's all . A little scare Charles ,he had a gun pointed at my head Selena yelled. Barker tried to calm her down ,she just pushed him away . Was this too much for her to ever want to be with him , he wondered.

Charles we need to get the girls out of here, William told him. I know get your things together now, we'll go out the window to the car. And just where are we going to go now ,they will find you no matter what Selena said. Then we will just drive for a while I guess ,he said in a harsh voice .Let's just stop for a minute and think Julia said. We don't have a minute ,I'm sure someone heard the shots and called the police William said. You.re right Selena added . Alright then let's go Barker said. He stopped William and handed him a gun, use it if you need to protect the girls and if anything goes down out there get them out of here fast Charles told him. I won't leave you Charles, he told his brother. I can take care of myself, if we get separated meet me at the plane in three hours and be careful that no one follows you there.

Barker went out the window first and looked around to make sure it was clear, ok let's go he told them.

Once they were in the car Charles told William to just drive a little and find

some crowded place to stop. He stopped at a busy coffee shop in the middle of town, get a table I'll be back in a minute Charles told them. Order me a black coffee and keep an eye out for me William ,Barker said . His thoughts went back to this morning ,did he dare try his partner again, he couldn't risk it. After all he knew that voice , it was Paulson, she had his partner phone ,but why ?

Barker knew he had no choice but to call the contact Bradshaw had given him again. He dials the number and waited to see who answered. Once again he heard a woman's voice. Hello. Hello. Is anyone there? Yes Barker answered ,Eric Bradshaw gave me your number ,said you could help me. There was a pause on the other end of the phone and she said, that mean something has happened to him I'm I right ? Yes he's dead ,how are you connected to him? He asked her. We were coworker a long time ago, my name is Elen. If Eric trusted you enough to send you to me, then I will help you. She told Barker to fly to Ensheim Airport in Saarbrucken Germany , it's a small airport that just locals use most of the time. From there it was about 20 minutes to the hotel. Call me back when you get close to the airport .I will give you further instruction ,she said and hung up. He knew that she once was either Chicago police or FBI if Bradshaw trusted her that much. Barker returned to the table and started drinking his coffee when he noticed all three looking at him. What !!!! He said. What's the plan ? William asked.
We "re headed to Germany and I will know more when we are in the air