

The Digilantes

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LOGLINE: Beatrice Lafleur, a ‘net-era Robin Hood with her Merry Band, The Digilantes, wreaks vengeance on cyber-crooks, restoring victims’ losses, until running afoul of the largest organized-cyber-crime scam – run by the feds.

Chapter one opens with a crook reckoning his overnight take from ransomware and Visa fraud. Elsewhere, a victim realizes he’s been left with empty bank accounts and calls on a lifelong friend, recently retired – forcibly -- from a career in IT: Beatrice, our protagonist. They restore Armand’s (the victim) accounts but discover he’s being subjected to intrusive spyware, monitoring sight and sound. They call on a mutual friend, Alisa, a security administrator with forensic experience, and combine talents to solve the mystery: Who is spying on an east Dallas artist, and why? Chapter ends with Alisa taking the diseased laptop to her lab, promising to have answers in the morning ... but with a strong premonition about the perp.

Chapter two:

- a- The three gather at brunch; Alisa reports findings. The laptop was infected manually by hand, not by web -- Armand has been the subject of breaking-and-entering as well as surveillance.
- b- Also, the perpetrator had been leeching Armand’s wifi signal to conduct cybercrime. Proximity limits possible perpetrators.
- c- In further discussion and analysis, the perpetrator is identified. A trap is set.
- d- The trap is sprung and the perpetrator is found to be the neighbors’ son, a 16 year old just entering High School.
- e- They compel (convince?) him to surrender his ill-gotten gains, creating a sizeable resource from which to fund further restitution activities and to avenge victims of cyber-extortion, identity theft, medical fraud: the myriad crimes creating a new epidemic.
- f- Chapter closes with the youth’s recruitment to the team, having been “scared straight,” and convinced his future as a white-hat hacker is far more rewarding than that of a black-hat.
- g- Unfortunately, his Russian partner in crime takes exception, planning to extort Tyrone to continue compliance infecting targets with ransomware.