

The Bendersons: Kidnapped at K7
Second Edition

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Smashwords Edition
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CHAPTER 1

THIS IS NUTS MUM

“This is nuts Mum...are you completely insane,” I said as I arrived home from doing practical work for my archaeology degree.

“No I am not, Tam,” indicated Mum, her eyes that were now turning into evil slits. “I am selling the house and that is that. Dan and Meryl have organized us a place in Kingsland and that is final.”

“Oh, is that so, Mum,” I said. “Well I have my work here and my study to consider.”

“Well haven’t you heard of a transfer, Tam? Dan told me that your course is available up there, so it is not a problem.”

“I leave for a few weeks work for an archaeology firm and this is what I come home to? You have no right to do this,” I faltered, feeling already defeated.

“Well, it is my bloody house and I suggest you cooperate, Tam, or Dan will be very angry with you,” smirked Mum.

“Oh okay... and thanks for nothing,” I barked as I slammed my bedroom door shut. “What can I do about this,” I thought as I drifted off to sleep, dreaming of a better life and future far, far, away from this hell hole.

“Tam Tam, wake up immediately,” Mum called as she knocked on my bedroom door and barged in.

“What is it?”

“Dan just phoned and he is coming down today. We are to meet him at the casino for dinner,” said Mum sporting a smug look on her face.

“So what about it, I need a little rest as I have just arrived home myself,” I pleaded.

“That is no way to treat your brother, Tam, and I suggest you come with me as I need someone to care for me when I get on the bus,” indicated Mum seriously.

“No Mum, I am tired. Get the picture,” I said.

“Tam, I am feeling a little wobbly to go alone,” said Mum, doing the familiar con artist trick.

CHAPTER 2

THE CASINO

“Oh okay, as long as I pick what meal we’re having,” I said, visioning the full buffet meal.

“Okay,” said Mum.

I made myself ready and soon we were on the bus and ventured to the casino. “How about I book a table, Mum,” I said.

“Okay Tam, then I will let Dan know when he arrives,” said Mum seriously.

I booked a table and that was the last table available. I texted Dan to ask how long he would be. “Tam, I might be an hour by the time the bus arrives at the Casino. This just depends on how many customers stop at the different hotels around town before we arrive at the casino.”

“Oh there you are, Tam,” said Mum. “Can you get me a hot chocolate...are you okay there?”

“Not really. Dan just indicated that he would be travelling by bus and he will be late for his meal that I booked here,” I said.

“Well maybe Dan doesn’t want to eat here, Tam,” said Mum smirking, knowing full well she was winding me up.

I felt like smacking her. I knew she was trying to take the piss out of me and put me up against my own brother, Dan.

Dan soon arrived and I told him that I had made the booking for all of us for a buffet. “Well, you might have had the common courtesy to discuss the matter with me first,” snarled Dan and he then proceeded to talk to Mum.

“Now you listen here, Dan. I am shouting the meal and I prefer to eat here,” I pleaded.

“No, Tam, we are eating upstairs at the Restoria,” said Dan. “I need to go upstairs and freshen up. Do you mind waiting,” indicated Dan as he ventured upstairs.

“What in the hell, Mum? Aren’t you going to say anything? This is insane,” I said, shaking my head in disbelief.

“Now Dan has suggested the Restoria. It is much cheaper than the buffet,” smirked Mum.

“Why does he always get it his way?”

“Tshhhh, tsh, Tam. I know you are stinking jealous of him and Meryl. You’ve just got to face facts that they are people with money and you are not,” said Mum

“Well in that case stick your meal and you can go home by yourself,” I snarled.

“I am too wobbly, Tam,” said Mum, trying to pull on my heartstrings.

“Sorry, you have done the dirty on me. I am going,” I said feeling deflated.

“I might just stay the night with Dan if you are going to be a bitch about matters,” said Mum, looking at me with those evil slits called eyes.

“Sayonara,” I said as I walked outside of the casino and to the nearest McDonalds. I ordered a sumptuous burger and went home to rest.

I had just arrived home and was watching TV peacefully, when I noticed that there was a knock on the door. “I thought you were staying with, Dan,” I said, looking at Mum with disgust.

“Dan only had a single room booked,” said Mum, “so I could not stay with him, Tam.”

“Well good night,” I said. “I thought I would let you know that Dan is organizing the real estate agents to come, so I suggest you help me out clean the shed.”

“Great, but there is one problem. Have you thought about the fact that you are rendering me homeless by selling the house? Did it ever cross your mind, Mum? Did you even consider letting me buy it off you,” I faltered.

CHAPTER 3

XMAR REALTY

Mum burst out into hysterics. “No way! You haven’t got that sort of money, like Dan and Meryl. I want the money straight away. The other thing, Tam, is you will be closer to David and Jenny as they are in the university near North Kingsland,” said Mum trying to persuade me to think differently on the matter when I could see absolutely no benefit into moving at all.

I showered and changed for bed and thought that, despite my work and university, my life was dull. I unfortunately was stuck in a rut living by Mum’s rules and a manipulating brother. There had to be a way out of this mess. I fell asleep and did not wake up until the next morning.

“Tam, you had better get out of bed and help clean out the shed before the real estate agent arrives and don’t come inside until I say so as Dan is there, as well,” said Mum.

“I beg your pardon? Why the secrecy,” I said. “First of all, I need something to eat and coffee before I get started.”

There was a knock on the door and Mum opened it. “Do you mind, Tam,” snarled Dan.

“Excuse me mate. I have just woken up and haven’t eaten yet. I live here, too,” I snapped, trying to stand my ground.

“That figures, Tam...and why you are such a failure in life in comparison to me? Big house, money to burn, a Mercedes, a pool, everything! And what do you have, Tam? Bloody nothing,” snarled Dan, looking at me with that steely-eyed poker face.

“Do you honestly deem your self worth on the basis of money in the bank, Dan,” I said.

“Hey, you! Don’t talk to Dan like that, Tam! Dan, I think someone is stinking jealous of your success. I’ll pay you \$10,000 to sell the house,” whispered Mum as I walked out. “Now where are you going, Tam,” Mum asked.

“That is none of your business,” I said as I slammed the door and went to the local shopping centre to order an egg and bacon roll and then head off to class.

A few hours later, I arrived home to find Dan and the real estate agent from XMar Realty talking to Mum. “Now what are you doing home so soon, Tam,” barked Dan.

“I live here, mate. So you can drop dead,” I snarled.

“Look, is there a problem here,” said the agent from XMar realty as he looked around.

“No not really, Sir,” said Dan seriously. “My sister cannot handle that I am rich and a person of importance and she is nothing but an undergraduate archeology student,” smirked Dan.

“What? You study archeology,” asked the agent, diverting his attention to me, much to the annoyance of my family.

“Yes, I do, and have just done four weeks work for a firm on ancient aboriginal relics,” I smiled.

“Excellent work, Tam,” said the real estate agent.

“Now can we talk shop, as I need this to be sorted out before I leave in an hour on the plane,” said Dan aggressively.

The real estate agent gave me a wink and talked things over with Dan.

“Now why do you have to disrupt things like that, Tam,” smirked Mum.

“Like what,” I said, looking at Mum, bewildered.

“You know and being a smart-aleck to Dan with the real estate agent,” said Mum, clearly annoyed that someone else actually valued me as a person.

“Oh, why don’t you just put a sock in it? I have an assignment to finish,” I said as I went to my room with a cup of coffee.

Soon, there was a knock on my bedroom door and it was Mum saying that Dan was leaving. “Look, don’t disturb me. I am busy. “

“I think someone is having a hissy fit, Dan,” said Mum as they went out of the door.

“Mum, don’t feel guilty about selling your house. Tam can buy her own house. She has had it far too easy all her life. If she put in the hard work, like myself, she could have exactly the same as us...maybe more,” said Dan seriously. Then Dan left and I proceeded to undertake a tedious 4000 word essay.

“Tam, would you be able to help me clean up the shed please,” said Mum, just opening my bedroom door without knocking.

“Do you mind not coming into my room when I am busy?”

“This is my house, Tam, and you have no say,” said Mum. “I am too wobbly to lift up heavy boxes and organize matters.”

“What is in it for me, Mum,” I said.

“How about that new laptop you saw in the computer shop a few weeks ago,” said Mum, surprisingly supportive.

“Okay then. I will do the assignment later.”

I made my way to the shed to sort umpteen numbers of boxes and carry the excess rubbish to the bins.

CHAPTER 4

TITLE DEED

I started to make headway in the rubbish. I sorted them out in three piles: true rubbish to be collected by the waste disposal, the pile for charity and the rest to keep. It was exhausting work and it did not make it easy when Mum came down and started asking nonsocial questions. “Now, would you be able to go through the rubbish again and see if you haven’t accidentally thrown out the title deed,” said Mum, oblivious to all the hard work that I have done.

“Why don’t you do that yourself? I have no idea what a title deed looks like,” I said, trying to pretend that I was totally stupid.

“Don’t give me that Tam. Just look for it as I cannot sell the house without it,” said Mum. “Now I will make you a cuppa and let me know if you have found it.”

I looked once again and I could not find it. Then, I went upstairs to have a cuppa and Mum asked “Did you find it, Tam?”

“No Mum, I could not,” I faltered. “Now is my time and I am going to finish off my paper.”

“Well, I have just spoken to Dan and he wants to fax you details on how to fill out a new application for the title deed.

“Well my fax is broken down and he can dictate to me over the phone,” I said.

“You know Dan has pride in his work and doesn’t want to have the details confused,” said Mum.

“Who says that I am incapable of taking down a few notes,” I wailed.

“Now take it steady, Tam. Is there something wrong with you,” asked Mum, knowing full well she was well and truly getting on my blasted nerves.

“Well, you can do that yourself then, smartarse,” I said.

“Now Tam, you know that Dan is prominent in his work and it is wise to follow his directions.”

“Oh okay. When does he want it done, Mum,” I barked.

“Tomorrow and I will give you the money,” said Mum, smirking.

The next day it was cold, wet and raining, but despite my protests, I had to fulfill Mum’s requirements to pay for an ad as the title deed was missing. Once I was done completing all the rigmarole and paying the receptionist, I walked out and went to class. Then, Mum phoned me in the middle of class for something, but I switched my mobile off and promptly forgot about it as

after class I had to do a few hours work.

After work, I arrived home to a hostile reception from Mum. "Tam, I have been ringing you all day and you don't even pick up the phone," barked Mum.

"Well the world does not evolve around you and your damn house," I said, not giving a damn.

"Well, I just need the shed's stuff to be sorted out as the bloke is coming to pick it up at the end of the week," said Mum gruffly.

"Well, you have to consider my work and classes, Mum," I said, feeling well and truly cheesed off.

"Dan told me that you can do your course online and that you can do a few hours for him instead of working for that shonky café," indicated Mum.

"It is really none of anyone's business where I work or study, but my own, and just tell Dan I am not interested in working for him. I would rather beg on the street than take his blasted orders," I said flatly.

"Oh, is that so, Tam," smirked Mum.

"Yes, that is so, smartarse," I said as I slammed the door, wishing I could just vanish into thin air and not have to deal with this family ever again.

A few days later, Dan was ringing up about problems with the deed application. We would now have to go to the land titles office to fill in some forms. "Okay then, tell Dan to email me the details and I'll put them on the form," I faltered.

"No he wants to fax the details, but your fax isn't working...so I have suggested the local post office, Tam," said Mum.

"No Mum, Dan can email me the details...keep it simple, stupid," I barked at her.

"Tam, are you trying to sabotage my sale of my house," smirked Mum.

"No but you and Dan are deliberately making it difficult on me when you are fully well aware that I have my own work and study to do," I faltered trying to stand up for my rights but not succeeding.

"Poppycock Tam, those few classes and work you do. Dan says that you have more than enough time to fit in what he wants," Mum stated seriously.

"Oh, is that so, and do I get paid for it," I retorted, becoming quite fed up with her smart aleck remarks.

"Are you trying to be a bitch to Dan and I," said Mum with a smug face. "I just don't understand you and frankly I blame your father for allowing you to behave in such an appalling manner."

"Well the same could be said about Dan. That bloody shitface," I said as I went to my room feeling downcast and deflated.

Over the next few days, in between work and classes, I managed to tidy up the shed. That

was on top of Dan constantly ringing up Mum and telling her what he wanted. Mum was following his requirements to a tee without any thought to the ramifications of her actions.

“Now, the man from the charity is coming tomorrow, Tam. Would you mind staying home until it is collected,” asked Mum innocently.

“Yes, in fact, I do mind as I have an extra tutorial and have to work,” I lied, hoping to put her in a position.

“Really? But Tam, you never work Fridays,” said Mum seriously.

“This week I have to,” I bluffed, “but I will be home when my shift finishes, which is around lunch time.”

CHAPTER 5

RUBBISH REMOVAL

“Oh okay, as I have to go to the dentist,” said Mum.

Well, after work and class I arrived home and the charity van had just arrived. “Now have you the stuff ready for collection, baby doll,” indicated the young man who reminded me of an anorexic meat loaf.

“Sure, it is right here,” I indicated, pointing to the direction of where the stuff was packed in boxes.

“Ma'am,” asked Meatloaf.

“Yes, what do you want?”

“Would you be so kind as to allow me to have some of these chisels? I do part time wood carving,” he asked pleasantly.

“Yes sure, and if the charity queries then phone me,” I indicated as I scribbled down the number on his notepad.

“Gee, thanks you're a legend,” said Meatloaf as he walked off with the bric-a-brac that I had donated.

After this happened, Mum arrived home just as I was going inside. “So you have finished work, Tam, or maybe you haven't even gone,” said Mum snarling at me.

“What would make you say something like that,” I retorted, puzzled at her behavior.

“Well I rang your work, Tam,” said Mum, “and they said you were not their today.”

“Of course, Mum,” I said, knowing full well my boss had backed me up today.

CHAPTER 6

REMOVALISTS ORGANISED

Soon the real estate agent came to take photos of the house just as Mum had found the original title deed. “Tam, you never guess what I have just found,” said Mum waving the paper as I was packing up yet another few boxes after work.

“No, I have no idea, Mum. Enlighten me,” I faltered.

“Well, I have found the missing title deed and wonder where I am going to hide it,” sneered Mum.

“I think you had better tell the real estate agent,” I said honestly.

“Tam, for once in your life can you cut the moral high ground with me and just do as I ask, please? I beg you,” said Mum on her knees pleading me as if she was a five-year-old.

“Oh okay, just put it in here,” I said thoughtfully.

“What about sticking it on the inside, Tam?”

“Yes, but I am going to need more sticky tape,” I said.

“Okay, I will get it off the bench for you, Tam,” said Mum I packed up the box more and stuck it on the inside and hoped that the removers would not find it when we moved.

“Now that is done, Mum,” I said as I finished yet another box.

“Tam you know that money you have in the safe? How do you propose to carry that on the plane,” asked Mum.

“Well, put it in my purse,” I said, feeling exhausted.

“How about you put it into this account that Dan and Meryl have organized and I will take care of that for you,” said Mum

“Oh okay,” I said feeling totally exhausted, not thinking what I was doing and handing her the money. This was the last time I would ever see my money and it showed how easily you can be scammed by your own family.

After the money was safely deposited in the account, the real estate agent phoned to say that he had a buyer. The buyer came to visit and stayed briefly, but I was told to make myself scarce as usual. Luckily, I had extra shifts for work and when I arrived home, I found that the house was currently under contract and that Caleb from Canada was going to buy the house.

“Now Tam, do you mind to organize and pay for hotels, plane fares and removals,” said Mum.

“Why don’t you pay, Mum,” I said.

“Well most of the furniture is yours, Tam, so it is only right that you pay,” said Mum. “Mmmm, well then I am not going, Mum,” I said, feeling like this was the worst decision Mum had ever made in her life.

“See if I care, Tam, as I will throw all your furniture on the dump and will get Dan and Meryl to help me,” said Mum.

“Now where do I fit in all this?”

“You can live at the backpackers and this is none of your concern, Tam,” said Mum seriously.

“Oh, is that so? Well you can organize matters yourself then,” I said, slamming my door, disgusted with her attitude.

CHAPTER 7

RON AND GWEN

There was a hub of activity over the next week or so. The removalists were called and organized and hotels and airfares booked, much to my reluctance.

One of the neighbors' spoke to me just as I had finished my last day on the job. "Is it true, Tam, that you and your mother are leaving the neighborhood," asked Gwen.

"Yes, I am afraid so," I faltered.

"Now you wouldn't like to ask your mother if she could sell the house to me," indicated Ron seriously.

"I don't think so as she would not even let me buy it and I am family," I said.

"Oh is that the way she is working, Tam," said Gwen. "Who is doing all this manipulating?"

"It is mainly my brother and his missus," I said looking downcast.

"Now are you moving as well, Tam," asked Gwen.

"Yes and I have to throw in my job here," I said.

"Do you mean your mother is selling the house from under you and on top of that disrupt your studies and work? I am glad she is not my mother," indicated Gwen.

"I know what you mean, Gwen," I said.

"Now Tam, do you and your mother want some drinks and nibbles here before you go?"

"I'll ask her and I'll let you know."

"Tam, Tam? Where are you," screamed Mum. And then she popped her head out of the door and saw that I had been talking to the neighbors.

"Talking to the neighbors again, Tam," snarled Mum.

"Hey you there, pipe down, woman," said Ron seriously, "and stop upsetting your daughter here... you selfish cow."

Mum was taken back and said to him, "Ja ja. Tam come in at once!"

I came inside and felt the wrath of her fury as she went on and on that I was gossiping. "Well, the removals called and we will be moving tomorrow," said Mum. "They confirmed it while you were away so you had better defrost the fridge and clean it out. I have done enough today," sighed Mum as she sat on the couch. I was in no mood for arguing, but asked Mum if she wanted to come with me to see Ron and Gwen for a few nibbles. "Oh no, Tam, I will be glad to get away from here and be closer to my little Dan and sweet Meryl," said Mum knowing that this was another kick in the guts.

“Well, everything is good to go, Mum, and I have cleaned the fridge and freezer and it can dry out as I have opened the door. I am going to have the rest of the food that is in here and call it a day,” I sighed pretending to be really tired. Luckily, Mum did not catch on as I finished my meal and pretended to go to bed, but secretly climbed out of the window and visited Ron and Gwen.

“Hi Tam,” said Ron who opened the door.

“You made it,” said Gwen and a few other neighbors. “It is not going to be the same without you. Sit down and have a few nibbles.”

“I better get home after a few hours,” I said. “We leave tomorrow.”

“What is that mother of yours up to?”

“Nothing much, but manipulated to the hilt by her own son and he is nicely taking advantage of the whole situation.”

“Well enjoy this and relax, Tam,” said Gwen smiling. The neighbors’ gave me all a hug and I nearly burst into tears at the thought of leaving them behind.

Later, I snuck on in my bedroom and went to sleep. The next morning I awoke feeling surprisingly refreshed. “Well are you interested in a bacon and egg roll, Mum,” I said, trying to be chirpy.

“Is it McDonalds , Tam?”

I rushed out of the house and ignored her requests. I went to the little corner store down the road and bought two bacon and egg rolls and snuck two hungry jacks wrappers on them.

I took my time and enjoyed a large cappuccino and went home. “Sit down and enjoy, Mum,” I said, not taking any notice of her and her dramas.

“Hey, these are beautiful. Are these McDonalds Tam?”

“No they are...they are Hungry Jacks,” I lied. “look on the wrapper.”

Just as breakfast was finished, the removal van just arrived and everything was loaded up. It was tedious work and then I realized that Mum had not done any of her cupboards or wardrobes. This caused yet a further delay and on top of this the removals were determined to get the most out of us. “Now you people, would you be so kind as to purchase us some coffee,” they asked Mum. Mum started to get money out of her purse and then realized that they should provide their own food and drink.

“Now you listen here, matey, buy your own,” snarled Mum and on that occasion I thoroughly agreed with her. They look surprised, bought their own coffee and soon after that everything was finally loaded up. After Mum sorted out matters with the real estate agent, he left and so did the removal van.

Now I was feeling beyond exhausted and I said to Mum that the bus would soon be arriving to take us to the casino. “First things first, Tam, There is vacuum cleaning to be done. Dan insists,” snarled Mum.

“Sorry Mum, you do it. I am going,” I faltered watching her eyes turn into slits.

“Tam, you are not going to leave me on my own,” sneered Mum trying to fake tears running down her face.

“Cut the crap, Mum. I am buggered and I am going. That is the last bus for today,” I said. “Don’t you remember they changed the timetables Mum?”

“Oh yes you’re right, Tam. I’ll get my bag and we can do this cleaning tomorrow,” sighed Mum.

CHAPTER 8

AT THE CASINO

Soon, we went on the bus, at the casino and were taken to our rooms. “Now Tam, would you be able to get some food from the café? Here is some money,” said Mum seriously.

“Mum, I seriously need to have a sleep,” “I faltered. “Okay, I will get some supplies.” I ordered some food and went to our hotel room and Mum was waking up from a nap.

“Tam, would you mind to buy a port? All this stuff will not fit in,” she pleaded.

“Jees, Mum,” I said at the thought of walking to the discount store at this hour.

“Well here is the money and keep the change, Tam,” said Mum sounding surprisingly generous.

I went to the store purchased a port that was half price, kept the change and threw away the docket. “Gee, that is a nice port and it is so bright, Tam,” smiled Mum.

“Well I did my best, Mum,” I said.

“How much did you pay for it, Tam?”

“Forty dollars,” I lied.

“Oh that is alright. I expected much more than that,” said Mum.

CHAPTER 9

SNORING

"I am going to pack my stuff in the port, Tam," said Mum.

"Yes, I think I will have a shower, eats and bed," I sighed.

Later, the both of us went to our beds and I tried to sleep, but to no avail as Mum was determined to disturb my night's sleep with her continual snoring that she was doing. It was so annoying, but in the end the both of us fell asleep from exhaustion.

"Now, are you going to help clean up the house, Tam," asked Mum.

"You did it yesterday," I faltered.

"Did I? No Tam, we didn't and Dan wants it done... this is our last day here and if you come with me then the buffet dinner is on me," said Mum pleasantly.

"Okay," I said and soon everything was cleaned spick and span. "Now how about we go to the casino," I said.

"Yes, not a bad idea and have a late buffet lunch," said Mum.

There was a call on Mum's phone and she said the keys had to be given to the real estate agent. "Would you mind to do that for me and then we'll both go for the early dinner," said Mum, surprisingly pleasant. "How about you meet me in the pokies and I'll shout you five dollars so you can have a flutter?"

"Okay Mum," I said as I waited in the hotel foyer for the agent to pick up the keys. I did not have to wait too long, luckily, and soon he arrived and picked up the keys. He then shook my hand and wished me the best for my move.

After that, I proceeded to the pokies and had a few games with Mum, and later enjoyed a peaceful meal together. Mum was smiling and I said, "Someone is happy today."

"Tam, that is because I will be closer to my little boy Dan and sweet Meryl," beamed Mum.

Luckily I had finished off my meal, as that comment made me feel so sick inside...but I needed a quick getaway. "Mum, you don't mind if I have a little flutter on the pokies?"

Mum looked at me and said, "Of course Tam. You might as well enjoy yourself," she smirked, knowing full well what she was saying.

I played a little while and then went back to my hotel room and saw Mum packing everything away. "It is D-Day tomorrow, Tam," she smiled.

"I am having a shower, Mum," I said, not wanting to draw attention to how cheesed off I felt.

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