

40. July 30, 2021

On July 30, 2021, Holly Gibney is brought into Kiner Memorial's conference room, where FBI agent Herbert Beale and others, including District Attorney Albert Tantle, are present for a briefing related to a gruesome case involving cannibalism. Holly, involved in the investigation due to being kidnapped and defending herself by killing her kidnappers, participates in the meeting via wheelchair as per hospital protocol. Despite the lack of an interstate angle, the FBI's involvement is attributed to the case's high-profile nature.

During the meeting, Holly is shown evidence and confirms her actions in self-defense. The meeting reveals disturbing findings, including human remains processed as food and unconventional uses of human remains, shocking everyone involved. Holly recounts her harrowing experience, detailing how she managed to survive and turn the tables on her captors, leading to their deaths and her escape.

In addition to the criminal aspects, the meeting touches on the emotional toll on the victims' families, highlighting Holly's resolve to ensure they are informed properly. The district attorney expresses frustration over the lack of prosecutable suspects due to Holly's self-defense actions leading to the deaths of the perpetrators.

Later, Holly is requested to meet Detective Izzy Jaynes in the hospital chapel, where they discuss the challenging task of informing the next of kin, revealing the devastating impact on Penny Dahl, a victim's relative. Holly's earlier confrontation with her captors is juxtaposed with the current emotional confrontations, illustrating the wide-reaching consequences of the case.

Meanwhile, Jerome deals with the emotional labor of informing Vera Steinman about her son's fate, navigating the complexities of delivering tragic news with empathy and care. The narrative converges on themes of justice, the psychological impact of violence, and the human capacity for both cruelty and resilience. The chapter concludes with Jerome comforting Vera, lying to ease her pain by assuring her son did not suffer, despite the uncertainty surrounding the events.