

## **Chapter 1: The Fuse Is Lit** Quantico, Virginia, FBI Academy July 2022

“Welcome once again to National Annual Training Conference. As each of you came through the entrance door your clearance level was verified. This is a top secret case study. As per the conference’s protocol all top secret practices shall be followed. Let us proceed.

“I am Agent Howe. Today we will present an inter-agency case study titled: “Almost But for Luck and Skill.” This study presents how a well intended social-political theory, deep-pocket nefarious initiatives, bad things happening to good people, the role of the helpful civilians, hidden codes, technology, and a synergistic task force working as one successfully dismantled a plot of monumental evil and unprecedented, unconstitutional political control. Please note that the expression “justice was served” will not be used. The person of primary interest seems to have vaporized without all the trappings of his wealth. The trail grows colder in an inverse portion to the growing number of theories.

“Let’s begin with this side of eight bullets.

### **Slide 1: The Fuse Is Lit**

- **1> Two Gentlemen of Menace Meeting**
- **2> A Predator at Top of the Food Chain**
- **3> A Job Posting for a Handicapped Programmer**
- **4> A New York Times Daily Briefing Link to a Georgia State Government Site**
- **5> Discussion of a Missing Couple at a Raleigh, NC**
- **6> Auction of a Shipping Container In Charleston**
- **7> A Game Farm in Oklahoma**
- **8> Confirmation of Personal Loss**

“On the screen you will see eight apparently unrelated fragments of information or events listed in chronological order of occurrence. These eight fragments launched a “no good deed goes unpunished” search for an answer. That search includes hidden ‘codes’, gun battles, arson, voter fraud, false flags, laser technology, Trojan horses, sheep, and lots of luck. From those eight bullets you will begin to see the role of the “helpful civilian” as he blunders into the murky swamp of mystery. You will find that this study has a strong cast of heroes and villains. You will travel to small town North Carolina and to the beaches of an Adriatic resort. You will find that this case study sounds like a Dan Brown or Nelson DeMille thriller.

“Now that that I have you on the edge of your seat, let’s begin this saga. It is time to go into the details of the eight fragments. Once you know the details as we “think” they occurred you will be ready to explore the “questions” and search for the answers.

“So let us start our journey. As in any good Shakespearian play we open with two evil characters . We do not any physical record of the the conversation, but we do have expense and travel records that indicate two characters with menacing intent did meet on Halloween, 2020. What you will learn the first bullet what we construe to be the initial discussion for implementing the conspiracy. By itself, even with perfect knowledge of this conversation, it can be forcible argued that this bullet would not be actionable.”

**Bullet 1: Two Gentlemen of Menace Meeting on Stage: 1300 hours October 31, 2020**

*“The Democrats have a wet washcloth running and the Republicans have a raging manic New Yorker running for President,” declared the First Gentlemen. “Whatever the results the US will have chaos on top this COVID uncertainty. They can not handle much more stress on their government or culture.*

*“I wager a Bitcoin that the US can be toppled with simple nonlethal means during this COVID pandemic stress“ challenges the Second Gentleman. “A simple strategy of divide, confuse, and tear-down institutions using Denial-Deception, False Flags and Information Warfare tactics would be launched, centrally coordinated, and timed to take advantage of opportunities that arise regardless of the outcome of the November national elections.*

*“The wager is accepted under three conditions” responds the First Gentleman. “First, no direct violent deaths are to take place. Second, the cost must not exceed \$11 million without further approval. Third, this wager must be kept at the highest confidential level between just the two of us.”*

*“Agreed,” proclaims the Second Gentleman.*

*”So how are you going to do it?” questions the First Gentleman.*

*“Strictly compartmentalizing TW’s insistence on advocating the “one dollar, one vote” political dogma, I had my staff conduct a ‘think tank study’ about how a foreign adversary might seek to modify the ‘We the people...’ concept of the Constitution and replace it with a more modern concept of ‘We the invested voting mass...’ a strategic plan. That plan has three objectives.*

*“The first strategic objective, will be create national political imbalance. To do this the national elections will be monitored for opportunities to insert political imbalance. I mean every effort will be made to identify ways to destroy the Constitutional checks and balance that are built into the system. The second strategic objective will seek to destabilize existing cultural norms and practices. Measures will be undertaken to retard and degrade positive existing cultural norms and practices. At the same time measures that accelerate existing negative norms and practices will be pushed. Our final strategic objective seeks to generate an overpowering burden on the productive forces of the US. To do this we will find ways to increase the burden carried by every taxpaying citizen so that it is truly crushing. We will seek to increase the demand beyond all propriety. But at the same time we will seek ways to force the shrinkage of the economy to an intolerable level.*

*“The US has the seeds of its own destruction and rebirth. Our wager will just help it along a little faster. And may be even gentler.*

*“The implementation of this strategic plan will place ‘ole’ TW in a unique historical position not seen in this country since the Articles of Confederation, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin.*

*“May God help us in our mission.” concludes the First Gentleman.*

### **Returning to Agent Howe's case study presentation:**

"The role of the Two Gentlemen of Menace play is one of 'cuts-outs' between the 'do-ers' and the 'money'" narrates Agent Howe. "Bullet 2 reports an encrypted conversation which hit the 'ether' but was not actionable.

**Bullet 2: Top of the Food Chain: Later in the Day over the Encrypted over Airwaves: October 31, 2020**

"I can report that our pawn threw down the wager just as we knew he would. It will definitely be the false flag operation you have purchased." reports the First Gentleman.

"You both agreed with the my three constraints?" the Top Predator asks for confirmation.

"Affirmative." responds the First Gentleman.

"Then put it in play," commands the Top Predator .

### **Refocusing on Agent Howe's presentation:**

"Shorty after gaining approval to move ahead with the devious project a job posting was published seeking a specific set of innocent technical personnel" states Agent Howe. "The job posting by itself was not actionable.

"But we know at least three software engineers were lured to apply for the positions with a client of Link2Link. It is safe for us to conjecture that the first response to the posting went something like the following."

**Bullet 3: Link2Link <[jobs-postings@link2link.com](mailto:jobs-postings@link2link.com)> Posting November 12, 2020  
Developer/Programmer/Project Architect – Preference to Handicapped Applicants**

**\*\*\*\*\* Need to alter this approach so that Frank reads and responds.**

"Bingo, exclaims Frank Rana. "Banks come see this job posting. It's mee to a 'T'. I can work remote from anywhere in the Southeastern US. There is a minimum of travel might be required to the project's site. The project is with a client supporting a state government contract software and test development. I will need to pass the employer's security clearance and drug testing requirements.

"I will be working in an object-oriented programming and design an environment working with Java, Unix Shell Script running batch applications, creating Web applications, and developing automated testing.

"Plus the client is giving us diabetics preference under the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA).

"The job is not permanent. But it could last as long as eighteen months. Plus the employer will provide performance completion bonuses.

"Stacy, this job will anchors us firmly in Atlanta during this COVID pandemic period.

## **Continuing Her Presentation**

Agent Howe states, “Now it is time to meet the ‘helpful civilian’ and hear about the first possible actionable activity. The next Bullet tells of our ‘helpful civilian’ stumbling across an interesting ‘seed’ planted by a news service briefing item and link to a regional event with possible national repercussions.

### **Bullet 4: Home Office in Raleigh, NC December 7, 2021 Almost A Year Earlier**

*In his home office, Lionel scans the morning incoming email traffic for his morning reads.*

*“Well lookie here.” Lionel said to himself. The New York Times on-line news brief reports the news bullet: “Today is the deadline to register to the Georgia runoffs. Eligible voters can do so here.”*

*Selecting the bullet’s link Lionel makes the virtual jump to the <https://registervote.sos.ga.gov> web page. The screen displays a welcome and invites the him to register using his Georgia issued driver’s license or to complete a voter registration form that will be mailed to him. Opting to complete the form Lionel enters his Georgia residence, mailing address, date of birth, race/ethnicity, telephone, gender, and email address. He then answers in the affirmative that he is a citizen of the USA and over the age of seventeen. He further that he resides at the addresses, is eligible to vote in Georgia, not serving a sentence as a felon, and am legally sane. Finally he checks the acknowledgment that he must print the completed application, sign it and mail it to the local register’s office. Clicking the next button prints his completed Georgia voter’s registration form.*

*Staring at it he muses, “Is this election important enough to justify the means? No but let’s hope others don’t decide to push the meaning of the word ‘is’”. He then wads the application and flips it into the trash basket. He places a copy of the NYT news bullet andcopies of breadcrumbs images he took while following the pathway to making an on-line request for Georgia voter registration form in a folder he uses to collect oddities and observations.*

*Lionel then moves the next emails of interest. These are email messages that have been redirected by his SPAM filter to a holding area for suspect emails.*

## **Picking-up Agent Howe’s presentation**

*“Bullet 5 changes a simple elopement into a community tragedy,” announces Agent Howe.*

### **Bullet 5: Caffetteria Turandot, Raleigh, NC April 17, 2021**

*Lionel arrived a bit early for a Saturday coffee meeting with his old car pool buddy Aminu Balaji.*

*“Aminu, how’s import/export business? How’s the family?”, asked Lionel as Aminu approaches the shaded outdoor table.*

*“Prince Jones, all is well. How’s Andrew and his family?” returns Aminu. Pleasantries are exchanged and two friends bring each other up speed on business and family details of casual interest to each.*

*After about twenty minutes, Aminu notices an employee who is an old friend from the home village, Maduka Bankole, busing an adjacent table.*

*“Excuse me a moment, Lionel.” Aminu interrupts a slowing conversational stream. He then begins to briefly engage in Nigerian Pidgin English. “Prince Bankole, how u dey?”*

*“Kata kata” launches Makuka expressing the chaos in his life. He continues by telling Aminu that his daughter and her White boyfriend have been missing for a little over a three weeks. He briefly provides quick set of details of which he is aware. “E get as e be” Makuka closes shaking his head and moving off to continue busing.*

*As Aminu returns to the the table, Lionel asks “Did I understand right from the flow of the conversation that Makuka’s daughter and boyfriend are gone. That has to be hard on him and his wife.”*

*“Makuka indicated that the last credit card transactions were for a brief stay in Phenix City, Alabama two weeks ago. He said they have not seen her since early February. They have not received any emails or text messages since mid-March. She called on her cell phone a couple of times at weird times but did not leave any voice mail.”*

*“Ouch. I know Phenix City from my days at Fort Benning’s School for Boys. It is a tough place South of Atlanta and just over the border from Columbus, Georgia. What could they have been doing there?”*

*“From what Makuka told me his daughter is a freelance correspondent working various Associated Press story lines. She goes by her professional name of Stacy Banks. But she is very proud of having immigrant parents and of her Nigerian ancestry. She speaks Naija at home and among the Nigerian community.*

*“Frank Rana, her boyfriend, is on an independent short-term contract software engineer working for an Asian firm with US operations based out of Sunnyvale. Their Atlanta condo is closed and they appear to have moved. The monthly homeowner’s fees have been prepaid for the next thirteen months. Makuka is hoping that they eloped to the islands for an extended honeymoon. It makes sense sense they both can work anywhere. And with the COVID crisis travel is cheaper than normal. That is if you vaccinated which both of them are due to pre-existing medical conditions. They both have Type 1 diabetes and must regulate insulin daily.”*

### **Reverting to Agent Howe’s narration of the Case study**

*“As with any convoluted criminal activity there is a need for timing and luck in order to move against it,” states Agent Howe. “Our case study is no different. Bullet 6 highlights a key bit of luck for resolving this criminal activity.”*

**Bullet 6: Charleston, SC Storage Facility Auction** of Abandoned Property: Nearly a year later, October 16, 2021

*“Sold!” announces the auctioneer referring to wooden overseas container partially filled with boxes, furniture, and junk.*

*Dancing in jubilation with his cell phone to his ear, Weli Olude proclaims “Aminu, I just won the bid on a small overseas container of household good. I will have it jacked on the rental truck going your warehouse shortly. ‘Abeg’ to use your parking lot to breakdown items for sale at the Flea Market and then export the rest to Nigeria. Debo will have the truck unload in Raleigh before this December’s export shipment loads-out.”*

### **Once Again Agent Howe**

“Our next Bullet occurred later that year when our ‘helpful civilian’ learned of an unusual experience his brothers had while hunting in Oklahoma,” details Agent Howe.

**Bullet 7: Triple 3 Game Farm** November 4, 2021 Near Meers Oklahoma

*“Get over here Boomer Bring it to me. What the hell? Heh Archie look what Boomer found.”*

*“These are good bird dogs but usually they wait for me to take a shot before shagging the bird,” says Bob Jones as he was reaching down to pull a lump of of something from Boomer’s mouth. Sooner dances around her sister showing the hound’s excitement.*

*Looking at the retrieved lump Bob Jones exclaims “It kind of looks like a someone lost their finger a bit ago.”*

*“We better contact 911,” enjoins Archie Jones as he began calling.*

*“Comanche County EMS, what is the nature of your emergency?”*

*“Our dogs just brought us what appears to be an Indian’s or Black man’s finger” declares Lionel Jones. “We are bird hunting near the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge on the Triple 3 Game Farm just West of Meers off Route 115. We were running a couple of dogs for quail. But one of them found this dried finger.*

*“We will send someone from the Sheriff’s office to where we have your signal located” responds the EMS operator. “Do not move from the location from where this call is coming. Secure the item you are reporting until the a Sheriff’s deputy shows-up.”*

*“Roger that” responds Archie. “We have the finger in a game bag now. We will be waiting.”*

*A little over fifty minutes, Bob Jones spots a trail of dust tracking up the near-by firebreak trail.*

*“Heh, Archie, it looks like we have one of the Sheriff’s ‘We Care’ wagons and a K-9 unit heading this way. Hang on to the dogs. This is going to get interesting.”*

*Both vehicles break to hard stops raising the Oklahoma prairie dust. The Deputy with a canine member exits the K-9 unit ahead of the ‘We Care’ Deputy.*

*“I am Deputy Adair with the Comanche County Sheriff’s Office. You fellas want to put your shotguns up against the trunk of my unit, please. Then identify yourselves with your driver licenses. You will need to tell me what you found and where.”*

*“Deputy Adair, I am Bob Jones and this is my brother Archie Jones.” responds Bob as the Bob places their shotguns against the trunk.*

*Examining the brothers’ driver licenses, Deputy Adair observes and states “Archie Jones, I see you are from Texas. Are you visiting or what.”*

*“I am visiting my brother for a few days while my wife visits her sister in Dallas. Also be advised that I have a Texas Concealed Carry Handgun Permit. I am carrying at the present moment. My every day carry is the left inside pocket my hunting vest. I am taking off my vest and placing it on the ground if you tell me to do so. I have my Texas CCH card in the top left pocket of that vest. Please verify the every day carry and Texas CCH card in the vest.”*

*“Mr. Jones please remove your vest slowly with just your left hand while keeping your right hand on your cap.”*

*Archie Jones slowly removes the hunting vest with his left hand placing it on the ground at his feet. He then backs-up about three feet allowing a comfortable distance between himself and the deputy. Deputy Adair moves forward cautiously. Retrieves the vest. He then locates the Springfield KDE 45ACP and the NC CCH card as Archie stated. These items he places on the trunk next to the shotguns. Everyone relaxes at that point in the encounter.*

*“This is Deputy Joyner. These two are Bob and Archie Jones” Deputy Adair making the introductions. “Archie Jones is from Amarillo, Texas and has a CCH and was carrying a moment ago. His everyday carry in in that vest by the shotguns. Bob Jones is local. They were going to start telling me their story. Go ahead Mr. Jones.”*

*“We had been out for about two hours working the dogs.....*

*“Thank you gentlemen” acknowledges Deputy Joyner. “You can call the Game Farm Office now and have them send an off-road to take you and the dogs to a new sector or back to the parking lot. We are going to close this sector until the coroner’s office shows up to secure these remains. Thank you for your assistance.*

*Awaiting for the pick-up vehicle Bob sighs, “That kind of takes the wind out of the prairie schooner sail. Might as well call it a wrap for the day. Boomer and Sooner may never hunt again. Finding that finger was worse than having good bird-dogs go after rabbit.”*

*Bob calls the Game Farm office and ask for a pick-up and return to the parking lot. While they wait he calls his brother Lionel in Raleigh, NC to tell him about the latest Jones-Boys mis-adventure.*

*Four Weeks Later:*

*While at Claude’s Cafe with the morning coffee brew crew. Lionel receives another cell phone call from Bob Jones*

*“Give me a moment while I step outside to take your call.”*

*“Okay, I am outside. What can I do for Bob?” asks Lionel.*

*“Lionel, you remember the hunting trip I told you about when Archie came over from Amarillo and we found that finger. Well Ed Parton, the Apache, called me last night. You should remember Ed from the neighborhood. He lived on Bell Street near the park. I was talking with Ed at lunch today. He is a distant cousin of Deputy Joyner. It seems that after Wednesday Night’s Prayer service, the deputy told Ed that the finger belonged to a missing Black female freelance reporter from Atlanta named Stacy Banks. Ed said the state medical coroner discovered that the finger we found exhibited a “trigger finger” which is a symptom expected of Type 1 diabetes. The OSBI investigators linked the coroner’s report to the missing reporter. They think the boyfriend had something to do with her disappearance. The Comanche Sheriff’s Office is expanding its search beyond the Triple 3 Game Farm. Thought you’d like to know.”*

*“That bites.” acknowledges Lionel. “Hows that going to.....”*

## **Circling Back to Her Case Study Presentation**

Agent Howe comments “Unfortunately, the character of the disappearance to a young couple is too murky to establish whether it was just a sad loss due to natural cases or a double murder. Bullet 8 reports the conundrum which the authorities faced.

“It also provides the first hint of the ‘helpful civilian’ stepping forward within the community and circle of friends.”

### **Bullet 8: Home Office in Raleigh, NC December 09, 2021**

*While in his office scanning his evenings email Lionel receives a cell phone call from Aminu.*

*“Prince Jones,” begins Aminu. “Makuka just had a video conference with the Arkansas and Oklahoma authorities. The authorities now have the body of the boyfriend. He was found just North of Van Buren, Arkansas in a shallow grave. It seems he died of insulin shock. Forensic evidence seems to support the conclusion that he preceded Makuka’s daughter. The Oklahoma authorities still have not recovered any more more of Stacy’s remains other than what was discovered originally. But the remnant that was recovered suggested type 1 diabetes related death. They did not give Makuka any*

*exact dates on either death. The authorities seem to think it might have been disorientation due to insulin-diabetes conflict. Such a mental state may have contributed to their disorientation and eventual deaths at separate times. The Oklahoma authorities told Makuka that her car, purse, or luggage still have not been located. They suspect that these items may have been scavenged as abandon property somewhere near Meers Oklahoma by parties unrelated to Stacy disappearance.”*

*“Our hearts are with Makuka and his wife,” replied Lionel. “Let us know if there is anything his family would like from us. I know the Raleigh Nigerian community will be supportive.”*

*The cell phone call ends shortly after this disheartening information is communicated.*

### **Agent Howe Moves from the Lit Fuse into her case study**

Agent Howe continues her presentation, “Except for the ‘helpful civilian’ responding to a call from a friend for assistance the chain of discovery would have been broken with little chance of heading-off the illegal enterprise.

“Now is the point in the presentation of the case study where the ‘helpful civilian’ will be introduced.

“Mr. Lionel Jones is a retired software engineer. He is a 1972 graduate from West Point, Airborne, Ranger, 82 Airborne, and Civil Affairs. During his civilian career he held a Professional Engineer License in North Carolina. He and his wife have been married for almost fifty years. They have one son and two grandsons. He also holds a North Carolina Concealed Carry Handgun card. He actively participates in marksmanship, hunting, fishing, and cycling.

“Mr. Jones.” closes Agent Howe.

A rather short bald-headed gentleman rises and walks to the podium. Adjusting his glasses he gazes out into the audience. He reaches down into the podium he secures a bottle of water, casually opens one of the bottles of water, and takes a small sip. After adjusting the microphone he proceeds. By that time the slide pack has been switched and readied for his presentation.

“I am please to be here with you today at your Annual Training Conference,” begins Lionel. “At this point of the case study all we have are questions, questions, questions. We are a long way from reaching a tipping point of recognition of an active illegal conspiracy. As we proceed in our case study you will learn about the computer forensic, guess work, luck, work-arounds , teamwork, trade craft, and best practices that were employed to avert a national threat to our culture and freedom.

“Now let me begin where I began actively to stumble on to the stage.”