

## Shutter-Click

"-because they're celebrating the repeal doesn't mean we should do the same. It's enough that we-" was the only snippet of their conversation he was granted. The two mice had barely glanced at him where he sat as they passed through the small anteroom.

Looking at the floor and sighing he adjusted his case on the overstuffed chair arm. The chair was comfortable, he'd never complain. No, it was the wait that tested his nerves and the limits of the chair's ample stuffing. He looked up at the sound of footsteps approaching.

A young hyena entered. He slowed at the sight of a person waiting. "Was that today?" The manner in which he looked away even as he spoke made it clear he was speaking only to himself. He too passed within without a second glance at his case.

Sighing again he pondered the idea of simply leaving. The tension brought another sigh as he internally conceded he was simply not meant for commissions of this nature. All the same, to leave now would invite the wrath of those that hired him. He rubbed at the fur of his forehead to relieve the nervous stress building toward a headache.

Again footsteps. Slow and steady, denoting one of great weight. Straightening again as a huge rhino entered with an even taller jackal. As intimidating as the portly rhino was the dignified yet silently sinister bearing of the jackal froze the blood. The jet black canine's eyes slowly traveled to trap his own in their icy glare. Too late to avert his own gaze he was only able to lower his muzzle toward the floor as the jackal passed.

Consequences be damned. His hand reached out to his case as he prepared to escape from the chair and bolt from the building. He had just stood when the inner door was reopened by the rhino.

"We're ready now." He stated and stepped away, leaving the doorway empty.

From years of practice it took but moments to be ready despite his previous nervousness. Stepping to the portal to the highly guarded inner sanctum he stopped at the sight.

Even as he prepared to shoot he ordered.

"Nobody move."

