

ALEXANDER'S STORY OF CORPORATE ESPIONAGE

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Alexander's Story 2

In this assignment we follow the life of Alexander, a private investigator or “spook”, who became interested in corporate espionage after living a mundane life stateside, and a desire to serve his country after 9/11. After a tour in Colombia and some time with the CIA in Langley, VA, the real adventure begins.

Alex's first assignment was to head on over to California for a rush job, with the help of an accomplice named Eliza, in order to attack a company who ...”screwed the public herd with annual planned obsolescence and fear marketing of their obscenely overpriced physical toys.” Intel gathering tactics involved the “employment” of Candice, whose weakness included a career and pay stall, and Steve, whose weakness included partying and women. The outcome was successful, with Candice's promotion from within R&D with her cooperation in a flood of data with regards to the company. For Steve's part, the company changed suppliers and saved millions (with a little help from Brandy).

From there, Alex heads over to New Jersey, where a small family tightly guards a chemical formula for making soap “soapier”, be it in more suds generated, or a more powerful cleaning agent actually applied. Via a surprisingly simple phone tap and a trip to a local electronics store, the disk containing the secret formula is obtained, and the company is sunk via the onslaught of legal threats from their much larger competition.

Assignment #3 involved travelling to Japan in order to deposit and install a robot virus with the

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help of an unstable John. Because John was so unstable in his efforts, the mission was almost exposed and partially completed. Also a factor in this plot was the fact that Alex was going up against a private firm, not a state-run agency with more resources. He used this to his advantage while he fled. Alex was forced onto a vacation while "Control" carried out damage control, followed by a softball mission as described below.

This lowball (easy) assignment in Miami was designed to encourage Alex to get "back in the game" after his disaster in Japan. The mission was to destroy the reputation and career of Nathan's rival, Peter. In the end, the target Peter was framed for images of illicit child molestation. Next, for purely petty and personal reasons, Nathan sought out and targeted his ex, whose budding career as a model and actress was just getting started. Due to Alex's success however, the media and paparazzi took care of the ex exactly as intended. Despite Alex's internal moral objections, a job was a job, and a hit was a hit to be rewarded with cold hard cash. Unfortunately, crime does pay.

Finally, the fifth job described in this assignment involved a trip down to where it all began, in South America. A major European Union mega-conglomerate was seeking to gain traction and market share in new business ventures, and with the help of a cover humanitarian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), a local senator was assassinated via a car-bomb, and the business expansion effort was thwarted.

Morals of these stories include the following: Work with people you know, and never trust the

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people who know you. Secondly, always go with what you know, and try the easiest approaches first. When possible, Alex preferred to break as few laws as he could get away with. Of course, few things in life are more searing than simple honesty. Also, the ability to slip in and out of countries with little hassle was a very good trait to possess. Paranoia, after all, knows no bounds once unleashed in a fertile mind. Finally, hackers and their twisted sense of humor never cease to amaze. I have no doubt, when Alex finally is able to retire, he will enjoy his new fleet of seaplanes.

References

Brown, Andrew. (2011). *The Grey Line: Modern Corporate Espionage and Counterintelligence*.

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