

Fact from Fiction

CHAPTER 19

The sea level drive up to the mile high Jos Plateau stressed Kenny Chen's breathing. After his solo trip across the Atlantic Ocean inside the motorhome that had been stuffed into a poorly ventilated shipping container, he got a respiratory infection that he couldn't shake. On the return trip he would have four additional set of lungs competing for the same air. They'd be sharing food, water, beds, plus personal stuff all the way from Tin Can Harbor to the drop off point Northeast of the US Virgin Islands.

The pubescent Fulani girls had strong natural immune systems and hopefully would not catch the SAR/COV mutated virus. If anyone did develop a cough with a fever above 100 degrees the CCP's order was to dispose of that tainted cargo at sea. The all male crew on the Dong Fang container ship understood that if an infection were to spread to more than three merchant marines that an order to abandon ship would be called.

With good weather the smaller and faster 162 meter container ship could make the drop off point in 15 days. One miscalculation the Chinese Communist Party coordinator had made was that on the return trip from Africa the payload/tonnage on the Dong Fang was less than half its normal payload, which made the draft of the Don Fang 6 meters higher off the water. When Ken Chen used bags of rice to cut the drop ropes to the correct length the Dong Fang was at full tonnage and sat at its lowest draft.

After the slaughter of the three school girls earlier that month the offer of getting an education past middle school was a yearning that the Yelwa Zangam Village parents were now unsure about. But Victor's swag, gold and most of all African lineage had four girls ready to leave by the second morning. Victor's grandfather had been a Trokosi priest in Ghana; forcing prepubescent girls into religious shrines as sex

32 slaves was still accepted up until 1998. Female subjection was
33 embedded in Victor's DNA — the strongest male always ruled.

34 What Tina lacked in physical strength she made up in natural
35 beauty. The young girls were mesmerized by her flaunting, painted
36 nails and trendy girl slang. Ken Chen had a mature trusting demeanor
37 along with fake paperwork that helped to seal the phony schooling
38 abroad contract.

39 The three adults and four children were cramped in the Sprinter
40 and on the road Wednesday morning. Two and a half hours from the
41 village one of the girls started feeling ill; her head felt warm and she
42 had stomach cramps. Just past the cutoff road junction Victor stopped
43 at a closed up petrol station. There was a hand dug toilet behind the
44 store. When Abidemi went inside the tarpaper outhouse Victor rolled a
45 big wood cable spool up against the door. He ran around to the front
46 of the store and drove off. There was no way was he going to let a
47 seventy- five pound girl jeopardize his opportunity to become a Hip
48 Hop Rapper in the United States.

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52 Tom had been assured that the motorhome would be returned by
53 Thursday evening. He kept calling Tina's phone and it kept going to
54 voicemail. He got an uneasy feeling about the Saturday morning 6 AM
55 meet up time for the new laptop. Dan's instructions about not calling
56 or texting left Tom with limited options. He called Idogbe. "Hey, this is
57 Tom. Could I borrow your truck?"

58 "Sure, when do you need it?"

59 "Friday morning. I need to pick up a new computer in Abuja early
60 Saturday. I might drive up to the outreach school afterwards."

61 "I could drive you up there if you'd like. My mother lives in Plateau
62 State. "

63 "No thanks. The computer tech needs to load some of my private
64 files and pictures; it might take some extra time."

65 "You'll probably need my truck for more than a couple of days if
66 you do go on to Zangam village."

67 "Yeah probably." Tom hesitated rubbed his forehead and then
68 stated. "Maybe I'll skip going up to the village. I'll have Paul the supply
69 driver guy put a closure notice on the door."

70 Something didn't feel right. Why would Tom travel all the way to
71 Abuja to have a computer tech load private files and pictures onto a
72 new laptop? "I know a computer tech here that can transfer files."
73 Idogbe offered.

74 "Thanks but Dan already has my old computer."

75 "Who's Dan?" Idogbe asked while thinking *Pedophile Ring*.

76 "Oh..." Tom realized he slipped up. "Why don't you just plan on
77 preaching Sunday?" Tom needed to change the subject. Nobody was
78 to know about Dan.

79 "After our disagreement over what are the correct Ten
80 Commandments you want me to preach? Idogbe was confused.

81 Tina's named popped up on Tom's caller ID. "Let me call you back.
82 I got another call coming in."

83 "Uncle Tom we just got to Oyins Holiday Inn. Victor says he will
84 return the Sprinter to the church first thing in the morning."

85 "Can't you bring it back now?" Tom didn't trust Tina; first thing in
86 the morning would be more like noon.

87 "A... Like... Victor says he wants to clean and replenish it for you.
88 Like, he wants it to be like new. Like, all freshened up." Tina babbled
89 out her lies. The real intent was to leave no trace that they
90 transported three girls from Zangam village back to Lagos. Victor also
91 needed to have a set of duplicate keys made.

92 "Okay, have it back first thing in the morning. I have to meet
93 someone in Abuja early Saturday morning," Tom pressed.

94 Tom didn't know that three school girls were sharing a room with
95 Mr. Chen. If it were not for the Gotu Kola tea that one of the girls had
96 packed Mr. Chen could have wheezed himself into a coma. Tina had
97 the honeymoon suite all to herself. She was sprawled out in the middle
98 of the heart shaped bed searching the satellite channels for the latest
99 Hollywood gossip.

100 Victor was in the alley behind the motel watching the cleaning crew
101 wipe down the Sprinter; he was waiting for the locksmith.

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Friday before dawn Victor stopped the motorhome on Frontage Street. "Go get the key to unlock the parking gate." Tina strutted to the apartment and knocked. She knocked again...

On the third knock Tom opened the door with only a towel wrapped around his waist. Tina returned with a key for the front gate padlock. Victor made a mental note not to forget bolt-cutters for next week. The plan six days out was that he and Tina would steal the Sprinter from the church parking lot. They'd fill it up with fuel, water and food. Then they'd backtrack to the hotel; pick up Mr. Chen and the three girls. That left plenty of time to be at Tin Can Island dock 35 by 2:00 PM.

The unmarked container would be loaded after the Port Authority signed off the Dong Fang manifest. By sunset they'd be sailing across the Gulf of Guinea into International Waters. Only Mr. Chen and the Captain knew the GPS coordinates of where the bags with human cargo would be hung from the railing to be picked up by present day pirates in Hemi powered cigar style boats.

Victor shoved the long parking gate open and then parked the Sprinter next to his music stepvan. While moving Tina's luggage he knelt on the AR15 that was sunken and concealed in the almost empty air bed. He had heard about constable Ayoola searching the church. *No way in hell I'm going to take a chance driving around with this long gun!* Victor removed the plug in the air bed.

Tina got this text: **Keep your Uncle in the apartment. I'm hiding something.** Victor started to roll the AR15 into the mattress vinyl material. He sent another text: **Get a picture of your Uncle. Something bad in case we need to blackmail him.**

Tina pulled off her sweat suit top and then knocked on the bathroom door. "Uncle Tom I need a shower too!"

Tom pulled open the shower curtain, reached out and locked the bathroom door. "I'll be done in a few minutes!"

136 Victor tightly rolled the hog hunting rifle into the deflated air
137 mattress. On the driver's side of the Sprinter he unlocked the
138 generator/storage compartment and wedged the now concealed
139 weapon between the spare tire and jack.

140 It was only a few minutes before Tom literally pushed Tina out the
141 apartment door. She ran and high stepped into the music van.

142 "Did you get a picture?" Victor asked as he looked both ways
143 before pulling out on to Frontage road.

144 "No, Tom locked the bathroom door."

145 "I thought you told me Pastor Tom liked your hand massages?"

146 "Like, that only happened one time." Tina replied quietly.

147 "Well you might have to relieve the Pastor again. I need something
148 on him." Nobody played Victor Vee he was on top of the game.

149 Nobody told Tina who to take care of. She wasn't a whore and
150 Victor was not her pimp! Tina was on top of her game too...

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154 Tom was shocked at how clean the Sprinter was; unexpected
155 there was a full tank of fuel. Since this would be his last trip into
156 Central Nigeria Tom planned to stay a night at the **Peace Island**
157 **Resort** located a couple miles from the largest outdoor monument of
158 the Ten Commandments in Africa. A sightseeing spot that Beth had
159 always wanted to see. In all probability she would never visit central
160 Nigeria again — with Tom.

161 The weekend traffic was heavier then Tom planned for; his Ten
162 Commandments side trip wasn't going to happen on this day. He
163 pulled off Expy A121 to sleep at a place he knew; alongside a cell
164 phone transmitter building. He was now on schedule for the Saturday
165 6 am meet up with Dan. Tom checked his cell phone; it was odd that
166 the signal bars were at maximum but he couldn't call Idogbe or Tina.

167 At the stove while heating up a can of chili Tom heard something
168 rattling the outside compartment latches. When he laid on the bed to
169 look out the vent hole, two big yellow eyes were staring back! Tom
170 back peddled on the bed and a long grayish arm reached thru the hole

171 and grabbed one of the pillows and pulled it out the hole. Tom heard a
172 squawk and the arm jettison thru the hole again! Tom got off the bed
173 and hasty got down on his hands in knees. He pushed on the top
174 corner of the hidden compartment under the bench seat. A brown
175 paper sack tipped over and some tampons rolled under the table. Tom
176 swished the brown bag to the side. *What the hell... I must not have*
177 *been dreaming. I must have put the rifle in the music van?*

178 Now flat on his stomach Tom stretched out under the bed and
179 grabbed a green ammo can far back in the corner. He pulled the metal
180 container back and got up on his knees. There was one fully loaded
181 100 round banana clip of .223 hollow points and a box of .45cal bear
182 stopper bullets and pack of button batteries for a green dot scope.

183 A long grayish white arm and Tantalus monkey's shoulder was
184 sticking inside, its black hand snatched a sleeve of saltines off the
185 counter. Tom got a broom from the closet and prepared himself; next
186 time the hairy long arm would get a bone breaking strike. Cain and
187 Abel jumped up on the bed and started barking at the open vent hole.

188 It took about thirty minutes, a cooking sheet and two seat cushions
189 to block off the vent hole. In the middle of the night when Tom got up
190 to pee he heard a sixteen wheeler come and go by out on Expy A121.
191 On the way back to bed he stepped on something that felt like a
192 centipede or bumpy snake! He leaped onto the bed and then fumbled
193 around for a flashlight. Coiled on the floor was a string of beads. Tom
194 could tell that it wasn't a Rosary; there was no crucifix and it had
195 fewer beads.

196 Sometime after 3 AM Tom fell into a deep REM sleep; he dreamed
197 about walking around the church parking lot in the middle of the night
198 to hide the AR15. Then the dream turned to a nightmare of all the
199 innocent children that find loaded guns — then he had a vision of a
200 child's hand barely big enough to grip a Colt 45.

201 Tom woke up in a cold sweat! It was a few minutes before 4 AM.
202 He made coffee, fed Cain and Able and checked his phone; there were
203 two messages but nothing in the text boxes. Tom got back on the
204 road; he was ahead of schedule but not able to shake the image of the
205 small hand on such a big gun.

206 Dan was parked in the same spot as last week. He activated the
207 wheelchair ramp as Tom backed in leaving a parking space between
208 the Sprinter and wheelchair van. Then he let Cain and Able out the
209 back door. They ran straight out into the field sniffed around, marked
210 a few spots and then rushed toward Dan who had two sticks of jerky in
211 hand.

212 "I thought we were to meet at six?" Tom said walking between the
213 vans.

214 "We were. I sent a text but it bounced. I came directly from the
215 airport." Dan had a new laptop on of his lap. "I reinstalled all your
216 photos, videos and documents." Dan looked directly at Tom. "You need
217 to be completely honest with me! Are you holding any Bitcoin tokens?"

218 "No, I'm not into that stuff. My skill set is bringing in money from
219 the pulpit. Why do you keep asking?"

220 "Because there were some deleted, blockchain, crypto currency
221 transactions on you old computer."

222 "I don't have a clue of what blockchains are or how they got
223 there." Tom insisted.

224 "Yesterday I had lunch with your wife at the Dallas Fort Worth
225 airport. She said you got in trouble and told me about the Stolen Valor
226 newspaper piece."

227 "That's true, but I did serve in the Guard." Tom offered.

228 "I checked around on the dark web. There are reports that you
229 were hitting on your church secretary."

230 "That's a lie!"

231 "Didn't you take her out to brunch and help her to set up a private
232 bank account?"

233 "We did go to brunch a couple of times. It was the church treasurer
234 that helped her with some banking stuff." Tom clenched his fist.

235 "Didn't you just tell me that you went to lunch with my wife?"

236 "That's true but ... But..." Now Dan was called out.

237 "It's always more about gossip than truth. Bearing false witness is
238 one of the commandments." Tom said with authority.

239 “Hey, I hear you.” Dan doubled down on the interrogating. “So,
240 since you’ve been in Africa your only financial dealing is the one
241 account that you deposit the Sunday collections and pay bill out of?”

242 “Yeah that’s about it. Sometimes I pay the Coffee and Akara
243 vendor with cash. I always write a check for Idogbe; the church
244 handyman. The Onukwulu boys I always give them cash, but that’s out
245 of my own pocket.”

246 “And that is it?” Dan had pulled a notepad from his vest and was
247 taking notes.

248 “Oh yeah there is Constable Ayoola. He fines me for everything and
249 anything. Those are the checks made out to the Apapa Magistrate
250 Court. I think that is about it.”

251 Dan put the notepad back into his vest pocket. “I verified your
252 military records, it seems like most of that Stolen Valor claim was after
253 you were honorably discharged.”

254 Tom lowered his head, his face turned red. “I’m sorry that I
255 embellished about my service in the Army National Guard. My
256 exaggerations got me exiled to Africa. It seems unfair that my life has
257 been turned upside down by a small lie.”

258 “David, my stepdad served in Vietnam as an Electronic Tech. Paul,
259 my Godfather was a Green Beret over there. He was awarded the
260 Purple Heart yet never spoke about any of the action he saw.”

261 “Didn’t your Godfather become a Priest after the war?”

262 “He did.” Dan replied with an affirming nod.

263 Being married to a Cradle Catholic for over twenty years Tom
264 didn’t feel like regurgitating the gay clergy infiltration since Vatican 2.
265 “What do I owe you for the new computer and your time? I’ll write you
266 a check.”

267 “I can’t take a check!” Dan quipped.

268 “Why not? Computers are a legit church expense.”

269 “Because that would leave a paper trail that you and I had
270 business together. Remember we have never met!”

271 “So what?” Tom wasn’t buying all Dan’s secret agent, crypto, dark
272 web BS. “I’m going to write you a check from the church account. I do

273 it for my cell phones, travel expenses and most everything. It's a perk
274 of being a pastor."

275 Dan's voice got serious! He methodically shared about how David
276 being an ET (Electronic Technician) during the Vietnam conflict came
277 into possession of some decoding hardware that had been used to
278 decrypt and changed wire services; especially the Associated Press.
279 Dan somewhat bragged that he was now in possession of the original
280 **Clipper Chip** black box.

281 Tom was numb and dumb to all the high-tech technical electronics
282 in the world. Back in Texas he'd have to call out a technician just to
283 program the remotes for his entertainment center. It took better than
284 an hour for Dan to get through to Tom that once he gave the Nigerian
285 Federal Police (NFP) the blockchain files off the old laptop that heads
286 would roll — some people might even go to prison. Tom was now
287 thinking that Dan was the one embellishing his electronic skills.

288 Granted Dan might have a contract to help weed out corruption
289 and strengthen cyber security for the Nigerian government but his
290 story about his involvement in Libya when Qaddafi tried to go to a gold
291 standard was over the top. Now it was Dan that was stretching the
292 truth. "What do I owe you for the computer? I have a couple hundred
293 dollars and maybe about ninety thousand naira on me."

294 "Don't worry about paying me for the Laptop. The information I got
295 off of it is like finding a pot of gold for me. The Nigerian Federal Police
296 need a bust like this. I'll dump this Bitcoin story onto the AP wire. True
297 news not fake news for the next news cycle is always refreshing."

298 Tom damn near rolled his eyes; the fake news anecdote was
299 getting deeper. "Well then at least let me buy you breakfast." Tom
300 head motioned to the food carts that were just opening up.

301 "Sounds good," Dan handed the new laptop to Tom.

302 Tom hid the new laptop in the compartment under the bench seat.
303 Then he left the doors on Cain and Abel's kennels unlatched; heeding
304 last week warning that cars were being broken into at Guda Recreation
305 Park. Back outside Tom watched Dan coming back down the ramp
306 using arm crutches. "We can drive over to the food carts if you want."

307 “No, I need the exercise. Whenever I travel, I put on a few
308 pounds.”

309 Dan had tremendous upper arm strength. He’d swing both legs
310 together and then use the arm crutches to push forward. He was sort
311 of like a walking tripod that had adapted well to the challenge of
312 Multiple Sclerosis. They sat at a picnic bench and talked at length
313 about the spreading of misinformation. Tom substantiated the
314 conversation with the example of how Catholics changed the
315 commandments so that they could worship Idols.

316 Dan took offense to the discordant narrative. He listened
317 respectfully and then pulled a laminated card from his vest pocket.
318 “So, if I recite the words written on this plastic card you think that I’m
319 committing idolatry?” Dan pushed the Saint Michael prayer card across
320 the table toward Tom.

321 “Yes, I do. You should be praying directly to God, not a graven
322 image! It is the same as when my wife prays her rosary beads.” Tom
323 said with conviction.

324 “Your wife prayed the Rosary with my stepdad; David when he was
325 on his death bed.”

326 “I’m sure she did. Beth is a strong traditional Catholic. She’d
327 always reminds me that she is praying with a Rosary, not to the
328 Rosary.”

329 “Sounds like your inner-faith marriage works. My wife is Jewish.
330 Religion is not debated in our family, especially around our four
331 children.”

332 “We don’t have any children,” Tom replied as he picked up the
333 prayer card and flipped it over in his fingers.

334 “I know.” Dan replied with heartfelt sincerity. “Keep the card. You
335 should recite the prayer before you arm yourself for battle.”

336 “I don’t think that will be happening. My days of valor are way
337 past.” Tom graciously laid the card back on the table. “Speaking of
338 arming yourself, I spoke to my friend Hank about you shooting hogs
339 on his ranch.”

340 “Your wife spoke about Hank yesterday. Liz said they went to
341 school together.”

342 Tom distained the name Liz. "Elisabeth! And Hank did go to
343 Catholic school together. Beth introduced me to Hank at a Veteran's
344 fund raiser years ago. Hank's a retired Navy Seal. He's kind of an
345 incognito, spy-type like you."

346 "What do you mean by incognito spy-type?" Dan asked using the
347 arm braces to stand up.

348 "I'll show you back at the Sprinter." Tom picked up and disposed of
349 their breakfast trash.

350 Cain and Able ran out the side door when Tom went inside and dug
351 in a drawer next to the sink. Back outside Tom held out an old style
352 flip phone. "Use this burner phone to call Hank on. Like I said he's an
353 incognito spy-type!"

354 Dan flipped open the phone. "You do know all phones can be
355 traced, regardless if they have GPS or not. Every time they hit a cell
356 tower a PING is recorded.

357 "What's a PING?" Tom asked. "A cell phone PING is a millisecond
358 electronic blip to determining the estimated current location of a cell
359 phone. This may be accomplished via GPS satellite or by using cell
360 tower triangulation. Gathering or obtaining cell phone ping data is a
361 valuable technique that may be utilized for a variety of emergency
362 situations such as 911 calls."

363 "Well over here in Africa they don't have that good of cell phone
364 service. I don't think they can triangulate anybody. I was camped
365 right under a cell phone tower last night and couldn't even send a
366 text."

367 "That's because that tower was probably over loading your phone
368 with an AI-5G signal."

369 "What?" Tom was already sorry he had asked.

370 "Artificial Intelligence in the five gigabit band," Dan rattled off.
371 "Intelligence agencies around the world are starting to use AI-5G
372 technology to spy on their own citizens. There is a group of social
373 media billionaires working with pharmaceutical companies,
374 compromised politicians and even religious leaders that want to turn
375 the entire world into one global common class."

376 "Wow, you do sound just like Hank." Tom rubbed at his forehead.
377 "Hank's into the One World Power, Illuminati, Bohemian Grove cult
378 stuff. I'm more into saving souls through the Word."

379 Dan felt the push back; the normal reaction from conspiracy
380 deniers. "Well, if China continues to buy up Africa you won't have any
381 souls to save. The CCP espouses atheism!"

382 "I don't know about that." Tom wanted to end this discussion.

383 "Do a little homework. Fact check all the airports, roads and dams
384 China has invested in over here. Some of the poorer countries in Africa
385 will never be able to pay China back. They have their eye on the port
386 of Tin Can Island at this very moment."

387 "I don't know about all the high-tech, clandestine stuff around the
388 world. I've been called to battle from the pulpit."

389 "Maybe so! But sometimes God calls you to buck up and do battle
390 in the trenches." Dan declared.

391 "Are you what God has called you to be?" Tom rebutted.

392 "I believe so. As a young boy that couldn't play most sports I
393 became a computer nerd. This skill and expertise that God blessed me
394 with has taken me all over the world," Dan affirmed. "So yes, I'm
395 pleased with how God called me into action."

396 "Wow, that's a great story. When I get a faculty position back in
397 the states it would be great to have you come and give your
398 testimony."

399 "What?" Dan was stunned. "For sure you are leaving Africa?"

400 "Yep!" Tom welcomed the subject changed. "As soon as we are
401 through here I'm driving up to the outreach school to let the villagers
402 know the school is closing permanently."

403 "That's how you do battle, by just abandoning people?"

404 "The school there is more harm than good. On the way back I plan
405 to stop at **Peace Island Resort** for prayer and discernment.
406 Hopefully, in the silence God hears my plea."

407 "I'm sure that God hears you. But what about Liz? She didn't say a
408 word about any of this yesterday. In fact, she asked about flying over
409 with me again."

410 “Beth and I haven’t been talking much, Tom paused. “Why don’t
411 we have lunch on Monday on my way back from Zangam Village?”
412 “Tom, I’m serious about what I have told you. We can never meet
413 again! Next week the world crypto market will take a hit so hard that
414 we can’t risk being seen together. There will be some globalist that will
415 lose millions or even billions in Bitcoin. Some of them have the FBI in
416 their back pocket.”
417 “Maybe we could connect thru Hank’s burner phone?”
418 Dan thought for a moment. “Probably not a good idea.” Dan
419 lowered himself onto his carbon-fiber chair. “I definitely will give Hank
420 a call. I love hunting and the outdoors.”
421 “Make sure you do that. You and Hank have a lot in common.” Tom
422 still wanted to explain about himself — he wasn’t a coward.
423 Dan wheeled himself up into the van then the ramp retracted and
424 the side door latched.
425 “Stay!” Cain and Abel laid down as the van backed out and then
426 pulled forward, blocking the Sprinter.
427 Dan held what looked like a black zip lock sandwich bag out the
428 window. “Here take this!”
429 “What is it” Tom was surprised at the weight of the bag.
430 “Get another burner phone and keep it in here. Only use that
431 phone when you are in a public place and never at home.”
432 “So what is this, some kind of special signal blocking bag?” Tom
433 was now tossing the sealable bag from hand to hand like a beanbag.
434 “Yes sir! Graphene is a material made of carbon atoms that are
435 bonded together in a repeating pattern of hexagons. Graphene is so
436 thin that it is considered two dimensional but when bonded in layers it
437 is stronger than Kevlar. Graphene is considered to be the strongest
438 material in the world, as well as one of the most conductive to
439 electricity and heat. Graphene blocks all radio frequencies, infrared
440 red, blue tooth, 4G and 5G digital signals. It has endless potential
441 applications, in almost every industry.”
442 “Okay... Okay, I get it” Tom rubbed at his forehead. Dan was in too
443 much information (TMI) mode. Just like Hank, when he talked
444 helicopters and military clandestine stuff. Separating fact from fiction

445 wasn't Tom's calling. Separating good from evil was what Tom was
446 called to do. In a month he'd be back in the United States working in
447 the Academia field teaching college boys how to become righteous
448 men of God.
449