

\$ECRETS\$

Ongoing series – Psychological Thriller / Sc-Fi /
Financial-Legal Drama

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An ancient Egyptian relief carving in a warm, golden-brown hue. It depicts a man with a long, full beard and a tall, textured headdress. He is shown in profile, facing right, with his right arm extended towards a large, detailed lion. The lion is standing on its hind legs, facing the man. The background is a plain, textured surface. The overall style is characteristic of ancient Egyptian art, with clear lines and a focus on symbolic representation.

ABOUT

In this psychological / Sci-Fi thriller, war hero, loving father, financial planner Dempsey, seeks peace. But what happens if he can't defeat his trauma-rooted viciousness? What is set in motion when this loved commander captures an Iraqi archaeological site - with Nephilim medical secrets - and is tricked by rogue CIA agents and is hounded by psychotic, vengeful characters, each with secret agendas? Imagine *Suits* meets *The X-Files*.



THEMES

Despite human weakness—even a proclivity toward vicious violence—one can be a more complete hero by choosing to not return malice for malice. Also: You never know who will react psychotically to your challenge... or what a shadow government will do to get alien technology.

FRANK DEMPSEY

Age 30; traditional-values and patriotic husband and father to girls 6, 3 and *in-utero*, fiercely—even murderously—protective of those in his care. Years before this tale, at the Citadel college where both civilian and military tracks existed, Dempsey was an ROTC cadet pursued by civilian student Margaret (Mags) Goast. He was repelled by her pushing that the hyper-successful pair would have super-children; she never even got to first base. Dempsey is a straight arrow whose traditional values (fathering children, patriotism, etc) were inspired by his white father and black mother who were killed by a KKK attack on his church when he was a very young boy. That trauma left him with a dangerous secret that duels with the good in him: He is vicious when those he cares about are threatened. Dempsey is a war hero, financial planner in an initially one-man practice; he is a quiet helper of the downtrodden in Williamsburg, VA. His discovery of alien tech under the combat scene is suppressed in his memory, but he kept a cuneiform tablet souvenir that leads to recovering the tech.





MAGS GOAST

Age 34, a rising star and senior auditor “Director, Agents Investigation” for the Virginia Department of Insurance. She reports to the elected Commissioner of Insurance, yet still conducts some audits personally... and in a targeted manner. Goast targets Dempsey for two hidden reasons: 1. She has a “crusader” and power complex, despising all who earn commissions “taken” from consumers. We even glimpse from her “trophy wall” the possibility that she killed her parents long ago just to gain Dempsey’s sympathy and affinity. 2. Dempsey’s rejection of her in college boils over as he rebuffs her one more time now that he is a regulatory target. Goast is easily enraged by perceived challenge from those she audits and even superiors. She is a psychopath, tormenting regulated professionals; killing anyone who would dare offend her. This tormentor does not know what she is bringing out in Dempsey.

JACK MELTON

CIA pre-retiree, age 56, trainer at Camp Peary, VA. Jack is a close friend and client of Dempsey. Jack wants his career-threatening, estranged wife Macy dead and cannot trust her with discovery of the Nephilim tech the pair was sent to obtain once Dempsey secured the beachhead. The beachhead lost and Dempsey's memory is suppressed, both monitor Dempsey for clues to the "Resurrection Room". Friend Jack convinces Dempsey that Macy is dangerous.





BRANDON WALSH

Age 42, Dempsey's former Battalion C.O.; relieved of command, blamed by higher-ups—not Dempsey—for sending Dempsey's company across the Euphrates with no support (first Iraq war). Now in the CIA and receiving training under Melton, Walsh sought assignment that brings him in proximity to Dempsey. He becomes a client, secretly resentful and jealous of Dempsey, and intends to misuse Dempsey's advice to defraud siblings out of what will be an ill-gotten inheritance.

SEASON ONE

War-tortured hero, Frank Dempsey is dedicated to nation, family and traditional values. He is a community pillar and rising financial planner. Relied on by clients, he aids the homeless and rich alike. The series opens with Dempsey surrounded in battle - in the 1991 Iraq War - as he discovers two things: 1. An ancient structure (sought by the CIA and - in real life - may be Gilgamesh's "Resurrection Room") and 2. His own blood-thirstiness erupts, a "justifiable-killing compulsion," when those he cares about are endangered. Jack and Macy were responsible for Dempsey's mission and have continued to monitor him for memory of the ancient mystery he encountered in Iraq. The pair no longer trust each other. After the war, regulator Margaret Goast intimidates Dempsey, threatening jail away from wife and kids. Goast seethes at Dempsey's and her Insurance Commissioner boss' parries to her authority. She grins at a trophy board marked "White Knight" for fined licensees; there is implication she killed her parents to gain Dempsey's affinity (he was tragically orphaned as a boy, causing his protector syndrome). Goast kills her boss with a similar axe and knife to those Dempsey used in war. She did not know Dempsey's tools are dented, and would have left forensic marks. So he is off the hook, but suspects Goast. She stalks his kids, tempting him to murder: Police dismiss this; he must kill Goast himself. Jack, a friend/client, provides a CIA drug for kidnapping Goast. But Dempsey must kill Jack's estranged wife Macy, an unjust threat to friend Jack, enhancing Jack's alibi. Jack provides toxic fruit from where Macy vacationed to make her poisoning appear accidental. By the end of Season 1, Dempsey prepares to kill Goast but balks; returns drugged Goast to her apartment. A secretly vengeful client, Brandon Walsh (Dempsey's war C.O., relieved for endangering Dempsey's troops; now CIA recruit/student under Jack), tails Dempsey. Walsh copied the dents on Dempsey's weapons and kills Goast with mimicked weapons!



SEASON TWO

Dempsey struggles to prove his innocence in the murder of the Commissioner and Goast.

Threat to Dempsey's marriage at the end of season one or in season two.

As season progresses, more of his crises as a father, husband, businessmen, community man must be shown.

Dempsey makes second attempt at convincing Jack to not kill Macy. He solves the murder for police; they arrest WALSH.

Walsh offers to trade his suspicions about who (Macy and Jack) pretended to be his brigade commander, sending the battalion north of the Euphrates and why that spot was to be captured. He steals Dempsey's souvenir cuneiform tablet and offers it as proof that something there was a clandestine target of the CIA, valuable enough to risk encirclement of his men... and for the agents to illegally return to Iraq to investigate.

SEASON THREE

Dempsey's firm grows as a protégé of Goast begins to harass him and his firm. He is pressured by the CIA to have a drug-assisted examination of his memory of what he experienced in An-Nasiriyah. Dempsey asks for protection from regulators in return.

The FBI becomes very interested in Walsh's testimony and works a deal.

Iraq is pressured by the U.S. president to open An-Nasiriyah to a secret dig and inspection under the pretense of recovering bodies of U.S. soldiers. Jack and Macy are tasked to head up the excavation...



\$ecret\$ Writer Bio

Dan graduated from Virginia Military Institute (1981), third among Economics majors, simultaneously completing the Modern Languages curriculum. He served in the Infantry, then as a reservist in a Special Forces support role, next as a Training Company Commander and later in a classified Army Research Institute role. Dan completed his Master of Business Administration at William & Mary (1986). He and wife Laura married in 1988, loved raising their four children, and assisted both Boy and Girl Scouting through their church from 2000 to 2010. Dan was a nationally recognized Financial Planner from 1987 through 2017. He is the author of numerous business and pension articles since 1992, with technical and dramatic non-fiction articles appearing in Virginia Lawyers Weekly, Financial & Estate Planning, Creative Loafing and Charlotte Ventures. Now retired to writing, his *The Secrets of Successful Financial Planning* was published in 2018 by Skyhorse Publishing to rave reviews and earned the CWG Seal of Approval. His 1998 novel, *The Pleistocene Redemption*, sold many thousands and is revised as *Ancient of Genes (AOG)*.



Dan is the author of numerous short stories published by Superversive Press, NFAA Archery, Millhaven Press and Tuscan Bay Press. His projects include humor shorts and Sci-Fi anthologies (one cryptozoological). Dan, wife-for-life Laura and their four children now hail from Charlotte, NC. See excerpts, reviews and art: AuthorDan.com. Rights Inquiries: The William Pettit Agency