

CHAPTER 10

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The following week while Carlos was finalizing the meeting with Solyndra Power Zach was trying to set up his own private meeting with Prince Amer Nasser. Monday he called the hand written international number off the back of the gold embossed business card. What was odd is that the phone number connected him to the General Intelligence Directorate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The GID is similar to the CIA in the United States. Oddly the GID agent wanted to know about the religious connection between Son Source and a tall American named Peter Craft.

Wednesday morning before any employees arrived the name **Peter Craft** finally made sense. Peter was a six foot eight basketball star that had played at USC the same years Prince Amer Nasser attended on a student visa. Zach found an archived alumni photo on the USC website of Peter and Prince Amer at a revival together. A little more internet searching and Zach found out that Peter Craft had played for two years in the NBA before he had a career ending knee injury.

Zach had yet to get through to Prince Amer and hadn't heard back from the Saudi General Intelligence Directorate. Carlos had had better luck. He got the Solyndra Power meeting set up and even sent a plane ticket and hotel voucher in the mail. Zach picked up the black and gold business card and dialed the number written in green ink on the back. A familiar voice answered in Arabic. "Mr. Bin Naimi is that you? Zach asked.

"Yes, this is Mr. Obaid Bin Naimi. Who is this?"

"This is Zachery Slenski, the solar engineer that you had the meeting with in Chicago."

"Yes, I remember. So you found the international number I slipped in to the instrument case when we were on the airplane."

"Yes I did. I called this number last week to talk with Prince Amer Nasser and have not heard back from him."

33 "I'm the agent that relays all information to the Prince. What
34 message would you like Prince Amer Nasser to hear?"

35 "Could you tell the Prince that I would be interested in holding off
36 on going to market with my quad panels? I am interested in a better
37 offer, like what was written on the back of the business card."

38 "I will make sure that Prince Amer Nasser gets this information."
39 Obaid replied and began to hang up.

40 "When will you get back to me?" Zach quickly snapped into the
41 phone. "I need to know his offer within the week." There was a long
42 pause. . . Zach held his breath and expected to hear a dial tone.

43 "I'll call you within the week." There was a *click* and then Zach did
44 hear dial tone.

45 "I have the first set of tests results," Troy said from the doorway in
46 a despondent tone.

47 "Okay bring them in," Zach replied while clearing a spot on his
48 desk.

49 Troy unrolled the first chart. "There's no fall off of power for the
50 last six days."

51 Zack quickly unrolled the second and then a third chart. "I see
52 that. But the power levels are almost half of a non tinted quad panel."

53 "I know," Troy practically whispered and then set the rest of the
54 rolled charts against the desk.

55 "Crap we're almost back to square one!"

56 "Well the tint took care of the fracturing problem," Troy relied in
57 somewhat positive voice.

58 "We haven't been dumping coolant on the panels yet. That's when
59 the cells fracture! When there are huge temperature swings."

60 "Oh?" Troy felt stupid. Science and math were not strong subjects
61 in his home school curriculum.

62 "Should I run some more test and spray the panels with the R22
63 stuff?"

64 "No definitely not! We use R134 not R22 for cooling. We need to
65 follow strict guidelines. Do you even have CFC license?"

66 "No, I don't." Troy had a driver's license and that was about it.

67 When I'm up in Chicago make sure you don't get behind with

68 orders and shipping.

69 "Don't you want me to work in the lab and continue testing? Troy
70 asked and hoped.

71 "Not while I'm gone." Zack shut off his computer. We can't afford
72 any cancelled orders or upset customers. Make sure there are no
73 delays in shipping." Zach walked over to the filing cabinet and grabbed
74 the handle on the boombox. The gold war plane was barely attached
75 with the one piece of reused tape. "I'll be back after lunch, please have
76 one tinted and a not tinted quad panel on my desk."

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78 There was a sold sign running diagonally across the realtor sign
79 and moving boxes on the front porch. Zach knocked and then yelled
80 through the open door, "Cindy are you here?"

81 A worn, tired and not pregnant looking Cindy came down the
82 stairs. "Can I help you?"

83 Zach was stunned and speechless! It had only been a month or so
84 since the funeral. "A. . . I brought this by. It was Eric's."

85 The woman pushed open the screen door and reached out and
86 grabbed the yellow boombox handle. "Good timing. I'm packing up
87 Eric's things right now." The gold war plane came loose and bounced
88 off the entry way tile onto the front room carpet. Zack was in full on
89 bewilderment and stared at the loose fitting work jeans as she picked
90 up the gold plane. "I'll make sure this get's packed away for when my
91 grandson's are older."

92 Zach exhaled and replied. "You must be Cindy's Mom?"

93 "Yes, I am. And you are the owner of Son Source. I remember you
94 from my son-in-law's funeral." The women slipped the gold plane into
95 her front pocket. "Cindy's moving back home because your lawyers are
96 holding back on the any insurance. Her Dad's attorney will be filing a
97 counter lawsuit. Arthur Feinstein is the best attorney in Chicago." She
98 slammed the door in Zach's face.

99 The drive toward his home was deliberate and blurred with rage.
100 The one thing Zach had insisted on was not to get attorneys involved.
101 It seemed as though no one had listened to him. When he rounded
102 the corner of the cul-de-sac a full size town car was parked directly in

103 front of his home. That looks like an attorney's car? Zach thought
104 when he shut off the Prius.

105 Pastor Tom let loose of Sally's hands and stepped back when Zach
106 burst through the front door. The awkward situation was
107 overshadowed by the rage on Zach face.

108 "I stopped by to let Sally know that the church is good with her
109 having a fund raiser to assist with Ben's college expenses.

110 Sally face glowed red. She tucked her hands behind her back.
111 "Pastor Tom was just leaving. We had just joined hands in prayer.
112 Would you like to join us?"

113 "No! If you want to pray for someone, pray for Eric's family. Cindy
114 had to sell their home and is moving to Chicago to live with her
115 parents!"

116 "I'd better go now and let you discuss things." Pastor Tom moved
117 toward the open door. "See you at church Sunday," he said as he
118 passed in front of Zach.

119 Zach slammed the door and yelled. "I told you that I didn't want to
120 get attorneys involved. . ."

121 Pastor Tom stood on the porch and listened through the closed
122 door to the argument until a neighbor jogging by stopped and asked if
123 she could help him. Sally was almost yelling at the top of her lungs as
124 Zach went upstairs and threw some stuff into an overnight bag. Zach
125 was done talking to her. He left the house and headed back to work.

126 The aluminum instrument case was in front of his desk and some
127 new rolls of charts were leaning against it. Zach unrolled two charts.
128 The power level stayed even but the line for the tinted panel was
129 about half compared to the non tinted panel. Damn it! The paper
130 rerolled. Zach threw the graph rolls across his office. They bounced off
131 the filing cabinet and onto the floor.

132 "Mr. Slenski some tight bodied Negro woman is asking for you,"
133 the new employee yelled from the hall.

134 Zach frowned at the new hire as he headed for the lobby. "Dr.
135 Kurtz what brings you down here?" Zach opened the security gate.

136 "I was headed home from the gym and thought I'd stopped by.
137 Remember you promised me a tour of Son Source."

138 "Yeah, I remember and you promised me a tour of the new clinical
139 oncologist department." Zach extended his hand to Coreen. "I still
140 want to carry on our discussion of cell phones causing brain tumors."

141 We should set up a date. The hospital has a great cafeteria. Maybe
142 we can meet next week for lunch and a tour."

143 "That sounds great," Zach replied. "Unfortunately, I can't give you
144 a tour of Son Source today. I have a late afternoon flight to Chicago
145 that I need to catch."

146 Why don't we plan a tour at the hospital for next Thursday? I will
147 be I compiling clinical RF data on mice. You said you have an interest
148 in cell phone antenna radiation."

149 "I'll let you know." Zach glanced at his watch. "Dr. Kurtz, I need to
150 talk to one of my techs before I head to the airport."

151 "Okay, let me give you a hug for safe travels." Coreen moved toe
152 to toe with Zach and rapped her long strong arms around his waist.
153 She pulled Zach against her tight firm body. Zach smelled and felt her
154 black nappy hair, he felt spell bound. Coreen slowly released her
155 embrace and said, "Godspeed."

156 Her strength, her scent and her dominance sent Zack's mind to a
157 foreign place. "I'm going to make it to the hospital next Thursday,"
158 Zach spoke with words that just rolled out of his mouth.

159 The look on Coreen's face turned serious. "Zach the main reason I
160 came down here was to let you know that I have noticed a big black
161 town car parked in front of your house several times this past month."

162 Zach paused, shook his head and then said. "Oh that's Pastor
163 Tom's car. He's helping Sally with a fundraiser." Zach was too proud
164 to say that it was about a scholarship fundraiser for Ben.

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166 On the finale decent over Lake Michigan the 737 banked to the
167 west and the *clunk* from the landing gear woke Zack. To the south the
168 strobe lights on top of television and radio antennas blinked at forty
169 times a minute. The twin three hundred foot antennas were designed
170 to look more like church spires than RF transmitting. The non
171 electrical design did suppress the small number of Chicagoans' that
172 protested any type of antennas being erected in their city.

173 Mr. Rubin was not going to make this predawn meeting. At the last
174 minute he had to fly to the Middle East. Agent Fletcher led Zach the
175 back way to the secure conference room and not through Mr. Rubin's
176 office. All the war memorabilia and war maps in Mr. Rubin's office would
177 have been a big clue this time around. The red and yellow warning
178 signs on the fence and cinder block wall in the hallway were a bigger
179 hint.

180 When the vault like door opened Carlos was adjusting an easel so
181 to be in the morning sunlight. "I'll be conducting the meeting this
182 morning."

183 "Mr. Rubin won't be here?" Zach moved to the east side of the
184 conference room and the vault door shut and a big mechanical latch
185 *clunked*.

186 "No. It seems at the last meeting someone was tracking Prince
187 Amer Nasser. He's in some sort of danger and can't leave Saudi
188 Arabia.

189 "Isn't this meeting supposed to be with Solyndra Power?" Zach set
190 the instrument case on top of the 3D glass table.

191 "It is! Two of their financial people will be here at eight. You need
192 to get set up." Carlos had a notepad and jotted down: **Be careful
193 with what you say. The room is probably bugged.**

194 Zach didn't say another word. He removed the quad panels and
195 wattmeter and set them next to the light bulb jig Carlos had built. He
196 pushed two packets and an outline of his presentation across the glass
197 table top. Carlos lowered the LCD display and got the first slide of his
198 Power Point on the screen. Still in silence Zach hooked up the quad
199 panel. The 75 watt light bulb glowed almost at full power.

200 Agent Fletcher escorted in the two executives and Carlos started
201 off the presentation about the need for the world to go green. This
202 time there were slides of the Arctic Ice melting and massive flooding—
203 nothing about the lust and control of oil.

204 Zach rolled out his part of the demonstration and the light bulb
205 burned out when Carlos sprayed the cooling fins with Freon. The
206 Solyndra engineer was only somewhat impressed. He'd been in solar
207 technology long enough to know that most pie and the sky claims

208 always had a downside. Solyndra Power had made the claim that their
209 panels did not need to be tilted ninety degrees to the sun for
210 maximum power. They had yet to keep their high-flying promise, even
211 after burning through almost a billion dollars of federal grants.

212 When agent Fletcher escorted the CFO and engineer out of the
213 conference room Zach turned to Carlos and asked. "Do you have a
214 metal coat hanger?"

215 "Sure." Carlo went to the back of the room and opened a small
216 closet. He returned and handed it to Zach and then pointed to the
217 words on his notepad: **Be careful with what you say. The room is**
218 **probably bugged.**

219 "That meeting didn't go as well as I hoped," Zach said as he bent
220 the metal hanger in the shape of a dipole antenna.

221 "It sounds like Solyndra Power is just another Cash-for-Clunker
222 waste." Carlos scrutinized the metal shape.

223 "Once the news media starts reporting that a billion dollars has
224 been spent on nothing it will be another black mark on the solar field."
225 Zach laid the reshaped metal hanger on the table.

226 "Yeah but I think that Green Deal propaganda they were talking
227 about will suck a lot of tax payers right back in."

228 "True." Zach unclipped one wire from the solar panel and hooked it
229 up to one end of the reshaped coat hanger.

230 Carlos now understood what Zach was testing for. He replaced the
231 burned out bulb with a new one and nodded. Zach hooked up the
232 other wire and the bulb glowed. He picked up the imitation rabbit ears
233 and when they were ninety degrees to the vault like door the bulb
234 popped like a flash!

235 Zach couldn't get his stuff packed up fast enough. He felt like a
236 test rat inside a microwave oven. Carlos was right on Zach heels they
237 didn't say a word to each other until they were outside the Sears tower
238 on West Wacker Drive.

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