

THE SWITCH

by Julie Reichwein

Featuring Laura Loomer

“Every human mind you’ve ever looked at . . . is a product not just of natural selection but of cultural redesign of enormous proportions.” —Daniel

Dennett, *Kinds of Minds*

Acknowledgements; This book is a work of fiction, but it incorporates real life characters in fictional situations, such as Laura Loomer. Many real life scenarios were altered to fit into the story. I hope you enjoy the story and the adventure ripped from the headlines.

CHAPTER ONE

FBI SPECIAL AGENT MARIA QUINTANA-DEON

AUGUST 1, 2018

La Paz, Mexico

Cabo san Lucas, Mexico had been a sleepy beach resort on the southern

tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula, and then La Monstrua came to power.

At a grim field just outside of town, I walked over to a busy grave site. Two Mexican government agents were busy removing two dismembered corpses from the same hole. The bodies belonged to an older Mexican couple. Both had their arms removed. They were my informant's parents. In addition to his parents, he claimed his girlfriend, La Monstrua, had murdered at least 181 people, probably many more. He said most of their bodies wouldn't be found at this hidden burial site because her victims were kidnapped from their family homes, then usually returned as dismembered corpses.

Warning delivered.

La Monstrua had thrived in the male-dominated narco culture because she handed out free bags of cocaine to those who performed well. And she was ruthless.

She had a large collection of pistols and assault rifles with which she liked to pose in sexually explicit photographs, enhancing an already lethal reputation.

La Monstrua had come to power after defecting from her previous criminal organization, she had been demoted from her previous position of power. Unacceptable.

She started her own criminal organization and took with her their number two man, El Monster. She built her own empire, enforcing it with over 300 street-level drug dealers and soldiers. They all rode blood red motorbikes.

Once she came to power in La Paz, murders increased six fold. She became a top priority for capture, by the Mexican government, but that proved extremely difficult as she continually moved from place to place, switching vehicles every other day.

But then she screwed up.

In July, she feared that her personal vehicles were known by the authorities, so she ordered El Monster to enlist his parents help. His parents bought a pick- up truck for her and went to deliver it. Instead of paying for the vehicle and sending them on their way, in a fit of paranoia, she ordered their arms cut off and had the elderly couple killed.

Word got back to El Monster, and he was furious. It was the last

straw. He contacted journalist, Laura Loomer, in La Paz doing an investigative piece on the secret lives of sicarias—that's what they called Mexico's female hired killers.

She in turn contacted me, FBI Agent Maria Quintana-Deon, and I flew down and took him into custody.

After I arrested El Monster, he quickly cut a deal. The DEA was upstaged. Egos were bruised, but it was a huge get for me.

While supervising the recovery, I received a call tipping me off that La Monstrua was at the Cabo San Lucas airport. Waiting for her private plane to refuel, she was attempting to flee. I raced over to the airport with Mexican government agents. Aided by the local police, we captured the notorious woman without firing a shot.

Secured by the bracelets and ankle chains, I had loaded her onto an FBI charter. After the plane rose above the mountains and headed over the Pacific ocean, I questioned her.

Her Christian name was Melissa Margarita Calderon Ojeda. At 24 years of age, she had 181 confirmed kills to her record. Information I had received on her stating that she had her first lover's name, Vonborstel, tattooed

on the back of her left forearm confirmed her identity.

Tall for a Mexican woman, she stood at 5'9", sporting a DD chest.

With her hands secured behind her back, she had squirmed uncomfortably in her seat. Her eyes darting around the plane for the first few minutes before she had settled. A decision had been made. "El Monster turned on me?" La Monstrua asked.

"He did."

"I'd like to return the favor."

"How?"

"I have information."

"Let's hear it."

"You're going to have to act fast."

"Why?"

"Because if word of my capture gets out, my information is no good."

"What information?"

"First, can you stop the news of my arrest?"

"I don't see why not—that is, if your information is valuable."

"Oh it is."

“Talk.”

And she did.