

FIVE
Kathryns
AN ORPHANS STORY

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WILD TALES

ALLIANCE INTELLIGENCE TRANSCRIPTION UNDERGROUND BROADCAST - "WILD TALES: FIVE KATHRYNS"

::BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION::

[[INSIDE - QUIET ROOM]]

[[RADIO EQUIPMENT SCANNING FREQUENCIES]]

[[WILD TALES IS PICKED UP]]

[[SPACE LOUNGE MUSIC PLAYING]]

Baz Goodrich: The boys are back!

Charles Pritchett: And we're better than ever!

BG: Broadcasting live from Wild Outpost One, this is...

BOTH: Wild Tales!

CP: It is good to be back, isn't it Baz?

BG: Oh, you know it, Charles! Uh, um... Dear listeners, unfortunately our location has been unveiled to the public, which is a real shame. In fact, Charles, we have a fan who was able to find our location and show up at our door?

CP: Our favourite fan... Commander Xavier is just outside our door right now with a huuuge... armada of soldiers!

[[BAZ COOING AND LAUGHING]]

CP: Isn't that right, Commander Xavie?

[[XAVIER SIGHING EXASPERATEDLY]]

Xavier Temuera (over intercom): Surrender now, and you won't find yourself in any more trouble.

CP: Hahaha oh, he's funny isn't he, Goodrich?

BG: Hoo! I know!

XT: None of this is amusing; cease your transmission. Your hull may be thick, but we are nearly through it. Soon enough you'll be surrounded by Alliance forces. Surrender. Now.

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CP: *Hmm... I don't know, what do you think, Baz?*

BG: *I'm not really feeling it today.*

CP: *No, me neither! Uh... shall we move on to today's tale?*

BG: *Oh, why not!*

XT: *You have given me no choice but to-*

[[BAZ CUTTING OFF XAVIER'S FEED]]

BG: *I... think that's enough from him.*

CP: *Bit of a chatterbox, that one.*

[[BOTH LAUGHING]]

BG: *Today's tale is one of intrigue and deception.*

CP: *A great detective tale like no other, and this one was submitted by listener Teresa Perrin! Thank you so much for your submission.*

BG: *I don't know about you but, there's nothing I like more than to share a thrilling tale with you and the listeners, Charles.*

CP: *Likewise! We hope you enjoy!*

[[WILD TALES FADES OUT]]

[[RICHARD HART'S OFFICE]]

[[HART PACING THE FLOOR AND SIGHING]]

[[HE DRINKS SOME WHISKY AND SETTLES INTO A CHAIR]]

Richard Hart: *Ahem... Case Notes: Case number zero-zero-five. This case is over- Finished, and I'm glad to see the back of it...*

[[PAUSING WITH RESIGNATION]]

[[SIGHING]]

RH: *Client Elaina Charleston, runs a care home on Gawn for the elderly; those who have deep pockets. I... visited her... office. A plush, high-end place, thick blue carpets and... what looked like... real walnut furniture. Paintings in gold frames. The whole kit and kaboodle.*

WILD TALES

[[SIGHING AND HANDLING HIS FLASK]]

[[TAKING A GULP]]

RH: One of her wealthy patients died, Montgomery Stone. The report said heart attack... yeah, well... Elaina said she knew otherwise. Her patrons are cared for by five Kathryns- Only... the best. Elaina "knew" one of the Kathryns killed him, an "equipment malfunction" she called it, wanted to deal with it herself; no need for the authorities and "bad publicity"... she wanted me to find out which Kathryn killed the old man.

[[SIGHING]]

RH: I... I never wanted to take this case. It- it was bad from the start, I should have tipped off the authorities, or just slammed the door on my way out... but there- there was something about the way each Kathryn looked at me... something... s-s-something in their eyes that made me take this damned case!

[[SIGHING AND PAUSING TO PREPARE HIS THOUGHTS]]

RH: So. The results. First... it looked like a heart attack. So... if this man was murdered, it ... had to be poison. Great. It's a Care Facility, so... there's a controlled medicine log. I... did a dive into the records, uhh, one sec...

[[HART TYPING]]

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

Care Log GeoFFRy (recording): Controlled substance access records! Access, Kathryn McBride: Hydrocodone, five milligrams. Access, Kathryn Soto: Simvastatin, twenty milligrams. Access, Kathryn Pierce: Digoxin, nought-point-two-five milligrams-

RH: That's the one, digoxin; A heart medication, a-and... there was was more than a quarter milligram missing, according to what should have been left in the bottle! A lot more... so... I interviewed Kathryn Pierce... and here's an excerpt from that interview...

[[HART TYPING]]

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

Kathryn Pierce (recording): Mr Hart... I know what you're implying, but if there was more digoxin missing, that's not my concern.

[[HART SIGHING]]

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KP: I took out the proper dosage for Mrs Elizabeth Hunt, as prescribed. I suppose I could have extracted more digoxin without being detected, but when could I have possibly administered it to Mr Stone? I had no contact with him that day or evening before his death! No, I'm afraid you're looking in the wrong place entirely.

[[RECORDING ENDS]]

[[HART SIGHING]]

RH: Um... she was right, of course. Whoever killed Stone needed to have access, not just to poison, but to Stone himself. So... how was the dose administered? Not a shot... probably... in food or drink. That led me to Kathryn Croft, she prepared the meals for all the inhabitants that day and brought them around. I interviewed her about it, of course, and... heeere's her response...

[[HART TYPING]]

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

Kathryn Croft (recording): Why yes! I often cook the meals, y'know? I'm pretty good at it... All the residents like my puddin's! I keep their diets straight, and get them to eat the foods they need. Oh, and it can be hard... a lot of older people lose their appetites... Mm...

[[CROFT DRIFTS FOR A MOMENT]]

KC: Oh, heh, but you were asking me about Mr Stone! Oh, so saaad... well, I mean, he wasn't young... they're never young here... they lived long, full lives, with luxury and opportunity and family! Well, so... I'm never really that sad. D'y- I don't see why they think he was killed, that's just silly, I mean, people die! A-and- and... I could've added something to his food, but wouldn't that be calling attention to me? I mean... I wouldn't want to be the one that prepared the food with poison in it! And, y'know... I never go near the poison cupboard, ... heh, y'won't see me on the access record at all, it's silly... it's not my area! That's the kitchen; that's where I do my medicine nowadays!

[[RECORDING ENDS]]

[[HART INHALES POINTEDLY]]

RH: If Croft got poison somewhere else and put it in the man's food... I don't know how I would prove it. I... thought about it... what was the danger for the killer? A-assuming there was one?

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[[HART PAUSING]]

RH: There were two of the Kathryns that caught my eye. They were there when Stone died. Soto, aaand... Norris. Soto was in his room, reading to him... uh, Norris came in when his heart went haywire and the alarm spiked. They had a crash cart... no-one else was in the room. Could... one of them have made sure they couldn't revive him? Hmm... here's Kathryn Soto.

[[HART TYPING]]

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

Kathryn Soto (recording): Yes, you always have to be ready for something like that. He was... having trouble breathing, and looked like he was in pain, but... he couldn't really say much. The alarms went off, but I was already up and by his bed... his breathing was laboured, and Norris came in; we gave him adrenaline, oxygen... tried to revive him but... there was nothing we could do. I...

[[SOTO BREATHING SHAKILY]]

KS: I didn't like being in the room when he died... it doesn't usually happen like that. I think... no, I'm sure that Norris did everything she could. I did everything I could... even though sometimes I lie awake at night and... wonder...

[[SOTO PAUSING INTROSPECTIVELY]]

KS: ...is there more I could have done? But no, there's only so much you can do... when it's someone's time... it's their time.

[[RECORDING ENDS]]

RH: Norris' story matched up; it... would have been difficult for one of them to make sure he died without the other noticing, but then... it's a tense situation, and who knows what could have happened in the blink of an eye...

[[HART SIGHS EXASPERATEDLY]]

RH: I wasn't getting anywhere... I needed to look for a motive. So. I took a deeper dive into the GeoFFRY Unit. There must be something useful... I found that there were... erased files. Always interesting...

[[HART COMPULSIVELY SNEERS]]

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RH: Here's what I found.

[[HART TYPING]]

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

[[GEOFFRY'S HAUNTINGLY CHEERY PROGRAMMED CADENCE]]

Care Log GeoFFRy (recording): First Instance Log: Twelve-Twenty-One Hours! Oh-Three One-Three Eight-Three. M Stone to Kathryn Pierce. Transcript: "You're making me crazy girlie, I don't want lunch... just you! Come here, where I can grab you. You're here to serve me, right? Come over here!"

[[GEOFFRY READS THE NEXT LOG]]

CLG: Second Instance Log: Twenty-Twelve Hours! Three Eighteen Eight-Three. M Stone to Kathryn Croft. Transcript: "I'm not ready to sleep, sweetie, but I'm ready for bed... with you! Come on, I mean now! Gotcha!"

[[RECORDING ENDS]]

[[HART SHUDDERING]]

RH: It goes on... and on... lots of evidence, neatly tallied, then... erased.

[[HART SNEERS AS HIS ANGER BUILDS]]

RH: So you thought. Ignored and wiped by you, Elaina! Lots of motive, that you could have done something about that you could have done something about before the fact!

[[HART SNEERING]]

RH: It's too late, now... and you must have known who brought you the evidence... it took a bit of toying around with your GeoFFRy, but it was Kathryn McBride who programmed the GeoFFRy to keep these records! McBride didn't deny it when I spoke with her... but she didn't let any grass grow under her feet before she took off running... she kindly left me a confession. I- I didn't do much... but... my bill will be substantial!

[[HART PAUSES BITTERLY]]

RH: Gah, play recording...

[[RECORDING DEVICE BLEEP]]

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Kathryn McBride (recording): Montgomery Stone was a horrible man! A selfish man who saw us all... all as Kathryns, but also all Noras, all Bazes, all Olivias, all Richards as items to be used! And the things he wanted to use us for were... horrible!

[[McBRIDE SOBBING ANGRILY]]

KM: And... and there was nothing Elaina Charleston was gonna do to stop it! She needed, no... wanted... his money too much!

[[McBRIDE STEADIES HERSELF]]

KM: So I, Kathryn McBride... poisoned him. I'm not sorry, he deserved it. And you won't find me... I wanted you to know, Richard, I don't have any ill-will towards you... I made my bed. I will lie in it.

[[RECORDING ENDS]]

RH: You'll pay my attached bill, promptly... stop recording.

[[CASE NOTES PAUSE FOR A MOMENT BUT CONTINUE]]

RH: New recording, private, encrypted file.

[[HART READIES HIMSELF]]

RH: Kathryn McBride may be fleeing, but she's not the one who accessed the missing poison. That...

[[HART PREPARES A BREATH]]

RH: ...that was Kathryn Pierce... And she's not the one who brought Montgomery Stone his poisoned food that evening. No... that... that one... was Croft.

[[HART SCOFFS]]

RH: Kathryns Soto and Norris... they were there when he died, making sure he didn't survive.

[[RAMPING UP IN ANGER]]

RH: They all worked together to solve their problem; tracking their

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movements, their logs, each one... each one of them... had to play... a role!

[[SIGHING AND SNEERING]]

RH: And... and Kathryn McBride's role... her role... was to take the fall for the rest of them.

[[HART STEADIES HIMSELF AND CHUCKLES BITTERLY]]

RH: Good luck, McBride. This case... this case is closed. And I wish... I wish I'd never seen it.

[[WILD TALES MUSIC FADES BACK IN]]

[[THE BOYS ARE STRUCK SILENT]]

CP: Wow... just... wow. Who saw that one coming? Pff, they all did it? And th- th- that really took me by surprise...

GB: Gah, me as well... d'you know, that Richard Hart chap really reminded me of that Ridley Lockhart. I wonder if there's any connection there.

CP: Y'know, I noticed that too. I do love those Ridley books... the later ones are a bit ropey, but...

GB: Hmm...

CP: Hey, it's... it's all good fun in the end!

[[BOTH CHUCKLE NERVOUSLY]]

[[WILD TALES GEOFFRY CHIMES IN]]

Wild Tales Geoffry: Bing bong, boys, I have Xavie Baby on the line!

GB: Oh, right, I... I forgot all about him!

CP: Shall we check in with our biggest fan?

GB: Oh yeah-

CP: He's such a big fan that he's actually currently in the process of breaking in to Wild Outpost One in order to arrest us for transmitting confidential Alliance documents.

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GB: Oooh, silly us, how could we be so careless!

CP: I knooooow, Commander Xavie, ya there?

XT (over intercom): This is Commander Xavie- gah, Xavier Temuera! We are moments from cutting through your hull, you have moments before you are surrounded! Surrender!

Both: ... Nahhh!

XT: Fine! Crack it open!

[[ECHOING CREAKING OF METAL ON XAVIER'S END]]

[[ALARM BEGINS SOUNDING]]

[[DRONES ACTIVATE]]

XT: What in the blue blazes?!

BG: Oop, oh... Did we forget to mention?

CP: I think we might've... oops.

BG: I am just so embarrassed, Commander Xavie, you know we love you but we forgot to tell you we actually moved! Uh, we haven't been broadcasting from that location for... Ooh, phfffss... Like a week, a week Charles?

CP: Oh, something like that...

BG: Mmm...

CP: Uh, we left pretty much the instant our location was revealed... the good news is that we have like... pssssh, loads of back up locations!

[[BOTH GUFFAWING]]

BG: Sorry we couldn't have been there in person, but the good news is we left you a little present!

[[DRONES ACQUIRE THEIR TARGET]]

XT: Are... are those drones?!

BG: Taser Drones, it just felt better than chocolates 'n flowers, and a condolence card.

XT: ...I will find you, I will find you if it's the last thing I do! I wi-

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[[DRONES SWARMING XAVIER]]

[[XAVIER STRUGGLES]]

XT: Guh, ugh, gah... get off me!

[[XAVIER STRUGGLING TO BREAK FREE]]

[[ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND SPINNING PROPELLERS]]

[[XAVIER SCREAMS AND BURBLES COMICALLY]]

WTG: That'll stop him... droning on! Got 'im, boys.

BG: Ahaha, good one, GeoFFRy!

CP: That was a good scream.

BG: You know it! Now we've got it on tap... tell me Charles, what does it sound like when you've got 50,000 volts running through you?

CP: Ah, well, I think it sounds a little like... this!

[[CHARLES REPLAYING XAVIER'S BURBLING SCREAM]]

BG: Haha, oh! Brilliant! Cor... thank you for your support, listeners! Don't worry it'll take a little more than Commander Xavie to put a stop to us!

CP: We are pleased to say goodbye for another week, this is Wild Outpost... Two!

Both: Signing Off!

::END TRANSCRIPTION::

::AUTOMATIC FORWARD TO - CMDR. X TEMUARA::