



SOMETHING FOUL-SMELLING HAD OFFICIALLY HIT THE FAN IN CHICAGO.

I'D ONLY BEEN GONE FOR ABOUT EIGHT HOURS, AND OPEN WARFARE HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL FACTIONS.

SOMEONE HAD KILLED TWO YOUNG GIRLS AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A WHITE COURT VAMPIRE WAS RESPONSIBLE.



SO I WENT TO PARLAY WITH THEIR LEADER, TO GAUGE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHE KNEW ABOUT THE CRIME.

THE ANSWER WAS NOTHING, OR SO SHE CLAIMED.

NO, SHE SAID, IT WAS HER PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING TARGETED—BY "GENTLEMAN" JOHNNY MARCONE, THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL GANGSTER.



LARA RAITH ASKED ME TO VERIFY THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOING AFTER HER PEOPLE.

BUT SHE WAS ALREADY CONVINCED IT WAS MARCONE—AND I'D BEEN A FOOL TO BELIEVE SHE'D WAIT ON ME BEFORE STRIKING BACK AT HIM.



THE WHITE COURT DECLARING OPEN SEASON ON MARCONE'S ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A DISASTER IN AND OF ITSELF.

BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.



SOMEONE HAD MURDERED ONE OF MARCONE'S MEN IN COLD BLOOD, AND WITNESSES PINNED IT ON A CPD PATROLMAN.

MARCONE ISN'T ONE TO TAKE SUCH AN AFFRONT LYING DOWN.

**FWNNGOOSHH**



HOLY WHAT THE...?

FREEZE, YOU BASTARDS—!





AND TO COMPLETE THE TRIFECTA, THE POLICE WERE TARGETING THE WHITE COURT...

...IN RETALIATION FOR THEIR APPARENT ASSAULT ON ONE OF THEIR OWN.



EVERYBODY PUT THEIR HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--

BACK THE UP, PRETTY BOY. THIS IS A RAID!

WHOEVER'S RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING THESE FACTIONS AGAINST EACH OTHER MUST BE MIGHTY PROUD OF THEMSELVES RIGHT NOW.

I'M NO CLOSER TO UNCOVERING HIS OR HER IDENTITY THAN I WAS LAST NIGHT--BUT AT THE MOMENT, I DON'T CARE.

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COP WHO WAS NEARLY BEATEN TO A PULP LAST NIGHT.







...POLICE SOURCES REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER A NEAR-FATAL ASSAULT ON DETECTIVE SERGEANT KARRIN MURPHY IS RELATED TO THE VIOLENCE UNFOLDING ACROSS THE CITY.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT MURPHY WAS RUSHED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER HOURS AGO...

MURPHY'S FELLOW COPS ARE OUT THERE DISPENSING PAYBACK ON HER BEHALF, AND A LOUD PART OF ME WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO DO THE SAME.

BUT I HAD NO DOUBT THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT THE ENTITY BEHIND ALL THIS WANTED.



HARRY...? HOW'S SHE DOING?



HAVEN'T SEEN HER YET, BUTTERS. WAITING ON VISITING HOURS TO START.

IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT YOURSELF.



SO I HEAR. THE POLICE ARE ON WAR FOOTING--WHATEVER'S GOING ON, THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE IT'S GOING TO SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS.



EXCUSE ME, MISTER DRESDEN...?

YOU CAN SEE HER NOW.



MINUTES LATER...

