

Chapter 24

In Chapter 24, Lucas secures a warrant and coordinates with his team to locate Darrell Hanson in Waconia. Del researches the area, identifying two motels—AmericInn and Wadell's Inn—while Lucas instructs the entry team to wait until 2 p.m. to serve the warrant, emphasizing caution due to Hanson's violent history. Lucas worries about leaks to the media, which could alert Hanson and allow him to flee. The team, including Del, Shrake, and Jenkins, departs in two cars, heading to Waconia under hot, still weather, with Lucas preoccupied by thoughts of Marcy Sherrill's death.

Upon arriving at the AmericInn, the team spots a white van but confirms it's not Hanson's. They decide to check the motel for any sign of him, but before entering, Shrake, Jenkins, and Del confront Lucas about their concerns. They fear Lucas plans to execute Hanson rather than arrest him, given his emotional state after Marcy's death. The trio pressures Lucas to promise a lawful approach, threatening to interfere if he doesn't comply. Lucas initially resists, feeling betrayed, but eventually agrees to proceed "straight up," acknowledging their sincerity as friends.

The tension among the team highlights the moral and emotional stakes of the operation. Lucas's internal struggle reflects his grief and desire for vengeance, while his friends insist on upholding professional standards. Their confrontation underscores the chapter's themes of loyalty, justice, and the ethical boundaries of law enforcement. The team's unity is tested, but they ultimately align on a lawful approach to apprehend Hanson.

The chapter concludes with the team entering the motel lobby, where Lucas questions the clerk about Hanson's possible stay. The clerk, surprised by their badges, checks her records as the scene builds toward the next phase of their search. The unresolved tension and impending confrontation with Hanson leave the reader anticipating the next developments, maintaining the chapter's suspenseful tone.