

10. THE PARTY LIST

–I am going to give you a list. I want you to take care of each one on the list.

–Why the list?

–These are the invited. It is up to you to make them feel at home.

–Are you leaving a trail so that these actions can be traced back to you.

–It is your job to make sure that the party ends when you have finished your job.

My assignment has me waiting in this hotel until I get my instructions. This place is a flea bag. And the whole deal seems pretty sketchy.

I've spent the past few days perfecting my technique of analyzing reality TV shows. I don't want to say that I am bored, but this is hardly the ideal use of my talents. Maybe I should have been trained for another profession.

One shot, one kill. My code is very clear. I am a government in and of myself. You can either use me to maintain order, or I will create my own law. It is that simple. Not only do I have an infallible method, I am careful how I execute my instructions. I cannot and will not be captured. I am invisible. You know me by what I do.

I want to be part of your event. You will remember my presence. I am waiting for the list of those with whom I will party. By the end to the festivities, everyone on my list will be eliminated.

I am the idea without any form of interference. I am pure will. You can either be part of the force that I represent, or you will feel that force against you. This is the simplest form of government. It is rule by a singular law. My law has been incorporated into the social order. Anyone who stands in my way stands no chance. I am all powerful. I am everywhere.

I am creative in the application of my unitary principle. I can evade capture because I am nowhere. I am noone. I am totally invisible.

I have given my personality over to the mission that I do. The two are now inseparable. I do nothing to nurture my independent desires. I have organized my being so that everything that I do is part of a singular scheme.

My personal entertainment is minimal. I leave no trace so I will never be found. I am all about my assignment. I permit no distractions. If there is any pleasure in my life, it is the satisfaction that I get in a job well done. I no how to analyze the target. I can anticipate any obstacles in my way. I can eliminate such impediments as part of my instructions.

I have no need to improvise. There is nothing left to chance in my planning. I am aware of any random factors that may stand in my way.

I have no friends. No allies. I know that I am part of a system that gives me my orders. I am ready to execute what is expected of me. I work under a rule that is unswaying. Its application is relentless. My employers realize this. I will never be idle. There is lot of work to be done.

Those who do not accede to the rule of law will face the consequences. Those who mock the social order will face its wrath. I have a job to get done. It will be accomplished under any and all circumstances. My need will not go unanswered. I am not a hired guy. I am not an assassin. I am an enforcer. I am here to do my work whether anyone takes advantage of me or not. I have already been set in motion. All that my superiors can do is direct my operation. I am

always active. My mission has been long-running

The party began long ago. You can either join in or you will be invited in. There are no bystanders. I either work for you or against you. I do not harm the innocent, because they have already made common cause with the law. And the social order cannot be effected without my intervention. I am the grease that keeps the wheels turning.

I do not depend on any form of support. My payment is all part of the larger plan that is being put into action. Don't make the mistake of thinking that I will go away. Find no comfort in the fact that you have not availed yourself of my services. What I do is independent and ongoing. You can call on my performance. But I am going to be in action whether or not you need on me. My exigency is greater than any expectations that you have. I am here to get the job done.

Law cannot exist without the need to execute its spirit. I take the words from the page and make them come alive. I am the angel of vengeance. There is no freedom that does not pass through me!

–Why are you here?

–You know exactly why I am here. You thought that you could get away with your domination over others. We have been watching you all along. You have to know that your regime would never last. You have been working for a long time. But your agenda has always been of a short nature. And your term is up.

>>You have to wonder why things have taken this long. We are hardly naive about your interference. Many people's lies have been destroyed because of you. You keep on with your smug act. You think that you can punish those who do not meet your narrow definitions of right and wrong. But you have taken an improper course from the beginning. There is nothing enlightening about what you do. There is no power behind you. You have no power. You only think that you have been carrying on higher law. Those days have come to an end.

>>I have been sent her to show you the love that you deserve. This time things are a little more involved. I have been asked to frighten you before I take care of you. This is a very dangerous task as it means that I am exposed for a longer period of time. Under these circumstances, I am more prone to detection. Don't worry! I have been extra-cautious. My instructions are unambiguous. The intention is very direct. You have been a hindrance to real progress.

>>With your charts and your files, you probably think that you are well-equipped to apply the law. And you have the technique to make it appear that you are following moral precept. This couldn't be further from the truth. We have been watching you all along. There are others of more importance who we have taken care of without such fanfare. Why even bother to take so much effort and bother with you.

>>You have done more than accomplish your goals. You have set yourself up as some kind of moral judge when nothing that you are doing has any moral basis whatsoever. You are a clown of limited intellect. But you try to lord over those who you put down. They enter your lair, and you observe them until you are able to execute your plan. A casual viewer might even think that you and I have something in common. Not at all. I am part of a scientific method. You use science to limit the propagation of knowledge. You have raised the way of the simpleton to an art form. You think that such devotion to the system has made you impervious.

From the beginning, you have deviated from the true path. We are now making an example of you. No matter how powerful you think that you are, we are showing you that you understand nothing about humanity.

>>I will draw a unique pleasure in doing away with you. I have been asked to make a ritual out of your demise. You must feel all the pain that you have inflicted over the years. I have never served under you. I have never felt your cruelty. Therefore, none of this is about revenge. This is the law pure and simple.

>>My pleasure comes from effecting a total balance. It is not sadistic in nature. It is more of an educational nature. You believe that you have been teaching the world. But you have been leading us astray. I am commissioned with leading you back to the right path.

>>There is little time to accomplish all that I have come here to do. Even if I was not appointed for this task, you and I would have eventually run into each other. Do not think that you can evade justice. The world will be a better place once you have been taken care of.

>>What I love about this job is the physical nature of my assignment. I am being asked to get involved intimately in the execution of this task. I will personally feel every detail of your demise. I will immerse myself in your flesh and bone!

We have a retirement package for you. You have spent long years working for the agency in the hope that your service would finally be rewarded. And the final act of appreciation is the ultimate token of our love.

You may think that these years have gone unnoticed. But you have always been here for us. And now we are repaying you. You are getting everything that you deserve. You probably think that there is no expression that could possibly sum up how much we cherish you. We admit that words are not sufficient in this regard. It takes a heartfelt gesture to let you know how much we care.

Usually it seems impossible to make known such a degree of recognition. Others have received plaques that commemorate their time of service. We understand that this is not enough in your case. You have sacrificed so much to keep things going. We believe that it is necessary to provide you with the ultimate gift.

It would be unfortunate to let such an opportunity pass without offering such a clear sign of our admiration. I know that there are times that you may have doubted us in this regard. We have always had your best interests at heart.

–Are you fucking crazy?

–What do you mean?

–You’re going to kill me. I have always been a defender of freedom. You are going to deprive me of my most basic freedom.

–Freedom is just a word for you like everything else has been words. You never minded when the world used cruelty to advance your freedom. When freedom was taken from others to advance your freedom. Lover, this is payback time.

–I thought that you are not supposed to take glee in your mission.

–Taking glee is part of my present job description. It’s the only way to let you know that there are those who find nothing humorous about your antics. You ignore the violent nature of your inculcation. You talk on about the liberty exercised on your behalf. You only welcome it when your minions toe the line. They may laugh about it. Find delight in blind obedience. But

you are vile.

–Don't you serve under a regime that promotes blind obedience?

–The regime requires my services only to the degree that it forthright. I see with utter clarity what is the effect of my actions. You have been deprived of that ability until now. You only see what you want to see. You do not teach., You are useless.

And it is in the spirit of our thanks that we offer you the one thing of which you are truly deserving. Sign your name at the bottom of the page. We have documented all your accomplishments. Take credit for what you have done. You have done great things. We all adore such a lovely person.

–You are a sick person. You can be helped.

–You are the one who is letting this get out of hand. Sit still and let me do my job. I told you that this is a present from your superiors. It is not everyone who is so revered.

–This is gross.

–No, you are the one who is gross. Someone utterly without imagination. Who takes freedom to mean the right to don a colorful ribbon or to giggle at the most absurd joke. You have no idea of the harm that you have wrought.

>>I am acting in your name. You gave me the licence to do this long ago. I am simply taking up on your offer.

>>You have always believed that freedom should be spread with such alacrity. I am the terrible swift sword. Thanks for your brilliant defense of my method. You have always been so open. I am the force that helps you maintain your democratic impulses!

If there is going to be a party, I am going to dress for the occasion. I have thousands of pairs of shoes. If I don't have enough in my closet, I will buy some more. This is my reward for advancing the values of civilization.

My hair is a mess. I need to do something about it quick. There's not much money in my account. I can charge what I need. I have to look great for this soiree. My hairdresser can help restore the psychological balance that I need to put my best face forward for this party.

Makeup. I need to convey the perfect look for this event. An air of sophistication with a touch of innocence. Everyone will see the positive glow. But the matte finish will make sure that I am brilliant, but I do not shine.

I have the perfect dress in mind. This is indeed my most difficult choice. I want all eyes on me. I may not be the tallest girl in the world. But I can make myself tower above everyone else there. My new heels will make me rise above the crowd. And my dress is subtly revealing. Men will drool over me. Women will be envious. Everyone will appreciate my grace. I will dominate, but I will not be cruel. My image will reflect the inner splendor of my soul. My heart will touch my public. Everyone will cherish the inner calm that I bring to the event.

For now, I am frantic. I am going to kill anyone who gets in my way. Everything has to be perfect. I have a lovely necklace to complement my dress. I need to learn to walk on air. I am getting dragged down by the smallest concerns.

I love the fact that the party is going to offer me the chance to ascend to my rightful throne. I hate to sound as I think that I am superior. I just have an idea of the way that I want to be. And I work for my goal.

What does it mean to be the life of the party? It means more than showing up and

wowing the guests. *There is something that is almost spiritual about what I do. I live to be worshipped. And this only brings me closer to something that is more fundamental. I want to be everlasting and if this is the first step towards that end, so be it.*

Let my image burn in your hearts. Devotion, my sweets.

My needs are minimal. Two meals a day and some snacks. Enough clothes that I can fit in a bag. And my tools.

I can go on a moment's notice. I can even dispose of my instruments of the trade if needs be. This is all part of maintaining my invisibility.

I no longer know what city I am in. I have a map. And it will lead me to my destination. When my work is done, I will hop on another plane and head for somewhere else. In each case, I will have instructions relayed to me. The less that I know, the easier it is to conduct my job.

I can be anywhere. I can do anything necessary to conduct my work. I have been authorized by the authorities. There is an expertise that is built into my mission. I do not question this necessity.

The waiting is killing me. I make the best of my time.

What is your definition of educational TV?

Books—I am too tense to read. When are they going to call?

—I am making a list of my friends. And these are the complications.

—OK.

—Don't get to know these people. It's hard to do the job.

—I like to party.

—You are made for this job. A perfect specimen.

—You're not coming on to me, are you?

—I just assumed that you love our work.

—It's my work. I try and not get involved.

I am told that I am going to receive my instructions on TV. It is better this way. No phone calls to connect me to the director.

More amateur talent shows. Why do people love this shit? We are slipping down the hell hole.

I could make up my own list. I will have to do that if my superiors are not forthcoming. They have already given me the authorization to substitute other names on the list. It is getting longer.

—You have the mark of the beast, like a target.

—*Can you give me what I want.*

Let the world know where it hurts—how to make it better.

—*I am here to put you out of your misery.*

—*This is nothing new.*

We are watching you. You need to keep on your game. If you falter, we will take up the slack.

SHOW NO MERCY!

—I don't need no god.

—I am your god.

—You can't make me believe.

- I can make you disbelieve.
- What is that supposed to mean?
- You won't look me in the eyes.
- Not is you're going to hurt me.
- I don't need your assent to do what I do.
- Do you try to look terrible?*
- What are you saying?*
- If you fixed yourself up, you might look attractive.*
- Are you going to take me off your invitation list?*
- I might!*
- Why did you grab my arm?
- I want you to like me.
- Does it work that way for you?
- You dropped your sunglasses. Here they are!
- Oh, thanks!

I am learning from television. Each show has a clear purpose. I simply watch and follow along.

What I plant will return to me a thousand fold! I am beginning to understand the nature of law and punishment. I am feeling my angelic origins.

- If you want men to look at you, you need to have something to show.
- There is more to life than being admired.
- And what is that?
- A sense of justice

I need a mirror. I need to show you what justice looks like.

-Huh?

If you took what I do and created a method based on it, you would have the blueprint of the state. This is the basis for all ethics. The balance. I could be truly majestic. Except I get no pleasure from what I do.

-I just wish that you would go away.

We share the same childhood. The same break from reality. I am you. We will be together, your majesty.

TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

I am developing an affection for certain TV shows. I can't wait until they come on. This appears to be interfering with my mission. Or maybe it is all part of what I have to do. I will take my instructions from the TV.

I am here to love you!

I want this story to be over so that I can go on to the next. My missions have never lacked this clarity. What is happening?

The lull is forcing me to revisit old memories. There is no suspense in what I do. It is almost machine-like. I do not want to think about the past.

If you give me a cover story, I will take it. Make me into whatever person that you need me to be. Give me a purpose. I will do the job that you need me to do.

I do not want to get involved in your soap operas. Do not waste my talent. The universe

moves forward by maintaining these fine balances. Do not let them get upset.

Television is starting to drag me down. I am getting caught up in the episodes. I eat when my favorite shows are on. I get to know the characters intimately. I feel as if I am talking to these people. There has to be a reason for my wait. This is the reason. Television is transmitting a secret code to all of us. I am learning that code.

What we need is a leader. A man from television. He is telling us what to do. I am following the leader. He will save us.

The leader will be drawn from the same stock that I represent. We do what is necessary. We do what we are told. I need my party list.

Where do I go next? I cannot go to my next mission until I finish this one. I am not sure where to start. I need to study more TV.

There is too much violence on TV. There is not enough. The characters that I hate are allowed to do their mischief.

Television makes me feel that there is something wrong with me. That I am missing something in my life. But this feeling only makes me want to watch more.

I am becoming too sedentary. I need to remind myself about my mission. If I am not told what to do, then I must discover what to do. I want to make you dance!

I realize what is going on now. They want to do away with me. All along I have been too malleable to their wishes. I just did what I was told. There is a method to this madness. I have to prepare my own list. I have to use my memories. I have become deadened to my surrounding because I did not want to get caught up in the silliness. I realize now that I am part of the plot. I need a script!

I have been a mechanic. Now I have to be a leader. I have to develop a plan.

The plan is all me. I love fantasizing about new outfits that I can buy. It keeps me working hard at my job. I give of myself during the daytime. I need to let go at night.

There are so many useless people just getting in the way. So many flawed people. So many laws that are broken.

One shot one kill. Make it happen.

Every second of my life is part of a story. They walk upright. I bring them back down to ground level.

–Do I have a story? Or am I just part of theirs. I have all these memories, but I don't know what to do with them. I never wanted to hurt anyone. Hurt was just part of my mission. If I was asked to inflict extra pain, I accepted that assignment. You are going to die a slow death.

This is just a rough patch. I will get over it. What am I doing when I leave this room? What I always do! I leave the room to take care of my mission.

–Can we end the story now?

–Do you want to talk to someone about what you do?

–I enjoy my work. Not in the sense of pleasure. Just in the sense that it is the right thing to do. I don't need someone making me feel guilty. I love our system. I help maintain the freedom that we have.

I am not falling apart. I am simply reconstructing my mission.

–*What if one of our assassins just started working on his own?*

–*It works that way anyway! That makes it harder to trace everything back to us.*

–What if he started to prepare lists on his own?

–That is our most fervent hope.

–What if he tried to get rid of us?

–We have nothing to fear.

–Who should be afraid?

–We aren't allowed to talk about that.

I am not the first to travel this road. There have been others in the past who waited for the call of history. It takes a special man to know when his name is being called. Such is fate. It offers us a unique calling.

There are so many lost souls who do not have the special advantages that have been offered me. I have been made a part of history. I am not simply a spectator.

–He is going to go off.

–That is a certainty. With his background, he has a need. And when he is on, he is invisible. There is nothing to connect him to any of his victims. Let him take them for the last dance!

I am active! The TV is on. It speaks to me!

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO!

The path is inevitable. The one who sets me in motion must be brought down to size. There is no other way.

I watch *Suddenly* with Frank Sinatra. Sinatra is good, but the idea of the movie is a little silly.

I have been invited to a party. If I am not the host, I must be a guest. I treat the other guests accordingly. But then I realize that I am also on party list. There can be no other explanation. I have become a threat to the very order that I extend. I never could have been the host. Up until this point, I have been working the party. There would be no party without my list.

My victims loosely represent a single point of view. If they worked together, they would threaten the same idea that gives me my purpose. They have never had that chance. I represent a group of people who have been given the nation's trust. It is their solemn duty to make sure that the opposition never emerges from the shadows. Political parties clash in the public arena. But they never make a dent on the real exercise of power. Those in power have their strength by their commitment to my superiors. This is not a conspiracy. This is a necessity.

Whether it is the President or the generals, they all owe their position by their allegiance to this one thing. And I am one of the keepers of that trust. I am active.

Even those who instruct me know that their tenure is conditional. Just as I have done their bidding, I have to keep them in line. And the hierarchy is set up to guarantee just that thing. When it fails, I am released to set the order back in motion.

I have been commissioned to stay in this hotel room so that I could analyze the present state of our culture. It is evident that something is wrong. And this civil disorder can only be remedied by neutralizing those who have wasted their trust.

I need to create my own list. I am active. I will go down the list to make sure the party is a reality. Eventually, I have to take care of the one who sent me. This is inevitable. We have to start at the beginning. I will reset society.

If it's the beginning of a new season, there are a host of parties to attend. I have to look my best. This is where I can make connections so that I can advance in my job. And if I am lucky, I will meet Prince Charming.

Every other girl that I know has the same goals that I do. We all work hard. But that is never enough. We need something to take us over the hump. Since I am in such a severe competition, I have to be the one who comes out on top.

It is terrible to think of all the other girls as rivals. My friends do everything that they can to help me look my best. We go to the hair salon together. We share information about sales. We attend each other's soirees. However, we are all rivals. None of us wants to remain an understudy when there is only one belle of the ball.

If there is a party, I will be there. If I have not been invited, I have to look so stunning that they will not mind if I crash the party.

And so my plan has been set in motion. I am giving a party. And I am going to crash my own party. It is a bit of a contradiction. I never understood the role of chaos in defining my mission. Everything has always been part of this strict order. Of course, once I leave the scene, there is nothing but chaos.

Everything that I have done in the past has been a preparation for my present assignment. I never really understood who I was working for. And now it has become so clear. I have always been there to give meaning to the law. Many people believe that law takes its form from the average citizen. He goes about his business. He does not break the law. He obeys the law.

The real transgression occurs when the lawmakers take it upon themselves to create a separate code of conduct for themselves. Many of these adventurous souls have come to unfortunate ends. All of this has seemed natural. Heart attacks and plane crashes all have unexplained elements.

My work has always been more obvious. I have worked behind the scenes so that the law can be maintained. We cannot trust the courts. They only serve those who have abused power. They have rewritten law and deformed precedent in their favor.

I have been working for the law for years. I understand its actual intent. I am here to put things back into perspective.

The average citizen has nothing to fear. History goes on around him. He lives in the present. He is unencumbered by the interferences that could potentially threaten him and his family. I have to keep things in working order.

I get closer and closer to the final resolution. One shot, one kill.

It is not enough to have a list. It must be written in a way to elucidate its order. I am moving towards the offender of greatest importance.

The key to any successful party is my discovery of the guest of honor. It is obvious who is the special guest at a party. It is written on the invitation. But behind the evident is another guest of real importance. I have to understand the hidden order that is built into the invitation list.

Many times the important guest is hiding in the shadows. This only makes my job easier. I simply have to flatter him to bring him out of the shadows.

This morning I was afraid that I had made a serious mistake. I am working on my own. I cannot be certain about my course of action. But I cannot court a grave error. For my

shortcomings, I have developed a certainty of analysis.

I have been watching television and making notes. I am trying to assuage my doubts. I am active. I cannot sit on the sidelines. I have to attack my mission.

This is going to be the most difficult job that I have ever undertaken. I have to get close enough to my guest to do the job. My instruments allow me to work at long range. Even under those terms, this is going to be a bitch.

I have never felt myself so personally involved in a job. The easiest part of the job will be taking care of my guest. The hardest part will be getting away. I have enough distance on my side that I can blend into the crowd before anyone is the wiser. He will simply fall to the ground before anyone has realized what has happened. Then everyone will sigh. Some may scream. But no one will realize that I am the one who has taken care of things.

I have scouted out my position. I have to make sure that I do not telegraph my intentions. I know that they will be watching. It has to be this way. I am the hand of the Lord. And he is the sacrificial lamb. This party is our last supper.

I am feeling a form of exhilaration that is new to me. I love the rush. I hope that these emotions do not derail me from my appointed round. I am not nervous. I bring to the job all the professionalism that is my trademark.

He has maintained his power by availing himself of my services. He has tried to maintain an image of non-violence. He has always realized that what I do is of the utmost necessity for his public image.

The private reality is clashing with the public image. In reality, it always has. Those in charge have tried to meddle with angels like me. We have our charge. We cannot be distracted by petty politics. It is awful that they think that we are cut up in their squabbles.

At no time in the past has history moved with such a degree of necessity. The clashes of the night are only a distraction from this one direction of time. I am the time piece of the new civilization. I am ticking!

I have eaten a filling breakfast, and I have checked out of the hotel. All the necessary maps have been conveyed to me. I have figured out the mission on my own. But everything is in place for me to do my job.

There remains one question: do they want me to get away? I need to consider all my alternatives. I am not going down for this!

–You have always wanted this.

–What are you telling me?

–This is your appointment with destiny.

–I have become destiny.

–You have been wavering.

–I have not interfered with the necessary operation of power.

–You have made people doubt.

–The doubt was already there. I focused it. I prevented it from becoming an actual threat.

–What are you saying?

–I have helped to make things easier for the exercise of power. I have guaranteed our international programs. I have made sure that nothing domestically threatens the dominant

order.

–People are starting to question your authority.

–What is the alternative?

–More freedom.

–I represent the voice of freedom.

–You have only confused the situation.

Everything is on schedule. There has been no change in plans

–This story has been told again and again. Why is this telling different?

–This telling emphasizes the tragedy.

–How is that?

–He defended the moral order, but he allowed pride to get in the way.

–Isn't that always the same.

–He spoke as if he understood. There is real tragedy here.

–Do you really think that he understood anything but power?

–What is that?

–The list: one shot, one kill.

I am ready. Our marriage in blood, our marriage in history, is about to occur

–He is in a closed car. There is no shot.

–There is that split second when he is in the open.

–It is not a direct shot.

–I cannot call off my man.