

# Chapter 23

Lucas Davenport, a law enforcement officer, lies awake strategizing how to apprehend Roger Hanson, the suspected killer of a well-liked cop. He anticipates bureaucratic interference once news spreads about their investigation, which could complicate the manhunt. Lucas holds key advantages: he knows Hanson's identity and can track him via cell phone, but he must construct a plausible trail of evidence to avoid scrutiny over his methods. Darrell Hanson and his wife have implicated Roger, providing a starting point, though more concrete proof is needed to secure a warrant and make an arrest.

To build a case, Lucas plans to retrace his steps from the investigation into Darrell Hanson, verifying details like Roger's white van and teaching history. He worries Roger might flee abroad but dismisses the idea after noting the orderly state of his home, suggesting he's nearby. Lucas contacts Shrake, who's surveilling Hanson's house, and they speculate Roger may be hiding to treat a gunshot wound from a prior encounter. Shrake agrees airport travel would be risky for a wounded fugitive, reinforcing their belief that Hanson is still local.

The next morning, Lucas directs Jenkins to inspect Hanson's garage under the pretense of a routine inquiry, hoping to find a dirt bike linked to the case. Jenkins confirms the bike's presence and its registration to Brian Hanson, strengthening their suspicions. Meanwhile, Lucas tasks Sandy with gathering Roger's cell phone data, photos, and background information, while Del works on legal avenues to track the phone's location. The team prepares to obtain witness identifications of Roger's photo to solidify their case before pursuing a warrant.

As the investigation progresses, Lucas emphasizes the need for speed and discretion to prevent leaks that could alert Hanson or invite bureaucratic meddling. The chapter underscores the tension between legal protocols and pragmatic detective work, as

Lucas balances building a credible case with the urgency of capturing a dangerous suspect. The team's coordinated efforts and incremental discoveries highlight the meticulous process of piecing together evidence to bring a killer to justice.

