

# Chapter 1

Jade Myers stopped outside the restaurant. There was a sign above the door. It read “The Bureau.” Jade smiled. This was a perfect place to meet with Ethan.

Ethan Clark and Jade had worked together in the past. Both were agents. Jade worked for the FBI. Ethan worked for the British Secret Service. They specialized in kidnapping cases. The last time they teamed up was five years ago. They’d worked together to catch a leader of a kidnapping ring. His code name was Raven.

The day before, Jade had been in California. She got a call from headquarters in Washington, D.C. Her boss instructed

her to go to England. And now here she was in London.

The door to the restaurant opened. A burst of laughter and music came from inside. Then a couple came out. Jade waited a few more minutes for Ethan. When it started to rain, she went into the restaurant. The place was crowded and noisy. She looked around for him. Just then she heard his voice.

“Jade, over here.” Jade recognized Ethan’s voice. He had a British accent. She turned to look. Ethan was across the room. He was waving to her.

“It’s so good to see you in person,” he said as he got closer. The two hugged. “I can’t believe it’s been five years. I’ve reserved a table for us. It’s in the back,” he said.

Ethan led the way through the crowd to a table. Jade hung her umbrella on the back of her chair. Then she sat down. He sat across from her.

“So let’s talk about the assignment,” Jade said. “I can’t believe the Raven case has been reopened. Especially since Raven is in prison.”

“Let’s order before we get into it,” Ethan said. “Do you want to share some appetizers?”

“That sounds good,” Jade said.

She and Ethan each chose items from the menu. Then Ethan signaled for the server and ordered.

“Tell me what you know,” he said.

“You remember Alan Evans,” she said.

Ethan nodded. “He was part of Raven’s kidnapping ring,” he said.

“Right,” Jade said. “He’s been in a U.S. prison for the past five years. He’s serving time for that last kidnapping the group did. Anyway, the prison intercepted a letter Evans had written. It was addressed to someone here in London. Evans said he’d be getting out soon. And he’d be heading

to London. The letter is being analyzed now by the National Security Agency. They think it may contain coded messages.”

“I have an update for you too,” Ethan said.

The server brought their food. Jade picked up her fork and began to take a bite.

“Evans is already in London,” he said.

Jade set the fork down.

“He was found near the Tower of London. It was just yesterday. He’d been stabbed. The medics thought he was unconscious. They were about to put him into the ambulance. That’s when he spoke. He said ‘Tuesday Raven.’ ”

Jade closed her eyes. “I’ve never stopped thinking about Raven. I almost died because of him.” She felt a shiver go through her.

## Chapter 2

Jade and Ethan spent the next hour recalling the old Raven case. It involved a large network of kidnappers. The group had formed in London. It was led by a man named James Grant. The British Secret Service called him Raven.

After each kidnapping, Grant left behind a note. It was signed “Raven.” Officers had a theory about the name. Grant chose it because the raven is known to be a clever bird. And the group’s method *was* clever.

It was the same routine every time. They would kidnap the child of a wealthy family. Then they’d demand money. There were always two kidnappings at a time. The scheme worked well. It kept police off guard.

They'd respond to the first kidnapping. By then, another one would be underway. It would be in a different part of town.

This pattern continued. Soon there was an overlap of cases. There weren't enough officers to handle the work. The Secret Service would investigate. But there were never any clues. Raven and his team were very careful. They were always sure to clean up after themselves.

Jade joined the case five years earlier. It was after the group's last kidnapping attempt. She was brought in because an American was involved. The woman was married to a wealthy businessman. He was originally from London. The couple had a child. They'd been living in the U.S. Then the husband got a job in London. The family was in the process of moving. They were in London to look for a place to live.

Raven's gang had been watching the

family. The husband was driven to work every day. A limo would pick him up at the same time each morning. The gang also knew that the woman had a bodyguard. He would join her as she and her daughter traveled around the city. Raven made a plan to divert the bodyguard's attention.

Two gang members waited for the husband to leave for work. They sped ahead of the limo. Once they were on the highway, the driver hit the brakes. The limo swerved. Then it hit a signpost and came to a stop. The limo driver quickly called the cops. The bodyguard had also been called. The masked men forced their way into the limo. One of them sprayed the driver with tear gas. Then they sped away.

On the other side of town, the bodyguard left the hotel. That's when Raven's group broke into the family's hotel room. They tied up the woman. But the child wasn't there. Thinking quickly, they decided to