Adrian Markov entered the large warehouse, just off San Fernando Rd. in Sun Valley. Surrounded by industrial buildings, storage facilities, auto shops and junkyards, it was the perfect place for a meeting of this sort. No body around here is gonna ask questions, no body around here is gonna care at all. He felt as if he was a bit over dressed. Jeans and a blazer, around here, he looked like a fucking cop and that was the last thing he wanted to be made as. He hurried into the metal door of the building trying not to have too many eyes on him. It smelled of oil and old rust inside. Must have been a machine shop at one time. The place was large, with a huge roll door just to the right of the smaller door he entered through. Aerospace maybe, whatever it was it was all gone now, there was nothing in the entire huge space except for a table and six chairs directly in the center, and a rolling white board in front of that. A man stood at the white board putting up photos and writing names. There was another man, sitting about ten or more feet away from the table. He was dressed in an all black suite, white shirt and a thin red tie. Probably secret service, he’d never seen him before, Adrian was sure he didn’t work for “The Company”.

“Good afternoon Mr. Markov. Glad you could make it.” the man at the white board said turning to Adrian. “Have a seat. The rest will be here soon.”

The man turned back to the white board and continued putting photos up. He was in his mid forties, curly brown hair cut short with gray at the temples. He was in a cheap yellow dress shirt with the sleeves rolled to the elbows, and brown polyester slacks. Did they even make things from polyester anymore? He looked like a man who was so overworked that he didn’t have any time to put himself together. Sloppy some would say, but Adrian could see it, he wasn’t a slob, he was focused. So focused he had little time to put on airs. The door opened spilling sunlight into the dim warehouse. Time for roll call.

A woman entered, she definitely stuck out like a soar thumb. She wore a dark blue skirt suite and black sensible heals. Now, she works for “The Company”, he could tell, she had that arrogance in her stride that said, “I don’t give a fuck, my clearance is so high I could find out the results of your last colonoscopy.” Fuckin spooks, she better play nice, he had a lot riding on this.

As she approached the table and pulled out a chair, the man at the white board said “Ms. Lowe, pleasure to see you again.” He hadn’t turned around to look at her just continued to write on the board.

“You too Stanley, thanks for the invite.” she glanced at the second man sitting alone away from the table. Adrian could tell she was suspicious of the man, guess he’s not CIA then. Looking at the pictures being added to the white board Adrian recognized some of them. At least two of them were on the FBI’s most wanted list. Every agent committed those faces to memory, Adrian was no different. He had his marching orders though, get the intel on Sadaf Yassin, where he is, where he goes, who he meets with. It should be smooth as silk, as long as everyone else can keep their shit together. The door opened again, this time two men entered.

The first one to reach the table, shaved baled with a goatee, gray and black plade flanel with the top button done and a white tea shirt beneath, pulled out a seat, turned it around and sat. Both men were covered in tattoos. The second slowly walked up, black dickies work shirt with black dickie pants, pleated and rolled, he wore a black and white bandanna and was shaved bald as well. Adrian could see what the tattoos were, he was FBI, and they were on his radar. The facial tattoos marked them as Maras. These guys were Mara Salvatrucha, MS-13. So brutal was this gang that the Sinaloa Cartel recruited them to fight Los Zetas in Mexico. What the hell were these guys doing here.

The man at the white board broke the tension. “Mr. Silva. Now that you have arrived we can start.” he moved to the side of the board so that everyone could see.

“OK everyone, this op came together pretty quickly and we have a very short window to get this done. I know not all of you have been briefed so I appreciate your quick response and patients. Let me start by saying. I don’t give a fuck who you are or who you work for, I have it from on high that this is my op and the rest of you are here in a support capacity. I know you have your own agendas, but listen up, your agencies wouldn’t have the chance to get in this close if it weren’t for us and we are happy to have you hitching a ride. This is a DEA operation people. I don’t wanna see shit go off the rails because of some other priority. These men’s lives depend on you all doing what they tell you to do. So don’t fuck it up. I also want you to know there is no extraction plan. You are expected to operate completely on your own. Mr. Silva has more details for you, Mr. Silva.” at that he moved for an empty chair. It was the first time since Adrian had showed up that he sat down.