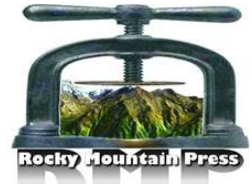


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EVERGREEN CO-AUTHOR OF BROKEN! TELLS HOW HE STEPPED INTO A WORLD OF TORTURE, DRONES AND TERROR

Phoenix, AZ September 1, 2015 – As soon as the loud, tinny CESSNA reached 12,000 feet above Oahu, Hawaii, the pilot turned to the cramped compartment of skydivers and said, “Jump time.”

“So soon?” I gasped, trying to keep my cool. “Who goes first?” I then asked the tandem jump master to whom I was strapped like Mini-Me to Dr. Evil.

“We do!” he grinned.

“Holy &%#@!” I thought. “What’s wrong with me? Am I really going to jump out of a perfectly good airplane?!”

The answer was yes. I had to. Chauncey, the main character in the novel I was writing, was an expert skydiver and there were multiple sequences where I had him leaping from planes. As a writer I wanted to make my descriptions realistic. To do that I had to experience it firsthand. I had to feel the rush and the wind and the danger.

My wife had a different perspective. “The character is also an ex-torturer,” she’d said as I approached the plane while still safely on terra firma. “You going to get water-boarded next?!”

As I looked out at the flimsy sky, I realized that jumping from this plane was no crazier than the leap I’d taken by agreeing to write “BROKEN!” I’d been introduced to Captain Michael S. Kearns (retired) by a mutual friend in Evergreen because he said he needed a writer, and well, I’m a writer.

In the 1980’s Captain Kearns had been involved with training special operations troops to resist and maintain their code of honor while enduring torture. Through a defense program named S.E.R.E. (Survival-Evasion-Resistance-Escape) he’d tortured hundreds of troops in order to teach them how to survive until they escaped or were rescued.

However, several years after 9/11, Kearns discovered that two colleagues from S.E.R.E. had reverse-engineered the program and sold it to the Bush administration as a way to get intelligence from captured terrorists. The two psychologists then used the program as a blueprint for the “enhanced interrogation techniques” that were employed at Guantanamo Bay, Abu Gahraib and CIA black ops sites around the world.

When Kearns learned that men who’d shared his knowledge that torture was not only immoral but ineffective had earned \$80 million through its use, he nearly lost his mind. He blew the whistle to Jim Risen at the New York Times, Senator Carl Levin, truthout.org and anyone else with ears. Nobody would listen. Heaped on top of his pre-existing PTSD, the experience shattered him.

In all honestly, after hearing his stories, I was more than a little skeptical. He’d told me about being the only survivor of a four-way skydive over Antarctica, about torturing our own troops to “teach them,” and about being air-dropped into hostile, Middle Eastern countries to create detailed terrain maps for downed pilots who needed escape routes. There were more stories but I’m not allowed to write about them.

While I doubted his statements, I also reasoned that if by some crazy chance they turned out to be true, was I really going to write an exposé revealing that GW Bush, Dick Cheney and others were complicit in potential war crimes? Not a chance. I turned him down.

Captain Kearns was disappointed but graciously thanked me for hearing him out and went on his not-so-merry way. But his stories stayed with me. His assertions that our country had illegally engaged in torture stayed with me. You might say it tortured me.

I began researching what he'd said and was disgusted to find that he'd been telling the complete and total truth. The public just hadn't wanted to hear it. America had been too jacked up on fear and revenge. They binged on Jack Bauer's "24" as a catharsis to allay their fear and rage.

Still, I fought the idea of writing this book. I made as many excuses as I could. "What do I know about torture and terrorists?" "This isn't up my alley." "I wrote for "Saved By The Bell!"

None of my rationalizations worked. I knew that I had been called upon by some invisible force. It whispered in my ear every night. For better or worse, I had to write the book.

I got together with Captain Kearns in Bergen Park and, over some cold beers, told him that I was interested. But only if he would let me weave the themes of what he'd revealed into a work of fiction. I would use as much factual information as possible and indict those that we believed were guilty in a parallel narrative. He agreed and I stepped out of the airplane. Only instead of stepping into the sky, I entered a world of torture, high-tech drones and treason.

Over the next three years I researched, experienced, and wrote about things that were completely out of my comfort zone. I hung out with Navy SEALs, went to a military drone convention and met with the Sheriff in charge of Denver's law-enforcement robots. I attempted to get into top-secret DOD drone testing locations. My son locked me in his car trunk and drove around Denver so I could experience panic and sensory deprivation. I was threatened and chased by armed guards and police. I was even contacted multiple times by the FBI and had to prove that I wasn't a terrorist.

As evidenced by the fact that I'm writing this article, I didn't get shot, put on the federal no-fly list or sent to Gitmo. I've become great friends with Captain Kearns ("Kearnsey"), have a newfound respect for our veterans and I understand the dangers our country faces – from itself – more than I ever did.

Besides hoping to entertain people, we want "BROKEN!" to bring attention and outrage to some of the horrific things that we, as a nation, have done. We have engaged in torture. We have abandoned our veterans. We have come perilously close to giving away our privacy and freedom. I hope that outrage will make us stronger.

Oh, yeah. And I did jump out of the CESSNA. I can't wait to do it again.

About BROKEN!

BROKEN! is a chill-gripping, fictionalized thriller of the men and women caught in the cross fire of the business of war, terror, drones, PTSD, and a for-profit surveillance state. When America chose to use our own weapons of defense as instruments to enhance torture, we sold out our own people, and birthed shattered survivors on both sides. Co-Authored by a military whistleblower who saw it from beginning to end, BROKEN! has the goods to start a real national conversation about who we are and what we stand for.

For more information visit www.BrokenNovel.com

Plot Synopsis

When disgraced S.E.R.E. (Survival-Evasion-Resistance-Escape) master instructor, Captain Charles “Chauncey” Paunce, is asked by the FBI to train the CEO’s of the world’s most advanced drone manufacturers to resist torture (by torturing them!), he steps into a conspiracy aimed at breaking the very foundations of American privacy and freedom. With the aid of his expert intelligence skills and a group of former Navy SEALs/SWCCs, Chauncey fights through a web of cutting-edge, weaponized drones and string of massacres and tortures in the homeland. From a desolate village in Afghanistan to the Mojave Desert to the skies over San Diego, this story is a thrill ride that combines real modern-day issues with enhanced robotics, illegal surveillance, explosions and... redemption.

Available on Amazon and CreateSpace: amzn.to/1MsDUjG

About the Authors

Ronald B. Solomon has created, written, and run successful companies and products spanning television sitcoms, children’s toys and games, and information technology. He is deeply concerned about the condition of our country and the negative effects of financial elitists and their government lapdogs on our citizenry. His extensive background as a television executive producer, head writer, and show creator has helped to give his first novel, “Broken!” its exciting, cinematic feeling. He lives at the top of a mountain near Denver, Colorado, with his wife, Iris and pet security drone.

Michael S. “Kearnsey” Kearns is a retired Air Force Intelligence Officer, and former Master SERE instructor, who has been a vocal opponent of the Bush/Cheney torture program and the dark complexities of political war profiteering at the expense of the American people. He is the sole survivor of the world’s first four-way skydive over the South Pole and the first person to have parachuted over all seven continents. As a patriot who has risked his life and lost too many of his fellow veterans, this novel is his dedication to the truth.

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