

A Visitor In Time

Sam I Hamm

iUniverse, Inc.
Bloomington

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*ISBN: 978-1-4502-9793-6 (sc)
ISBN: 978-1-4502-9794-3 (ebook)*

Printed in the United States of America

iUniverse rev. date: 8/19/2011

The author also wishes to acknowledge people whose friendship, love and inspiration have helped along the way. Firstly, to all Hamm family members, including Edward H. Hamm, Jr., executive producer of the film "The Box" starring Cameron Diaz. Also, to Doug Green, author of the poignant book No Wife, No Kids, No Plan--a must read for anyone downsized from Wall Street in the 'Zeros. And, to Reverend Daniel De Guglielmo--producer and interviewer at Cambridge Community Television (CCTV) and creator of the Treaty of Respect for Native Americans. My hats off to you, Danny, for your hard work in honor of indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere! Also, to my entertainment lawyers Elaine M. Rogers, Esq. of Meister, Seelig and Fein, LLP and Mark A. Fischer, Esq. Of Duane Morris, LLP. And to Alberteen Anderson, Deputy Director of Special Events, Government and Community Relations of The New York City Transit Authority who first exposed me to screenplays, and to New York City Detective Ken "Biff" Bifferelli, the greatest non-acting actor ever! Also, to Dr. Brian Taggart, screenwriting professor at UCLA Extension and screenwriter of "Adam-12" and "Emergency!" and "V" fame, my first screenwriting professor, for his belief in me, and to Dr. Susan Steinberg, PhD, my Harvard screenwriting professor under whose direction this screenplay was completed. As well, to Tom Jenks, Senior Acquisitions Editor for Scribner Publications and Professor of English at UC Davis and Editor of The Narrative literary magazine, my literary editor. Many thanks, Tom, for taking me on as a client and believing in me all these years! And to three authors: Mrs. Anne Seymour, and the Jerry Kamstra/David Jew team, authors of the soon-to-be-published book The Golden Serpent about the 1978 Golden Dragon/Triad gang massacre in San Francisco's Chinatown. Can't wait to read it, boys! Finally, to special friends along the way: Duke University's Joel Fleishman and Professor Ole Holsti, the LSE's Dr. Michael Hodges, "Harmonica" Tom Boland of the rock'n'roll band The Ethnix, Marine Corps marine Perri "The Hobo" Rlickmann, Darryl Leeland Sanderson, Daniel Senecal, Emilie Griffin, Todd Kevin Smith, Tomas "Tomasito" Regalado, Jimmy Zanze, Alan Dabrowski of Shane Toothpaste of Chicago, Paul Berry of Harvard Square's Grafton Street, Dr. Jeffrey Gilbert, Dr. Robert Ananow, Charles Flynn, and Johnathon "Jay" Giordano. Also, to the following Harvard Square musicians: the little strummer boy--Kevin So--Mary Lou Lord, and Danielle Miraglia. Lastly, to two prominent Nostradamus scholars: John Hogue, who named Nostradamus' Third Anti-Christ "Baal Hammon" with an anagram of "Mabus," and to Oxford University Nostradamus scholar Erika Cheetham.

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Finally, to Winona, whose role as Blanca Trueba in "The House of the Spirits" was the inspiration for this screenplay's character Gabriella Torres de la Dalton; to Ben, whose role in "Good Will Hunting" as Chuckie was the inspiration for the character Sam I Hamm; and to Robin, whose role as Sean in "Good Will Hunting" was the inspiration for Einstein herein.

This book is dedicated to the Einstein family, and to science
and science fiction lovers around the world.

FADE IN:

INT. SAM I HAMM'S BEDROOM, HOUSE, DANA STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA
(1998) -- NIGHT

SAM I HAMM sits alone at the desk in his sizeable room. On the bedroom walls are Edward Hopper and Norman Rockwell posters, as well as Hiroshige and Hokusai Japanese woodblock print posters. In front of him is a binder filled with sheets of paper. He turns each page slowly, then takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes. GABRIELLA TORRES DE LA DALTON peers into the room's doorway, then walks in and puts her arms around his shoulders and kisses him superficially on the cheek.

GABRIELLA

How goes things, my little
antichrist?

SAM

Not so good.
(beat; gesturing to
binder)

John Hogue in his book Nostradamus:
The New Revelations names the
antichrist "Baal Hammon."

GABRIELLA

Forty-eight defined quatrains.

SAM

That's right. And I'm stuck.

INT. OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC (1998) -- DAY

PRESIDENT CLINTON sits behind his desk with Secretary of State HARVEY KISSMAN on the other side. On the speaker phone is the VOICE of ANTHONY ROBBINS.

CLINTON

Can't believe it. We've done everything for Sam I Hamm. I've had speeches at San Francisco's Krissy Field because he lived in the Marina District, my daughter's attending Stanford because San Francisco was supposed to be the epicenter of the year 2000. We've bugged his phone, computer and his V.W. microbus. All to no avail. Now he's at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Tell me, Tony, what on earth do we do now?

ROBBINS (V.O.)

Sam needs a mentor. Needs someone who can help him write a book. You need someone in the literary world or entertainment industry to work with him.

CLINTON

Harvey, any ideas?

KISSMAN

Woody Allen and Tom Wolfe are obvious choices. Both are unquestionably accomplished. However, each is excruciatingly busy, and likely will not help even if Hamm is Nostradamus' Third Antichrist. Helping him would be an act of charity, and they want to make money on their own products.

CLINTON

Tony, how fast can a book be written?

ROBBINS (V.O.)

I wrote Awaken the Giant Within in a month. Had to. One of my business partners ran off to Rio with eight hundred thousand dollars when my net worth was only one point two million. If I hadn't written that book in a month, I'd otherwise have had to declare bankruptcy. Look, what Sam needs is someone who's smart who has time on his or her hands.

CLINTON

Harvey, who fits that profile?

Kissman looks down at his lap, thinking for a long beat, and then looks up.

KISSMAN

Between you and me, Mr. President, I am on Majestic Twelve, the body responsible for overseeing the U.F.O. phenomenon. From Nineteen Seventy-three to Nineteen Eighty-three there was a time travel experiment conducted by John von Neumann of the Manhattan Project and Al Bielek, Harvard, Nineteen Thirty-six, who joined forces with U.F.O.s to time travel. The C.I.A. oversaw the project, which was named Phase Three of the Phoenix Project. It continues to run today as Phase Four.

CLINTON

What're you getting at?

KISSMAN

Albert Einstein fits the profile of the type of person required to help Hamm. All he did all day at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton was think. His was just about the greatest mind this world has ever known.

CLINTON

So you're saying we use Phase Four of the Phoenix Project to go get Einstein, huh?

KISSMAN

Precisely, Mr. President. Bring him forward in time from a year just after World War Two at a time when he was becoming a prominent humanitarian to today. Hamm and he could compare life on Earth after World War Two to today, around the turn of the millennium. Einstein wrote a great many books, and spent his entire life engaged in thought.

ROBBINS (V.O.)

Who better than that? Besides, with the times being so politically correct and tranquil, he's going to need someone like that to inspire thought.

CLINTON

Then Einstein it is. We'll call this, uh...Project Freeeh Love,

named after F.B.I. Director Louis Freeh.

KISSMAN

Hoover back in the 'Forties can't hear a word of this. He will attempt to have Einstein deported should he find out what is being done. Will wonder what the near Twenty-first Century needs with a communist.

CLINTON

Agreed. We'll have a book yet!

INT. EINSTEIN'S OFFICE, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY,
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, NJ (1948) -- DAY

Einstein is hunched over his desk poring over papers, using a pencil to make corrections and add to equations. There's a KNOCK on the door.

EINSTEIN

Enter!

CARL BAXTER, a white male Central Intelligence Agency agent in his mid fifties, enters.

BAXTER

Professor Einstein, I'm Agent Carl Baxter, Central Intelligence Agency.

Einstein peers over at him a beat: what does the Federal Government want now--is this one of Hoover's boys here to harass him?

BAXTER (CONT'D)

I don't quite know how to explain this, but you're needed in the year Nineteen Ninety-eight. We need you to help Nostradamus' Third Antichrist write a novel. We want him to be famous by the year Two Thousand, and I have orders from President Truman and the President in the year Nineteen Ninety-eight to request your help.

EINSTEIN

To whom would I be helping?

BAXTER

He's one Samuel I Hamm. He's now a graduate student at Harvard.

EINSTEIN

A German . . .

(beat)

Let Hitler help him, wherever he is in South America.

(beat)

That is where Hitler is, no, hiding out with Bormann, Kammler and Mueller with his plaything Eva Braun?

Baxter smiles.

BAXTER

You know I can't tell you that.

EINSTEIN

Why do you require an aged Jew to help a young German? Cannot

Harvard or Yale assist in this affair?

BAXTER

Times are really quiet in the Nineteen Nineties. And he needs something to write about.

(beat)

Look, we could really use your help. Please, I'll take you to your house, and you can pack for a stay in Boston in the year Nineteen Ninety-eight.

Long silence.

EINSTEIN

I shall accept on several conditions. I require knowing that the atomic bomb has not been employed since the War, I seek to learn of culture and relations between different peoples around the world at the turn of the millennium, and I demand assurance that this student is not a National Socialist.

BAXTER

Agreed. The future awaits you, Mr. Einstein.

(gesturing to door)

Come, let's go.

EXT. HOUSE, DANA STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA (1998) -- DAY

A black Ford sedan pulls up in front of a typical clapboard Cambridge house near Harvard Square. Einstein and Baxter exit the vehicle. Baxter pops open the trunk and retrieves a modern suitcase, obviously his, and a ratty one, obviously Einstein's, from within. They approach the front door and

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Baxter rings the bell. After a beat LEI ZIYANG opens the door.

LEI

Yes?

BAXTER

You're Lei Ziyang, one of Sam Hamm's housemates, right?

LEI

That I am. You must be from the Federal Government, and this I presume is Mr. Einstein. Samuel has been anticipating your arrival, as have we all. Please, enter.

INT. HALLWAY, HOUSE, DANA STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA (1998) --
DAY

LEI

Yes, Samuel very much does require your assistance, you know. He has told us all about his having defined forty-eight Nostradamus quatrains that describe his being the Third Antichrist.

BAXTER

Washington is on the case.

INT. LIVING ROOM, HOUSE, DANA STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA (1998)
-- DAY

The interior is decorated with stuff you'd expect to find by graduate students from around the world--Renoir and Delacroix art posters, a jade Buddha, and a poster of Steve Biko, a black South African civil rights leader. Baxter stands giving orders as Lei, Sam, Gabriella, JONAS LOOKSMART and

EAMONN KILMURRAY sit on a sofa and chairs taking in this amazing event, meeting the Albert Einstein in the flesh.

BAXTER

Okay, it's gonna go like this, folks. You all are to each keep a journal, and each of you will take Einstein out for a day. Use a Dictaphone to record your experiences with him. Sam?

SAM

Yeah?

BAXTER

I'll sleep on the sofa here, and Einstein will share your bed with you.

SAM

Einstein's a fag?!

BAXTER

Look, make like you're in the army. He needs a place to crash, and you got a king-sized bed.

(beat)

All of you: compare cultural differences between the year Nineteen Forty-eight, which Einstein here's come from, and today. Einstein will have a great many questions for you all. You all in turn will have questions for him. Record everything in your journals and on your Dictaphones. I am to accompany Einstein at all times to protect this national security resource. He takes a

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