An Obsession with Honesty

I've always been honest, although I didn't think that it was particularly unusual. When I was young it appeared that my family, those I met at the church or at school were all honest people. The only lying rogues were those that appeared in the unreality of films.

If you are, by nature, an honest man, then trustworthiness goes along with it; honesty and trustworthiness go hand in hand.

Of course I had no idea as I grew up that I had developed a rather extreme view of honesty that became rather obsessional. I felt that everyone was honest.

Another personality trait that goes along with honesty is that you despise lies and liars. Lies are so easy to tell but can be so very destructive. There are those that lie as they breathe, without a thought, without any consideration for the impact of their lies.

The other side of the coin is that you always believe others to be truthful and by nature you tend to trust everybody. It is my honesty and trustworthiness that have been my downfall.

I had no reason to mistrust Buchanan and had no reason to believe that he was lying to me. Everyone I met within NCR appeared to trust him. It took me some time before I realised what Buchanan had drawn me unwillingly into.

When I finally realised the reality of Buchanan's lies and deceit, I found myself in an impossible situation. My customers in the developing world had trusted me with the future of their businesses and it was unthinkable for me to betray that trust. I had made commitments to them and could never turn my back on my responsibility.

My honest voluntary statement prepared for NCR and the police was to be selectively used by NCR in order to bring a civil case long before any criminal case came to court. Had I not provided that honest voluntary statement I would most likely still have a family and a business.

I attended a meeting at NCR's solicitors on 31st August 1999 without legal support. The minutes purporting to be of that meeting arrived in mid November 1999 after I had paid back almost £100,000, after another meeting on 10th November and after many other communications. The minutes bore little relation to the real meeting. There were serious omissions and distortions, all in favour of NCR. What could I do about this abuse? I am sure that holding an interview with a defendant without any form of legal support is unethical, but they were clearly taking advantage of my honesty and the fact that I was on my own. There were four of them and me, so what could I do about the distorted minutes. This was a naïve man's first taste of the evil forces that lurk within the injustice system. The first taste of so very many to follow.

It was the destructive action taken by NCR that was responsible for the break up of my family, destroying my business, taking my life savings and driving me into depression.

My wife found it hard to live with the destruction caused by NCR and looked for greener pastures. I forgave her adultery on many occasions and was willing to take her back into the family, but I found it impossible to forgive her interminable lies.

It is very hard to come to terms with the lies told by the girl that I once loved; it is hard to come to terms with the lies and destruction of NCR, a company that I worked so hard for and delivered so much business to; it is hard to believe the extent of the lies and deception coming from within the justice system and the lies generate more lies, that is the way with lies.

When, in 2007, I started preparations for the inevitable divorce, I checked the Land Registry to find that there was no mention of the charge on my house taken out by NCR in the High Court in 2001. I called David de Ferrars of Taylor Wessing and he told me that it had been an oversight. He then registered the charge. When, later, I talked to my solicitor he told me that I could have sold my house and NCR couldn't have taken a penny. My foolish obsessional honesty strikes again.

I have now spent 16 years enduring the lies of so many destructive people and organisations and the stress never abates. No one appears to be interested in truth, honesty and trust anymore.

My obsession with honesty is most likely what drives me to continue with *Inveigled*. Truth must win through and the only way I can promote the truth is through this book.