

AGAINST A

VIRAL THREAT



Exclusive
Content

ROBOTIC SURGEON SERIES: BOOK 2

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Against a Viral Threat: Exclusive Content

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From the Author:

The following two pages were the original opening to Chapter 43. One of my editors felt that the story would be better if we didn't reveal this information to the reader in 43, but waited until later when Monica was really in trouble. I followed their advice and removed it from the final version of the manuscript.

I have included the Editor's comments about the content.

Chapter 43.

[Editor Comment: So, this scene will need to be removed if we don't want the reader to know that Monica is being watched by Trout & team.]

“See, here she is carrying a box out of her office here at BGH. We can’t see what’s in the box, at least not right now.” Joe Romano, the security chief, toggled to a different video from a camera in the hospital parking lot. “But then she gets into her FastRyde car and goes to the Mattapan Clinic. My person followed her there. Now watch, getting out of the car, we can see a label on the box. It says Intelligent Surgical Robotics with their address.”

“So, she’s carrying parts or instruments for the Mark V robot?” Marvin Trout asked.

“Probably. But the curious thing is, the instruments are still in their shipping box. That means she got them directly from ISR somehow. If they had come through the hospital supply system, they would already be unpacked.”

“She ordered directly from the company to her office?”

Romano just shrugged. He couldn’t speculate on that.

Trout continued, “What else do you have?”

“Nothing more interesting. She stayed at the clinic all day. Emerged through the front door around four o’clock and went to her apartment.”

“Could that mean that she has a robot in there? She took the instruments to do surgical procedures in a secret OR, just like the one we closed at Codman Clinic?”

Romano didn’t answer, just looked at Trout.

[Editor Comment: The phone call below could be a good way to begin to directly clue the reader in to Trout's suspicions.]

Trout thought for a minute and then pulled out his phone. He made a connection and said, “Marvin Trout, Boston General Hospital. Repair department please.” Then he waited silently. A few minutes passed and there was a voice on the other end. Finally, Trout asked, “I’m checking on the repair status of a robot that we sent you several days ago. Can you look it up?” Talk from the other end. “The device identifier at BGH is 51-Mint-22. You can cross that with your internal system. Yes, I can wait.”

Trout turned to Romano. “That’s the robot that left the loading dock in the video we watched. I just want to find out if it’s really in the repair queue at ISR.”

Then Trout raised his hand as the voice came back on the line in his phone. “Yes, I see. Well, probably our mistake. Thanks for checking on that. Good bye.”

Trout put the phone away, then turned back to Romano. “They said they don’t have 51-Mint-22. No record of it being sent for a repair and no pickup at Boston General in the last week.” Trout raised his eyebrows. “I’m betting that robot is in the Mattapan Clinic. Think about it. Gray reports the error on a perfectly good robot. It gets picked up by a legitimate-looking truck. But we can’t see the license plate. The robot never arrives at ISR. Then Gray carries a bunch of robot instruments to the clinic. What does that sound like to you?”

“Sounds like your doctor stole a robot from Boston General. Let’s say she’s moonlighting at the clinic, doing surgeries for money on the side. Maybe gangsters, drug lords, anyone who can pay with cash and doesn’t want to be tracked in the system.”

Trout frowned slightly. He knew what the robot was good for and this sounded far-fetched. But it played into his plan, so he reinforced it. "Organized crime? Felony? Something the FBI should be involved in?"

Romano was flattered that Trout agreed with him. "Absolutely. This is big. We need the feds on this."

Trout said, "I'll make some calls. If we take action, I want you there too. You know the players, the history, and the equipment we're looking for."

Romano's chest swelled with pride. "Happy to help. You just tell us when and where."

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After thirty years at Boston General, Trout knew something about the power players in the hospital and the city. He knew there were forces at work that watched out for all the social services in town. He didn't know who was involved, but calling the Boston police for something like this was a nonstarter. He needed a federal agency that was beyond local influence. That's why he had personal friends at the FBI. The same friends that had raided the Codman Clinic.

Placing a call from his office, he reached Special Agent Lonnie Reynolds. "Listen, Lonnie, we have another clinic doing unauthorized surgeries. But this one is a bigger deal. We have video showing that they have stolen a Mark V robot from Boston General and transported it to the clinic. They've also stolen instruments." He paused while Reynolds repeated this back and asked questions. "Yes, we have proof. We need your help to get in there and get our property back. Yes, we know who took it from the hospital. The machine costs about three million."

The conversation got into great detail. Trout forwarded the videos and reports from the hospital security team. Finally, the FBI agreed to a raid on Mattapan. The plan was identical to the Codman operation.

[Editor Comment: Would the reader expect Adam to intercept this email and report it to Monica? May need to remove.]

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