

The Assassination of Political Robocalls

A Novella

By Michael E. Kelley

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#assassinationpr

To my Grandpa Dye who told an exciting story nearly every time I saw him.

To my parents who gave us the best life they could afford.

To my kids who, after they heard all the children's books twice,
let me make up stories.

To my English teachers who were driven into early retirement.

To all the folks at Lulu.com.

And most of all, to my wife, Sue,
who gave up precious quality time for this book.

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Prologue

The quintessential example of randomness has always been all around us. Such a mathematical curiosity has an unusual beauty to it as well as offering some bewilderment. Take the cluster of darts around the center of a dartboard. The two furthest darts are nearly the same distance from the center. Grab the darts, throw them again toward the dartboard and the two farthest darts will be different from the previous two darts.

Likewise, the passengers on a plane illustrate natural randomness. Their nationalities are random. Most have never met the others, but all of the geographically diverse passengers decided to take exactly the same plane at exactly the same time from exactly the same location to another identical location.

In the same way, the detective in a murder case, that examines all the witnesses and suspects, must start with a list

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of random names. Then methodically the detective examines each random name and puts a profile together including who that person is, what they know, who they know, where they were, when they were there and why they were there.

In a like manner, political robocalls, as much as we hate them, are random. The dialed numbers are sequential, but the geological locations within an area code are random, the nationalities of the people called are random, and the results of the calls are random.

Similarly the people at a public event such as a dedication all have wildly varying backgrounds, but they all arrived from different locations to the same location at approximately the same time just like darts in the center of a dartboard.

The following events are about such a quintessential group of people. They came from different places with different backgrounds, and they showed up at a public event at the same time in the same place. As of that moment, all of their lives were changed forever.

1 - The Speech

In the nation's capital of Washington, D.C., there was quite a lot of greenery especially at the National Mall. There also were hundreds of thousands of people gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 28th Constitutional Amendment. The early April weather was perfect for a celebration – cool and no breeze.

The President of the United States, Debra King, was in the middle of her speech commemorating the anniversary. Her brown shoulder length hair was perfectly in place. The navy blue fitted coat and matching knee-length skirt were snug.

“Democracy is the foundation of this magnificent country which means everyone votes whether that person is male, female, black, white, poor, rich, majority or minority. This means voting for the innovative candidates and voting against the unproductive ones.”

The audience applauded.

“This means voting for people who will move us into the future but will keep an eye on the deficit except in times of war or recession.

This means voting for improvements to one’s educational system and minimizing regulations on start-up companies.

This means voting for improving infrastructure as well as tourism to create jobs.

And your congress has responded.”

Slight applause could be heard.

“We have invoked additional rights for gays and women.

It is about time.”

The crowd cheered.

“Social Security is solvent despite all the fears back then.

It is about time.”

More cheers were heard.

“Legislation has passed which will balance the budget for the first time since Bill Clinton was in office.

Together now.”

The crowd responded, “It is about time.” Then it cheered.

“And most important of all, money has been taken out of politics.”

The crowd cheered some more.

“Then America became the 39th country to have a female head of state.

What took so long?”

The audience laughed.

“Despite our critics and doubters, America will prosper.

America will innovate.

America will grow.”

The crowd cheered some more.

“America will continue to be the leader of the free world—”

President King’s eyes quickly rolled up and into her head, and she collapsed in a heap on the ground next to the lectern as if someone had punched her right cheek. There were a few moments of silence, and then the screaming began. The police immediately sprang to life and flew their jetpacks toward the stage. Secret Service agents rushed to King and flanked her with their pistols drawn.

The reaction of the crowd ranged from shock to panic. Random screams of “No!” and “Is she OK?” rippled across the National Mall.