



**ONCE UPON A TIME
IN
DC**

By John V. Saffran

Foreword

I wrote this story because I was sick and tired of watching the president get bashed and criticized for every single thing he does. He's not perfect—no one is—but he's doing a credible job with the mess he inherited.

This book tells what happens when someone with real-world experience, integrity, and a deep love for this country decided to step up and do something about the mess we're in. Someone who doesn't seek office to enrich himself, but to serve.

Once Upon a Time in DC is pure fiction. I chose the title because that's how fairy tales begin, and in today's political climate, the idea of honest leadership might feel like a fairy tale. But maybe it doesn't have to be.

When I ran my companies, I never bashed the competition. I told customers what we could do, how we'd do it, and why we were the right team for the job. Why can't political parties do the same? Instead of tearing each other down, tell the voters what you stand for, how you'll get it done, and who's qualified to lead the charge.

Love it or hate it, I hope this story makes you think. I hope it sparks a conversation. And most of all, I hope it reminds us that working together is one of the ways to make the United States of America the best country in the world.

John V. Saffran

Sun City Center, Florida

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Once upon a time, not too long ago, a CEO is engaged in a telephone conversation in a large office with his friend, Stan.

“Very interesting. Well, I’ve suspected that scenario for years. I’ll have to watch the news when I get home. Hey Stan, thanks for the information. Stay in touch. Talk to you soon” said Dan Trent. He placed the cell phone on a desk with an African Blackwood top.

Dan Trent was born in July of 1966. He is of medium height with graying hair. Although he has boyish features, his long pony tail and beard make him appear older than his fifty seven years. Dan Trent graduated from a junior college with an associates degree in Mechanical Design. His first position was as an engineer in a plastics fabricating company. That is where Dan Trent met his mentor, Frank Zack. Frank was the same age as Dan Trent’s mother. He was a handsome man with snow white hair. Frank had a booming voice and cursed like a trooper. Frank Zack took Dan Trent under his wing and treated him like a son. When Dan Trent left the company, Frank smiled and said “Stay in touch, Danny”. Dan Trent’s next position was as the plant manager of an electrical equipment manager. It was there where Dan Trent honed his management skills. Three years later, Frank Zack asked Dan Trent to be the President of a plastic fabricating company he was starting. He offered Dan Trent 49% ownership. Dan Trent jumped at the offer but soon learned the value of 51% ownership. The company thrived under Dan Trent’s leadership and innovative manufacturing techniques. When Frank Zack passed away, his widow sold the business to a holding company. The chairman of the holding company asked Dan Trent to take over a company in the group that was on the verge of bankruptcy. Dan Trent reluctantly did and restored the company to record profits. Eventually, Dan Trent became disenchanted with the chairman. The chairman refused to

share the profits with the people who worked hard to turn the company around.

One evening at dinner, Rosa looked at Dan with concern and said “What’s wrong? Another bad meeting with the chairman?”.

Rosa is an attractive woman of Italian descent with long raven black hair who looks much younger than her age of fifty nine years. She would laugh when her husband called her his cougar.

Dan Trent frowned and said “I can’t work for that man anymore”.

Rosa smiled and said “Well, you’re not going to work for anyone again”.

Dan Trent looked at Rosa with a serious look and said “You know what that means?”.

Rosa said “We sell the house to get working capital, no partners”.

Dan Trent and Rosa Trent founded Meditron Industries. It became the worlds largest manufacturer of disposable medical products.

Dan Trent’s personal net worth is purported to be in the neighborhood of three billion dollars. Much of his wealth was the result of shrewd real estate investments and patent royalties.

Dan Trent looked at his watch and frowned. “Ahh, Rosa’s going to mad again” said Dan Trent. He put on a denim jacket and took an elevator down to his private indoor garage. He walked over to a 2003 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic motorcycle glistening with chrome. Dan Trent mounted the shiny black motorcycle. He pulled out the choke and thumbed the starter button. The motorcycle roared to life. Dan Trent smiled as he listened to the rumble of the Harley’s engine. He exited the garage and soon was driving on back country roads. Dan Trent smiled again as he heard the sound of Bo Diddley coming through the Harley’s CD

speakers. After a forty minute ride, Dan Trent arrived at his lake front estate. He entered and is greeted by his wife, Rosa Trent.

“Well, it’s about time” said Rosa with a slight frown.

Dan Trent smiled and said “I’m only an hour late. I got hung up on the phone with Stan”.

Rosa frowned and said “I don’t like you driving that motorcycle when it’s dark. Besides, now the supper got cold”. Although most of Rosa’s time was spent overseeing the many charities and foundations she and Dan Trent sponsored, Rosa insisted on cooking a meal for Dan every so often, even in spite of their vast wealth. She cooked mostly Italian dishes learned from her mother..

“So what were you and Stan discussing that hung you up for so long?” said Rosa.

Dan Trent poured a glass of Cabernet for himself and said “We were talking about our government’s wasteful spending. Someone did some rather intensive investigating and the things they found were almost too hard to believe. It’s all over the news. Let’s eat in the family room. I want to turn the news on”.

“No, let’s eat in the dining room. I’ve got everything set up in there. The news can wait” said Rosa.

While they were having dinner, Rosa discussed one of the charities she and Dan sponsored. “They’re having a fund raiser next month and I promised that you would be the main speaker” said Rosa.

Dan Trent took a sip of wine and said “No problem, as long as it won’t interfere with my Sturgis trip. The Lasagna was excellent”.

Rosa shook her head and said “You and those damn motorcycles. And another thing, when are you going to get a regular haircut? You look like like an old hippy”.

Dan Trent ignored Rosa’s remark. They went into the family room and turned the TV on to their favorite news channel, TRUE NEWS. The channel Host said “Here are but a few of the items discovered by one of our senior investigative reporters, with the help of a few whistle blowers”.

Monkey Research

\$33 million was allocated to maintain a federally funded monkey colony.

\$447,000 was spent on experiments involving transgender monkeys.

Animal Experiments

\$419,470 to study whether lonely rats are more likely to seek cocaine.

\$2.24 million to research COVID-19 transmission in cats.

\$10.8 million cat-related studies described as “Orwellian”.

Arts & Entertainment

\$10,000 awarded to a drag show on ice promoting climate awareness.

\$20,000 for a U.S. sponsored drag show abroad.

\$385,000 spent on an art display.

Property & Office Waste

\$3 billion spent on maintaining and leasing unused properties.

\$5 billion on high end office furniture and equipment.

\$1.7 billion maintaining 77,000 unused federal properties.

Other Scientific Studies

\$8.3 billion spent on transgender experiments in mice.

Social Programs & Errors

\$1.3 billion to deceased people through federal programs.

\$171 million paid in unemployment benefits to incarcerated individuals.

\$101 billion lost to Medicare and Medicaid fraud and improper payments.

Dan Trent shook his head in disbelief then pointed to the television screen and said “33 million dollars to fund a monkey colony, among other things. That’s sheer lunacy”.

“I certainly agree that it’s disgraceful but I don’t know what we can do about it” said Rosa.

“Neither do I” said Dan Trent.

July 2023

Dan Trent and Rosa are again watching their favorite news channel, TRUE NEWS. The channel Host said “Tonight, we have Sal Hennesey with us. Sal has some interesting facts to present to our listeners. Sal?”.

Sal Hennesey nodded and said “Thanks for inviting me. Currently, the U.S. Federal Government employs approximately 3 million civilian workers across all agencies. This does not include the Military but includes about 600,000 U.S. Postal Service employees who are part of a quasi-independent federal agency. Roughly, 2.4 million non-postal civilian employees work in departments like Defense, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and more. To put this in perspective, about one in every 53 U.S. workers is a Federal employee, accounting for roughly 1.9 % of the national work force. Here’s a startling fact. There is approximately one Government worker for every 115 people in the U.S.A.

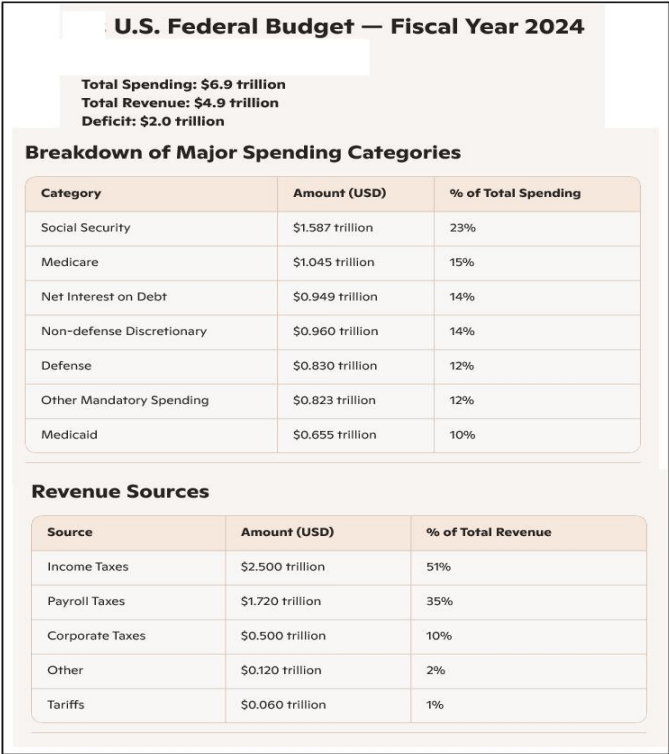
Dan Trent pointed to the television screen and said “And the hits just keep on coming”.

“That’s hard to believe, one Government worker for every 115 people, but I don’t know what we can do about it” said Rosa.

“Neither do I but it sure gets a person thinking” said Dan Trent.

August 2023

Dan Trent and Rosa are again watching their favorite news channel, TRUE NEWS. The channel Host said “Tonight, Sal Hennesey will be talking about the upcoming Federal Budget, Sal”.



Sal Hennesey nodded and said “Thanks for inviting me. On the screen is the proposed budget for 2024 As you can see, there is a deficit of \$2 trillion. That’s pretty scary to me, but here’s something even scarier. Here’s a chart that shows how the national debt has grown through the years and how much each citizen owes with a projection for 2025”.

Year	National Debt (USD)	Population	Debt per Citizen (USD)
1900	\$1.2 billion	76.1 million ¹	\$15.77
1910	\$2.6 billion	92.2 million ²	\$28.21
1920	\$25.9 billion	106 million ²	\$244.34
1930	\$16.2 billion	123.2 million ²	\$131.47
1940	\$43 billion	132.2 million ²	\$325.31
1950	\$257.4 billion	151.3 million ²	\$1,701.25
1960	\$286.3 billion	179.3 million ²	\$1,596.93
1970	\$371.8 billion	203.2 million ²	\$1,829.85
1980	\$909 billion	226.5 million ²	\$4,015.46
1990	\$3.2 trillion	248.7 million ²	\$12,862.91
2000	\$5.7 trillion	281.4 million ²	\$20,255.41
2010	\$13.5 trillion	308.7 million ²	\$43,722.56
2020	\$26.9 trillion	331.4 million ²	\$81,180.38
2023	\$33.2 trillion	334.9 million ³	\$99,108.99
2025	\$36.2 trillion	343.6 million ³	\$105,318.91

Rosa said “So to pay off the national debt, every citizen would have to come up with over a hundred grand, even our children and grand children?”.

“That’s right, my dear” said Dan Trent.

Rosa sighed and said “Not much we can do it, is there?”.

Dan Trent said “There might be”.

One week later

Dan Trent and Rosa are again watching their favorite news channel, TRUE NEWS. The channel Host said “We have a news flash. Another young woman was just killed by an illegal immigrant. We will pass on more details as we receive them”.

Dan Trent stood up and angrily said “That is enough”.

Rosa looked at Dan with a puzzled look and said “Why are you getting so upset. There’s nothing we can do”.

Dan Trent sat down and clasped his hands together. He looked at Rosa and said “There is something we can do, my dear”.

“And what is that is that, Dan?” said Rosa.

“We need to get some new people running this country. Some of the people in office have never held a real job. I’ve come to the conclusion that a lot of people in office are more concerned about staying in office then doing what’s good for our country. Look at the inflation figures and the rising national debt. They are at an all time high and \$33 million is spent on a monkey colony, \$2 billion on maintaining and leasing unused properties, \$101 billion lost to Medicare and Medicaid fraud and improper payments. The list goes on and on. If we ran our businesses that irresponsibly, we’d be bankrupt in six months. Look at how many people have been killed because of our open borders and now, another one . This country of ours will not last with the way it’s going” said Dan Trent.

“But can we do?” said Rosa.

Dan smiled and said “I have an idea. It’s something that’s been bouncing around in my head for quite a while”.

With a look of curiosity, Rosa looked at Dan and said “And pray tell, what would that be ?”.

Dan Trent began to speak when on the television, the TRUE NEWS Chanel Host started interviewing a well known Senator who was his parties leading presidential candidate. When asked what he would do about any important issue, he would immediately deflect the question and severely bash and insult his opponents.

Dan paused for a few seconds and listened to the senator’s bashing then pointed to the television screen and said “Look at that guy. He’s more interested in throwing insults and making cutesy remarks then actually addressing the important issues. And sadly, both parties do that. Never, ever, did I bash a competitor. I would tell them what Meditron could do for their business and how we would accomplish our promises. Here’s my idea. Why not start a new independent political party and come up with a consortium or team of the most capable and qualified people for the cabinet positions, president and vice-president. These would be people of true integrity who wouldn’t use their position to make themselves wealthy. They would tell the voters why each person was selected and how the team will operate to solve the country’s problems”.

Rosa said “That all sounds good, Dan, but who could organize and spearhead something like that?.

Dan Trent gave Rosa a big broad smile.

Rosa frowned and said “ Don’t tell me you’re thinking of running for president? Where did you get an idea like this? ”.

Dan Trent laughed and said “Heavens no. I tell it like it is. I’d make a lousy politician but I am going to take a shot at organizing everything. I’m going to call this new independent party **2024**. I

came up with the idea while riding my Harley out to Sturgis”.

“Why **2024**?” said Rosa with a slightly puzzled look.

Dan Trent’s face took on a serious look as he said “Because **2024** will be the most important election in the history of the United States, maybe in the history of the entire world”.

Rosa smiled and said “Are you going to keep that pony tail and beard?”.

Dan Trent grinned and said “Why not? I’m not running for president. Lets go upstairs”.

The 2024 Consortium

The dictionary defines a Consortium as an **agreement, combination or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member.**

Out of an unused office, in Meditron’s main facility, Dan Trent founded the **2024** independent political party. When the press corp received word of the new independent political party, they reacted in a malicious, negative manner and said “Has Dan Trent lost his marbles?”. Dan Trent contacted people whom he trusted and respected to help him organize the new party. Some of them agreed with him and others told him not to waste his time. Dan Trent also received anonymous threats telling him to back off or else. Dan Trent ignored the threats and immediately went to work on developing a plan of action. He developed a list of critical issues to address.

Achieve and maintain a USA inflation rate under 2%

Achieve and maintain a balanced budget

Reduce the national debt

Make the USA energy dependent again

Close the Borders

Stop crime in major cities throughout the USA

Rebuild our Military

Develop a sound foreign policy and regain the respect of our allies

Dan Trent's next step taken was to recruit a group of the most eminent and renowned minds in the area's of finance, foreign affairs, energy, business and manufacturing, education, defense, military affairs and health care. This group or team would also be selected for their integrity and honesty along with a strong desire to work for the good of the United States of America. Dan Trent was unanimously elected the Chairman of **2024**. Dan Trent moved **2024** to a larger facility in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was centrally located and had a good airport. Dan Trent said "Lincoln, Nebraska was also named after one of greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln". In the new Lincoln facility, Chairman Trent addressed the group and said "Welcome to **2024**. I want to thank you for giving up your valuable time to be a part of **2024**. I believe we all realize that we have one more chance to save this great country of ours. Successful business's are run by a qualified and proficient board of directors. The director's of a successful business put their ego's aside and work for the good of the business. Ladies and Gentlemen, that is exactly what we're going to do. In this room are some of the most experienced and brilliant minds in the country, perhaps in the world. Our success will result from our ability to work together as a team. Our task will be twofold. From this group, we will first select a cabinet along with a presidential and vice president candidate. Secondly, the entire team will work together in developing a specific, concise plan on how **2024** will address the issues that are ruining this beloved country of ours. We will present

this to the voting public along with why specific person was selected for a position on **2024**. Let's go to work". Chairman Trent received a standing round of applause.

After three months of intense meetings and discussions, **2024** made their choices for the following twenty five positions.

Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Defense, Attorney General, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Secretary of Homeland Security, Trade Representative, Director of National Intelligence, Director of the Office of Management and the Budget, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Administrator of the Environmental Agency, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, President of the USA and Vice-President.

Egos were put aside and the selections were based on experience, record of accomplishments and mastery for the position along with character, honesty and integrity. As a part of the selection process, a plan was developed on how the person selected would address the issues related to their position. **2024** was now ready to present a team to the voting public with solid reasons why and how they will get the job done. When **2024** announced their plan, Dan Trent was surprised and pleased at the positive response. He was especially pleased with the amount of donations made to help finance their campaign. This enabled **2024** to do a respectable amount of television advertising along with a series of town hall meetings. The voting public began to take notice and **2024** started to rise in the polls. Both major parties did not appear concerned until the **2024** team rose to the 15% area in most major polls.

January 2024

With the tremendous amount of contributions pouring in, **2024** scheduled it's largest town hall meeting to date. It would be held on January 8, 2024 in Chicago at McCormick Place. The entire **2024** team would be present. They were all staying at a major hotel near McCormick Place. Prior to the evening's town hall meeting, the entire **2024** team was attending a luncheon meeting in the hotel banquet room. After lunch was served, Chairman Trent walked to a podium and addressed the team. As he began to speak, two servers pulled out MP5 machine guns from a cart. One of the server's MP5 jammed. She was immediately tackled and restrained. The other server opened fire and hit Dan Trent in the shoulder. He fell behind the podium. The server turned slightly and fired a burst at the presidential selection. Before she could squeeze the trigger for the second burst, a shot rang out. She was hit in the head with a 9mm round and fell to the ground. One shooter died at the scene and the other shooter was taken into custody. The presidential selection and Dan Trent were rushed to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The presidential selection died in the ambulance. Dan Trent's wound was serious, but he would recover. He was visited by former Marine, Colonel Daniel Adams, a **2024** team member. It was the Colonel who fired the shot that saved many lives. When Dan Trent thanked the Colonel for averting a massacre. Colonel Adams sighed and replied "I wish I would have reacted quicker and saved Mr. Mills. He would have been a great president".

"Yes he would have, but please don't blame yourself, Colonel. You saved a lot of lives" said Dan Trent in a very faint voice. The January 8, 2024 town hall meeting went on without incident and with record attendance. A video message from Chairman Trent's bedside was shown to the town hall attendee's on a large screen. He received a five minute standing ovation.

Candidate Trent

One week later, Dan Trent returned to his duties as the **2024** Chairman. With the untimely death of their presidential selection, **2024** made a unanimous choice. Dan Trent reluctantly agreed to be the **2024** Party's selection for president of the United States of America.

On the way home, Dan Trent stopped at his favorite barber shop.

When Dan Trent returned home that evening, Rosa shrieked when a clean shaven husband with an Ivy league style haircut entered and kissed her. Rosa said "My goodness, you look twenty years younger".

"I don't think an old hippy could ever get elected president" said Dan Trent.

Rosa took Dan's hand and said "Dan, are you sure you want to run for president? What do you know about politics and running the country? Besides, you're still weak from that bullet wound".

Dan Trent said "Hell, I'm firmly convinced that I know more about politics and running the country than a lot of the people now in office". A big grin appears on Dan Trent's face. "Besides, I'm not that weak. How about going upstairs?".

Rosa smiled and took her husband's hand.

Dan Trent hugged Rosa and they walked arm in arm up winding staircase.

2024 continued their campaign, telling the voting public what they would do and how they would do it. Dan Trent refrained from bashing his opponents. When a reporter told Dan Trent that one of his opponents called him a jerkoff who didn't know what the hell he was doing, Dan Trent smiled and said "Well, he's entitled to his

opinion. Candidate Trent explained the rationale behind the selection of their vice presidential candidate. Ron Durham was a man in his mid forty's who was an industry leader in the health care industry. Candidate Trent would only serve one term, while Ron Durham gained valuable experience in order to carry on the principles of **2024**. In the next poll, **2024** advanced five points.

A loose tongue

The authorities were determined to learn who were behind the shooter's at the **2024** town hall meeting. The surviving shooter was found to be an illegal immigrant from a South American country. Under intense interrogation, she did not utter a single word. The authorities were frustrated. A breakthrough finally appeared one evening, in an unusual way. After a fund raising dinner, the member of a well known senator's staff stopped at a lounge in a hotel frequented by politicians and lobbyist's. Kevin Sanford had three martini's at the dinner. He ordered his fourth martini of the evening and lit a cigarette. The lounge was almost empty when Kevin ordered his fifth martini. He started talking to the bartender. Kevin told the bartender that he held an important job on the senator's staff. He went on to say the senator would someday be president of the United States and he, Kevin Sanford, would be chief of staff and a big man in Washington. The bartender, James Wallace, said nothing but listened intently to Kevin's drunken ramblings. Kevin Sanford continued to talk about his future.

Kevin began to slur his words and said "Yeah, I handle special jobs for the Senator. I took care of Mill's and we'll get that idiot, Trent for sure".

The bartender was shocked and startled by the remark but retained his composure and said "Sir, you're in no shape to drive. Let me call Uber for you".

Kevin agreed and the bartender called Uber. Kevin thanked the bartender and gave him a twenty dollar bill. James Wallace put the twenty dollar bill in his vest pocket and promptly called his former commanding officer, Colonel Daniel Adams. James Wallace served under the Colonel in the Gulf War. He told Colonel Adams about his conversation with the Senator's staffer. Kevin Sanford was taken into custody for questioning. Kevin Sanford was belligerent and said "Do you assholes know who I am? Do you know who you're dealing with? What, you jerks gonna take the word of some shit-ass bartender?. I'll have your jobs". Kevin's arrogance turned to sheer horror when the detective played a recording of his conversation with the bartender. James Wallace had secretly recorded Kevin Sanford's remarks on his cellphone. Kevin Sanford broke down in tears. He told them that their were two senators involved, his boss and a senator from the other party. To his knowledge, the senators acted alone. It was a perfect plan gone wrong. The two shooters were professionals. No one would ever suspect two women servers to be a security risk. Had the gun not jammed, **2024** would have ceased to exist. Warrants were issued for the arrest of the two senators. One of the senators was tipped of his impending arrest. Prior to his arrest, he succumbed to an overdose of barbiturates and alcohol. The surviving senator was taken into custody. The evidence from his staffer was damning and the senator was cooperative. The senator confirmed Kevin Sanford's story and said they did act alone. After the details of the arrest were released, **2024** rose another five points in the polls.

The 2024 Campaign

Prior to the two major parties conventions, they held a series of debates among their candidates for president. In all of their debates, insults and accusations were hurled. Candidates interrupted and talked over each other. When a question was asked

that could be answered with a simple yes or no, candidates would change the subject. Candidate Trent told Rosa “The children are at it again. When it’s all over, they’ll be best buddies again”. **2024** held no inter-party debates. **2024** told the voting public exactly what they were going to do, how they were going to do it and who was going to do it. And most importantly, why the team selected was qualified to do it.

Prior to the presidential debates, it was leaked to the press that the Candidate Trent’s Vail condo was paid for by a large corporation. It was also said that Meditron gave bribes to certain senators for favors. Candidate Trent answered all of the allegations by furnishing personal and corporate tax returns along with Meditron’s financial statements. Candidate Trent was accused of having affairs with female staffers. All of the allegations were proven to be false. President Trent was highly criticized for not having a full college degree. The media went so far to say “You don’t want to elect an uneducated bumpkin”. President Trent laughed and said “I guess I did okay on just an Associates Degree”.

The **2024** party participated in a presidential debate with the two major parties. The debate was not civil and the two major parties ganged up on Candidate Trent. They frequently interrupted Candidate Trent and vehemently disputed the logic of **2024**’s master plans for solving the nation’s problems. Candidate Trent was well prepared and clearly explained the rationale behind **2024**’s plans of action. He went further and talked about the people selected for the various cabinet positions. He told why they were selected and why they would be successful. When accused of running for president only to increase his wealth, Candidate Trent said “My net worth is over \$3 billion. I’ve got more money than I can spend in a lifetime. I’m running for president because I love this beautiful country of ours and the way it’s currently being run,

it won't last another four years. The pundit's praised Candidate Trent's performance. The major polls said the 2024 presidential race was too close to call.

Campaign contributions continued to flow in which allowed **2024** to hold a series of town hall meeting throughout the country along with many lengthy television ads. The town hall meetings and detailed television ads were instrumental and effective in getting the **2024** message to the voting public.

Election day finally arrived. Candidate Trent refused to watch the news networks speculate on who was winning. He told Rosa "I've done all I can. It's in the hands of the voters now and the Lord above". Candidate Trent spent the morning of election day skiing at Vail. He made one run down the double black diamond run named Highline. Highline held special memories for Dan Trent. It was on the Highline ski run where he met Rosa during a college ski club outing.

In early afternoon, Dan Trent flew to **2024's** campaign headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. At 11:30 PM on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, Candidate Trent's opponent conceded the election. Dan Trent was elected the forty seventh president of the United States of America by a substantial margin. As predicted, the two opposing parties and the media disputed the election.

The fun begins - President Trent

On January 20, 2025, Dan Trent was sworn in as the forty seventh president of the United States of America. After taking the oath of office, President Trent marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, in freezing temperatures, with Rosa Trent and the **2024** Team. President Trent entered the White House and immediately went to the oval office. On his first day in office, with Rosa Trent and the **2024** Team present, President Trent signed the following executive

orders.

Restart of Border Wall Construction

Reinstated contracts paused under the previous Administration.

Federal Immigration Enforcement Expansion

Directed DHS to prioritize removal of individuals with recent unlawful entry and criminal records.

Energy Independence and Fossil Fuel Expansion Order

Lifted restrictions on oil and gas leasing on federal lands. Directed agencies to to accelerate permitting for pipelines and refineries.

Executive Order on Federal Crime and Policing

Expanded support for local law enforcement. Directed DOJ to prioritize prosecutor of organized retail theft and fentanyl.

Reversal of Climate Related Regulations

Ordered review and rollback rules considered burdensome to energy production.

Defend Women from Gender Ideology Extremism Order

Directed agencies to use “biological sex” definition in Federal policy.

“This is what we campaigned on and the will be more to come” said President Trent.

Immediately after President Trent signed the executive orders, the Television News Networks had a field day with their negative comments and analysis. Some of the comments were “He will ruin this country” - “He won’t last three months” - “He’s a mad man”.

That evening, after the Inaugural Ball, Dan and Rosa were relaxing in the presidential suite. Rosa said “This is all so unreal. I’m having a hard time falling asleep”.

President Trent pointed to a TV and said “That didn’t take long. They call me a mad man and say I won’t last three months. We’ll see about that”.

“Turn that garbage off, Dan. How about giving me a back rub” said Rosa with a smile.

President Trent’s private cell phone rings. He looked at the caller ID and smiled, then looked at Rosa and said “Be with you in a minute, my dear. Hello Eli”. President Trent and Eli Mann talked for 45 minutes.

The next morning at 6:00 AM

President Trent is seated at his desk in the oval office. He is studying a report from the Joint Chief of Staff. He smiles and shakes his head. Just then, a knock is heard on the door.

“Come in” said President Trent. He is surprised to see his personal secretary, Dorthy Adams and says “Why, Dorthy, what brings you in so early”.

“I was sure you would be in your office early today and I wanted to be here if you needed anything, Mr. President” said Dorthy.

“Well, that’s very thoughtful of you” said President Trent.

“Mr. President, we have a slight problem. Eli Mann is at the front gate. He said you’re expecting him. Did you know he’s coming to see you?” said Dorthy with a concerned look.

President Trent smiled and said “Yes, I did. Please have him shown in. Eli is an old friend. We go back a long way. And, Dorthy, I appreciate you being here for me”.

“Thank you Mr. President” said Dorthy.

Eli Mann entered the oval office and shook hands with President Trent. Eli Mann is thirty nine years old and said to be the second richest man in the world. It's been said that Eli Mann may become the world's first trillionaire. His vast wealth came from the many innovative products he invented such computer hardware, electric vehicles, communication satellites and low cost housing to name a few. When Eli Mann invented a product, he would start a company, under his personal supervision to manufacture the product. His manufacturing techniques are sheer genius which result in high profitability. Eli Mann is tall with long blond hair and serious but handsome look.

Eli Mann smiles and says "Congratulations, Dan. Hope you didn't mind the late call yesterday. All those executive orders you signed really put a hook in me".

"Not at all. Sit down, Eli. Do want some coffee?" said President Trent.

"No coffee for me, but do you mind if I smoke?" said Eli Mann.

President Trent grinned and said "Go ahead as long as it isn't a joint. I don't want to be the first president impeached for having pot in the oval office. Eli, I always knew that politics was a dirty business but not this dirty. So tell me your ideas for addressing the problem of wasteful spending in our government?".

Eli Mann lit his cigarette with a match and said "I've been following the waste that's currently being reported and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Some of the things this government spends tax payer dollars on are freaking insane. What really puzzles me is how a politician who earns \$174 thousand a year can end up with a net worth of ten or twenty or fifty million dollars or more? There could be a tie-in to all of this wasteful spending and the very wealthy politicians. I have the resources to get to the bottom of all

this and I've already done so preliminary investigating and research. Do you recall that \$33 million allocated to maintain a federally funded monkey colony?"

"I sure do" said President Trent.

"Eli Mann puffed on his cigarette and said "We found some irregular and highly excessive payments that were made to senators and congressmen from both parties for travel expenses. There were also other suspicious payments made".

"Who is we and how did you find this out?" said President Trent.

Eli Mann smiled and said "That's my business, but don't worry, we've done nothing illegal."

"What do you suggest we do about this, Eli?" said President Trent.

"For starters, we need to make damn sure the various oversight committee's are doing their job. When a sum of money is allocated, we absolutely have to know how the money will be spent. We can't just blindly allocate large sums of money without knowing where it's going. What I'd also like to do is send an anonymous letter to the senators who received these bogus payments. Let them know someone is aware of their fraud" said Eli Mann.

President Trent smiled and said "You have my blessing, but please keep me in the loop. Let us decide together all further actions on this"

The S.O.B.

Several senators and congressmen from each party are meeting behind closed doors. Senator Posey asked for the group's attention and said "You all know why we're here gentlemen. How many of you received an anonymous letter about travel expenses?"

All seven senators and six congressmen raised their hands.

Senator Posey frowned and said “We all know who is behind this. Gentlemen, we absolutely must stop this Son of a Bitch at all costs. Oppose everything Dan Trent does. Find a way to impeach him. I want him out of office before the mid-terms”.

A senior senator rose and said “I’ll bet Eli Mann is involved in this”.

“I’m sure he is. We need to stop that Son of a Bitch too” said Senator Posey.

President Trent goes to work

President Trent became one of the most accessible and transparent presidents in history. He would take the time to speak with anyone, anywhere. His press conferences and speeches were done without the use of teleprompters and cue cards. He used hand written notes for his major speeches. Every speech was severely criticized by the two major parties and the media. President Trent’s frequent cabinet meetings were televised.

President Trent would continually reach out to the leaders of both parties and ask for their help in unifying the nation.

President Trent’s policies were beginning to work. The flow of illegal immigrants slowed down to a trickle. With the decrease of Gasoline prices, inflation slowly started to go down. But in spite of the positive things President Trent was beginning to accomplish, every thing he did was severely criticized by the two major parties and the media.

Impeachment

President Trent was in office three months when a story was leaked to the media that he had help from Russia to win the election. Documents were produced that implicated President Trent and

impeachment proceedings immediately commenced. The situation looked grim for President Trent until a whistle blower came forth with a shocking revelation. It was proven that Senator Milton had paid a Russian operative to draft the false documents. Senator Milton denied the allegations and kept her office. The impeachment proceedings were immediately dropped. President Trent's joy was short lived. Two weeks later, he was impeached again. It was purported that he bribed a congressman to help get a favorable ruling on a bill that would greatly benefit one of his real estate deals. The congressman passed away eleven years ago. His widow verified the transaction. She was currently married to Senator Posey. This time there was no whistle blower and the situation again looked very grim for President Trent. The two major parties and the media again had a field day. They joyfully said "Trent is the first president in history to be impeached twice while in office". Their joy ended when Senator Posey's wife discovered that he was having an affair with a young office staffer. She immediately filed for divorce and told Congress that her husband asked her to lie about the bribe. Senator Posey was removed from office and indicted. The media made little mention of the two failed impeachments and continued to severely criticize President Trent. No matter how good President Trent's accomplishments were, they would find something to criticize. The media even criticized President Trent's wardrobe. Most of the time, President Trent wore a pin striped vested suit with colored tab collar dress shirts and custom Jerry Garcia neckties. The media went wild when President Trent wore a double breasted navy blue blazer with brass buttons when greeting a head of state.

President Trent spearheaded a private foundation to research and reduce a rare form of childhood cancer. He brought in scientists from all over the world. As a result of the foundation's research, this form of childhood cancer was virtually eliminated. The media did

not mention the foundation's success. One of the News channel hosts said he felt sorry for all of the doctors who would lose patients.

President Trent and Eli Mann

Eli Mann became one of President Trent's valued advisors. He was instrumental in starting a Commission to study wasteful spending in the government. The findings were made public and ruffled feathers in both major parties and resulted in the indictments of members in each major party. The media reported the indictments as political retribution and again called for President Trent's impeachment.

President Trump and Eli Mann were holding a press conference in the Rose Garden to answer questions about the Commission's recent findings on the billions lost to Medicare and Medicaid fraud and the millions paid in unemployment benefits to incarcerated individuals. The questions were brutal and sarcastic. President Trent was chiding a reporter for his snotty demeanor when two shots rang out. The first shot wizzed past President Trent's head and the second shot hit Eli Mann in the head. Secret Service agents covered the president and whisked him away to safety. Eli Mann was flown by helicopter to Walter Reed Memorial Hospital at President Trent's request. The media dismissed the assassination attempt as an interruption to a press conference. President Trent was angered when he heard that a well known talk show host said "I'm not surprised. He had it coming". Another talk show host said "Too bad that bullet missed". Both hosts were suspended but quickly reinstated due to media and celebrity pressure.

President Trent entered Eli Mann's room at Walter Reed Hospital. The attending Surgeon said Eli Mann was in very critical and he was putting his top surgeons to work on Eli. The Surgeon said

“We are used to these type of wounds. We should be able to save him”. Eli Mann went into surgery.

President Trent spent the night at Walter Reed. In the morning, Eli woke up. He looked at President Trent and said in a very weak voice “Did they get the shooter?”.

“Not really. The Secret Service had him cornered and he put a bullet in his head. He was an illegal alien who was deported three times” said President Trent.

In a weak and hoarse voice, Eli Mann said “And they do nothing but criticize your immigration policy. I wonder what they’d say if one of their loved ones got shot?”.

President Trent frowned and said “They’d probably blame me”.

“Dan, you know why they hate you and oppose and criticize anything you do?” said Eli Mann as he struggled to speak.

President Trent smiled and said “I sure do. I’m an outsider who is not in it for the money. Eli, don’t talk anymore. Please get some rest”.

Eli Mann gave a faint smile and nodded off to sleep..

Tariffs and Civil Unrest

The sweeping tariff increases inaugurated by President Trent were largely his own initiative, consistent with his views on trade.

President Trent was highly criticized for his policies on Tariffs. Even some of the **2024** party were critical

However, these Tariffs were implemented with input from key advisors and justified using national security and emergency powers. President Trent said “I’m sick of seeing the United States getting ripped off by other countries. Tariffs will work if they are

strategically targeted, accompanied by domestic investment and we can avoid retaliation. I'm asking everyone to be patient”.

President Trent closely monitored his Tariff policies. He increased and decreased Tariffs as he saw fit. Eventually his Tariff policies resulted in an increase in both domestic and foreign investments. In one of his initial Executive Orders, President Trent directed DHS to prioritize removal of individuals with recent unlawful entry and criminal records. When ICE (the Federal agency for Immigration and Customs Enforcement) enforced the law, protests began. An illegal immigrant with a criminal record, both in the united states and abroad, was deported back to Salvador. Within hours, thousands of protesters appeared. Many of the protesters were paid to protest. In addition to being paid, they also received training, supplies, equipment and special clothing. Similar scenes appeared all across the nation but primarily in the Midwest. When illegal immigrants with terrible criminal records raped and murdered young women, nothing was said. When President Trent issued an executive order banning biological men from competing in women's sports, violent protests erupted.

The Mid Terms

President Trent and the **2024** party campaigned on their record while the two major parties continued to bash and criticize **2024**. Their campaign had no real substance. An incredible history breaking event occurred. Senators and Representatives from both major parties began to switch their allegiance to the **2024** party. As Senators and Representatives moved to the **2024** party they were scoffed at by the diehards in their own party but praised by their constituents. The mid term elections came and went with the **2024** party gaining a majority in the House and Senate by slim margins. **2024**'s opponents and the media continued to severely criticize President Trent and the **2024** party. The talk of impeachment was

always in the air. There was talk of impeaching President Trent for using his own money to bribe Senators and Representatives to switch their allegiance to the **2024** party. This was proven to be a false allegation. Even Rosa Trent was a constant subject of media criticism for her charitable works and among other things, her wardrobe.

A turn of events

When ICE continued to arrest and deport illegal immigrants with criminal records, the so called peaceful protests turned into violent riots. Many of the protesters were paid professionals. One of the largest firms who train and pay protesters was PROACTERS, INC. Their CEO and founder was Jon Fox. He made his fortune as an advertising executive. Jon Fox was former Olympic skier. He was a fitness addict and in great physical condition for a forty seven year old man. Jon Fox was known as a Trent hater. He frequently appeared on evening talk shows to voice his hatred for Dan Trent. He often said deporting illegal immigrants because they had criminal records was criminal itself. Under his direction, PROACTERS, INC gave ICE protesters special training. When two ICE agents were assassinated, Jon Fox said “Well, that’s what they get”.

Jon Fox went helicopter skiing in British Columbia with some of his former Olympic teammates. He finished a run of 2500 vertical feet and entered the helicopter to make another run. The Pilot put his hand on Jon Fox’s shoulder and said “Mr. Fox, I’m afraid I have some bad news for you”.

“What is it” said Jon Fox with a concerned look.

“Your townhouse in New York was broken into. Your wife and son were taken to a hospital. They are both in critical condition. That’s all I’ve been told. I can have you at the airport in fifteen minutes.

I'll radio ahead so they can have your plane ready to go" said the Pilot.

"Thank you" said Jon Fox.

Jon Fox flew back to New York in his Lear Jet and rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital. On the ride to the hospital, Jon fox heard on the news that the assailants were two brothers were from a south American country. They were both illegal immigrants who had been deported five times. Both had criminal records in the United States and their own country for assault with a deadly weapon, among other serious felony charges. At the hospital, Jon Fox was greeted by a Doctor who updated him on his wife and son's condition.

In a soft and grim voice, the Doctor said "Your wife is in critical condition. She was severely beaten and lost a lot of blood. We were able to stop the bleeding and I'm confident she will recover".

"How is my son" said Jon Fox impatiently.

The Doctor put his hand on Jon Fox's shoulder and said "Your son is in extremely critical condition. In addition to being severely beaten, he suffered a gun shot to the head. Our surgeons are conferring together at this moment to decide on the best course of action to take".

In a loud voice, Jon Fox said "You mean nothings been done yet?".

The Doctor said "Please calm down, sir. We can't rush into this".

Just as Jon fox was about to speak, there was a knock on the door and in walked President Trent. Jon Fox glared at President Trent and said "What the hell are you doing here? Did you come in here to lecture me?"

In a quiet and serious voice, President Trent said "I came here to

offer you our services. I brought with me a team of surgeons from Walter Reed. This is the same team who saved Eli Mann. They are very experienced in the type of wound your son has. Will you accept our help?.

Jon Fox was stunned and momentarily speechless. He recovered and said in a humble voice “Yes, Mr. President. Thank you”. Jon Fox turned to the Doctor and in a firm but polite voice said “Doctor, I want the team of Surgeons from Walter Reed to be in charge of my son”.

The Doctor was visibly shaken and said “Yes, Mr. Fox.

Jon Fox looked at President Trent and said “Sir, why are you helping me after all of the nasty things I’ve said about you?”.

President Trent said “Jon, I almost lost one my best friends and top advisor. Also, I have two sons that I worry about. What happened to your son was a tragedy and you needed our help”.

With a tear in his eye, Jon Fox said “Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Mr. President”.

President Trent gave a soft smile and said “Your son will be okay. These guys know what the hell they’re doing. Well, Jon, I’ve got to go. I have a country to run. Drop by sometime and I’ll give you a tour of the White house”.

They shook hands and President Trent left. Jon Fox’s son was rushed into surgery. The recovery process was slow but Jon Fox II recovered with no lasting effects or complications.

Two months later, Jon Fox was the guest on the top rated night time talk show. He was announced and sat down next to the host. After a bit of small talk, the host grinned and said “So, what do think of the President’s last fiasco?”. Jon Fox stood up. He looked

at the host, then addressed the audience and said in a serious tone “I’m not here tonight to talk about President Trent’s fiasco. I want to talk about the man, himself. As you all know, our home was broken into and my wife and son were assaulted. Both were severely beaten and my son was shot in the head. He was at death’s door and who do you think saved his life? President Trent! He brought in a team of surgeons from Walter Ree...”. Just then, the host interrupted Jon Fox and said “Oh, its time for a commercial break”. The audience chanted “Let him finish – let him finish – let him finish!”. To the chagrin of the host, there was no commercial break. Jon Fox continued and said “President Trent! He brought in a team of surgeons from Walter Reed who were highly experienced in gun shot wounds to the head. They saved his life. The man who I’ve insulted and criticized many times on this show is the man who saved my son. Mr. President, if you are watching, thank you again from the bottom of heart. I’ve ordered PROACTERS, INC to cease any protests where ICE is involved. I now see the need to get these criminals out of our country. I’m changing the direction of PROACTERS, INC in a more useful direction such as providing security services to schools and churches”.

Jon Fox looked at the stunned and speechless host. He smiled and said “Bye”. He was given a standing and thunderous ovation as he walked off the stage.

The next day, the two opposing parties and the media dismissed Jon Fox’s speech as a publicity stunt perpetrated by President Trent and the **2024** party. This time their negative remarks and undue criticism were met with public outcry. A survey said 76% applauded Jon Fox’s speech and praised President Trent’s actions. Protests against ICE slowed down to a trickle.

President Trent continually met with the leaders of other country’s. He became well known for his negotiating skills and brokered

several difficult peace treaties between warring nations. President Trent was criticized for this. His opponents said he should be concentrating on our country instead of other nation's problems. President Trent was pleasantly surprised when some of the media actually began to praise him for his peace efforts.

2028

In the third year of President Trent's term, the **2024** party began preparations for the 2028 elections. The **2024** party changed their name to **2028**. The **2028** Team used the same campaign format as they used in the 2024 election. Only this time **2028** would run on their record of achievements. They would tell the voters their plans to maintain their achievements. One of the **2028** party's first order of business was to select their choice of presidential candidate. President Trent vehemently refused to seek office again. When it was leaked that President Trent was not a candidate, there was vast public outcry. But this time it was a different kind of outcry. All across the country, people called for President Trent to run again.

After a cabinet meeting, Vice president Ron Durham asked President Trent if he could have a word with him in private. After the cabinet members left, President Trent said "Sit down, Ron. What can I do for you?".

Ron Durham bit his lower lip slightly and said "I'm here on behalf on the 2028 party. We want you to be the **2028** candidate for president again".

President Trent shook his head from side to side and said "No, Ron. No way. Part of my campaign promise was to serve only one term. Besides, without any doubt, you are the most qualified person to become the next president of the U.S.A.".

Ron Durham smiled and said "Yes, it's true. I believe I could

handle the job. I've learned a lot from you and the free rein you gave me has given me valuable experience, but I can wait four more years. Right now, people want you. Please reconsider. Please, Mr. President”.

President Trent gave Ron Durhan a look that was a combination of a smile and frown then said “Since you put it that way, let me think on this”.

The next day, President Trent received several phone calls from prominent members of the 2028 party. They all reiterated Ron Durham’s plea to President Trent.

That evening at evening at dinner, President Trent looked at Rosa and said “Well, my dear, you may end up being the first lady for another four years”.

Rosa Trent smiled and said “I know, Mr. President”.

The 2028 party announced Dan Trent and Ron Durham as their candidates for President and Vice President in the 2028 elections.

The 2028 campaign

The two opposing parties held a series of debates to determine their candidates for President and vice President. As in the past, the two opposing party’s debates were viscous and unruly affairs. The debates consisted mainly of the participants hurling insults and each other. They called each liars to their faces. When it was all over and the candidates selected, everyone was buddy-buddy again. The 2028 party held no debates. Most of the polls favored the **2028** party.

There were two more assassination attempts made at President Trent. One attempt was made by an illegal immigrant as President Trent was leaving a restaurant. Vigilant Secret Service agents

spotted a woman pulling out a pistol. They subdued and captured her before she could fire a shot. She was angry at President Trent because her husband was recently deported. The husband was a convicted drug trafficker. The second attempt happened when a Molotov cocktail was thrown a Presidential motorcade. The perpetrator was captured after a lengthy chase. This person was mentally unstable and the reason for the attempt was never determined.

At a news conference, President Trent quipped “I’m going to go down in history as the only President who was impeached twice, had three assassination attempts and was criticized for his neckties. Can you folks think of anything else I might be famous for?”.

As he did four years ago, President Trent skied at Vail on election day. This time he was accompanied by Secret Service agents on snowmobiles. He asked Jon Fox to join him.

Jon Fox said “Thank you for inviting me, Mr. President. Say, aren’t you concerned about the election?”.

President Trent smiled and said “Jon, I’ve done all I can. It’s in the hands of the voters and the Lord above now. I might as well enjoy myself before the fun starts. I’d like you to fly back with me tonight to our campaign headquarters in Lincoln. You were instrumental in turning the tide of public opinion about me.

“It would be an honor, Mr. President. My wife and I will never forget what you did for our son. By the way, he just became a starting guard on his high school Varsity hockey team, thanks to you” said Jon Fox.

President Trent smiled and shook Jon Fox’s hand. Late that afternoon, President Trent and Jon Fox flew back to 2028 campaign headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. They were greeted

by Rosa Trent and Eli Mann.

At 11:30 that evening, President Trent's opponent conceded the election. On a private line, he said to President Trent "Congratulations, Mr. President. Off the record, I wanted to run my campaign like you ran yours. Give the voters a concise plan and tell them how you're going to implement it and why the people selected are qualified to get the job done. The diehards in my party would not hear of it. Maybe now they might get the message and learn their lesson. Good luck to you, sir. Please let me know if there's anything I can help you with".

"Thank you, Bob. I appreciate that. Please drop by the Whitehouse sometime in the not too distant future. You had some good ideas and I'd like to discuss them with you.

On January 22, 2029, Dan Trent was sworn in as the forty eighth president of the United States of America. No executive orders were produced that day. President Trent held a meeting and reached out to the leaders of the two other party's. He asked for their help and cooperation. After the meeting, more Senators and Representatives from the other two major party's switched the allegiance to the **2028** party. The 2028 party now had control of the Senate and the House by a substantial majority. The were still debates in the House and Senate but they were healthy and constructive debates. All party's worked together and important bills were passed. At the end of 2029 inflation remained under 2% %, the nation was energy independent, our borders were secure, crime in major cities was at an all time low, our military was second to none, the U.S.A. was respected as a world leader, , the nation had a balanced budget and the national debt was reduced. The United States of America prospered.

At his second State of the Union message, President Trent said

“My fellow Americans, this is a speech that I’ve wanted to give for over five years. I want to thank the members of the other two major party’s for their help and cooperation in making the United States of America the finest country in the world, perhaps in the entire history of the world. Sure, we still have our differences but we discuss our differences in a civil and respectful manner. As you have all witnessed, when differences in how to accomplish common goals are discussed in a civil and intelligent manner, it’s much easier to see the other sides point of view and ideas. And, I’ll be the first to admit, at times, the other person’s point of view and ideas may be better than yours. You can all see how this new spirit of cooperation and understanding has benefited this great nation of ours.

President talked in detail about all of the accomplishments that were the result of this new spirit of cooperation and understanding in America.

President Trent said in closing “Thank you everyone and GOD bless America”.

As all fairy tales end.....

The United States of America lived happily ever after

The End

Afterword

This novel is not a blueprint, nor is it a warning. It’s a message of what could be when people unite for the common good of our country. If this story made you think, or smile, or shake your head in recognition, then it has done its job. Fiction can’t fix a country, but it can hold up a mirror. What we choose to do with the reflection is up to us.

John V. Saffran