

*Outside the Kluczynski Federal Building- May 15th, 9:30 AM*

A massive crowd had gathered in front of the enormous skyscraper, its black tinted glass shining in the sunlight. The people in the crowds were held back by a mixture of police and soldiers, ensuring the safety of those involved with the case. Waiting at the front steps of the courthouse were Jenna and Candice, holding their briefcases in their paws.

"Look at that crowd," Jenna said. "I knew the case was important for the city, but I didn't think so many bloody people would show..."

"Of course they'd show up, my dear," someone's voice called out. "After all, it's not every day they get to see the man who almost destroyed their city and ruined their lives."

The two lawyers looked over to their left and saw the speaker in question. He was a lanky looking chimpanzee with short red hair and dressed in a black suit with a red tie. He carried a black briefcase in his hands as he smirked at the two ladies. Next to him was a ground squirrel with blond hair, wearing the same outfit as Jenna. Her suit was colored a very faint green and she also carried a briefcase by her side.

"Boris Karloff and Melissa Willows, I presume," Candice said, eyeing the two newcomers warily.

"Indeed, Miss Merryweather. Honestly, I'm surprised at you and your partner. For people supposedly vested in justice, you do keep some strange company."

Jenna furrowed her brow at Boris and replied, "We believe in our client's innocence, mate."

"Oh? The evidence says otherwise," said Melissa. "We think it's more than enough to send that rabbit off to the electric chair."

"I doubt you're doing this out of kindness, love," Candice scowled at the prosecutors. "As far as I know, you're doing this because you want the bloomin' fame and money."

The ground squirrel was about to retort when the crowds suddenly had gotten louder, filled with angry yells and jeers. Looking down the stairs, Candice and Jenna saw an armored car pull up in front of the courthouse. A team of police officers opened the back doors of the vehicle and pulled out a rex rabbit in an orange jumpsuit and chains.

"Ah... Here comes the terrorist himself."

Bryon shuffled along the sidewalk, being herded towards the courthouse entrance. His head was bowed, unable to look at the angry crowd members in the eyes. Their jeers rang in his ears...

"You're gonna pay for what you did, you psychopath!"

"Hope they give you the chair!"

"Cull the bastard!"

Jenna's ears folded back as she looked at the approaching rabbit, feeling sorry for Bryon. The wolf had the hard drive sent to the techs at the BOS to analyze the hard drive. They had been at it all day yesterday, but they still weren't finished with their work.

*"I hope we can hold off the verdict," Jenna thought to herself. "Whatever's on that hard drive could save Bryon..."*

Gluczynski Federal Building, Dirksen Courthouse, Courtroom #7- May15th, 10:00 AM

The galley was packed with people wanting to see the trial with their own eyes. Murmuring filled the air as the prosecution and defense took their places at their respectable benches. Boris and Melissa took the left one, while Jenna, Candice and Bryon occupied the right bench. A witness stand stood in the middle of the courtroom, facing towards the judge's bench. Next to it was a long jury bench filled with twelve fursions of all types, waiting for the trial to begin.

The judge, a giraffe with a long gray beard and flowing black robes, smacked his gavel, the sound resonating in the courtroom and silencing everyone.

"Court is now in session for the trial of Bryon Walden. Are the defense and prosecution ready?"

Candice and Jenna stood up and nodded.

"The defense is ready, mate."

"The prosecution has been ready for some time, Your Honor."

The judge leaned back in his chair, his brow furrowed. "Now... From what I understand, this case has drawn the eye of the nation. Is that correct?"

Boris nodded at the giraffe's words. "That is correct, sir. Considering the circumstances, it's actually a matter of national security."

He leered over at the wolf and canine, smirking at them. "And it's something that the two ladies in front of me should consider."

Jenna crossed her arms and scowled at the chimp. The giraffe, sensing the growing hostility, slammed his gavel.

"In any case, let's get down to business, shall we? Will the prosecution please present their opening statement?"

The chimpanzee cleared his throat and began to speak.

"On the night of March 13th, 2006, an explosion had destroyed the Callahan Biological Sciences Institute at approximately 9:20 PM. However, the explosion had unleashed a terrible virus into the city."

"And what exactly was this virus?"

Melissa chose to speak up for the chimp. "It was the New York Virus, your Honor. However, it had mutated and was more powerful than the one in New York. Over the course of several weeks, a majority of the population was infected and nearly wiped out the city."

Boris grimly nodded in agreement and held up a folder with several pieces of paper inside of it. "Yes... According to reports by our research team, the virus had three stages to it. The first stage lasted one week, in which the victim suffered cold like symptoms: sore throat, runny nose, congestion, coughing and whatnot. The second stage occurs after a few days and jumps to flu-like symptoms, including fever, nausea, muscle aches, vomiting and weakness in the body. However, they also start to develop sores all over their body."

The judge grimaced at the news. "It sounds rather gruesome..."

"Indeed, sir. But there's more to the virus than that. There is actually a third and final stage that happens only three days after the second stage starts. The victim's vital organs start breaking down, resulting in organ failure, internal bleeding, dementia, hallucinations and eventually death."

He then took out a couple of pieces of paper and hands them to the bailiff, who passed a piece to the defense and the judge. "I'd like to submit this to the court for evidence. This way, all parties will know what we're dealing with."

The giraffe nodded somberly. "The court accepts this into evidence."

Candice and Jenna take a look at the paper, seeing the symptoms listed from the research paper. Something strange, however, catches their eye:

*Although the virus can kill the host it resides in, some individuals have mutated from the virus. The victims then exhibit signs of the infection's first stage, but can show one of two mutations:*

*1. The victim suffers mental degradation of higher processes, becoming complete monstrosities. Their bodies then develop mutations based on their body type (such as a body builder developing massive muscle growth) Regardless of the mutation, the victim develops an incredibly psychotic rage and blood lust towards themselves and the uninfected.*

*2. The victim maintains their higher brain processes, but develops what could be akin to superpowers. These powers vary from person to person, such as one person has pyrokinesis and another the power of flight.*

*3. The victim develops no known mutations or abilities from the virus. Also, the victim has no symptoms but is capable of being a carrier for the virus instead.*

*It is determined that a chain of proteins found in the central nervous system determine how a host reacts to the virus. More study is recommended for this.*

"In any case, we know what kind of virus attacked our fair city so many years ago..."

Jenna crossed her arms, rolling her eyes at the chimp. "That git likes the sound of his voice... He won't stop yacking," she thinks to herself.

"But the question we plan to answer is... Who? Who would be so heinous as to nearly destroy the Windy City? Was it a terrorist or a group of radicals? No..."

He pointed his finger at Bryon with a dramatic flair. "It was the defendant, the rex rabbit named Bryon Walden!"

The crowd goes into a murmur as Bryon sinks down in his chair, feeling ashamed to be there. Candice puts a hand on his shoulder, smiling softly at the rex rabbit.

"Don't worry, mate. We'll show that hoon how wrong he is."

The judge slammed his gavel down, silencing the courtroom. "Order in the court! Order, I say!"

He looked over at the chimpanzee and ground squirrel, his brow furrowed. "I assume you have evidence proving your case?"

Melissa chuckled with her arms crossed. "Naturally. We're going to prove three things in this courtroom: motive, means and opportunity."

She takes out a few pieces of paper. "First, we shall describe the motive. Mr. Walden was a biology/chemistry major at the Chicago State University. He was among the top 10% of his class and had a keen interest towards research. Like other college students, he kept a blog about his time there."

The judge blinked in confusion over Melissa's words. "A blog? What on Earth is that?"

"It's an electronic journal, you Honor. Basically, he kept a journal on his computer," replied Boris.

The judge appeared to be even more confused. "A computer? What on Earth is that?"

Bryon stared at the judge, not believing what he just heard, while Candice and Jenna put their hands to their faces.

Boris closed his eyes to collect himself for a moment. "Later, Your Honor. In any case, the defendant went on to write down his frustrations at the facility. Like this for instance..."

He clears his throat and began to read from the papers. "February 13th, 2006. I've been analyzing project results again with Dr. Anders. Frankly, I'm getting tired of having to do the same thing over and over again for my Capstone project. When I joined on, I thought I would be hands on with the team. I want to be able to study the specimens and compounds with my own hands, not be some paper clerk of sorts!"

The chimpanzee smirked at the rabbit. "Hm... I don't know about you, but it seems Bryon was itching to get his hands on some specimens. Maybe he even wanted to use them himself?"

“Now hold on a second!”

Bryon had stood up from his seat, glaring at the chimp. “I wrote that merely because I was frustrated! I wasn’t going to do something insane like what you said!”

Jenna pulled the rabbit down to his chair, glaring at the rabbit. “Calm down, Bryon! That yahoo’s just trying to get you angry!”

The chimp smirked at the rabbit, shaking his head in mirth. “Oh my... I seem to have touched a nerve. In any case, we’re submitting this as evidence.”

The giraffe nods and accepts a copy from the bailiff. “The court accepts this into evidence.” He takes a look at the blog pages. “Hm... He certainly seemed to be upset at the Institute.”

“Indeed,” said Melissa. “And what better way to get back at the Institute than by destroying it?”

Jenna stared at the ground squirrel with a baffled look on her face. “*What kind of logic is that?! Evel Kinevel couldn’t make that kind of leap!*”

The ground squirrel continues. “Now... We will next prove the means of how he committed the crime. We’ve obtained soil samples and evidence collected from the blast sight.”

She took out a small evidence bag containing pieces of gnarled, burnt refuse. “These pieces were found at certain places in the blast zone. We’ve had these pieces analyzed as well as soil samples near the blast sites.”

The judge leaned forward in his chair, paying attention to Melissa’s speech.

“A team of scientists have determined that some of the materials were not to be found at the Institute at all. Basically, someone had planted them there. We’ve made printouts of the results for the court.”

The bailiff handed out the papers to both the defense and the judge.

“And how did the bomber get these materials?”

Boris chuckled to himself. “Why, with a credit card.” He took out two pieces of paper and held them up to the court. “We have here a credit card number and copies of the receipts from the companies these purchases were carried out to.”

“And what was the name on that card? Why, it was the defendant’s name of course.”

The crowd was murmuring to themselves as Bryon stared at the papers handed to him. “Wait a minute... That’s just odd...”

“What is it,” Jenna asked Bryon. “Is something wrong?”

“Well... It’s true I had a credit card, but... I only used it for paying school supplies and food. Something’s fishy about that.”

Candice furrowed her brow, carefully thinking on the prosecution's claim.

"And finally, we have these!" Boris takes out a piece of paper with names and numbers printed on it. "As you know, those who work or are involved with the Institute are handed out ID numbers. The numbers are programmed for each person there, including students. Most of the high security doors have an ID Card reader that records the time and date of the card used in the reader."

"I see... And what is special about this printout, Mr. Karloff?"

"Why, this printout is to the ID reader at the Specimen Containment room. On this record, one number shows up in various times and days. The ID number is 8583685, which belongs to one Bryon Walden."

He then takes out another piece of paper, showing a table of names and numbers. "This is a printout of the inventory in the Specimen Containment room. Each time a specimen is placed inside or taken out of the room, the computer makes a recording of it. According to the inventory, one particular specimen was taken out, only to not be replaced. And..."

His face lit up with a devious smirk. "That particular specimen was the New York Virus itself!"

The crowd whipped into a complete frenzy, talking amongst themselves. Beads of sweat formed on Bryon's brow as the evidence piled up against him.

"Order in the court!"

The giraffe slammed his gavel down to silence the galley. "Mr. Karloff! Who in their right mind would allow such a dangerous virus in their building?!"

"It was the Head of the Institute, your Honor. The Head was keenly interested in studying the virus and wanted to find a cure. Unfortunately..."

He pointed a finger at the nervous rabbit. "They didn't think a homegrown terrorist would take it from them and use it."

The judge grimly nodded in agreement. "Ah... So we now have a means and a motive. All that's left is..."

"The opportunity, yes," replied Melissa.

She then took out a DVD from the folder. "This is a DVD containing footage from the security cameras at the Institute."

Seeing the puzzled look on the judge's face, she added, "It's a CD that plays movies."

"Oh... What's a CD?"

Bryon gawked at the judge with a baffled look on his face. "*Was this guy from the Stone Age or something?!*"

Melissa pinched the bridge of her nose for a moment. "There's no time for that, sir. What matters is what's being seen on the video. With your permission, we'd like to play it."

The bailiff wheeled in a DVD player that was connected to a large screen in front of the courtroom. Melissa popped the DVD inside and played it.

"As you can see here, someone was spotted setting up these explosives throughout the facility. They were all planted on the day of the explosion."

Sure enough, the images being played showed such a thing. Each shot was a rex rabbit sneaking inside various rooms, wearing a lab coat and backpack. He was taking out strange devices and planting them out of plain sight. The date on each of these shots read March 13th.

"And here, we have one final shot of Bryon sneaking inside the Head's office moments before the explosion occurred."

The final piece of footage showed the rex rabbit in front of a door he had to pick the lock. Several moments passed before he was able to sneak inside. The time stamp read 9:18 PM as he entered the office.

"Odd... How come he had to pick the lock instead of using a card reader," the judge asked.

"The Institute's head was a peculiar sort. They didn't trust the ID card readers and merely had a regular lock on their door," Boris replied.

"But in any case, there's a reason why he hid in the Head's office. It can be seen with this diagram."

Melissa presses a button on the remote, replacing the footage with a large map. The map bore the title "Callahan Biological Sciences Floor Plan". Large red dots were found over the map with a green dot in one spot.

"On this map, the red dots represent the rooms where the explosives were more than likely planted. This is based on both where the explosive residue was collected and using a diagram of the facility."

She pointed towards the green dot. "This dot was where Bryon was at prior to the explosion, the Head of the Institute's office. As you can see, the office is quite far from the explosive devices. He didn't have time to escape through the main entrance, so he went to the Head's office to hide from the blasts. Despite having the office destroyed, the young man is still here, as you can see."

Candice tapped her chin as she thought. *"Wait a minute... If Bryon planted the explosives, why would he set them to blow while still in the buildin'? That's highly suspicious."*

Melissa then pulls out a large evidence bag containing a torn, singed lab coat. "This coat was also found in the ruins of the Institute, specifically where the Head's office once was. There were blood spatters and fur follicles found on the coat itself. A DNA analysis of the samples as well as that of the defendant was a perfect match. This proves he was in the office at that time."

“Hm... But why is there a piece missing from the garment?”

“We believe the culprit tore it off to use as a bandage for his wound, as evident from the blood splatters on the coat.”

Bryon could feel the eyes of the galley upon him, scrutinizing the rabbit and making their own harsh judgments.

“So there we are,” said Boris. “A college student is disgruntled over not getting what he wanted. He bought materials with a credit card and stole a sample of the New York Virus to make some bombs. He then planted the explosives around the Institute and slipped inside the Head’s office, where he detonated the explosives and leveled the building, thus releasing the virus to our fair city.”

The chimp smirked at Jenna and Candice. “If that doesn’t sound like an act of vengeance, I don’t know what it is.”

The judge leaned back in his chair, his brow furrowed as he took the information in. “Hm... Yes. It sounds rather convincing, Mr. Karloff.”

He then eyed the rex rabbit, glaring slightly at him. “It’s hard to imagine a young man like him committing such a horrible crime. But the evidence does indicate otherwise...”

The judge slammed his gavel down. “Right... I think there’s enough here to leave little doubt as to what happened that night.”

Boris took a bow and grinned at the judge. “Naturally. I believe you can hand down that verdict now.”

The judge nodded in agreement. “Of course. Let’s not waste any time now...”

“HOLD IT!”

Jenna had risen from her seat and was pointing her finger at the judge. “Your Honor, aren’t you forgetting something?”

The giraffe looked perplexed. “Forgetting something? Erm... Let’s see...” He patted his robes and looked up at the ceiling. “I’ve got my keys with me... Did I leave the iron on?”

The wolf woman could feel the corner of her eye twitching in agitation. “No, Your Honor... I mean the defense’s case. We haven’t been given a fair go. If you give your verdict now, you’ll be committing a mistrial!”

The judge blinks at Jenna for a while before he shakes his head. “Oh my goodness! I’m terribly sorry, Ms. Ronfauni... I was caught up in the moment and forgot!”

Boris chuckled at the judge, shaking his head. “It’s quite all right, Your Honor. I’m afraid I forgot myself.”



Jenna rolled her eyes at the chimp. "That man's just trying to make a bottle of the case... But why? Something's fishy about this."

Candice stood up from her chair and walked over to the center of the courtroom. She clears her throat and began to speak her case.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a tragedy occurred in this very city seven years ago. A powerful virus was unleashed in this city, nearly wiping it out. We survived, but demanded answers. We sought out the guilty party so that justice would be served to them..."

She gestured towards Bryon with her hand. "The prosecution wishes to place the blame on our client, saying that a college student was responsible for one of the worst events in the United States history. However..."

Candice and Jenna smile confidently at the judge. "We have evidence proving that Mr. Bryon Walden had nothing to do with the attack. In fact, we firmly believe that he was set up by the real culprit."

Jenna pulls out two different folders from her briefcase. One of them was marked "Bryon Walden School Records" and the other was marked "Bryon Walden Criminal Record".

"These are records obtained from the schools Bryon attended as well as his police record," the wolf said. "Apart from a single detention for losing a library book, there were no records of any trouble caused by our client. Also, there were no prior records to be found on his police file."

"OBJECTION!"

Boris had slammed his hand down on the bench. "And what, Miss Ronfauni, does any of this have to do with this case?"

Candice shook her head at the chimp. "Simple... This is to demonstrate Bryon's actual character."

"Or his skill at not getting caught," Melissa muttered to herself.

The judge looks at the canine with interest. "I'd like to hear more of this."

"According to observations from his professors, Bryon was said to be very studious and respected the rules. He was also said to be courteous to those around him, despite being rather shy to others. Testimony provided by some of the Institute workers also backs this claim up."

Boris scoffed and rolled his eyes. "And? What good does telling us this do? He most likely acted that way to keep his feelings to himself. Besides, people change."

Jenna shook her head at Boris. "Sorry, but that doesn't fly with me. I've got something to prove otherwise..."

Boris merely crossed his arms and scoffed at the tribal wolf. "You mean how he was able to hide his emotions and motivations, right?"

She ignored the ape's comment and took out the stack of blog posts again, flipping to the last page. "After the entry that Mr. Karloff presented, our client actually wrote this the next day."

Clearing her throat, she began to read, "I've been thinking about what I wrote last night and I've come to the realization of how selfish it sounded of me. I know that the people back at the Institute have to deal with some of the most dangerous organisms known to this world. I remember how one of our colleagues accidentally got themselves infected with the Ebola virus and had to be sent to the hospital immediately. Remembering that day, I have new respect for my colleagues' work and how dangerous it can actually be."

The wolf woman set the papers back down and looked at the judge. "As you can see, Bryon had a moment of reflection and realized his bad behavior towards everyone at the Institute. If he really only cared for himself, why would he write such a thing?"

The judge leaned back in his chair, nodding in agreement. "Of course! He does sound rather well behaved."

Melissa shook her head at Jenna. "Still, that doesn't prove he didn't commit the crime. There's still plenty of evidence to prove his guilt."

Candice nodded at the ground squirrel. "True. But we're just getting things started."

She addressed the court, "The prosecution believes that Bryon was able to obtain the materials for the explosives. However, this is also proven to be false."

The canine hound pulls out a stack of papers with various numbers printed on them.

The judge stared at the stack of papers with a puzzled look on his face. "Hm? What are those, Miss Merryweather?"

Candice smiled warmly at the giraffe. "These are the financial records for our client and his parents, Victor and Alice Walden."

"OBJECTION!"

Boris looked over at the canine with a smirk. "We're determining the guilt of Mr. Walden here, miss. His parents have little relevance to the case..."

He then noticed Candice and Jenna glaring at him, causing the chimp to sweat at the brow.

"U-Um... That is, they are just grasping at straws and... Please stop glaring at me like that..."

Candice folded her arms at Boris. "They actually have relevance here, Boris. In fact, they're a key factor to this case."

She looked up at the judge and continued, "It turns out that Bryon's bank account and credit card was under ownership by both his mother and father. If their son tried to transfer money from their account to his or if he tried to get a new credit card, they would be aware of it."

She then took a few pieces of paper with handwriting on it. "In fact, there was a credit card cancellation order two weeks before the explosion." She looked back at the rex rabbit. "Do you remember anything about that, Mr. Walden?"

Bryon furrowed his brow as he tried to remember. "Now that you mention it... I remember having a conversation with my parents about that. It was about a couple of weeks before that explosion. They asked me why I had taken a credit card out and charged so much money for some things. I had no idea what they were talking about, so I denied ever doing such a thing. We've talked about it for several minutes before we decided to cancel it. It was a pain to change the security of the accounts..."

Jenna nodded at the rex rabbit before she addressed the court. "And this credit card happens to be the same one that Mr. Karloff presented to the court. It was cancelled before any payments were made to it."

Boris flinched at the wolf's words, while Melissa was staring between the two of them. "Odd... Boris didn't say anything about his parents controlling Mr. Walden's accounts. Why did he keep quiet about it," she thought to herself.

Boris coughed for a moment before he spoke again, "W-Well, someone managed to pay for the materials. Besides, Bryon still managed to get the virus from the Specimen Containment room."

Jenna shook her head at Boris, smirking at the chimp. "Sorry, but I'm afraid that doesn't work as well."

The wolf then pulled out a piece of paper containing a list of names and numbers. "This is a complete list of all the people that worked at the Institute. I'd like to draw the court's attention to a certain number here."

She presents a copy to both the prosecution and the judge, who carefully look at the list. "Hm... There are quite a lot of people here, Miss Ronfauni. What exactly do you want us to see?"

"Take a look near the bottom of the list, Your Honor. Our client's name should be on there."

"Let's see... Oh! It's right near the bottom of the list. And his number is even there as well. Except... What is this "Restricted Access" next to his name?"

Jenna flashed a smile at the judge. "It's what it actually means... Bryon had access to only certain areas of the building. Anyone who visits the facility or is a college student has a special ID that bars them from certain rooms."

The wolf slammed her hand down on the desk. "And it just so happens that the Specimen Containment room is one of those places that are off limits to guests and students!"

She looked over at Boris, who tugged on his shirt collar. "So tell me Boris... How exactly did Bryon get a sample of the virus? Especially since he wasn't allowed access to it?!"

The judge was astounded to say the least. "That's unbelievable!"

The crowd whispered amongst themselves, surprised at how things took a turn. Bryon couldn't help but stare in awe at his attorneys.

"Ha! Surely, you don't expect us to believe that," said Boris, his arms crossed and head bowed. "The defendant probably hacked the computers to..."

Candice shook her head at the chimp, smirking at him. "Sorry, but that's impossible. Bryon's ID number kept him from accessing any computers at the Institute. Also, the computers had the highest security software to block any hackers."

The chimp flinched from her words. "Regardless, there's still the security footage! They spotted the suspect planting the explosives!"

Jenna tapped her chin in thought, "He does have a point... They did show a rex rabbit on those videos. Maybe there was another rabbit there?"

Boris looked over at the rex rabbit, smirking at him. "Besides, we've got a confession of him sneaking into the Head's office!"

Jenna felt her jaw drop from shock before she and Candice stared at Bryon. "You told Boris that?!"

"Actually... I told the police," Bryon said, his ears drooped down. "I confessed to sneaking into the head's office. They must have gotten a copy of that confession from them."

The chimp shook his head at Bryon. "Humph! With that and the footage, you've been placed at the scene of the crime. More specifically, you're at the Head's office! So that makes you guilty of breaking and entering along with your other crimes. Face it, rabbit... You're guilty!"

"OBJECTION!"

Jenna pointed her finger at Boris, a serious look on her face. "Your Honor... What the prosecutor just said contradicts a certain piece of evidence!"

The judge blinked for a moment before he nodded at the canine. "Very well, Miss Ronfauni. But if you waste the court's time with irrelevant claims..."

He looked down at her with a glare. "...You will be penalized. Is that clear?"

The canine nodded at the judge. "I understand, Your Honor."

The judge slammed his gavel down. "Okay, Miss Merryweather. Please show us this evidence that contradicts the prosecution's claim."

Candice then picked up a remote and said, "The contradiction lies in the surveillance footage." She pressed play on the remote, starting the DVD again. The screen showed the backpack wearing rabbit placing the explosives in one of the shots.

"Now then... I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the lower right corner of the screen," Jenna said as the video played.

The judge blinked in confusion as he gazed at the video. "Erm... You mean the time stamp there?"

"Exactly. Now, Your Honor... What does the time stamp say?"

The giraffe pulled out a pair of glasses and placed them on his nose. Squinting through them, he read, "March 13, 2006. 9:18 PM."

The wolf nodded before Candice fast forwarded the video to when Bryon was breaking into the Head's office. "Now... What does the time stamp say on the video now?"

The giraffe read the time stamp out loud. "March 13th, 2006. 9:18PM..."

He leaned back in his chair in shock, his eyes wide open. "W-Wait a minute... You don't mean to say..."

Jenna nodded at the judge, smiling at him. "That's exactly right. Take a look at all of these shots."

Candice played through each of the scenes, pointing out the time stamps.

"They're... They're all displaying the same time and date! But how is this possible," asked Melissa.

"Exactly... Every last shot before the explosion shows the same time and date: March 13, 2006 at 9:18 PM. That asks the obvious question..."

The wolf slammed her hands down on the bench and yelled, "How could the defendant be in several places at the same time?!"

The chimp let out a yelp and recoiled in horror. "Th-That's not possible!"

The crowd was drawn into a talking frenzy as they took in this new information.

"How IS that possible? Is that rabbit a magician?"

"Don't be stupid! One of those images must be true!"

"Why do the images all have the same time stamp?!"

The judge slammed his gavel furiously to quiet the crowds. "Order! Order, I say!"

He stared at Jenna, feeling completely flabbergasted. "M-Miss Ronfauni! What is the meaning of all this?!"

Jenna tucked her hair behind her ear and smirked at the prosecutor. "It's quite simple, Your Honor. Miss Willows, would you remind the court when the explosion occurred?"

Melissa tapped her chin for a moment before replying, "At around. 9:20 PM, I think."

At that point, Candice nodded at the ground squirrel. "Exactly. Now remember the diagram that was presented."

She brings the diagram up on the screen, replacing the security footage from earlier. She pointed out where the explosives were.

"The prosecution has pointed out where the bombs were most likely located, as indicated by the red dots."

The red dots on the screen glowed a few moments, circling the perimeter of the building.

"According to the footage and the confession of Mr. Bryon Walden, he was located where the green dot was."

The green dot, located at the head's office, glowed for a few moments as well. What was noticeable, however, was where the dot was on the map.

"As you can see on the map, the Head's office is located right in the middle of the Institute. Judging from where the bombs were, we can deduce that he would have to run a few hallways before getting to the office, unlocking the door, and getting inside the office."

She looked over at the prosecution with a smirk. "However, he would have to do so in the span of two minutes, something that even the most athletic of citizens couldn't do!"

The judge gazed at the map, an astounded look upon his face. "Indeed! Even I couldn't do it, and I actually set the record for fastest dash in my high school!"

Candice and Jenna giggled at the judge's words. "That's right, Your Honor. If he had planted the explosives, Bryon would have tried to run out of the building instead of heading towards the Head's office."

The chimp's brow was matted with sweat as the wolf continued, "This can only mean one thing: That the rabbit seen planting the explosives was not our client at all!"

The giraffe judge looked down at Candice and Jenna with a shocked look on his face. "Not your client?! But that would make the figure in those other shots... An imposter?!"

The crowd murmured to themselves as the judge slammed his gavel.

"Order! Order in the court!"

The canine smiled up at the judge, adding, "And there's actually proof that the figure is an imposter. Look here..."

She removed the map from the screen and played the video footage again. At the first shot of the rabbit planting explosives, she paused the video.

"Take a look at his legs, or rather... his pants legs."

Upon closer inspection, it could be seen that the figure's pants legs were rather baggy.

"Now if we compare that to the image of Bryon entering the Head's office..."

She stopped the DVD at a shot of Bryon entering the Head's office. Unlike the last shot, the rabbit's pants legs weren't baggy at all.

"Bryon is about six feet and one inch tall. If the figure planting the explosives was him, his pants legs would be smoothed out."

The crowd was drawn into a talking frenzy again, obviously moved by what they saw. The chimp was tugging on his shirt collar again, feeling rather nervous from his crumbling case. His assistant, Melissa, sat down in silence, taking all the information in. Candice and Jenna were smiling at one another, while Bryon let out a sigh of relief.

A sudden bang filled the room, causing everyone to grow quiet. The sound of boots hitting the granite floor filled the air as a mysterious figure approached.

"Sorry I'm late, y'all! I had to stop an attempted bank robbery!"

The figure, a female western bobcat, walked up to the witness stand with a huge grin on her face. The costume on her person gave her the appearance of someone from the Old West, with a pair of six-guns and a lariat on her hips. In her hand was a small satchel. The rex rabbit recognized the woman, causing her eyes to widen from shock. "Th-That's...!"

The judge stared at the newcomer for a few moments before he asked, "Erm... Excuse me, miss, but who are you?"

The bobcat let out a laugh before she spoke, her Texan accent apparent in her speech. "Why, I'm Texas Tilly! BOS Agent and Fastest Shot in the West!"

She smirked at the crowd, hearing them whisper excitedly about a hero in their midst. The giraffe suddenly smiled at the bobcat, his eyes shining in delight.

"Oh! Now I remember you! My granddaughter has a poster of you, actually! She's a huge fan of yours!"

"Heh heh... Why thank ya, pardner! But I ain't here for autographs, I'm afraid!"

She reaches into the satchel and pulls out a DVD from it. "The tech heads were lookin' into that hard drive y'all got. The BOS heard about the case and was real keen into gettin' involved. After all, it's for the country, right?"

"What is this nonsense?!"

The chimp had regained his composure to yell at the heroine. "What do a bunch of costumed crazies want with this case?! They shouldn't butt their noses into it!"

The bobcat glared at the chimp. "Say that one more time and I'll knock yur teeth out! 'Sides, the BOS can get involved, right yer Honor?"

The giraffe nodded at Tilly. "That's correct, Miss Tilly. The BOS is allowed to become involved in a criminal case if the matter concerns the country's national security. This is one of those cases."

He looked over at the chimp with a glare. "And if you insult the young lady again, I will penalize you."

The bobcat let out a laugh at the giraffe. Ya know, I think I like ya Gramps! Now then..."

She walked over to the DVD player and swapped the discs. "They didn't finish gettin' the stuff outta that hard drive, but they did get some interestin' footage."

The video played on the screen, showing off the same shots as before: a rabbit planting explosives in different rooms of the Institute. However, as the rabbit was leaving the rooms, he stood up and walked towards the entrance. At a shot towards the entrance, there were actually several of the same rabbits as before! They grabbed their rabbit ears and tugged them off their heads. Then they shed their lab coats, revealing completely different furs underneath! They consisted of a pack of wolves that ran out of the door seconds before the bombs went off.

The whole courtroom was speechless as the video ended. Jenna and Candice glared at Boris, while Melissa watched in shocked silence.

"Well, Mr. Karloff? Care to explain that one to us," asked Jenna, her arms crossed in front of her.

The chimp stuttered, unable to form a sentence. The judge slammed his gavel, breaking Boris' silence.

"Mr. Karloff! Do you know the identity of these men?!"

The chimp swallowed nervously at the judge. "N-No, Your Honor. This is the first time I've ever seen this."

The judge leaned back into his chair, his brow furrowed in thought. "I see... In that case, I have no choice."

He leans forwards and addresses the court. "In light of these new circumstances that have been presented, I cannot at this time allow the jury to render a verdict!"



Candice and Jenna smirked at one another and shook hands with Bryon, while the chimp sat back down at his desk. He slammed his desk in frustration. "Damn it! The case was air tight! How did this happen?!"

"As of right now, there are too many questions left unanswered here. First, who were the strange men that planted the explosives? Second, why was Bryon's number and credit card number used to obtain the virus and bomb materials, respectively? And finally... What actually happened at the Institute?"

The judge looked between the attorneys. "I hereby give the defense and prosecution teams one full day to investigate and build up their cases. We need to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible."

Candice and Jenna nodded at the judge. "Yes, Your Honor!"

Boris fumed at his desk, glaring at the two ladies in front of him. "Y-Yes, Your Honor..."

Melissa stood by his side, patting him on the back. She looked back at the wolf and canine, an unreadable expression on her face.

"Hoowee! Sounds like things just got more interestin' in here!"

The judge shook his head in mirth. "Indeed, Miss Tilly. This court is adjourned for the day!"

With a slam of the gavel, the trial day was over. As everyone prepared to leave, Boris slipped into the washroom and pulled out his cellphone.

"We're in trouble here. Contact the boss..."