

BOOK SIX CHAPTER 6 CONTRONYM

It was three o'clock in the morning when Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis arrived at the Paro guesthouse, Jane Green, Paul Osprey and Raoul Lapin anxiously waiting. Asha, holding the baby golden Langur close, refused to part with the tiny monkey until someone from the animal rescue mission came for him. A messenger quickly left the hotel.

Jane - "A member of the King's staff delivered these. We have no idea who sent them." Small blue envelopes with the names Shilli Louwrens, Emilie Larsen Lishin, Julian Emerson, Asha Esim, Lapis Lishin written in white ink, flourishes of calligraphy, each with the same message on the white card inside.

*"Stop what you are doing or
people you care about will be harmed."*

In a safe place to say whatever they were feeling, everyone's response, a combination of fear and doubt, was palpable. Shilli was the first. His shoulders slumped forward, "I'm not sure I'm strong enough for this." Lapis lowered his head, "It's no longer about what we will or won't do with the interspecies corridor. Now we can't do anything?" Emilie, after collecting all the notes, giving them to Jane Green, stared at her feet. "I'm scared." Asha - "It's starting again, just like the awful things during the trial." Julian - "That was public with lots of media. Obviously our meeting privately has caught someone's attention." Overtaken by the emotions of the moment, no one said anything to the attorneys about the message from the golden Langur.

The three attorneys, always supportive and sympathetic, did what they could to reassure everyone, unsuccessfully. Jane spoke quietly “Let’s go into the living room. We have something to tell you.” Paul Osprey was the last to sit down. “We’ve been contacted by the Indian Embassy and the Danish and Swiss Consulates.” Raoul Lapin continued. “There’s no other way to say this. Your parents are missing.”

When Lapis stood up, picking up the large vase of flowers on the table, throwing it against the wall, no one moved. Fear overtook the room, everyone asking questions at once. No real answers. “We’re doing everything we can to find the people responsible.” “We’re going to find your parents and bring them home.” Emilie - “Whoever did this, what do they want?” Julian - “We’re working to make changes for something we believe in. With the resources we have, it’s been life changing for all of us. Who are we hurting?”

Jane - “The trial not only made people aware of needed changes, but had other consequences. Animals now have lawyers to file legal actions, wrongful death lawsuits concerning laboratory experiments, cetacean personhood, damage to animals’ living environment. Attorneys are suing other attorneys. World wide, politicians and scientists weren’t prepared for this. The definition of unindictable is changing” Paul - “The difference between ethics and morals. Knowing what is right versus doing what is right.” Shilli had taught Julian morse code. When Julian started tapping lightly on the table, looking directly at Shilli, the message was received. “All of Us.”

After the communication from the baby Langur, the notes of warning and now this, everyone was in shock. Anger was yet to come. The only priority now was to get home.

Paul Osprey -“We are family.” Raoul Lapis - “Many adults I know aren’t as resilient as the five of you.” Emilie began to cry, shaking her head, left to right, “risk avoidance.” The Vestas Wind Systems planes were at the airport, ready to depart. Before leaving for home, Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis wanted time together.

Walking into the garden, everyone sat at a small round wooden table, the full moon illuminating a flower bed filled with white and purple daisies. Asha looked fondly at the baby Langur in her arms. “Maybe we should stop what we’re doing until our parents are safe.” Julian - “If you falter, and give up, you will lose the power of keeping any resolution, and will regret it all your life. Abraham Lincoln.” Lapis - “If we stop now and start again later, the threats will just continue.” Shilli - “From the beginning, no matter how young we were, Marcus always had patience to help us understand what he was saying. Simple explanations. Let’s ask him for help.” A small yellow Labrador puppy, hidden in the flower bed, popped his head up, approaching slowly before jumping onto the table.

“I am CAESURA. Your parents will be all right. The animals and natural world are watching over them to ensure they are protected. Trust is the basis for any relationship. Trust us. People are using fear as a weapon to stop you from what you are doing. Believe in yourselves and your inner strengths, remember your passions for the interspecies corridor, the bold actions, methodical problem solving, optimism and teamwork you’ve shown to this point. What you are all doing is far more important than what is currently being done to you. Many of your ideas aren’t compatible with your cultures. Don’t scatter your energies, put them where they need to be, on the work, igniting awareness and debate. Solution based thinking. Stay confident and positive, always open to sharing new ideas. Please take yourselves more seriously. Don’t let those who are attempting to intimidate you succeed.”

Lapis - “What about the golden Langur who used the exact words Marcus did before he was killed?” “Violence has many forms, not just physical. Voiced or written threats are also violence.” As the puppy turned to leave, his face was glowing. “Your parents will be all right.”

Preparing for the drive to the airport, Jane Green had a message. “The King asked me to thank you, to tell you they found a solid gold mask of a Langur behind the partition. Many people thought its existence was only a myth.”