

All in the Family Cruise



by
John M. Poindexter

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Dedication

I wish to thank the following for all their work on this project. Patrick Poindexter, President of Leeworlds for the layout of the cover design, and to all the beta readers that offered their suggestions.

All in the Family Cruise

CHAPTER ONE - THE ARRIVAL

People are starting to arrive for the first annual Pogo's "All in the Family" reunion. We were able to arrange a cruise and most of the players agreed to be here.

There will be a special introduction of everyone by Tony Carlson just before the band plays their concert. It should be a hilarious time.

Everyone is blocking the aisles, as they want to greet and meet everyone else. It's funny to stand back and watch.

There is Linda walking on with Terri. Why Monica just walked on, we were so afraid that she may not have made it.

It would be a shame if everyone didn't come. Since the trip is paid for everybody, they have nothing to lose.

CHAPTER TWO - THE INTRODUCTIONS

“Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention please,” the announcer said. “It is with great pleasure that I introduce your host, Tony Carlson.”

The place roars with laughter and clapping as Tony walks onto the stage.

“Good evening and welcome to the first annual Pogo’s All in the Family Reunion. I would like to start tonight by introducing everyone. First, let me bring out my better half. Ladies and Gentlemen, here is the beautiful Cindy Diamond Carlson.”

“Hello everyone,” Cindy said, and waved. They all cheered and waved back.

“Now on with the introductions,” Tony said. “As you can see name plates were arranged so that I could tell who was here and who was not. So, with that said I’ll begin in the center.”

The spotlight shines on a table located in the center of the room.

“At this table, I must really start with none other than Linda. Please stand and take a bow,” Tony said. “Joining her at the table is Terri and her husband, oops, I forgot to introduce Linda’s hubby. Please stand and take a bow with your spouse.” All four of them stand and bow.

“Now of course who would be mean and leave out the one and only Terry from Linda’s table. Please take your bow.” Terry stands and waves at everyone.

“At the next table,” the spotlight moves, “we have Susan and her husband, Tom. With them are Karen and Bobby.” They all stand and bow.

“Now this next table is a real belly buster. We had to put all of these people together just to see who would win out at the end the night.” The spotlight moves to a table on the side of the room.

“Please stand as I call out your name,” Tony said. “First, the one and only, Georgia. Next we have Shannon and then Carol. Sitting with them of course is none other than Aaron. Sorry

Sherry, but I had to put him with the women, or they may have destroyed the place.”

“Next we have Jane, Carmen, Jill, and Harry sitting together. Next to them are Mary, Tim and his wife, Monica, and Helen.”

“That only leaves us with two gentlemen and one lady sitting at the last table. Wonder how long they will be sitting there before another woman moves in on them.” Laughter breaks out from almost everybody.

“Last, but not least, I give you Sherry, Keith, Larry, and Ruth.” Everyone claps and waves at each other. “Welcome everyone and now the real host who is paying the bills for all of us, Cindy,” Tony said.

“I am so glad that you all could come with us on this cruise to the Bahamas. Hope everyone enjoys themselves. Now without any further delay I would like to bring on the band that will be entertaining us tonight. It is none other than one of the hottest Country music bands ever, Alabama,” Cindy said. The place is roaring as everyone gives the band a standing ovation.

CHAPTER THREE - THE DISCOVERY

Everyone was at breakfast except Carol. Nobody had seen her all morning, so we guessed she skipped breakfast in order to sleep in late.

“Ladies and Gentlemen,” the Activities Director said, “we will be having different contests throughout the day. Please check the handouts on your tables for something that might be of interest to you.”

“Linda,” Terri said. “Have you seen Carol?”

“Not since last night when her and Georgia were talking about spoons.”

“She would love this trivia contest today. I think I will go find her,” Terri said as she got up from the table.

“Okay, see you later,” Linda said.

Almost everyone had finished breakfast when Terri came back into the dining room looking like she was getting seasick.

“Terri, are you okay?” Tony said. Terri nearly missed the chair she was attempting to sit down in. Luckily, Tony had fast reflexes and caught her.

“Terri,” Linda said. “What’s a matter?”

“It’s Carol,” Terri said.

“What about Carol?” Tony said.

“Is something wrong?” Linda said.

“What is it?” Monica said.

“She’s dead,” Terri said as she started crying.

CHAPTER FOUR - THE MORNING OF THE DEATH

“I would like to know who ate all the strawberries,” Tony said.

“Not me,” Terri said and pointed at Linda.

“I should have known it was you Linda,” Tony said and laughed.

“Who me?” Linda said and laughed.

“There's nothing to laugh at,” Tim said. “Carol is dead...”

“You're right Tim,” Cindy said and held out her hand to Tim.

“We need to go and see what is going on,” Jane said.

“Yes, we do,” Karen said.

“I'm not sure I want to,” Bobby said. “I'm going out on deck.”

“I'll join you,” Monica said as they walked off.

“Inspector Carlson,” the Captain said as we approached. “I would like for you to handle this.”

“I'll be glad to, Captain,” Tony said.

“Tony,” Linda said. “I want to help.”

“Since you're a paramedic, I could use you,” Tony said.

“I'll try not to get in your way,” Linda said.

“You can get in my way anytime,” Tony said and laughed.

“Why Tony,” Linda said and blushed.

Tony opened the door and motioned for Linda to enter, while trying to keep the onlookers from coming in.

“Please people, go back to the dining room or out on deck. We need to get busy here,” Tony said. After shutting the door, they rolled Carol over and saw what had killed her. Linda let out a

muffled scream and nearly fainted. He caught her just before she fell on the body.

“Sorry,” Linda said and blushed again.

“Don’t be,” he said and laughed. “Can you tell how long she's been dead?”

“Yes but first, I must get something from my room.” Linda left.

While Linda was gone Tony decided to look around the room to see if there were any more clues. Finding nothing interesting, he checked Carol for marks to see if she put up a struggle. Not finding any marks on her body, made him more suspicious. It was at this time that Linda came in carrying a black bag.

“Doctor Linda, I presume,” he said, trying not to laugh.

“Oh Tony!” Linda said. “Please help me roll her over.”

“First, let me take out the murder weapon,” he said.

While Linda held a paper bag, Tony placed the murder weapon in it for further analysis. They rolled her over again. Linda raised Carol's nightgown and stuck her thermometer in her.

Thinking they heard someone at the door, Tony cracked it open to see. There was no one there.

“I would say that she has been dead no more than two hours. Her temperature is still quite high,” Linda said.

“Then it could have been Terri after all.”

“Oh! I don't think Terri could have done this. She is too sweet,” Linda said with a worried look on her face.

“Just the same, we need to keep an eye on her.”

“Also, we can't let on to anyone what really happened here.”

“I won't say a word,” Linda said as Tony opened the closet and just stood there dumbfounded.

“What is it Tony?” Linda said. He opened the door more and stepped back so she could see.

“Why?” Linda said.

CHAPTER FIVE - THE NEXT TRAGEDY

“Tony, where have you been?” Cindy said as he was walking toward the dining room.

“I was out on the back of the ship shooting skeet. But, then a damn duck flew by and accidentally got shot. He's floating out there somewhere,” he said, waving his arm toward the water.

“A helicopter just brought Amber and Amanda on board.”

“Well, it's about time they got here. Where are they now?”

“They're out on the deck by the swimming pool. Barbara is parachuting in and going to try to hit the pool.”

“That should be interesting,” he said and laughed.

As they walked toward the pool area, Mary saw them and said, “The naked twister game starts in fifteen minutes after Barbara lands.”

“That should be interesting, too,” Tony said and was immediately slugged by Cindy.

The three of them walked around the corner and saw that everybody else was around the pool.

Cindy and Tony went over to welcome the two new arrivals, just as somebody shouted there she is.

Barbara was coming down toward the ship, but she was too far to the left. People waved at her trying to get her to understand that she would have to move over. But, she just waved back. It wasn't any time that she splashed down into the water off the port side. She went under immediately. Amber and Amanda dove into the water to try to save her.

It was then that someone yelled shark. The crew threw life buoys in for them and lowered the rope ladders over the side. But, the shark started attacking and Amber was the first to go under.

Two more sharks showed themselves and Amanda was close to making it back to the boat when she was hit. That was the last time they were seen alive. Everyone was in shock, again. First, it was Carol and now three others were gone. Where would this madness end?

“Oh honey,” Cindy said through the tears running down her face. “This is turning out to be an awful cruise.”

“Let's hope it just gets better from here,” Tony said. It was at this time that Linda was motioning for Tony to join her.

He walked over to her and she said, “I'm going to play the naked twister game to see if I can spot any struggle marks on whoever killed Carol.”

“That's good. I will stay here and watch the game, especially since you may spot someone.”

“Ladies and gentlemen,” Terri said. “The naked twister game is starting, please get ready. We will have two game boards running at the same time. The last two people of each game will compete against each other for the championship.”

“I don't understand this,” Tim said. “We have lost four members and these people want to play a stupid game.”

“Now Tim,” Sue said. “It will take their minds off of the problems.”

“I still don't like it,” Tim said and stormed off toward the bar.

“Wait up Tim, I'll join you,” Larry and Monica said simultaneously.

“Okay people,” Terri said. “On this side we have Linda, myself, Jill, Terry, Shannon and Mary.”

On the other board, we have Susan, Karen, Bobby, Sherry, Aaron, and Ruth.”

“On the sound of the drum beat we will begin. The official spinners for the first game are Helen on this board and Georgia on the other board.”

As Terri slipped out of her bathing suit, she said, “It appears we are all ready, so anytime Mr.

Drummer man.”

The games were getting really tied up as the people from their mid-twenties to sixty were twisted around each other trying not to fall out. Linda looked Tony’s way and shook her head. He decided that no one in her game had any marks, so he moved over to look at the ones in the other game. He couldn’t see any marks on the players that didn’t belong there, meaning stretch marks. People started falling out of the games and as they did, he moved in closer to make sure that neither Linda nor he missed seeing any marks.

It was finally time for the playoff game between the four remaining players. Terri announced that the official spinner for this game would be Carmen.

“Okay, is everybody ready?” Terri said. The four of them shouted with glee.

In this playoff game was Terri, Linda, Mary and Susan. All women and none of them had marks indicating that they had been in a struggle. Tony noticed that Keith was just sitting in a lounge chair by the pool some thirty feet away. He wondered why Keith hadn’t come closer to the game area.

As Tony casually walked over to him, Keith said, “Tony, you’re blocking my view.”

“I’m sorry. I didn’t think you were watching them.”

“Oh yes, couldn’t miss seeing them naked.”

It still struck Tony funny that he sat so far away. But then he realized Keith was hiding a camera under the towel on his lap. Tony thought oh boy, pictures of Linda playing naked twister should be just about as good as her jumping on her trampoline. Just as Mary was being announced the winner, the Captain came up to Tony and said, “Inspector Carlson, there has been another one.”

CHAPTER SIX - THE SECOND MURDER

As the Captain pointed to the door of the cabin, Tony was hoping that he was wrong about whose cabin it was. "Captain, do you have the passenger list with you?" he said.

"Yes, here it is," he said and handed him the list.

Tony stood there for a moment to take a deep breath. He was afraid that it was who he had thought.

"Young man, could you please go get Linda for me?" Tony said.

"Yes sir, right away," he said and turned to leave.

"Also tell her to bring her bag," he said and turned to the Captain. "Who found her?"

"It was one of the maids. She opened the door and saw the body and locked it back up."

"Did she see anybody in the area?"

"No. She said the passageway was clear."

"Thank you, I'll take it from here."

"Very well," he said. "When you are through just call sick bay and they will come get the body."

"Thank you," Tony said as he opened the door to see her laying face down like the last one. He rolled her over to discover the same type of weapon driven into her chest. He couldn't figure out why anyone would be killing these women. Tony knew someone would say it had to be over the spoons they collected. But, he couldn't for the life of him believe that someone would kill for stupid spoons.

"Tony, are you in here," Linda said through the crack in the door.

"Yes, come on in."

"Oh no!" Linda said, trying to hold back the tears. "How did she die?"

“The same way,” Tony said and pointed to the murder weapon lying on the floor.

As Linda held out the bag to place the weapon in, he said, “Let's check the room, maybe we will find something that we can use.” When he opened the closet door, he couldn't believe it. “Linda, look at this.” Tony stepped back so she could see the fully loaded meal cart and crew uniform. “It's the same as in Carol's room,” she said. “But, they wouldn't have done that. It must have been the killer.”

“You would think so. How long do you think she's been dead?” Tony said.

“Not long, as she is still warm.” Linda said.

“Did the person who found her see anyone?”

“The Captain said the maid didn't see anyone.”

“Is there anything else we can do here?” Linda said with tears rolling down her cheeks.

“No,” he said as he placed his arm around her shoulders to comfort her.

He telephoned the sick bay and told them that they could come to room 217 and pick up the body.

“Tony, I don't feel safe anymore.”

“People will have to travel in pairs or groups from here on out. We need to be careful until we can figure out who is doing this.” As they rolled the stretcher out, Tony took one more look around the room and then locked the door.

CHAPTER SEVEN - THE ANNOUNCEMENT

“Ladies and Gentlemen,” the Captain said over the loudspeaker system. “Will you please go into the dining room for a very important meeting?”

As people slowly started coming into the dining room, Cindy and Tony were talking with the Captain.

“Inspector Carlson would you like to make the announcement or do you want me to do it?” the Captain said.

“I will tell them,” he said.

“Tony, what are you going to tell them?” Cindy said.

“Just what they need to know and no more. If we let out too much, we might drive the killer underground,” he said. Tony saw that the remaining people were entering, so he walked up on stage to the microphone that was set up there.

“May I have your attention, please,” Tony said. “There is something you need to know about the murders.”

“There has been another one?” Terri said.

“Yes, I am afraid so,” Tony said. “Georgia was found dead in her room.”

Several of the ladies were now crying and Terry finally said, “Just what is being done to find this killer?”

“We are doing all that can be done,” Tony said. “We need for you to travel around ship in pairs or groups. It is not safe to walk alone anymore. When we get back to the port, the police will board the ship before anyone will be allowed to leave. It is possible that each of us will have to take a lie detector test prior to being allowed to go ashore.”

“Is there anything you can tell us about these murders?” Harry said.

“No. We cannot tell you any details at this time. The police have made it quite clear that we are not to discuss it,” Tony said.

People started to get up and walk out. He could tell they were disappointed that the trip had turned out this way, but there was nothing he could do about it now. Tony looked at the Captain, who shook his head no. Linda and Cindy also shook their heads no. He was hoping that one of the three would see someone react in a way that might tip them to who the killer was.

“Linda, if you have a moment, I would like to talk with you,” Tony said as Linda got up to leave.

“Sure Tony, I will be right there,” Linda said.

After everyone left, Tony sat down with Linda and explained his plan to her. He was hoping she would agree with him that it was the thing to do.

“Tony, that seems very dangerous, but I'm willing to do it, if you are?”

“I believe it is the only way to flush out the killer. A helicopter will be bringing in the materials we need tomorrow. We just have to get through tonight without anyone else dying.”

“I do hope so. I don't think I can handle another death of one of my friends,” Linda said.

“I'll tell you tomorrow when we are ready to put the plan into action. Just stay alive until we can do it,” he said. She just smiled and walked off

“Tony. Do you really think that you and Linda should do this?” Cindy said.

“Honey, we have no choice but to do it. If we don't, we may never catch the person.”

“But, it will be dangerous and I don't want to lose you,” she said and gave him a hug.

“I will be careful and keep a close watch on Linda also, so that nothing happens to either of us.

Now come on, I could use a drink,” he said, as he took her hand and led her toward the bar.

They had been in the bar for over an hour when they decided it was time to get dinner. As they

entered the dining room and walked toward the Captain's table, he motioned for Tony to come back to the doorway. Tony was afraid of what he had to say.

“Inspector Carlson, I am afraid that another person was found dead in the storage area this time,” the Captain said as he shook his head in disgust. “In all my years at sea, I have never had as bad a trip as this. I will be lucky to be Captain of a garbage barge when we get back.”

“It's not your fault,” Tony said. “Now, please show me where this storage area is.”

As they walked down the passageway, Tony was thinking of who it could be this time. When they passed Linda's room, Tony knocked on the door. After looking through the peep hole, she opened the door and said, “Oh no! Please tell me that there is not another one.”

“I am afraid so,” Tony said. “Do you mind getting your bag?”

They walked on to the storage area where two crewmembers were standing watch. Over here one of them said and led them to the back of the area. Once again, they found a female laying face down. But this time, it was different. The smell told them she had been there for some time.

Tony rolled her over and they could still tell it was Windy that had been killed and left here.

“No wonder we thought she didn't come,” Linda said with tears rolling down her cheeks again.

Tony pulled the weapon out of what was left of her chest and placed it in a paper bag. The smell was just too strong for one person, he thought.

“Mind if I look around?” he said.

“No, go ahead,” the Captain said.

“Linda, we have another one over here,” Tony said as he stepped back out from behind a turbine.

“No,” she shouted.

It was Nancy this time. She had been here as long as Windy had, and was in just as bad a condition. Tony took Linda by the shoulders and led her back to her room without saying a thing

to the Captain and his men.

CHAPTER EIGHT - THE PLAN

“Linda, would you join Cindy and me in our room in about a half hour? I have something we need to decide,” Tony said.

“Sure Tony, see you then,” Linda said as she walked on toward the pool.

“Sweetheart, when Linda gets here, I want you to go with her if we decide to do this,” Tony said, looking over the notes he had written.

“Okay, but why?”

“I do not want anyone going anywhere alone.” Hearing a knock on the door, he told Cindy he would get it.

Upon opening the door, he said, “Welcome, come on in,” as Linda and her husband walked in.

“We need to discuss who we believe we can trust and who we cannot,” Tony said. “Who do you think Cindy?”

“I believe we can trust Tim, Aaron, Larry and all of the women,” Cindy said.

“I believe we can trust Terry and the women,” Linda said.

“What about Bobby, Tom, Aaron and Harry?” Tony said.

“Oh yes,” Linda said.

“I think so,” Cindy said.

“Then if we can trust them all, who is our killer and what is this all about?” he said.

“I think it’s over spoons,” Linda said. “Most of the women killed collect the spoons with the state's logo or design on them. It has to be over that.”

“But, if it’s over spoons, wouldn't one of the ones that collect them still be alive?” Cindy said.

“Well, Terri collects them and she is still alive,” Linda said.

“Then maybe Terri is our killer,” Tony said.

“That can't be as she was in the twister contest when Georgia was killed,” Cindy said.

“It could be her husband. He is here, isn't he?” Tony said.

“No, he couldn't come,” Linda said.

“Okay, here is my plan,” he said. “I want to have a meeting with the three of us along with Terry, Tim, and Aaron.”

“Why Tony?” Cindy said.

“Because we need someone to make a disturbance when I send Linda out in the hallways as bait,” he said.

“Me?” Linda said, looking worried for the fifth time since this senseless killing started.

“Don't worry, I will be right behind you,” he said.

“If you are then she won't be approached,” Cindy said.

“I won't be that close. She will be wearing a body microphone and I will stay just out of sight. When the killer comes after her, I can catch him or her,” he said.

“I'm not sure,” Linda stammered.

“You'll be in no danger, I promise,” Tony said.

“Okay, if you say so Tony. I trust you,” Linda said.

“Linda would you and your husband, please go with Cindy and deliver these invitations?” he said. They nodded yes.

“We will meet here at two this afternoon. Don't tell anyone else about this meeting,” Tony said as they departed to deliver the messages.

Tony turned the other way and walked towards the Captain's room to see if his package had come in.

“Captain, did it arrive yet?” Tony said as he opened the door.

“Yes. It is over here,” the Captain said.

“Good, then this evening we will do it.”

“Are you sure that no one will be hurt?”

“I can only say that I will try to prevent it, but...,” Tony said and was interrupted by a knock on the door.

“Captain, I am sorry to bother you, but there has been another one,” the First Mate said.

“Damn,” the Captain said, grabbing his hat. “Lead the way.”

“In here,” the First Mate said as he opened a linen closet.

Tony took a step back in disbelief. He would have never imagined that this would happen.

Another one killed in the same manner. But this time, it was a different from all the others. This time it was a man.

CHAPTER NINE - THE SCHEME

“Sweetheart, is that someone at the door?” Tony said.

“I’ll check,” Cindy said as she opened the door. “Come on in guys.”

“Tony, the guys are here,” Cindy said as she stuck her head in the bathroom door.

“I’ll be right out,” he said as he dried his hands after washing off the cleaning fluid from cleaning his gun. After loading the weapon, he walked out to start the meeting.

“Glad you could all make it,” Tony said. “What we have planned is this. Linda will go in on the second floor and walk the hallway to see if our killer will approach her.”

“I don’t think I like that,” Terry said. “Who’s going to protect her?”

“I am,” Tony said and opened his coat to reveal the weapon on his side. “You, three, will go in on the first floor and make as much noise as you can. If the killer is on that floor, then he or she will, hopefully, leave and go upstairs. Once you have spent ten minutes on that floor, you will work your way up to the second floor and Linda will go down to the first floor.”

“What if the killer is on neither floor?” Tim said.

“Then we will try another night,” Tony said. “We have to draw this person out and put a stop to these killings.”

“If you and Linda are walking the hallway, do you really think the killer will come out?” Aaron said.

“I will be out of sight, so that the killer will not see me,” Tony said.

“How can you possibly protect Linda if you can’t see her or the killer?” Terry said.

“Easy. Linda will be wearing a body microphone. I will be listening for any change in her voice and be able to get to her before anything happens,” Tony said. “Trust me, I have done this

before.”

“Okay,” Tim said and looked at the others. They, too, nodded their heads showing they agreed.

“When do we start?” Aaron said.

“As soon as dinner is over and the people are watching the show,” Tony said. “Linda will get up and walk out. I will be backstage so nobody can see me leave. She will pass you guys out in the hallway and you will go to your position. You will have five minutes to get there and then she will start. Ten minutes later you will go to the other floor and so will she.”

“I guess we'll see you then,” Terry said.

“I hope not,” Tony said and laughed. “If you see me, then the killer will see me.”

At seven that evening Tony told Cindy to go out and sit in the audience and that he would be back later if nothing became of their plan. He saw Linda get up and head toward the door. He walked out the back and watched as she headed for the second floor. He knew the men would move to their position and be ready to go in five minutes. He could only hope that this plan would work, and the nightmare would be over.

Tony stood just outside the flood door as Linda said she was starting down the hallway. The halls ran in a rectangle around the floor. It would take Linda about ten minutes to make a complete round if she didn't walk too slowly. He was hoping this would draw out the killer.

“Nothing yet,” Linda whispered. “I'm turning the corner.”

Tony was ready to run through the door and toward Linda if she said anything about someone approaching her.

“Still no one in sight,” Linda said again.

Tony heard what sounded like a door closing, so he grabbed a hold of the door knob and turned it so that all he had to do was pull the door open.

“There is someone walking behind me,” Linda whispered. “I can't tell who it is as they are on the other side of the hallway.” Linda was getting really nervous. Tony could hear it in her voice.

He pulled on the door and peeked through the crack, but could see nobody around.

“Oh!” Linda said.

At that point Tony was in the hallway and on his way to get her.

“Hi Terri, what are you doing here?” Linda said.

“I was looking for you,” Terri said. “I saw you leave the dining room and you know Tony said that it was not safe to be out alone.”

“I'm okay,” Linda said. “I just needed to go for a walk and take my mind off of the things that have happened.”

“I think you need to come back with me now,” Terri said.

Linda didn't make a sound and Tony took off running toward her direction. As he rounded the corner, she was nowhere in sight.

“Damn,” he said. He searched the rest of the hallway and found nothing. He had just started to go find the men when they came onto the floor.

“Linda, just passed us,” Terry said. “Nothing up here?”

“No. I'll meet you back in the dining room in about fifteen minutes,” Tony said, relieved that Linda seemed to be okay. The plan wasn't working, but they still had one more floor.

Tony walked up to the flood door and heard Linda say, “I am starting my walk now. Hope you are around, Tony.” I am now, he thought.

Linda didn't speak for several minutes and then he heard a voice. But, it wasn't Linda's; it was a man's voice. He opened the door and walked onto the floor. He had to try to figure out which way she would have gone. Tony figured she would have traveled the same path as the upper

floor, so he headed around that way. As he turned the corner, he saw Linda pinned up against the wall by a rather odd looking shape. He moved closer very quietly as not to alarm the individual holding Linda against the wall. When he was within ten feet, the man turned and looked at him.

“Hello Carlson,” he said. “I was wondering when we would meet.”

“Move away from her,” Tony said.

“I don't think so,” he said and shoved a knife closer to her throat.

“That's not your style,” Tony said. “You have always killed your victim with a spoon.”

“True, but a spoon doesn't scare them enough to get them to move,” he said and pressed the knife harder into Linda's throat. “Now back off.”

“Okay,” Tony said. He turned as to leave, but instead pulled the gun out of his holster and swung around pointing the gun right at the man's head. “Now, drop the knife or you're dead,” Tony said, cocking the hammer on his gun.

“Not before I slash her throat,” he said.

“I don't think you'll do that. It's over, you might as well give up peacefully,” Tony said.

CHAPTER TEN - THE CAPTURE

He pulled the knife away from her neck and grabbed her by the throat with his free hand.

Waving the knife at Tony, he said, "I'm not afraid of you Carlson. I killed Harry with no problem and I can do the same to you."

"There is only one difference," Tony said. "I'm holding a gun and he wasn't."

It was at this time that a door opened on the other side of him and Terri walked out. As he looked that way, Tony made his move and struck him on the side of his head. He released his hold on Linda and she ran toward Terri. As Tony grabbed him, he swung the knife cutting Tony's hand holding the gun causing him to drop it. They fought for several minutes until the Captain and his men showed up and helped to capture him.

"Inspector Carlson, we will lock him up and notify the authorities," the Captain said as they led him away.

"Tony, I was so afraid that he was going to kill me," Linda said. "I don't think I ever want to do that again. You're bleeding."

"Sorry Linda, but we had to draw him out. At least now, the terror is over," Tony said, wrapping a handkerchief around his hand. "Come on, I'm buying the drinks."

"Make mine a big one," Linda said.

"Okay, whatever you want Linda," Tony said, and laughed. The girls laughed, too. The tension had finally broken, so Tony took Linda and Terri by the arm and lead them to the bar.

EPILOGUE - WHO WAS THE KILLER

“Ladies and Gentlemen, if I may have your attention,” Tony said as the last of them were seated in the dining room. “I would like to explain what we have found out from the authorities.”

“Yes Tony, please do,” Susan said.

“It seems that our mysterious killer was none other than David,” Tony said.

“Really!” Mary said.

“Yes. His plan was to take out all those who treated him with no respect, and that would have been most of the players that play in the All in the Family room. So, I guess it’s safe to say that you never really know who you will meet in a chat room,” Tony said.

THE END

Biography

John Poindexter is an English teacher who was inspired to write crime novels from his experience as a Special Agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. His job description was that of Counterespionage Case Officer and has conducted numerous criminal, narcotic, fraud, and counterespionage investigations.

He is a winner in the Filbert Publishing June 2010 Short Story Contest and also a 2010 Peevbody Award winner. His writing career also has dealt with writing articles on investigative techniques for the Pacific Stars and Stripes while working in Japan, and reports of investigation used to prosecute individuals.

Mr. Poindexter received a B.S. degree in English from Indiana State University and his investigative training at the AFOSI Academy located in Washington, D.C., the FBI, CIA and various other governmental agencies.

He is working on the novel, *Hawks' Dilemma* that takes the reader inside an exclusive agency that operates worldwide under the control of the President of the United States. *Deadly Revenge*: his second novel, in this series, deals with a group of terrorist trying to get revenge for the destruction of their Drug Cartel.

More eBook selections from John M. Poindexter

Dreamer's Paradise is about a young girl that meets a boy who she thought was the best thing for her.

Hollywood Dream is a story about a girl from the mid-west that goes to Hollywood to be a star and ends up being a hooker with a murderous hooker friend. Will good life find our young mid-western or not?

She Rises at Dawn follows a female private detective in Chicago as she tries to solve the mystery of the missing wife.