

Shadowing the Rabbit

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Being this our first case, I am really glad the *intelligence operation* has been so successful: although we obviously know our *target's profile* perfectly, we needed to learn more about her movements. Therefore, *agent85* did all the *black-bag job* in her bedroom, looking for any *pattern* or useful information. He was able to find some handwritten notes describing what she is going to do today, and he did it surprisingly quickly, just before she got back to her room. I call that luck, as 85 is always late for everything.

The aim is to prevent our target from arriving at her flat until the *operative* in charge of 94 is completed. I am in charge of the *ghost surveillance*: The target has just left the restaurant and I am now *shadowing* her as she approaches an old gentleman who seems to be kissing and hugging her effusively. She is heading towards her place, but 85 has sent me a message written in *code* which merely says "We need more time. Delay our *rabbit*". I don't need to worry, as I have already warned the *local agent* in the corner, who is now efficiently catching her attention.

Wait! I could catch a glimpse of a pair of huge black eyes staring at me through a small window. Is that Sheyla? She's pretty but she is a *pig*! How could I have possibly been *burned* so stupidly?! I need to contact 85 before Sheyla talks and spoils everything. The best thing I can do in a problematic situation like this is to leave a secret message to 85 in the *dead drop*. Writing "Sheyla knows" on a glossy yellow piece of paper, I'm praying for 85 to read it as soon as possible.

Seemingly, 94 is in the middle of chaos and I don't have the faintest idea where on earth 85 is. But I can't wait. Sheyla and her elder sister are approaching our target; I can definitely trust her sister, but not Sheyla: she has sold us out before.

As I am already *naked* and I have nothing to lose, I run, in an attempt to shut the girl up, but we are startled to see the front door opening, immediately followed by a deafeningly loud "Happy birthday!!!" Fortunately, 94 could do it in time and gathered everyone before Granny arrived. She seems truly surprised as she picks up Sheyla in her arms; and whilst I wonder where 85 is, he appears through the window desperately calling for 94 and dramatically holding my glossy yellow piece of paper.

Spy Glossary

Ghost surveillance: Extremely discreet and seemingly omnipresent surveillance, working mostly out of the view of the target.

Profile: All the aspects of an operative's or a target's overt physical or behavioral persona.

Agent: A person, usually a foreign national, who has been recruited by a staff case officer from an intelligence service to perform clandestine missions.

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Black-bag job: Think of this as the spy's version of breaking and entering, but instead of burglary, the intention is to enter a target's residence to discreetly learn more about him or her.

Pattern: The behavior and daily routine of an operative that makes his or her identity unique.

Operative: An intelligence officer or agent operating in the field.

Shadowing: It is spy talk for secretly following someone. The "shadow" part is about staying close to the one you follow, while not being seen. Just like a shadow, always with you, yet mostly unnoticed.

Code: A system used to obscure a message by use of a cipher, mark, symbol, sound, innocuous verse, or piece of music.

Rabbit: The target in a surveillance operation.

Local agent: An agent recruited in a particular target area to do a local task.

Pig: Russian intelligence term for traitor.

Burned: When a case officer or agent is compromised.

Dead Drop: A secret location where materials can be left for another party to retrieve.

Naked: A spy operating without cover or backup.