

The Silent Watchman

Introduction

Sitting at the ornate desk in my subterranean sanctum, fingers poised above the keyboard, I muse, then gaze to my left and search for thought in the infinite depths of the exquisite shades-of-gray print hanging on the cream-white wall. Abruptly, my fingers dash for the keys, and a steady clicking lends sound effects to the actions that draw my attention to the task at hand: A personnel matter: transition planning, determining based on functional requirements the considerations required to replace a highly specialized and greatly valued asset who thinks it time to retire.

When the cold war wound down, the world was awash with old warriors having varying talents who had been fully employed during the decades since World War II. Those with exceptional resumes found lucrative opportunities in a burgeoning corporate market place for private military forces and industrial intelligence. In their new careers, they employed many, in select cases all, of their varying talents.

Among these displaced warriors is one who is truly without peer in one aspect: he is a surveillance wizard. He can see things others cannot, and not be detected while doing it. Accompanying the myriad of skills he has sharpened over four decades of practice under stressful circumstances is the ancillary application of those skills to the tasks of countersurveillance. These activities, though only a fraction of the range of services for which the marketplace pays handsomely, are highly prized in the new entrepreneurial environment. One authoritative source defines preoperational surveillance as perhaps the most vulnerable point in the special operations attack cycle; so many of my current, and potential, clients are interested in conducting surveillance or

countersurveillance with the utmost facility and discretion. Skill in this particular vocation enables such assets to work all sides of nearly all issues. And, a penchant for anonymity makes them employable and re-employable in the same or similar circumstances.

Generally, an agent capable of moving comfortably throughout the appropriate marketplace is necessary (just as celebrated actors and athletes employ agents to promote and negotiate for them among those seeking their talents). I am such an agent; and I circulate widely throughout the world of international contracts and finance with a client list including gray and black relationships in addition to the legitimate clientele of the venerable firm that I head.

Focusing on the task at hand, I continue this appreciation in an unexceptional university city in middle America ... and with the only name by which I know this quiet gentleman: Amos Sanson.