

THE STICKY FINGERS THEFT CASE

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BY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To all **the honest** and hardworking employees out there.

To Dan Gibson, owner of Gardensong BnB in Natchez, MS.

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KENNETH'S FIRST CASE

Kenneth Featherstone, age 51, locks his third floor private investigative office. He looks at his cheap Timex watch while waiting for the elevator. His dental appointment is in an hour and he doesn't want to be late again.

In the lobby of the Bagwell Building he stops to speak to a very cute receptionist. Her name is Cheryl McWhorter, about 46 years old, with dark hair and a warm smile.

"Hello, Cheryl. I am headed to my dental appointment. How are you doing today?"

"I am well, thank you. Any case come in yet?"

"Nope. The day and week are still young."

"You said the same thing last week, Kenneth."

"I know I did but this week it will be different?"

"Why do you say that?"

"I found this lucky dime in the parking lot when I parked my car," he says holding up the dime for her to see.

"Want to come to my roommate's surprise birthday party tonight? Cindy really likes you. She told me so when you exited the elevator last week with your box of surveillance brochures."

"Nope."

Cheryl asks, "Why not?"

"Because I really want to spend my free time with you."

“Tell you what then. To make that lucky dime lucky I will go out with you. Maybe a case will come in as well.”

“Fantastic news. I only asked you out ten times.”

“Eight times to be exact Kenneth. My mom told me growing up, ‘Keep asking and someday the no will be a maybe and the maybe will be a yes’.”

“Your mother told me the same thing two weeks ago. That is why I keep asking you out. Your mother gave me hope.”

“Where are you going again? I forgot what you said.”

“I have a dental appointment in forty five minutes. I need a few cavities fixed.”

“I hate going to the dentist.”

“I do too Cheryl but my teeth bother me.”

“When you return from your dental appointment you can officially ask me out.”

“I will rush back then.”

Kenneth runs out of the Bagwell Building, dashes to his white in color Chevy Yukon and departs the area. His radio is not working, neither is the air conditioning so he rolls down his driver’s window and begins singing out loud to a song he wrote.

‘Everyone is running to catch the bus, everyone except for us, because we are already on the bus. Here comes the baseball player with his ball and glove. Running with him is his new found love. Yes, everyone is running to catch the bus, everyone except for us, because we are already on the bus.’

Kenneth stops to buy The Miami Herald newspaper from a magazine stand and enters the crowded dental office.

The private investigator reads his sports magazine while waiting for his name to be called. Ten minutes later Kenneth has his mouth wide open and a chubby dental assistant is injecting a needle into his front left gum.

“This may hurt a little,” she says as she injects a local anesthesia.

“What is the anesthesia called?”

“Lidocaine. It will take effect in a few minutes. Then the dentist will be in to take care of your cavities.”

Kenneth just smiles and nods his head up and down.

Fifteen minutes later Doctor Loring walks in and places a yellow note into Kenneth’s shirt pocket.

“Hello, Kenneth. I need you to call my Cousin Bob. He needs to hire you. His accountant just did an audit and he is missing \$750,000 worth of inventory.”

Kenneth signals for a piece of paper and a pen. The middle aged assistant hands him both. Kenneth writes something down and hands the pad to the dentist.

He mumbles, “Read this please.”

Doctor Loring reads the written message and replies, “Bob and his younger brother own one of Florida’s largest manufacturing companies. I think they employ over four hundred workers.”

Kenneth motions for the pad and pen again. He writes another message and hands the pad to the dentist.

“Your handwriting is hard to read, Kenneth. What do they manufacture?”

Kenneth nods his head up and down.

“My Cousins own a large orthopedic company and make all types of braces; neck, knee, elbow, hands, as well as cervical collars, wrist splints and back supports. Their products are ideal for physical therapy and rehabilitation. Sport teams are a big customer for prevention of further injury.”

The dentist puts the pad down and starts to drill.

An hour later Kenneth walks out of the dental office with a sore mouth and a new case. His first since opening his investigative agency.

Cheryl smiles when she views her future date returning to the lobby of the Bagwell Building.

Kenneth’s mouth is all numb so he gives Cheryl the thumbs up, catches an elevator and rides it to the third floor. He opens a small office door with ‘Featherstone Investigative Group’ written in big letters. Inside are a desk, a new computer, a small fridge and an old couch his mother gave him.

Kenneth was a policeman for 3 years in Detroit, Michigan. He looks at his ‘Officer of the month’ awards hanging on the wall, He wonders if he did the right thing by quitting the force with a steady pay check, moving to Miami and opening his own pi agency.

Two weeks ago Kenneth had placed a small ad in the Miami Herald that read, ‘Is your spouse really working late? Find out’. The ad cost \$300 to run for a month. It has been 2 weeks already and not a single call has come in requesting his services.

Kenneth opens his cost and expense ledger and reviews what he has spent so far to start his company. He likes being his own boss but is worried. He only has the one lead and possible case he just received from his dentist.

The ledger shows a cash loan of \$20,000 from his mother was now down to \$14,500. Some of his expenses were for; office rent of \$500, car payment of \$150, gas for running around all week visiting new

business leads and dropping off brochures was \$60 and brochures and business cards cost \$400.

The numbness in his sore mouth finally wears off so Kenneth calls the number on the yellow sheet of paper given to him by the dentist.

He asks for Mr. Bob Cummings when the receptionist answers, “B&B Manufacturing, Joan speaking.”

Kenneth waits on the telephone line about 2 minutes.

“Hello, this is Bob.”

“Afternoon, Sir. Doctor Loring gave me your number and asked me to call you. My name is Kenneth Featherstone and I am a private investigator.”

“Thanks for calling me.”

“I understand you recently had an audit done and you are missing \$750,000 worth of inventory?”

“That is correct. When can you come in to discuss this matter with me and my brother Ryan?”

“How about right now?”

“We can do that. I do not want any of my employees to know you are a private investigator.”

“No problem. My name will be Kenneth Gibson and I will say I am a sales rep.”

“How far away are you?”

“Where are you located?”

“We are in Hialeah in the industrial complex off Highway 826.”

“I can be there in 30 minutes. Just make sure it is only with owners that I am meeting with. Loose lips sinks ships.”

“Good advice. Will do. See you in a little while.”

Kenneth hangs up, grabs a notepad, a few ink pens, locks his office and catches the elevator. Once in the lobby he stops at Cheryl’s reception desk.

He waits for her to finish talking to a visitor and says, “How about tomorrow night I take you to Red Lobster?”

“I love Red Lobster.”

“I know you do. Your mother told me so weeks ago.”

“What else did my talkative mother say about me?”

“I will pick you up after work and tell you everything I know about you.”

“Deal. Where are you going with that smile on your face?”

Kenneth pulls out the yellow note and shows her.

“My dentist asked me to call his cousins who own a large orthopedic manufacturing company in Hialeah. Their accountant did an audit and discovered \$750,000 of inventory missing. I am on my way now to meet with the 2 owners.”

“Wow. That is great news. Hang on to that lucky dime. Good luck.”

“Thanks, Cheryl. I will update you in the morning.”

At a traffic light Kenneth calls his mother.

“Hi, Mom. I just received my first case. I am on the way there now.”

“Are you pulling my leg, Son?”

“Nope. I will be investigating a \$750,000 short fall in orthopedic material that an audit shows is missing. I am driving to Hialeah now. I will call you with more details in the morning.”

“I know you will do a good job. Thanks for your call. I love you.”

“I love you too, Mom.”

Thirty minutes later Kenneth pulls up to a security booth and a black male in uniform approaches with a clipboard.

“Can I help you, Sir?”

“Yes. I have an appointment with Bob Cummings. My name is Kenneth Gibson. I am a sales rep. He is expecting me.”

The guard checks his clipboard and replies, “Yes, Sir, Mr. Gibson, I have you down on his list. You can park in our visitor lot up the road to the right. Please announce yourself to the receptionist in the lobby.”

Kenneth says to the overweight, elderly guard, “How long have you been working here?”

“Why do you want to know?”

Kenneth has to think fast as he realizes that he just asked a private investigator type question.

He lies and says, “My father, age 76, is looking for a part-time job. If you have been here a few years then this would be a good place for him to apply at because long term employment means a good working environment.”

“I see. I have been here 2 years now.”

“Thank you for telling me that. See you on my way out.”

The guard pushes a remote control button inside the guard shack and a metal bar raises to let Kenneth’s vehicle in. The investigator parks,

grabs his briefcase, locks his vehicle and enters the administrative building.

A female receptionist walks Kenneth into a large conference room with a long, oak table.

Sitting in plush leather chairs are 3 people. They all stand when Kenneth walks in.

The receptionist says, “Mr. Kenneth Gibson,” then she turns around and closes the conference room door on her way out.

A middle aged white male with a small pot belly walks over and extends his hand.

“Mr. Featherstone, I am Bob Cummings. Let me introduce you to my younger brother and our manager.”

Both walk over to meet the others.

Bob points to the younger looking man and says, “This is Ryan. Both men shake hands.

Bob turns to the middle aged, black female with short, black hair and says, “May I introduce you to our manager, Tina Turner.”

Both shake hands.

Kenneth asks her, “Are you named after the famous singer?”

“Yes I am. My mama loved her and knew the words to every song she ever sang.”

They all sit down at the oak table.

Kenneth removes from his briefcase a yellow note pad, a silver in color ink pen and 3 brochures. He reaches into his shirt pocket of his blue suit and removes 3 business cards. He hands each of them a business card and a brochure.

“My cell phone number is on the back of each. Please call me at any time if you have any information that may help me in my investigation. I understand that your accountant conducted an audit and discovered you are missing \$750,000 of inventory.”

Ryan speaks up. “Yes, that is true. Our long term CPA, a Mr. Paul Silverman of Weinstein and Silverman did the audit last week.”

“You must have been in shock when he reported that size of a lost?”

“Yes, very much so,” says Bob.

Ryan speaks next.

“We treat all the employees like they are family. We have strong feelings of responsibility toward our workers. We try to be supportive with a good salary and medical benefits.”

“Well Ryan for some workers that is not enough. You think you have happy employees but in reality you have thieves picking your pockets and laughing all the way to the bank. Drugs will somehow be involved when I uncover the truth to your missing material.”

“So sad to know that we have thieves taking advantage of our trust,” says Bob.

“Makes me mad,” says Tina.

“Any idea from you 3 on how this loss occurred?”

They all shake their heads from side to side and shrug their shoulders.

Tina looks at Kenneth and says, “We started this company together 13 years ago. The audit last week was our first.”

“We should have had an audit every year,” says Bob.

“I wonder over the last 13 years how much you really have lost,” says Kenneth.

“Me too,” replies Ryan. “Can you investigate this \$750,000 loss for us?”

“Yes I can. Let me tell you about my own background. I have a 4 year degree from Southern University. I was a Marine in the military and I attended Officer Candidate School. I was a police officer in Detroit, Michigan for 3 years and I have been a private investigator for 2 weeks now.”

They all laugh at Kenneth’s 2 week comment.

“I know what I am doing. I will prove it by solving this crime caper which I am naming ‘The Sticky Fingers Theft Case’. I charge \$100 an hour and request a retainer fee up front of \$5,000.”

Bob turns to Tina and says, “Go write Kenneth a check for the amount he just asked for please.”

As Tina slides her leather chair back from the long conference table Kenneth says, “Please return with hiring files of your last 12 terminated employees.”

Tina looks at Bob and Ryan, turns to Kenneth and asks, “Why do you need those 12 files?”

“Sometimes ex-employees will provide me with names of current employees that are stealing, taking or selling drugs, in need of money and maybe to whom the thieves are selling your material products to.”

Bob looks at Tina and replies, “Give Kenneth whatever he asks for.”

After Tina leaves the room, Kenneth stands up and closes the conference door.

“Gentlemen, I asked to meet with only you 2. Why is Tina in this meeting?”

“Tina is our right arm,” says Bob.

“You trust her that much! Why?”

“Tina, Ryan and I all left our last employer together and started B&B Manufacturing from the beginning. We treat Tina like family. We do not worry about her. She has always been loyal and is a very hard working woman.”

“Does Tina have any ownership in B&B?”

“No,” says Ryan. “My brother and I are 50-50 partners. We were the ones that came up with the seed money required to open.”

“The more people that know I am here as your investigator the worse it will be for you. They will clam up. No one wants to be known as a snitch. They have a saying on the streets, ‘If you snitch you end up hurt in the ditch’.”

“I will tell Tina to keep quiet about us hiring you,” replies Bob.

“Good to hear.”

“Can you share with us your plan to investigate our loss?”

“Yes Ryan I can. Keep it between us 3 as much as you can. I want to make up a tip line card with my cell phone number on it. We will offer a \$5,000 dollar reward for any information regarding illegal activity.”

Bob looks at the private investigator and asks, “Do employees call?”

“Yes they do. A friend of mine in California did it recently and developed many leads that helped him reveal the criminal gang working in the trucking company he was hired by to solve their cargo thefts.”

“What will you write on the tip line cards?” asks Ryan.

“We will say on the tip line cards that they do not have to give their name or contact information. I will assign them a tip code when they call.”

Bob asks, “Why a tip code?”

“This way when they call back to check on any reward money they might receive all they have to provide me with is the code number issued to them.”

“How do you pay them the reward money if they want to remain in the dark?”

“Well Bob, we ask for a bank manager they trust. We just hand the money over to the manager and say, ‘Someone will come in to claim the money and will give you a secret tip code which we will provide you. This way the tipster can stay in the dark.’”

“But we have almost 400 employees, mostly female sewers.” says Ryan.

“That is good to hear. Loose lips is what I am looking for. Someone knows what is going on and the \$5,000 reward will get them talking.”

“I can have the tip cards printed and issued in 2 days,” says Bob.

“The sooner the better. You have a theft ring working right under your noses and you don’t even have a clue who they are.”

“That is true,” replies Bob looking over at his younger brother.

“Can you provide me with a list of your missing inventory?”

Tina walks back in with Kenneth’s retainer check and the 12 files he asked for.

Bob tells Tina to contact the printer they plan to use and have them print up right away 700 tip line cards.

Kenneth hands her the information he wants printed on the cards along with instructions on how to collect any reward money.

“Please issue the tip line cards to all your staff with their paychecks. Insert this letter as well on company stationary from Bob Cummings saying the company needs the thefts to stop or layoffs will begin. That threat alone should get the honest workers to rat on the dishonest ones.”

Kenneth hands Bob the letter he wants enclosed.

Bob reads out loud what is on the letter.

“To all employees. We request your help. Attached to your paycheck is a tip line card. We had an audit performed on the company and we are missing a great deal of inventory. Continued losses will result in layoffs.

Please call the special tip line number and report any information you have on fellow employees regarding thefts, drug use and where we can recover our missing material.

There is a large reward set up for this vital information. Every employee is getting a tip line card so no one will know who called in any tips. Thank you. Mr. Bob Cummings. CEO.”

Ryan says, “Nice letter.”

Kenneth looks over at Bob and asks, “Can I get a tour of your operation please?”

“Just you and I?”

“No, I would like to have Tina walk us around. This way if and when I have to question your staff they will know it is alright to speak with me.”

All three exit the executive office and enter the larger warehouse style building next door. It is very huge with hundreds of women sitting at sewing stations, cargo trucks coming and going and it is very loud.

Bob hands Kenneth ear plugs. “You might want to use these.”

While walking around the huge building Bob stops now and then and explains to his private investigator what is going on in the different departments.

Kenneth sees over 300 women sewing fabric together at their individual personal work stations.

Tina says, “These women are stitching together the material needed to build the different braces and collars we sell to orthopedic and rehab offices across the nation. We have 2 shifts. Either the women will work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We have about 310 sewers working between both shifts.”

Kenneth sees an open time clock with hundreds of time cards in slots marked ‘A to Z’. He turns to Tina and asks. “What is stopping one employee from punching in or out an employee who is not here, is coming in late or leaving early?”

Tina points to a security camera mounted on a wall that covers the time card box. “This camera does.”

“Is the camera on 24/7 and where do you store the recording tapes?”

“The camera does not work. It is a dummy one but the employees think it is real and recording them.”

Kenneth writes down on his notepad ‘Recommend better time clock security to prevent abuse.’

They stop at the loading docks. Men are busy loading and unloading crates and boxes. Trucks are coming and going as the group stand on the dock watching it all unfold. Two Fed Ex trucks are being loaded as the 3 walk the dock.

Tina says, “We have our most injury claims in this department.”

Bob stands next to Kenneth and shouts, “This area is very busy and as you can hear, very loud with all the fork lifts operating at one time. We

have about 30 men working in this area during the week and about 6 on weekends.”

The group stop at a large storage room. There are many shelves stacked floor to ceiling with rolls of fabrics or medical devices.

Bob says, “Our most expensive fabric is denim. The audit showed we are missing \$350,000 worth. The rolls are long and heavy. It takes 2 men to carry one roll to our sewers. Once cut to size then anyone can take the material.”

They next stop in the administrative offices. About a dozen women are busy at their desk working on their computers or talking on the telephone. None of the staff even look up as they walk around inspecting their work.

“What goes on in here?”

“We collect from vendors, we pay our staff and suppliers, we hire and fire from Tina’s office and our bookkeeper controls our expenses.

Once back in the executive conference room Kenneth asks, “Can someone take me to your security department?”

Bob looks at Tina.

“Please introduce Kenneth to our security manager and have Mr. Green give Kenneth whatever he requires?”

“Alright. Follow me please.”

Once back in the large warehouse Tina looks at the private investigator and says, “To my right is our cafeteria. Please wait there a few minutes. I have to make a few calls. Then I will introduce you to our security manager.”

“Alright.”

Ten minutes later at the very back of the large building Tina and Kenneth walk into the security office. Tina introduces Kenneth to Tom Green.

“We hired Mr. Featherstone to investigate our material losses. So whatever Kenneth needs or asks for he is cleared by Bob Cummings to have. I will leave you two alone.”

“Care for a cup of coffee? I just made a fresh pot.”

“Yes, with cream and sugar please.”

Tom is a black male in his late fifties. He looks in shape and stands 6 feet 3 inches.

“Tell me Tom about your background?”

“I was in the Navy 8 years, then I was a Miami policeman for 5 years and have been head of security here from day 1. Wow, 14 years pretty soon. How time flies. And you, Sir?”

“I am a private investigator. Before that I was a policeman in Detroit, Michigan. Has anyone in management explained what has been going on regarding their latest audit?”

“Yes. Tina filled me in last week. We are missing \$750,000 worth of material over the last 2 years. She informed me about 5 minutes ago by phone that you were hired to recover the stolen or misplaced goods and she was on the way over here to see me to introduce you.”

“That is correct. Here is my business card with my contact cell phone number on the back. How many guards do you have and how many are working per shift?”

“I have about 20 men on payroll. Five men work days which is 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. I have 4 working afternoons till 10 in the evening and 3 on midnights.”

“What are the duties of your guards?”

“In the cargo area they are to inspect the delivery trucks and make sure the items are all there. Same thing when the trucks depart with loaded material. We have a few guards roaming the sewing floor to make sure the women are working and not talking. One guard is always at the front gate directing traffic in and out. Things like that.”

“What about staff using illegal drugs?”

“Like any big operation we have our share. If we spot anyone using or selling illegal drugs we fire them on the spot. We have classes once a month to educate our employees on safety. At the meetings I will speak about the dangers of working high on drugs.”

“How do you think your company lost so much material in 2 years?”

“With 400 employees working here I bet in each department we have a few dishonest ones removing finished medical products. There are at least 6 exits the thief can use.”

“I will recommend to the owners to hire a few individuals as undercover operatives. You can place the people in different departments. They can have lunch and take smoke breaks with the employees. This way they can over hear them talking,” says Kenneth.

“How long does it take to get results?”

“My friend and fellow investigator in California told me it takes weeks because you have to earn the trust of the workers before they start bragging.”

“Do tell the owners your suggestion. If it comes from me, then Bob, Ryan and Tina will say they will look into it but do nothing,” replies Tom.

“Tell me about Bob, Ryan and Tina will you?”

“You have to keep what I am about to tell you between us?”

“Tom. You have my word.”

“Bob and Ryan are cool owners to work for. They just do not walk the floor and meet with the workers. They are either in their offices or on the road meeting with suppliers.”

“And Tina?”

“Tina is the one owner that the employees relate to. She is well liked.”

“Did you know that Tina is not an owner but just the manager?”

“I did not know that,” replies Tom drinking his cup of coffee. “Tina has everyone fooled then.”

“Why do you say that?”

“It is Tina we come into contact with on a daily basis. She hires and fires everyone and if you want a raise you have to speak with her.”

“Has Tina ever told you she is an owner?”

“I never asked. I just assumed she was because Tina is always with Bob and Ryan. They all hang out together in the conference room or go to lunch with clients.”

“To tell you the truth I asked for Bob and Ryan only to meet with me today and Tina was there. Bob said he and his brother are 50-50 owners and Tina was the manager.”

Tom laughs and says, “She sure does act like an owner.”

“What problems with employees have you had since you were hired with B&B?”

“The typical crap. Fights, petty thefts of a back brace here and there, some minor drug use, a stolen car once and employees punching time cards in and out for other employees.”

“Why do they do that?”

“Because they are running late or want to leave early.”

“Did you know that the camera in the time clock room doesn’t work?”

“All the employees know that,” laughs Tom.

“Really?”

“Yes. The men in our maintenance room like to talk while having lunch in our cafeteria. Someone asked, ‘Doesn’t management trust us?’ The unknown camera installer replied with a wink, ‘They sure do. The camera is a dummy one’.”

Kenneth smiles and says, “So much for prevention.”

Tom then replies, “Keep me posted on your investigation. If I can be of any help just call on me. Here is my business card. The cell phone number is correct.”

Kenneth takes Tom’s business card just as Tina walks in the security office.

“Bob Cummings would like to speak with you.”

Kenneth and Tom shake hands and say their goodbyes.

As Tina and Kenneth walk back to Bob’s office in the executive building he says, “I was not shown the cafeteria, Tina.”

“Let us have lunch there soon. You can tell me what you think of the cooking. I just hired a new cook.”

“His or her name?”

“Scott Vickers. He used to work at Waffle House over on 12th street.”

“Did you hire him?”

“I hire and fire everyone that walks through the door.”

“Is turnover high at B&B?”

“I do not think so. The 12 files I gave you earlier cover 18 months. Some left for a better job or their spouse is in the military and received new orders. Most of our employees have been here since we opened.”

“How long ago did you open for business?”

“It will be 14 years next month.”

Tina doesn't even knock. She just walks into Bob's office and sits down in a leather chair.

Kenneth stands by his client's desk holding his yellow note pad.

“You wanted to see me, Bob?”

“Yes. Did you find anything out from talking with Tom?”

Kenneth replies, “I sure did and will give you all a detailed report of my findings when I complete the case.”

Bob nods his head up and down and replies, “What is your investigative plan?”

Kenneth says, “I can't trust anyone at this time. I have to treat everyone as a suspect.”

“Even us?”

“No offense Bob but a good investigator keeps what he does close to his chest till the assignment is over.”

“I understand,” replies Bob.

“I understand too,” says Tina.

“What I can tell you right now from what I see already is that security is lax regarding your parking lot, the time clock and entry and exit points.”

Tina looks at Kenneth and says, “The time clock has a dummy camera the workers think is real.”

Kenneth just laughs. “All your employees know it is a dummy camera. One of the installers told everyone in the cafeteria so.”

Tina asks, “Which installer was that?”

“I do not know the answer. It doesn’t matter because one of my recommendations will be to hire the installer I recommend and the time clock abuse problem will be no more.”

“I am glad my Cousin told me about you.”

“I am as well, Bob.”

“What do you plan to do first?” questions Tina.

“I will visit each of the 12 ex-employees and find out what they know,” lies Kenneth.

“Please let us know right away if they tell you anything related to our missing material?”

“I sure will Tina. There is a slight chance that the material has just been misplaced and the accountant is wrong about his figures,” lies Kenneth again.

“Do you want us to call you, Ken, Kenny or Kenneth?”

The private investigator replies, “Bob, you can call me any of those 3 names but I prefer to be called Kenneth.”

The small group sit around and talk till closing time.

Kenneth stops and says good bye to the guard on his way out. He told Bob, Ryan and Tina he was going to interview the 12 ex-employees but his real plan is to watch B&B Manufacturing for a few nights.

The private investigator is hoping to catch red handed the sticky finger thieves loading up rolls of denim from the loading dock and driving away. Then he hopes to follow the crooks to the buyer.

2

STAKEOUT

Kenneth sits across the street at a strip mall of closed businesses and watches all the employees depart from B&B Manufacturing. At least 250 cars zoom out of the main gate a little after 6 p.m. The investigator makes a note to advise that some of the vehicles be stopped at random and inspected.

He watches Bob and Ryan leave in their BMWs and Tina depart in her red in color Lincoln. Kenneth knew their vehicles because they were parked in front of the executive office with name signs posted on them.

Kenneth takes a break around nine p.m. and stops at McDonalds for a meal and a hot cup of coffee.

He returns to find lights on in a vehicle belonging to a visitor parked by the security gate.

Kenneth pulls out his powerful binoculars and views a young looking security guard messing around with an unknown woman. He videos them together in the backseat of a silver Honda Civic. He notes the license plate in his note book.

The couple later stand outside holding and smoking what looks like a marijuana joint. Kenneth can see for sure that the couple are drinking Budweiser beer from cans on the top of the Honda's hood.

Several cars enter B& B, drive right by the gate without stopping and park in front of the administrative offices.

Several unknown white females unlock the main door with a key and go inside. Kenneth videos them turning on computers and opening file cabinets. The women stay about an hour, carry out a large box and depart.

On their way out the 2 women stop at the security gate, give the guard a hug, hand him some money and depart.

The guard and the unknown woman visitor stay till his shift ends at midnight. They then leave together in one vehicle. Kenneth does not follow to get the license plate number. He does not want to draw any unnecessary attention.

At 1 a.m. an old black pick-up truck arrives at the gate. The middle aged black driver exits his truck and enters the security shack. Kenneth videos the two men talking for 10 minutes.

The young, white security guard pats the other man on the back and lets the visitor enter the complex. Kenneth videos the whole episode.

The unknown visitor stops at several large dumpsters located by the warehouse building and removes large trash bags from within, places them in the bed of his truck and departs. He stops at the gate and hands some cash to the guard and departs the area.

Kenneth does not follow but sets his watch alarm for 4 a.m. and falls asleep.

The alarm does its job and Kenneth wakes up to see the guard shack interior lights are off. 'The guard must be sleeping', says Kenneth to himself.

The private investigator is right. At 7 in the morning the guard exits the shack with a pillow, rubs his eyes and places the pillow in the trunk of his Volvo station wagon.

An hour later the day shift guard arrives and it is the same guard that let Kenneth in when he came to B&B for his meeting.

The private investigator writes some notes about his first night of the stakeout and departs the area.

Kenneth drives over to a nice golfing community named 'Mulligan Cove' and arrives at his new house he shares with his elderly mother.

“Mom, I am home. I brought the milk just like you requested.”

Betty wheels into the kitchen in her wheelchair just as her loyal son closes the fridge door. He bends down and gives his elderly mother a hug.

“How has your night?”

“Lonely. You can only watch so much television,” says Betty. “How was your night?”

Kenneth pulls out his dime, places it on the counter and replies, “This is my lucky dime. I found it in the parking lot at the Bagwell Building when I pulled up. I know it is lucky for sure now.”

“Why do you say that?”

Kenneth pours himself a cup of coffee, adds cream and sits down at the breakfast table. He turns to his mother and says, “I have asked this woman out 10 times and all 10 times she said no. Then a few days ago I mention my finding of a lucky dime and she says yes to going out with me. Then I visit my dentist and he gives me a lead to my first case. Then...”

“Sounds lucky to me, Son.”

“Then I land the assignment which I named ‘The Sticky Fingers Theft Case’, received \$5,000 up front as a retainer, already discovered some illegal activity going on at B&B Manufacturing during my first night of my stakeout and now you are out of bed rolling around the house.”

“I feel better and stronger since receiving my new medication 4 days ago. I am not as tired, feel hungrier and I am more alert. I just sewed the hole in your jacket pocket.”

“Thanks Mom for doing that.”

“I feel strong now and want to make you something to eat.”

“How about making me pancakes?”

Kenneth bends over and gives his mother another hug. “Let me take a shower, change clothes, write up my notes from my evening stakeout and I will be back for the pancakes in 30 minutes.”

“Perfect. It will take that long to have it ready. Do you want orange juice?”

“Yes, and also more coffee.”

Kenneth is getting dressed when Cheryl calls him.

“Hello, what a surprise you calling me.”

Cheryl laughs and says, “I know but I had to.”

“Why?”

“My mom and dad just told me we are flying up to Gulfport, Mississippi, renting a car and driving 200 miles to Natchez.”

“Where again?”

“Natchez, Mississippi.”

“Why? What is going on there?”

“Every year they have hundreds of hot air balloons come to town and they race. My dad booked it a year ago and the Bed and Breakfast place they booked almost 6 months ago emailed them yesterday to remind my parents of their week’s booking.”

“So no hot date tonight and I can’t see you for a week. Some lucky dime I found.”

Cheryl laughs again and says, “It is a very lucky dime because when I return we will go out for 2 nights in a row, not one.”