Synopsis of:

Inveigled

Book One

Alternative title:

(You Should See The State Of My Feet)

and

Book Two

Alternative title:

(The Never-Ending Punishment Of ‘Man B’)



By: Stan Mole

Introduction to Synopsis

At the core of *Inveigled* is a miscarriage of justice and the issue as to whether the law is indeed the highest measure of right and wrong, without any consideration for morality.

I have been asked a number of times by publishers and media organisations to write a synopsis of *Inveigled*, a task that I have tried to achieve but never been happy with the result. So, I have decided to assemble certain extracts from the two books that give a reasonable understanding of the story. Herewith the following:

Book One - Preface

Book One - Contents

Book One - Introduction

Book One - Chapter 21 – It's All So Clear To See

Book One – Bridge - Book One to Book Two

Book Two - Contents

Book Two – Introduction

Book One – Cover and Cover Text

Inveigled consists of two books simply because the story was too long for one reasonable sized book. Inveigled Book One was published in July 2012. Inveigled Book Two is planned for publication in early 2013. The two books have alternative titles that suggest a flavour of the content.

The alternative title of Book One is *'You Should See The State Of My Feet'*. This refers to the number of times that I have 'shot myself in the foot' because of my honesty, my misplaced trust in others or my simple naivety and innocence.

The alternative title of Book Two is *'The Never-Ending Punishment Of Man B'*. This refers to the pawn that finds himself unwillingly caught up in an illegal act because he has been lied to, deceived and drawn unwillingly into a crime; the honest man in the wrong place at the wrong time. The law has a term for a situation where multiple defendants are found to have contributed to the losses of a victim; it is a 'Joint and Several' judgement. In far too many cases, as in mine, there is a major offender, a mastermind, 'Man A'; and there is a minor offender, a pawn, 'Man B'. Is it fair or just that 'Man A' is allowed to walk away leaving 'Man B' to provide full reparation for the crime? That is what often happens in these cases. There are simply too many 'Man B's.

The undeserved injustice metered out has led to a relay of destruction with the baton of evil being passed from one to another for so many different flavours of unthinking, uncaring destruction for the sake of destruction.

Preface

I had spent ten days in Bullingdon Prison. I had been put under the wing of Harold (who had murdered his wife) to show me the ropes of prison life. In that short time I had shared cells with a drug dealer, an Afghan kidnapper and a young lad who had killed his girlfriend whilst apparently driving dangerously. All three cellmates were drug users.

I had then been moved to Springhill Open Prison to work out the rest of my undeserved and destructive sentence. During the first few weeks at Springhill there were many induction meetings, one of which was with the resident probation officer. He listened to my story and, surprisingly, he accepted that I should not be in prison. He also told me that he had heard of the reputation of Judge King for heavy and unnecessary sentencing.

He asked me whether I felt angry at the events that had brought me to prison. I told him that I felt very angry, sometimes debilitatingly angry, at the unnecessary destruction caused by both NCR Corporation and the so-called 'justice' system. He wanted me to attend an anger management course. I explained to him that after what had happened to me it was a reasonable human response to be angry.

He then suggested that I attend some counselling sessions, which could be arranged through the medical wing of the prison. I had no problem with this. I accepted that talking about what had happened to me and what was now happening to me could only be positive.

During my fortnightly sessions with my counsellor, we went through my story in detail. This included details of my childhood through to how I came to be in prison. She suggested that it would be good therapy for me to write it all down, to pour it all out on paper. I agreed. I felt that it might also help me to exorcise the demons that turned my nights in prison into such black desperate hours. So, in Springhill Prison in July 2004, I started to write my story, initially as therapy.

A major part of my anger had been brought about because nobody within the 'justice' system had taken the time or bothered to try to understand just why I had broken the law for no personal gain. No one was interested in the human side of my case or the moral responsibility that I felt for my customers in the developing world. No one was interested in the impossible conflict of loyalties that led me down the path to prison.

I first wrote about how I became involved in the illegality. In order to understand why I acted the way I did, I felt it important to record details of my childhood and early events in my life that had moulded my personality and my values and so I headed back to earlier times.

In writing about my early life I was amazed at the fragments of my life, some small, some detailed, that were lurking in the corners of my brain. I would spend many hours walking around the grounds of Springhill with my small pad and pencil, racking my brains for a memory for which I had drawn a fragment but wanted more. My mind went into overdrive, dragging up so many memories and images from my childhood. I would often lie on my bed focusing on some event from over fifty years ago and trying to get more. I would often give up and then, to my surprise, sometime later something would pop up into my mind from nowhere and I would get rather excited that the memory had revealed itself. I delved into the far corners of my brain and dug out treasured memories that I had not consciously thought about for fifty years. As I delved into the recesses of my brain, I wrote.

Then comes the 'justice' system (or as I often prefer to call it, the 'injustice' system) and the never-ending punishment; here was yet another significant part of the story. I kept notes relating to my day-to-day life in Springhill and what was happening to my dependents back in the real world. I recorded in detail the unbelievable and frustrating stress when the financial institutions closed in on us.

Throughout my six years of involvement with the 'justice' system, I had many private interviews with the police and solicitors (both mine and others), who have mostly taken my story and used it selectively in order to meet their own agendas; agendas that

usually had nothing to do with the truth. However, I have never been given the opportunity to tell my story in a court; I have not been given one single minute to tell my version of events. The practitioners of our 'injustice' system would prefer the 'whole' truth not to be known.

What had started as an exercise in therapy had now become part autobiography, part diary and part personal comment. I was released on Christmas Eve 2004 and carried on writing, chronicling the actions of those that appeared to be obsessed with destruction for destructions sake. When Judge King sentenced me in June 2004, he acknowledged the fact that I had been 'inveigled' into this crime.

Definition

> **Inveigled:** To be enticed and persuaded by guile or ingenuity. To be innocently drawn in against ones wishes. To coax, to con, to ensnare, to entrap, to manipulate, to entice, to wheedle.

So, herewith is the full story, which I have therefore entitled, '*Inveigled*'.

Notes on the text

The text started from my hundreds of pages of rough scribbling that I poured out during my six months in Springhill during 2004. Upon my release the scribbling was typed and organised and *Inveigled* started to take shape. During the first two years after prison, the extreme punishment continued in a series of highly destructive episodes, which were recorded. When my family fell apart during 2006, I was unable to write for over a year. I restarted writing in 2008 but due to my family responsibilities and my rather up and down mental condition, the writing was rather patchy. There were a number of periods when writing became impossible due to depression and more specifically, before, during and after the periods in psychiatric hospital (mental illness brought on by the anger and frustration of the inveiglement and the injustice).

During 2011, I started to tidy up the text with a view to publication; however, the story had not yet reached any sort of conclusion and the 'punishment' continued with no end in sight. So, I decided to publish *Inveigled* in two volumes, the first volume covering the period from cradle to release from prison; the second volume covering the period from release from prison to (as I write this) an unknown end.

You Should See The State of My Feet – The alternative title to this story refers to the number of times that I have 'shot myself in the foot' because of my honesty, my misplaced trust in others or my simple naivety and innocence.

Inveigled Contents – Book One

Introduction to Book One

Chapter 1 Early Years

Chapter 2 A Teenager

Chapter 3 Starting Work and Girl Trouble

Chapter 4 A Change in Direction

Chapter 5 Personality and Values

Chapter 6 Starting to Get Tricky - 1988 to 1995

Chapter 7 A New Life and the Inveiglement - 1995 to 1999

Chapter 8 Comment - The Reluctant Fraudster

Chapter 9 The Dawn Raid and the Aftermath

Chapter 10 The Civil Case

Chapter 11 Forging Ahead With a Limp – 1999 to 2004

Chapter 12 A Partner's Fragile Commitment

Chapter 13 The Criminal Case

Chapter 14 The Bubble Inflates - February to June 2004

Chapter 15 Sentencing - The Bubble Bursts

Chapter 16 Off to HMP Bullingdon

Chapter 17 HMP Springhill - Part One

Chapter 18 The Appeal

Chapter 19 Comment - The Justice System

Chapter 20 Comment – Some Unanswered Questions

Chapter 21 Comment – It's All So Clear to See

Chapter 22 Comment – And Another Thing

Chapter 23 HMP Springhill – Part Two

Bridge - Book One to Book Two

Introduction to Book One

A man is told, "If you don't steal that penny then one million people will die. If you do steal that penny then they will be saved." Should he steal the penny?

There is a saying, 'The law is an ass'. This is only true when the practitioners of our justice system regard our written law as the purest and highest form of right and wrong; this, at the expense of any moral or ethical considerations.

Surely any punishment for breaking the criminal law should be judged not only by the black and white of the law but also with some regard for any moral or ethical reasons as to why the law was broken in the first place.

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In 1996, NCR Corporation, a large American computer company, 'lost' approximately $1,000,000 in a bank account in Belgium. Lost, that is, apart from one middle manager, who had his eye on the money.

The corporate incompetence of NCR and the greed of one man led to so much destruction to so many lives and businesses, costing the developing world many tens of millions of hard-earned dollars and wasting many years of hard work.

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Why on earth would a perfectly sane and honest man steal over $1,000,000, just to give it away? Why would he take such a risk for no benefit? This book attempts to answer these questions and explain this strangest of 'crimes'.

Between 1997 and 1999, I was put into an impossible situation by an employee of NCR Corporation, an impossible situation that gave me little option but to break the law. The alternative would have been to put my many customers in the developing world at great risk of losing their hard-earned investments and to betray the trust that had been placed in me, a trust for which I felt very honoured.

In trying to help the developing world to modernise, I was inveigled into the fraudulent activities that led me to be the subject of civil and criminal proceedings, both of which left me stunned and confused by the vicious, heartless and immoral people involved in our so-called 'justice' system. Many times I sat in court in disbelief as reality was distorted, important facts ignored, and, yes, even lies told by those that are supposedly pursuing justice. I was often traumatised by the evils I found lurking there. Truth, honesty, trust, morality; none of these appear to have any role within our 'injustice' system.

Our justice system is based on the purest black and white of the written law, but life is never black and white as the justice system likes it to be, there are very many shades of grey. I'm afraid that the only 'grey' that I found in my experiences with the justice system were the distortions and manipulation of facts made by the solicitors and barristers that supposed to be searching for the truth. Whether mitigation is taken into account, whether the consequences of a sentence are taken into account, this is all at the whim of a 'wise' judge. One judge may take this into account and another may not; it is a lottery. I was unlucky and so were my family and my customers.

Had I been a dishonest character with a criminal mind then I would now be personally worth a great deal of money. Because I am honest, trusting, trustworthy and loyal, I have lost everything. This, it seems, is English justice.

Vince, a fellow inmate at Springhill Open Prison put it in a nutshell when discussing my 'crime', when he said; "You judge others by your own standards." An honest man believes others are honest, a trustworthy man believes others to be trustworthy, a crook believes others to be crooks, a greedy man believes others to be greedy; that is their initial default judgement.

I was in prison and my life was being dismantled because I had trusted business partners, I had trusted those that I thought were friends and I had trusted the police and

the justice system. My total honesty and my absolute trust in the justice system to be fair and dispense true justice was to be used against me time and time again.

I never felt that I was that much different to the next man, however, my determination to help people, my extreme altruism and my total lack of greed appear to be somewhat of a novelty these days. I maybe naïve, I maybe foolish but I am not greedy, I am not selfish, I am not dishonest and I am certainly not a fraudster, a conspirator or a criminal.

When we pawns appear in court we make an oath that goes something like this:

> *"I swear by (according to religious belief) that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth."*

I'm really not sure what the difference is between 'the truth', 'the whole truth' and 'nothing but the truth', but I'm sure it is not the 'selective truth' as used by NCR's barrister in the civil case during which they were careful to hide the full facts of the case from the court, or the 'distorted truth' as used by the police and the CPS in the criminal trial (not mine) that was to have such a catastrophic impact on my life and the lives of so many others.

The true facts of my case are perfectly clear yet no one was bothered with the truth. After my experiences of our justice system I suggest that it would be only fair for the solicitors, the barristers, the police and the CPS to take a similar oath, as they are often the ones that tamper with the truth.

I have made a statement above that NCR had 'lost' a bank account in Belgium. For the sake of a bit of truth to kick things off, I will clarify that statement. For a number of years external auditors appointed by NCR Corporation to audit the accounts of NCR Belgium, reported back to NCR Corporation that the financial controls in NCR Belgium were grossly inadequate and that something must be done to tighten up these controls. On numerous occasions NCR Corporation ignored their auditor's reports and recommendations.

In 1995, a middle manager called Mike Buchanan was moved from NCR in the US to Brussels in order to manage NCR's business in the European Union offices. He quickly realised the reality of the situation and sought ways of 'feathering his nest'. (Note: I only became aware of these facts eight years after the inveiglement had started). I was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when NCR's incompetence met with Mike Buchanan's greed.

NCR have tried to 'air brush' their incompetence out of the legal proceedings and have failed to accept any responsibility for the consequences of their incompetence, preferring to blame others, mostly me, for their losses.

I have already provided the definition of 'Inveigled', but I provide it here again in order to compare it with another word that appears quite a lot in this text.

Definitions

> ***Inveigled:*** *To be enticed and persuaded by guile or ingenuity. To be innocently drawn in against ones wishes. To coax, to con, to ensnare, to entrap, to manipulate, to entice, to wheedle.*
>
> ***Conspire*** *- to join in a plot, to scheme, to act together.*

I think that you would agree that these words are effectively opposites. To conspire is to act together, to plot, to scheme, whereas, inveigled means to be drawn into something against one's will. So, on with some truth:

Chapter 21 - It's All So Clear to See

But nobody wants to see!

The issues are very simple:

1. Did I conspire with Buchanan in order to steal funds from NCR?
2. Did I knowingly commit fraud (deception for unlawful gain)?

The answer to both of these questions is an emphatic **NO**.

When Rachel and Dean, my legal team, presented the summarised facts of my case to the appeal court, they opened with the statement, "In some ways it was an unusual matter." Unfortunately judges do not like things to be unusual because it makes their job far more difficult. In the twenty minutes allowed for the appeal against my sentence there was no time to present 'the unusual' aspects of my case, but here are a few:

1. If I had conspired with Buchanan to steal money from NCR, would I have told my business partner, Mark Durbin all about it, as he admitted in his statement to the criminal court? - **Of course not**. Would I have openly revealed this to Mark if I had a criminal motive in mind? – **Of course not**. Would I have told Mark that NCR had requested that I create a separate entity in order to store excess budget for use in the NCR/PSL postal program if I had not believed that this was legitimate? - **Of course not.**
2. If I had conspired with Buchanan to steal money from NCR, why didn't I take funds for myself? Surely it makes no sense to take such a risk for no gain, but that's what NCR and the police like to forget. Does this sound like a man who would take such a considerable risk to conspire and steal money from NCR? - **Of course not.**
3. In a recorded interview with D/C Steve Ball, he asked me why I had not taken any money for myself as I clearly had the opportunity to take a great deal. I told him very simply and rather meekly that the money did not belong to me. He seemed incredulous at my honesty. Does this sound like a conspirator or a fraudster? - **Of course not**.
4. When NCR restructured and pulled out of the postal program in early 1999, leaving our joint customers exposed, I used my own life savings and personal borrowings in order to protect my customers. I could have used funds from PCSL for this purpose but, by this time, I knew that this money was 'dirty' and I wanted nothing to do with it. Some years later in 2002, when the US dollar / pound sterling exchange rate crashed from 1.42 to 1.90, again I used my own personal borrowings in order to protect my customers. Does this sound like a man who is so obsessed with money that he would conspire to defraud NCR? – **Of course not**.

It is very clear to anyone who takes the trouble to look at the facts, that the only thing that was important to me was the protection of my customers. They had put their trust in me and I could not, would not, betray that trust.

When I finally realised that Buchanan was using me to siphon off funds from NCR, I was very scared. However, my primary concern was the impact this may have on my customers. If I revealed what Buchanan was doing, he would be in deep trouble and there would be a risk that NCR would cease to fund the postal program. This would cause irreplaceable losses to my customers in the developing world.

So I had a difficult decision to make. I had what I have called a conundrum of trust. NCR had trusted me and funded me to start my own business, however, my customers had

trusted me with the future of their Postal Administration. In the end it came down to a simple consideration - Who is more deserving of my help and support – NCR, who appeared to be so incompetent as to lose such funds and not even miss them, or Tanzania Post (for example), who had mortgaged their postal headquarters in Dar es Salaam in order to fund the modernisation project. I simply could not betray the trust of my customers. Is that such a crime?

Of course, at the time I had to make this decision I was unaware just how much money Buchanan had access to.

These are just a few pointers to my innocence of conspiracy and fraud. It really doesn't need a genius to see that I never planned to steal anything from NCR. Even the prison-happy Judge King told the court that I had been inveigled into this crime. Surely, if I was inveigled then I could not have committed conspiracy.

So how does the civil case marry up to these facts? NCR's barrister told the civil court in 2000, that I had 'admitted my guilt', the inference being that I had admitted my role in a conspiracy when I had only admitted writing some invoices, initially, as I thought, at the behest of NCR.

And what about the police telling the criminal court that Buchanan and I had, "Hatched a plan," or the CPS telling the criminal court, "The two defendants conspired together …" Two ways of telling the court a fact that they clearly knew was not true; a fact that even Judge King ultimately did not accept.

I have learnt a lot about the truth of this case that I had no idea of when I became unwillingly inveigled into the crime. The truth sits very uncomfortably on the shoulders of NCR even though the truth is all so clear to see:

1. For many years NCR Belgium had problems with its financial management and controls.
2. A number of external auditor's reports had advised NCR Corporation of the problems, yet NCR did nothing to resolve the problems.
3. In 1995, Buchanan moved from the US to work in Brussels. He quickly learnt of the lax financial controls.
4. I was an honest, hard-working sub-contractor working for NCR running their postal program and I was assigned to report to Buchanan.
5. In all of my travels with Buchanan to meet senior members of NCR management he appeared to be well liked, highly trusted and respected.
6. Buchanan left everything to do with the postal program to me even down to completing NCR's internal potential business forms for his management.
7. I knew that he had a budget from NCR Europe Middle East Africa (EMEA). I was with him when he was offered further budget from NCR Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and, after winning the big contract with the US Post, we met with the NCR team responsible and it was no surprise when Buchanan told me that he had now been given a further budget from NCR Retail Services in the US. He told me that he now had an embarrassment of budget. How much all this budget amounted to I do not know. Budget is not cash; well not in my experience. However, in Belgium, it seemed that Buchanan actually had cash in a bank account with no controls whatsoever (unbeknown to me).
8. Buchanan told me that his management had approved a special case for the postal program because of the global nature of the program, the huge potential and the involvement of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), an agency of the United Nations. He asked me to create a new entity in which to hold excess funds until such time as they are needed within the program. I was delighted by the support being shown by NCR for our initiative and I immediately told Mark Durbin the good news.
9. This was the start of the stream of lies and deception that Buchanan used in order to entrap me.

10. I had no reason to mistrust him. All of the NCR senior management that I had met both within EMEA and in the US had demonstrated their respect for him and their trust in him.
11. Having worked for 28 years in Unisys, a similar sized company, in a similar industry, I had seen first hand the extent of the financial controls that are usual, from the checking of expenses through to the management of marketing budgets. How could I have possibly known the serious nature of the lack of financial controls in NCR Belgium? I only discovered the detail of this shambles in 2004 during the criminal trial of Buchanan.
12. I was frantically busy managing PSL and supporting NCR and the UPU, spending 50% of my time out of the country. I was totally focused on the success of our joint initiative.

So, this is how the inveiglement took shape. It was probably about a year after the creation of PCSL that I began to realise that Buchanan was using me. That was early 1997 and I have lived with fear ever since as NCR and the 'injustice' system between them distorted the reality in order to dismantle my life. It suited both NCR and the police to distort the facts and create the fictitious 'conspiracy'. It suited their respective agendas but it is a fabrication. The facts very clearly show that this was not a conspiracy.

I really am the most unlikely fraudster. Fraud, by definition is 'deception for unlawful gain'. I am so painfully honest that I couldn't possibly deceive anyone. Further, I am not at all motivated by money and the idea that I would risk the happiness of my family for some ill-gotten financial gain is ludicrous. I cannot understand why anyone would. I have always counted my blessings and would have done nothing to destroy my blessings.

However, the 'injustice' system has now declared to the world that I am not to be trusted. This is now the official word on my values. As the majority of people trust the justice system, then they believe this judgement and I am therefore tarred with the brush of 'fraudster' like a tattoo on my forehead.

Comment - They Knew

I started this section with the statement, "It is all so clear to see, but nobody wants to see." However, there are some human faces that saw the truth of what had happened, and, in their own way, stood up to be counted. They knew.

Alun Long – Financial Controller of NCR. - Alun knew that I had become a victim of NCR's incompetence. Alun was the understanding human face of NCR and was undoubtedly sympathetic to my situation. After the dawn raid, the early meetings with NCR were with Alun and NCR's solicitors, TJG. Soon after I had provided my voluntary statement in August 1999, Alun was sidelined. Clearly, when NCR decided that my statement gave them enough 'ammunition' to mount a civil action, there was no place for humanity or morality any longer. I have never met anyone from NCR since then. They hide behind their solicitors.

It was Friday 25th June 2004; it was sentencing day. Buchanan led the way to the dock and I followed. We had to walk past D/C Steve Ball and Alun Long sitting together in the front row of the visitors seating area. As I walked past Alun Long he patted me on the back in a gesture of support. **He knew**.

D/C Steve Ball – Lead investigating officer of the Fraud Squad – D/C Ball also knew that I had been unwillingly sucked into this 'crime'. I first met D/C Ball when he knocked on my front door at 6.00am on Tuesday 27th July 1999. Between that first meeting and sentencing on 25th June 2004, we effectively worked together for almost five years. I provided D/C Ball with my voluntary statement, two recorded interviews and many casual discussions, helping him wherever I could.

Following Buchanan's trial by jury in February 2004, D/C Ball predicted that I would get a suspended sentence. Following the shocking sentence dealt out by Judge King, I was handcuffed and taken to the cells beneath the court. After a while my solicitor, Rachel Hubbard and my barrister, Dean Armstrong came down to see me. Rachel told me, "D/C Ball sends his regards."

Why would D/C Ball send his regards to someone he had been instrumental in sending to prison? Clearly he couldn't send a message to say he was sorry about the sentence, but there is no doubt that sending 'his regards' was Steve Ball's way of saying that he was sorry. **He knew**.

Rachel Hubbard - My solicitor in the criminal case – Like D/C Ball, Rachel had predicted that I would get a suspended sentence. I had worked with Rachel for two years in the build up to the criminal proceedings and she understood the background very clearly; she understood why I felt that I had no option but to break the law.

After sentencing, Rachel was raving about the 'idiot judge'. Rachel was determined that an appeal would rectify this travesty of justice. As I was on legal aid and this was not forthcoming for the appeal, both Rachel and my barrister, Dean Armstrong, acted for me free of charge (known as pro bono).

For somebody so experienced in criminal law to be so incensed, demonstrates just how strongly she felt that I did not deserve this punishment. **She knew**.

Dean Armstrong - My barrister in the criminal case – I'd probably known Dean for less than a year before the trial of Buchanan. Whilst he was not quite so emotional as Rachel regarding the sentencing, he was similarly scathing about the judge and the injustice on my situation. He also worked pro bono in order to carry through my farcical appeal. **He knew**.

There are many others that 'know' the truth but have their own agenda. Clearly NCR do not want to admit their incompetence to the world and therefore their solicitors have to toe the NCR line. However, NCR's denial of any wrongdoing, whether it is unlawful or immoral, has continued to cause such catastrophic destruction to so many.

Bridge - Book One to Book Two

I tried hard to reduce my text to a reasonable length in order to publish a single volume but the punishment is never-ending and there was simply too much destruction to squeeze into one book. I have therefore ended Book One at the milestone when I was released from prison.

I am publishing Book One of Inveigled in the middle of 2012. I am now 64 years old. It is:

- 24 years after the dramatic doubling of interest rates in 1988 started my problems.
- 19 years since the combination of interest rates and problems with Mark Wrigley at Unisys led to the initial indications that I had a mental weakness when under stress and led to my first stay in a psychiatric hospital in 1993.
- 17 years since the incorporation of PSL in 1995.
- 15 years since I realised in 1997 that Buchanan had deceived and inveigled me into a nightmare that was to be never-ending.
- 13 years since the dawn raid in 1999.
- 12 years since my voluntary statement was used selectively by NCR in the High Court in 2000 to gain a 'joint and several' judgement and their vindictive and destructive pursuance started.
- 10 years since NCR settled with Buchanan in 2003 after he'd paid back a fraction of what he'd taken.
- Almost 8 years since Judge 'Bang Up' King sent me to prison in 2004.
- 7 1/2 years since I was released from prison and started the rebuilding of my life at 57 years old.

In Book Two I focus on my attempts to rebuild my life whilst fighting so many battles in order to protect my family and fight for justice and fairness. You win one battle and there is always another battle around the corner. We will see how the world will kick you when you're down. Highlights include:

- Everybody wants to take my home – Barclays Bank, Barclays Mortgages, and, of course, NCR, all aggressively trying to put my family out of our home. I am determined that they won't succeed. I will protect my family at all costs from the evil that has taken over my life.
- Shortly after my release from prison a delegation of PSL's African customers and the UPU visit London for a meeting in a desperate attempt to resurrect PSL and to save their investments.
- Life on the tag, probation and the job centre. Living on benefits.
- Debts and more debts and my new masters.
- A two-year battle with HMRC. They are so incompetent!
- Crushed by the banks. Barclays Bank takes action to put my 90-year old mother out of her home.
- Rebuilding my life as a 57 year-old ex-con. The banks don't want to know.
- Evil breeds evil, destruction upon destruction. Managing the destructive forces.
- Caring for Mum.
- The break up of my beautiful family.
- Fighting so many battles; now I'm fighting alone.

- The mental impact, the depression and the ultimate escape.
- New levels of evil from NCR as they assign the charge on my home to Teradata, a totally independent third party company floated off from NCR. They are clearly trying to distance themselves from their immorality.
- Can I find any peace – maybe a new life in Cornwall – but the never-ending punishment follows.
- A few battles won, a few new ones turn up and many long-term battles roll on seemingly forever.
- More issues with our broken justice system. What do you do when a solicitor acts fraudulently?

Inveigled Contents – Book Two

Introduction to Book Two
Chapter 24 Comment – Co-D Focus ('Man A' and 'Man B')
Chapter 25 After Prison – The First Two Months
Chapter 26 My New Masters
Chapter 27 Crushed By The Banks
Chapter 28 Rebuilding A Life – Part One - Alone
Chapter 29 Et Tu – The Ultimate Punishment
Chapter 30 The Carer
Chapter 31 Rebuilding A Life – Part Two – Battling Away
Chapter 32 Comment – Stress, Health and Dignity
Chapter 33 Rebuilding A Life – Part Three – Hope?
Chapter 34 Starting A New Life
Chapter 35 Battles Raging
Chapter 36 Evil, Evil and More Evil
Chapter 37 'Mugged' and More
Chapter 38 The Big Squeeze
Chapter 39 Comment – Managing The Destructive Forces
Chapter 40 Comment – And Another Thing – Part Two
Chapter 41 Comment – The Real Sentence
Chapter 42 Burnt Toast

Introduction to Book Two

There are times when friends ask me why I spend so much time on this book. The answer is very simple: I have always been a passionate man. I am passionate about honesty, I am passionate about truth and I am passionate about helping others. In Book One of *Inveigled* I demonstrated my passion for helping others, and more particularly, for helping the developing world. It is my passion, or some would say, rather unkindly, obsession, that has led to my troubles.

I have lived a life based on the highest integrity and morals. I am proud of my honesty. I have always helped others whenever I could and have lived a life touched with the most extreme altruism. Then, due to the greed and self-interest of others, I have been tarred with the brush, 'fraudster'. I am determined 'no matter what' to clear my name. I am not ashamed of anything I have done because it has always been in order to help others.

I have been punished for helping people; I have been punished for trusting the untrustworthy; I have been punished for my honesty; I have been punished for believing in our rather suspect system of justice; and the punishment is never-ending.

One of the most important themes raised by this book is about 'right and wrong' and whether the law of the land is the ultimate measure of right and wrong despite its often immoral nature? If an action is within the law, does that always make it right? If an action is outside the law, does that always make it wrong? Of course not. The written law is not and should not be seen as the highest definition of right and wrong, cast in concrete, at the expense of any moral judgement.

There are bad laws and there are misused laws that can be used (or abused) by devious legal professionals in situations for which they were not designed to be used. A bad law or a misused law can provide a mechanism for terrible injustice.

Let's look more closely at one such 'bad' law. This law, as it is used in the English justice system, is acknowledged as a bad law by many other justice systems throughout the world. It is a law that is open to abuse. It is the law relating to a 'Joint and Several' liability for a crime. This judgement can be invoked when multiple defendants are found to have contributed to the losses of a claimant. The big questions in this type of situation are:

- Who is responsible for reparation?
- What if one defendant is unable to pay?
- What if one defendant is the mastermind of a crime and other defendants have minor roles?

Justice systems throughout the world differ in the way they address this situation.

I wrote at some length in Book One on this subject, but since publication of Book One, I have researched the subject further. First of all lets clarify what 'Joint and Several' liability means by looking at other similar types of judgements.

Joint Liability - Each party is liable up to the full amount of the complete obligation. If one defendant dies or is unable to pay, then the other(s) become responsible for the full reparation.

Several Liability - Otherwise known as proportionate liability where each party is liable for only their respective obligations towards the reparation.

Joint and Several Liability – Here a claimant may pursue an obligation against any one party as if they were 'jointly' liable. It then becomes the responsibility of the defendants to sort out their respective proportions of liability. This means that a claimant can pursue one defendant for all sums. That defendant must then pursue the other parties for a 'contribution' to their share of the liability. Therefore a claimant is legally entitled to recover all reparations from any of the parties irrespective of their individual role in the crime.

'Joint and Several' liability makes certain assumptions as follows:

- The victim is squeaky clean – a pure white victim that has been wronged,
- The multiple perpetrators have conspired together to commit the crime.

In Book One, I drew a caricature of what is clearly an immoral use of a 'Joint and Several' judgement, where 'Man A' plans and masterminds a theft to steal $1,000,000. 'Man A' actually steals $999,999 and 'Man B' is persuaded to take $1. 'Man A' then proceeds to squander his $999,999. When the crime is discovered, a clever legal eagle supporting the victim manages to attain a 'Joint and Several' judgement against 'Man A' and 'Man B', which effectively means that 'Man B', who was persuaded to take $1, is now liable to pay back the full $1,000,000 whilst 'Man A' wanders off into the sunset to start a new life. Is that fair? Is that justice?

Is The Victim Always Squeaky Clean?

In the High Court in November 2000 a barrister presented a civil case prepared by NCR's US legal department and their London solicitors, Taylor, Joynson, Garrett (TJG) to The Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman. There were a huge number of affidavits, exhibits, statements and other documents submitted to the court. The objective of NCR and TJG was to gain a 'Joint and Several' judgement against Buchanan and me.

Amongst the multitude of submissions there were two affidavits and a number of exhibits from Alun Long, an internal auditor employed by NCR.

I would now like to move forward over three years to February 2004 and the criminal trial of Buchanan. Alun Long also provided a number of witness statements to this court. Herewith an excerpt:

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Excerpt from the witness statement of Alun Long

> The NCR Corporate Audit Department performed audits of NCR Belgium in 1996, 1997 and 1998. I was the Corporate Audit Manager for those audits. Corporate Audit reports were written dated May 1996, November 1997 and August 1998. I can produce copies of these reports as exhibit ARKL 95. These reports clearly commented on the very poor financial controls, which existed at NCR Belgium, particularly during 1996 and 1997.
>
> Major problems were experienced in preparing Statutory Financial Accounts for the year ending 1995. The problems were so severe that the external auditors were not happy with the financial records prepared by NCR and "qualified" their independent audit report for 1995. I understand this was because of the poor accounting records at NCR Belgium.
>
> Crucial issues raised in the May 1996 Corporate Audit report included a partial change in the computer accounting system. This change in computer system was, unfortunately, poorly planned, with inadequate staff training and poor technical systems support. This unfortunately led to confusion and uncertainty in the Finance and Administration Department.
>
> The May 1996 Corporate report also detailed significant weaknesses and breakdowns in the financial and accounting controls. A prime weakness was the lack of reconciliation between the General Ledger and the supporting sub-ledgers.
>
> Financial areas of specific concern in our 1996 report include problems in paying suppliers. Neither were there reconciliations between the outstanding Accounts Payable invoices (sub-ledger) and the General Ledger.
>
> The Corporate Audit report of May 1996 also noted that "there were weaknesses in the performance of key reconciliations and a lack of formal procedures to ensure an adequate internal control environment."
>
> I believe the general breakdown in accounting controls, as highlighted in the Corporate Audit report of May 1996, provided the atmosphere and opportunity for fraud to be committed. The poor internal accounting controls also meant that detection of fraud by NCR was unlikely.

> This was the accounting and control environment Michael Buchanan found when he arrived at NCR Belgium. I believe this gave him the opportunity to exploit these weaknesses for his own benefit.

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Now we move back to the High Court in November 2000. Amongst Alun Long's submissions to the civil court there were documents about the NCR company, NCR accounts, copies of various NCR brochures, Buchanan's employment contract and many other communications between Buchanan and NCR, details of PSL and PCSL, details of some of Buchanan's dodgy dealings and many other documents of limited relevance to the case.

However, there was no mention of this financial shambles in NCR Belgium. Clearly, Alun Long knew of this shambles at that time and I'm sure would have informed NCR's US legal representatives and TJG, but they chose to hide this from the court.

If this statement regarding the parlous state of the financial controls in NCR Belgium was important enough to be submitted to the criminal court in 2004, why was it not submitted to the civil court in 2000?

The answer is painfully clear. Who was 'pulling the strings' at the two very different court hearings? In 2000, the civil action was directed by NCR's US legal department and TJG. In 2004, the criminal action was directed by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. So, Alun Long, the human face of NCR, free of the shackles of NCR's US legal department and TJG, finally revealed the 'whole truth' that had been omitted in 2000.

So, was NCR so squeaky clean and pure white?

A Terrible Conspiracy?

Yes, this was a terrible conspiracy. However, it was not a conspiracy between Buchanan and me. I was lied to, deceived and inveigled against my will into this nightmare. I trusted Buchanan as all of his management at NCR appeared to. I was the honest, hard-working business partner of NCR that had delivered many millions of dollars worth of business to them.

The terrible conspiracy is that between NCR and TJG, who presented carefully selected information to the High Court in order to achieve their distorted objective. They omitted critical information necessary for The Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman to make a reasonable judgement. They included certain facts, they excluded certain facts and they distorted certain facts in order to paint a picture of a conspiracy between Buchanan and me. They purposely mislead the Court.

In the criminal case in 2004, I was found <u>not guilty</u> of 'conspiracy to defraud'. In fact Judge King stated very clearly that the court accepted that I had been inveigled into this crime.

Had The Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman known in 2000, what Judge King knew in 2004, would he have approved a 'Joint and Several' judgement?

Surely a Court must be absolutely convinced that the 'victim is completely innocent before using the potentially destructive Joint and Several judgement.

Who Is The Victim?

So the perceived victim (NCR) is maybe not quite so white as portrayed in the High Court and one of the perceived perpetrators (me) is maybe not so black. How does our justice system deal with this? Well they may have dealt with it somewhat differently had NCR revealed the full facts to the court.

NCR's barrister painted a picture of a conspiracy between Buchanan and me. There was no mention of the financial shambles at NCR Belgium; there was no mention of the deceit, manipulation and inveiglement by Buchanan, drawing me unwillingly into this nightmare; there was no mention of my personal financial support for my customers in the developing world and there was no mention of my immense hard work for many years that won millions of dollars worth of business for NCR.

What happened to me was all about NCR's incompetence and Buchanan's greed and manipulation. I was 'Man B', in the wrong place at the wrong time. I was the victim.

Alun Long also revealed 'off record' to Mark Durbin, that NCR would never have missed the money had Mark not discovered documents on my computer and gone to the police. So NCR really had 'lost' this bank account before it was stolen. I've often asked TJG where the money in this account came from but I have never had an acceptable answer. It's still a mystery to me precisely what went on in NCR Brussels in the mid 1990's even though these events have destroyed my life and so much more.

I had worked tirelessly since 1995 for NCR, for the UPU and for our postal customers, delivering huge benefits to all involved, and, after five years of immense hard work, in 2000, I was sitting in court as 'Man B', a frightened pawn, watching these heavyweight, skilled legal deceivers paint pictures; pictures of a whiter that white NCR and a blacker than black 'Man B'; pictures based on their terrible distortions.

The Order of Things

The normal course of events sees a criminal trial deciding the guilt of a defendant. Once guilt has been established a victim or claimant can make a case through the civil court for reparation for the losses suffered due to the crime. However, my honest voluntary statement enabled NCR (with some devious fancy footwork and some distorted image painting) to turn the injustice system on its head. NCR and TJG selectively used my statement in order to mount a civil action against Buchanan and me long before any criminal action came to court.

This raises many questions about the processes of our justice system, some of which I raised in Book One. In the rather bizarre civil case in 2000, the Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman pronounced that Buchanan and I were guilty of something. There was no name to the charge that we were found guilty of, as there were no charges as this was not a criminal court. Whatever it was that he found us guilty of it was sufficient for him to approve the 'Joint and Several' judgement pursued by NCR and TJG.

When the criminal case came around in 2004, Buchanan pleaded not guilty to all charges. What would have been the ramifications for the civil case, almost four years earlier, if Buchanan had actually been found not guilty in his criminal trial-by-jury? I was found not guilty of conspiracy to defraud.

A Complete Stitch Up

So, long before any criminal charges had been brought, long before any criminal trial, long before I was found 'not guilty' of fraud, NCR and TJG had massaged the information available, mostly through my honest voluntary statement, and painted a picture to a solitary judge, the Honourable Mr. Justice Lightman, and achieved their Joint and Several judgement. It was a complete stitch up.

Buchanan, already a reasonably wealthy man, stole almost £750,000. So one assumes that he was 'worth' well over one million pounds, yet NCR recovered only approximately £300,000 from him before they settled and let him walk off into the sunset. So 'Man A' was dealt with after repaying less than half of what he had taken. NCR then turn their attention to 'Man B'.

I admit that I was persuaded by Mike Buchanan to borrow £45,000 from the stolen funds when the Inland Revenue threatened to force the sale of my home to pay a tax bill. I had been so busy travelling the world working hard for NCR, the United Nations and PSL that

I had taken my eye off of the tax situation. Had events not overtaken me I would definitely have repaid the money.

I paid back to NCR approximately £320,000, being seven times more than I had borrowed. NCR were not happy with this so they aggressively pursued me, destroying my business, my family, my health and so much more.

Even the police found it hard to understand why I had not taken more money. I told them simply that it was not my money.

It's hard to believe that this odious saga is due totally to the corporate incompetence of NCR in the first place.

This book will hopefully unpick the stitching.

What If?...

….I had not written my voluntary statement; what if …. NCR had told the full truth to the court. Most importantly, I would still have a family. Probably, PSL would still be alive supporting many of the world's Posts. Certainly, the Posts in the developing world would not have lost tens of millions of dollars. Maybe, PSL would still be delivering business to NCR. The 'what if' list is endless. However, someone in NCR's US legal department wanted to take the destructive approach and decided that NCR would not tell the full truth to the court so we are where we are.

Honesty Kills

My passion for honesty has been my downfall. During Book One I gave myself two bullets in my foot for writing my honest voluntary statement, which I gave to NCR and the police. This honest act is by far the greatest mistake of my life. NCR selectively used my voluntary statement in order to mount the civil action, which led to the 'Joint and Several' judgement, which led to a life of persecution at the hands of the 'less than white' NCR.

Joint And Several Reform

The law relating to 'Joint and Several' liability is designed to protect the perceived victim, assuming the victim to be perfectly 'white'. But what about protecting the 'Man Bs' of this world, the innocent, honest man who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Many justice systems throughout the world are addressing this issue. There are simply too many 'Man Bs' to ignore. What is referred to, as 'Modified Joint and Several' liability is a simple concept where a perceived perpetrator of a crime has their liability capped in proportion to their level of involvement in the crime.

The Never-Ending Punishment of 'Man B'

Book One of *Inveigled* had the alternative title, '*You Should See The State Of My Feet'*, referring to the number of times that I 'shot myself in the foot' because of my honesty, my misplaced trust in others or my simple naivety. The alternative title for Book Two is '*The Never-Ending Punishment of 'Man B''* for obvious reasons.

My life was once meaningful, helping others where I could. NCR changed all that. After their incompetence and destruction they left me with a meaningless existence consisting of a multitude of battles for survival against some of the nastiest of 'enemies'.

Honesty and truth must win through in the end or what is left for us when lies and deceit (such as that demonstrated by NCR et al) dominate our lives.

When we left Book One, I was leaving Springhill Open Prison and, coincidentally, on my way out, I had just encountered Buchanan on his way to work in the electricians hut. Before we move on with further details of my never-ending punishment, by way of a summary of Book One, let's focus on some comparisons between 'Man A' and 'Man B', otherwise known in the criminal world as 'Co-Ds'.

Book One Cover

Why would an honest man, a caring man, a trustworthy man; steal over US$1,000,000 just to give it away? Why would he take such a risk? Caught in the wrong place at the wrong time when corporate incompetence met with manipulative greed, Stan Mole goes on to taste so much destruction at the hands of corporate legal departments, our English 'injustice' system, the financial institutions and more. Despite the destruction, he is not allowed one second in a court to tell his story. When being sentenced Judge King commented that Stan Mole had been inveigled into this crime. Herewith are two definitions:

> ***Inveigled -*** *To be enticed and persuaded by guile or ingenuity. To be innocently drawn in against ones wishes. To coax, to con, to ensnare, to entrap, to manipulate, to entice, to wheedle*.
>
> ***Conspiracy -*** *an agreement among conspirators, to plan together to commit a crime.*

I would suggest that these two words are effectively opposites. What do you think?

