MIKE HAMPTON’S

SAME SHIT, DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT

#1

Book 1: The Corruption & The Intimidation

A citizen’s fight against the ‘liberal’ corruption of South Africa’s Democratic Alliance party
Mike Hampton's

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A citizen's fight against the 'liberal' corruption
of South Africa's Democratic Alliance Party

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PLEASE HELP: Your ‘payment’ for this book is you sharing this link so that more people get it for free – Download 'Same Shit, Different Government'. Imagine me, in the voice of Samuel L. Jackson, ordering you to: "Expose the motherfuckers!"
PREVIOUS 'REVIEWS' OF MIKE HAMPTON:

"I have it on good authority that the DA are actively trying to get you out, by whatever means possible." - Candace Myers (wife of Knysna DA Chairperson)

“He will eventually be driven into a cave where he belongs.”
- Mark Allan (Knysna businessman and co-admin with DA of Facebook propaganda page)

“Your image of him as a hero is fantasy, much as there are many women who still support Oscar Pistorius and think he is an innocent victim...

We will see Hampton do jail time.”
- Dr Martin Young (DA Councillor)

“Count me in....”
- Sue Ryan (Knysna Ubuntu Party Leader) response
to DA propaganda page asking for financial donations to jail Hampton

“There are a number of frivolous allegations... raised by Mike Hampton...”
- Bonginkosi Madikizela (DA Western Cape Leader)

“Some officials are of the view that court action against you, with or without charge of criminal liability, might be a realistic solution to ensure that your ongoing defamatory action stops.”
- Attorney Fiona Stewart on behalf of Premier Helen Zille, Minister Anton Bredell and Minister Alan Winde (all high-ranking DA members)

“Ask him about his unnatural interest in children... especially boys!

I have first hand proof of this in my own home.”
- Protecting Brand Knysna (DA propaganda page)

“He's been run out of Queensburgh and Pietermaritzburg, allegedly on account of the parents of young boys (and a few girls) becoming concerned about the undue attention he gives them.” - Baden Hall (friend of disgraced Knysna Tourism CEO)

“His recent appeal for a child in need may also be a scam – a way to enrich himself.”
- Peter Myers (DA Knysna Deputy Mayor)

“Attach his house. I'll buy it on auction and put a big DA flag on it.”
- Carl Krim (online propaganda supporter)

“He just does not seem to get the message that he's unwanted!”
- Manon McDonald (Fleet Manager for DA-led Municipalities Knysna and George)

“Can we put it to a vote, you know, like delete and block him from Knysna.”
- Angie Manser (online propaganda supporter)

“If only the people of Knysna stop enabling, he will have to pack his bags and go.”
- Captain Dewald Kitching (Knysna Station, South African Police Service)
"Knysna Municipality has once again fallen victim to allegations brought by serial blogger, Mike Hampton." - Knysna Municipality

"We declined to attend because we were concerned attendance alongside Mr Hampton would reinforce the view that there may have been some validity in his allegations."
- Georlene Wolmarans on why she failed to attend hearing in Parliament (DA Mayor)

"Perhaps Mr. Hampton should start thinking of writing novels instead of trying to act as a news reporter."
- Attorney Dalene Willems (wife of DA Mayor Mark Willems)

"[He] cost us millions in tourism! While people are dying, his ego prevails."
- Esme Edge a.k.a. Esme Jefferys (ex-DA Knysna Deputy Mayor)

"The person costing the ratepayers millions is Hampton."
- Advocate Julie Seton (ex-DA candidate, married to Esme Edge)

"Mr. Hampton is doing our town and its hard-working servants immeasurable damage with his blogging."
- Dr Douglas Seton (brother of Advocate Seton)

"The Office of the Mayor is disappointed that Knysna Blogger, Mike Hampton, has chosen to go public with unsubstantiated allegations and unfounded claims of corruption and cover-ups in the Knysna Municipality."
- Christopher Bezuidenhout (Knysna Municipality Communications Manager)

"How does a person who probably requires psychological help ends up with such a following that the Sunday Times quotes him."
- Knysna Knews (another DA Facebook propaganda page)

"Please don't encourage this person, Eben Jansen. You know me well enough to trust me on this."
- Richard Newton (DA Spokesperson) to SABC news presenter

"We'll meet in the street. That's where the playing fields are levelled, on the street."
- Clinton Manuel (Knysna Fire Chief)

“Go fuck yourself!”
- Martin Hatchuel (copywriter for Knysna Municipality and Knysna Tourism)

“You're a cunt. Merry Xmas.”
- Danie Nel (friend of Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring)

“If he was my son, I would hold his head in a bucket till the bubbles stopped.”
- Mark Beard (prominent Knysna businessman and DA propaganda supporter)

“Oh no, he's back again.”
- Tim Procter (DA supporter)
DEDICATION

To the President of the Republic of South Africa, may words against corruption become truth through action so that this isn't loss, I'm not lost, a town & country saved.

To rare South Africans who'll read this book without bias & with concern for truth.

To women who made me stronger - Rene Reid, Anne Campbell & Tessa Comrie.

For their kindness, to James Hampton, Anneke Krijger, Rita Miller and Neville Miller. For distant friendships, to Brent Kozak, Monique Giannikos, Steven Lange & Fat Keith Meyering.

To whistleblowers, activists, charity workers and single parents - you're the best!

To everyone who made me think and live better. To teachers, writers, musicians, philosophers, unbedded war journalists, filmmakers (especially documentarians) & actresses I fell in love with (again and again).

To Marilyn Manson, Bill Maher, Desmond Tutu, Edward Snowden, Noam Chomsky, Arundhati Roy, Sam Harris, Mehdi Hasan, Chris Hedges, Chelsea Manning, Clive Barker, Justin Furstenfeld, Robert Smith, Amanda Palmer, Roger Waters, David Fincher, Chan-wook Park, Yuriy Bykov, Asghar Farhadi, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Laura Poitras, Alex Gibney, Adam Curtis, John Pilger, Aaron Sorkin, Josh Whedon & Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

To Radiolab, Al Jazeera, Tom Dispatch, WikiLeaks, Democracy Now, Motherjones, The Economist & Wikipedia (for feeding thought).

To Escombe Library, Escombe Primary, Queensburgh Boys’ High & Queensburgh Municipality (for letting me be the first kid to observe Council and drink beer).

To Monk’s Inn, Burn Night Club, The Winston Pub & lots of awesome rock bands.

Special thanks to those who've hurt me and the Knysna I love. Without you, this book wouldn't exist.
WAKE UP!

Wicked politicians and their cronies will be coming for me. This book assures their arrival. Lawyers are already threatening me for breaking DA-linked gag orders. They want to jail the truth with me. Before they do that, or I turn my life upside down in further protest, I've got a lot to say.

Whilst you're watching too much sport, you're missing the match of our lives. It's a game where loss means our hope of a better future being kicked off a cliff.

I'm not a fake. This is too important to dance to a politically correct song. You don't know where someone stands unless they tell you what they're thinking without a hundred filters changing “Fuck you!” into “I disagree.” You don't have to like me, but I want you to trust me. So, I'm going to say it like it is. I'm going to, for example, say “whites” and “blacks”, not “white people” and “black people”. More importantly, I'm going to label the bastards and bitches, the idiots and crooks. Where I've been witness or I'm in possession of the facts, I'm not going to say “alleged”. If its arse is bright blue, it's a baboon.

The series is called 'SAME SHIT, DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT'. This, 'Book 1: The Corruption & The Intimidation', describes the political corruption I uncovered in my small hometown of Knysna that converted me to activism. I discover that it stretched to the political seat of power in hypocritical Cape Town. The reaction by the guilty Democratic Alliance (DA) party was to turn my life into a horror show. You can read this as a standalone book of helplessness. 'Book 2: The Devil, The Deaf & The Dead' will dig deeper, showing the South African government to be broken and biased. I'll prove my case by relating my disturbing interaction with Government bodies and Chapter 9 institutions. Hopefully, there'll be a third book dedicated to punishment.

This series punches with links to the Corruption Library. Therein are my police cases, court files, Public Protector submissions, Parliament hearings, complaints to the Presidency and other agencies, forensic reports, emails with the DA leadership etc.

This book is published in the Public interest. That means for you and me. For my sake and yours, I need you to wake the fuck up! I hope moral South Africans ask why the criminals haven't been punished. I hope the President reads... and acts Presidential.
PREFACE

"I think the future of journalism is going to be a battle between caution and recklessness. And I think a little bit of recklessness is a good thing."

- Director Alex Gibney

This book is intended to be a goal against depressing authority, but my mind isn't in the right place to strike today. My thoughts leave in different directions to bounce against the wall and back into me at angles impossible to collect. Those entering places such as my arse are useless, and what remains in my head is a half-time tampon being used for the third time.

I pride myself with most-of-the-time control but it's obvious that I've lost it. Maybe old desperation never left me and is being kept company by anxiousness that there aren't many games left before I'm booted out of the tournament wherein the teams with all the money are smugly smiling at me.

My exercising has taken the form of filing thousands of emails and screenshots as steps towards compiling a timeline for reference by the authorities and me. By the time December 2018 arrives, my goal is to be focused on research, research and research. And then impossibly condense 8 years of fighting corruption into hundreds of pages impossibly written in frenetic weeks. I may have to steal from my older blogs. To make up for my brevity, I want to create web pages with fatty references, so you're guaranteed to know who’s rotten and that South Africa is in trouble in more ways than you realise. In our world of same shit/different government, who can we turn to?

But my plan isn't happening. I'm way behind... and haven't done something as simple as decide how many chapters there are going to be and what they'll be about.

But I'll file what I can and read more than a million words I'd blogged before (surely the best time reference of all). Then I've got to leave as much of me behind as possible; my jumpy mind, its red cards of frustration and daydreaming, and my desire to escape with the Beach Buggy Racing game on my laptop.

This unfulfilled position is far too usual to be awkward. It's not like I haven't started preparing legal documents too late, walked without sleep into a Court room of the enemy, and thereafter straight into a Council meeting instead of something sensible such as conversation about foreign movies, the lips of an interesting woman, a Windhoek Draught beer or a double shot of Jameson's Caskmate Stout Edition whisky.
Hell, I don't like soccer - that it became my metaphor here shows how screwed I am.

But soccer is certainly as South African as corruption, as South African as this book is going to be. And I'm no quitter in a game that isn't over. As the whistle blows, it's my turn to kick the bloody ball as hard as I can...

— Mike, 25 November 2018
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INTERRUPTION

If I Were the Devil

God, Politicians & Pastors

Please Stop Destroying South Africa

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa

Please Forgive Me

Will You Help Me?

About Me
"You seem not to realise that you are in no position to negotiate. I'm surprised you even tried. We hold all the cards, and have all the power to make your life really and truly miserable...

Jail is more than likely your next Knysna destination..."

- Dr. Martin Young (whom Premier Helen Zille allowed to become a Councillor one month later)

Blue. It's the primary colour in the logo of the Democratic Alliance (DA), the main political opposition party in South Africa. When they boast at election time, there's talk of a “blue wave”, as if it's something that'll wash away the bad parts of our country we don't want. But a wave can hold you underwater, drown you if you're there long enough.

I've been under their water for 8 years, looking pale and running out of air. To survive, I've got to use all I've got left to kick away from the bottom in hope of reaching the surface. That's what this book is. I'm kicking like mad, squeezing the bubbles out of me like there are a whole bunch of colours other than blue.

With this book, I'm breaking several protection orders the Court granted to politicians and a municipal leader against me. That I'm stating this here will be used against me. They'll probably jail me, and I can't stop myself from imagining the bad things that will happen to me there...

Protection Orders, as granted under the Protection from Harassment Act (PHA), are a grey area of our law, recent to our justice system. They may be civil in nature but cross the border into criminal because they're granted simultaneously with a warrant of arrest that can be enacted at the discretion of the investigating officer. Three of those and a High Court interdict will be set in motion as you read this. There are police who'll be happy to arrest me. Premier Helen Zille, the previous leader of the DA, and several of her henchmen, have previously threatened me with legal action too. Just because they're bullies doesn't mean that this won't be the encouragement for them to do it.

The DA doesn't want you know the truth, especially before the 2019 National elections which are only a few months away. This time they're scandal heavy so there's no talk of that blue wave. But they're still marketing themselves as the good guys. I want you to know how bad they are.

I've fought them because I believe in the Public interest, that we the “Public” must always be spelt with a capital “P”; that we're not slaves to Government which often needs reminding that it works for us. I'm no puritan, not only a wannabe do-gooder.
As said, it's also my survival I'm fighting for. By the end of this book, you'll understand. I want the crooked punished. I want a town saved. I want a life without fear.

I've been working my way up the ladder of power but I'm on a knot that's giving me resistance without explaining why. Normally, that means nothing's going to happen. This series is an attempt to get past the crippled men and women in the Presidency, to grab the attention of President Cyril Ramaphosa himself. Or, if he's kicked out in spectacular ANC fashion, then to reach whoever comes next.

Failing that, no matter what happens to me, at least more of you'll be warned about the bastards and bitches in blue. I don't hide my resentment, and I'm hoping that after a couple of hundred pages, you'll share it.

Since his inauguration early February 2018, President Ramaphosa's made lofty speeches against corruption. There's no doubt that those involved in state capture should be sunk at sea but it's disturbing that the crooks in the DA, his official political opposition, are being ignored. That's strange considering the approaching elections, and the long free ride the DA's been given despite its constant finger-pointing at the ANC.

Do us South Africans know who works for who, or only that there's always a hidden or not-so-hidden force wanting a slice of our economic pie? This book isn't about that but what seems certain is that no one is looking out for us.

Any President of our country must be against ALL corruption. He or she doesn't get to have favourites.

* * * * * *

I wanted to start with the intimidation I've suffered, shock you a bit with the horror of the DA. But that would be me letting my emotions get ahead of me. Luckily, other words are squirting out by themselves, sperms of thought hopefully swimming you to understanding what the DA have done, why they did it, and that what's happened in a little place called Knysna affects their national leadership. The Democratic Alliance are more the Devil's Alliance than anything related to democracy.

With the social, moral, and economic grave ex-President Jacob Zuma's ANC dug for us, we needed someone we could turn to. I was more like my culture than I realised, thinking that 'someone' to trust was the DA. But once I lifted that fine-looking, blue dress, "Oh my gosh, that the Devil's tail!"
It was stupid to be so naive since politics has been about power since the beginning of humankind.

But context requires a beginning. So, let’s go to where I was only a citizen stumbling into corruption in a small town. I was like any of you but different in that I found it impossible to let wrong go unpunished. It sure would’ve been harder for someone with a family to make the same choices which goes to show that us single people have purpose.

I'll get to the DA's fake liberalism in the next book but along the way it can be our inside joke.

This journey made me into an activist exposing more crime that's related to me getting in trouble instead of being thanked. At some point, I made the decision to sink whilst struggling for what I believe; initially for my town that's no longer my town but coming to realise that much more was on the hook.

I never expected to last this long, to be able to birth a book that began with too many watery similes and metaphors. Maybe that means that even when underwater, the sky is always above. Best I keep kicking towards it...
The Prettiest Town in South Africa

"It was cold by Salt River on Tuesday, mists of ghosts keeping me company as I shivered myself into being beautifully alive. I thought that it may be the last day of Winter, a desperate gasp to hold onto us before the flowers of Spring took over, singing, 'We live on the Garden Route, we live in Knysna, the prettiest town in South Africa."

- Mike Hampton

The social and power dynamics of a small town is different to a city. If you live in one, you probably know what I mean. Hell, cause my nickname from the Durban underground music scene was 'Wicked Mike', and I preferred the practicality of wearing black clothes, several Knysna folk asked me if I was a Satanist. They never seemed to believe me when I said, “No.” If only politics were so funny.

Some people have more power than anything possible if they were somewhere bigger. And woe to us if they're stupid or selfish, a combination being the bigger damage.

Whereas a white person with limited swagger in a city suburb might become the prima donna at the local tennis club, they could become a Mayor in a place like Knysna. It's quite easy to have no leadership abilities and record of social service yet become a councillor because you chose a certain social circle and one political party in particular – the DA. It's unsurprising that a lack of competency and empathy often accompanies.

I say "white person" because black politicians tend to run on rage at what their poorer neighbours haven't got. Have no doubt, they've got a lot to yell about with Apartheid having screwed them and their African National Congress (ANC) liberators having failed them, but that's not my point here. A black politician is more likely to have a long political history in their community whereas a white Democratic Alliance (DA) politician is more likely, as example, to be a failed estate agent needing a salary to keep up their social wine drinking. In the case of Knysna, that seems to be a true story.

Sure, the DA has black politicians too but there's fair argument for that being tokenism to win more power from the biggest market. It's political capitalism, the DA being a retailer wanting most of the population to buy its product. And they're willing to deliver a weaker product for a quick profit. It's like a manufacturer dropping potato crisps from 150g to 125g per packet, and then selling one flavour at the original weight as if it were on special. The consumer is conned. Have no doubt that you, the citizen, are the fucking consumer.

I have a problem with the DA promoting colour from nowhere instead of building
experience that will benefit our country longer than a smash and grab. By now, the DA should have given us strong black and coloured liberal leaders. Instead, they shoved white hands up non-white arses to dance to populism and socialism whilst speaking in liberal contradiction.

Yes, I’m purposely generalising but not intentionally pissing everyone off. Unfortunately, racial stereotyping plays a part in understanding South Africa, especially Knysna where white people rule with the assistance of higher ranked coloured people (whose culture seems more white than black). Think of it as adult contemporary pop versus kwaito with R&B stuck in between. Only those who aim a middle finger at an obviously broken system are rock 'n rollers.

Social demographics matter. Emphasising the difference is that the white population is in decline, only 9.1% nationwide yet 21% in Knysna. That's because retirees, with the means to relocate, love Knysna. They should. I consider it to be the prettiest town, as is of repeated by Brits, Germans, and Dutch (who've travelled the world).

None can deny the beauty of a lowtide walk from Lake Brenton to the Western Head where, along the way, you delight in storks, cormorants, and Egyptian geese. Small beaches with their own identities offer a unique view across the water to the Knysna Waterfront, Thesen Islands and Leisure Island. Then there's summer sunsets at Bollard Bay, clambering the ragged rocks of Coney Glen, riding a boat on the Knysna Estuary, descending the long stairs down a cliff into Jaap se Baai, sand in your toes at Gericke’s Point or Buffalo Bay, watching fish jump out of the river in Sedgefield, pastoral wonders on the 7 Passes Road, the Outeniqua Mountains peering like grandfather down on Karatara, friendly buck at Brenton-on-Sea and startlingly beautiful Loerie birds red-winging between the trees in search of yellow berries. Forests, estuaries, rivers and beaches makes Knysna almost fantasy. It’s attracted painters and musicians. It perfectly understandable that many choose to retire there.

But the Credit Card Boom created American-styled holiday homes in gated communities. Then the 2008 global recession made them as beautiful as bees on the flowers of weeds. Although some owners tumbled, unable to afford to pay for their trip to their holiday home, the allure of Knysna ensured they were replaced. Knysna simultaneously got richer whilst the majority got poorer.

Retirees, middle to upper class, and the rich in need of a playground, ensured an older, whiter and more conservative population for Knysna. As their names are unknown, their skin and politics is also unknown, but its remarkable that it was
reported that this little place has 13 residents worth more than R300-million (with 10 more living in Plettenberg Bay, a mere 30km away). Knysna's property market has been compared to Clifton in Cape Town, amongst the most luxuriously desired in the country. Gill Marcus, the ex-Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, lives here.

Banning fireworks, rightfully or wrongly, is an example of Knysna's minority power. "Don't fuck with out chihuahuas” proved more powerful than "Don't fuck with our culture."

* * * * *

Unlike the cities, the inequality between the haves and have-nots isn't hidden.

Journalist Ingrid Erlank summed up the contrast: “There is literally a rocket scientist with millions in the bank living less than a kilometre away from someone that boils stones so that her kids can go to sleep thinking there is food cooking. This a place where we are challenged by the true reality of our world.”

The poor have a view of the rich from the northern hills, and town centre is only a five to ten-minute taxi ride away. Likewise, I've met white people who've never been into the townships or claim kudos because they sometimes drop their maids off.

There are exceptions, wonderful people in every community, especially the charity sector (which is strong in Knysna), but I'm trying to present to you how things are in the bigger picture, not in the microcosm, and not how I want them to be.

Overall, it's a culture clash, a town divided without truly knowing itself.

* * * * *

I'm not saying most white people are rich – they're not. There's a big difference between the mega rich, the retiree, the worker and the unemployed. Most survive on appalling wages made smaller by escapism in bars (which isn't criticism because I'd like nothing more than to have a Windhoek or Mitchell's beer with some of them right now).

The recession changed Knysna forever. Small business owners closed and left. Homes and guest houses got bonded.

Young people still finish school at a running pace towards a city or a university far away from the battle for the best waitron job in a restaurant that will get the most people for 2 weeks in July or December, when Knysna is a prime tourist destination.

So, for those that are left, no matter colour, getting a well-paid job in local
government is the holy grail.

* * * * * *

There are rare exceptions, but rich Whites tend not to run for office, instead exerting influence on the town, mostly in support for the DA which is viewed as the anti-corruption party against the corruption of the ANC. No matter how multi-racial the DA claims to be, there are still many white people who vote for them because of “die swart gewaar”, the fear of black people one day slaughtering them.

Property development is also primarily the domain of white folk. It's reasonable to consider the possibility that those failed estate agents who become politicians could carry relevant bias. In the 8 years I've been an activist, that's included a Mayor, Deputy Mayor, District Councillor and Proportional Councillor (who joined the Mayoral Committee) - all DA. One property developer failed at his run for office via the ACDP. Another became the town planner. Maybe not all nefarious but also to do with the fact that politics and property are both a salesperson's game.

The way forward is to realise what we have in common, to express empathy and action towards the struggles of others, and to acknowledge the contributions made. If you're South African, you probably laughing at the possibility, not because you don't want it to be that way but because you've repeatedly witnessed the opposite on television. That most of us don't consider race as our biggest worry doesn't matter. On the fringes, hate speech, racist and xenophobic, is a growth product. And the politicians are always guaranteed to take advantage of it.

You'd expect there'd be a major fight in the Knysna Council, the local body comprised of politicians called “councillors”. However, often, it's in hollow words only. Once they're in the same bed, they'll tell the Public that there's no money to fix potholes whilst unanimously voting to increase their own pay. Ideologies vanish, replaced with personal greed and cross-party faction fighting that has got nothing to do with the health of the Public they're supposed to serve.

That, in part, likely had something to do with the 2018 assassination of ANC Chief Whip Victor Molosi. But that'll have to wait for the next book.

When Knysna was taken over by the DA in 2011, I felt positive about it. Following years turned that feeling upside down and me inside out. I discovered the abuse of Public funds, turned to the DA leadership for help, only to discover they were the bigger enemy. Consequently, I became an activist. And their biggest critic as I discovered more and more of their corruption. Their response was to
unconstitutionally block my emails. Their response was to lay crimen injuriae and harassment charges against me, and repeatedly take me to court to try break me. They tried to bribe me, they threatened me. And when that didn't work, they launched a lengthy social media propaganda campaign against me, associating me with child abuse and sociopathy.

The story begins with Knysna Tourism, a private company annually granted millions without tender by the Knysna Municipality. In turn, Knysna Tourism would give who they wanted work, without tender and generally without contract. It did so whilst politicians and municipal staff were on its Board of Directors and on its committees.

It was a cash cow for favouritism, ironically invaluable as it began unravelling the real DA.
The stunning Knysna Estuary at low tide and with the Outeniqua Mountains as backdrop
The Gravity of Slowly Digested Words

"The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country."

- Edward Bernays (responsible for changing the word 'propaganda' into 'public relations')

Before I lift the blue dress and jerk the Devil's tail, I want you to experience the gravity of definition. You'd normally find something like this at the start or end of a book, but that's also where almost no one will read it.

There are words and phrases we hear or use everyday which possibly need to be understood better; chewed more slowly, swallowed more seriously and never spat out casually lest the mess begin appearing normal. Make words mean what they mean so they add weight to the guilty.

Become aware of the people around you and the society you live in. Know your place and where you want to go. Know if you're a citizen, cow or concubine. Know if you're a victim or a predator.

Narcissists, Sociopaths & Psychopaths

The difference between narcissists, sociopaths and psychopaths is confusing since they have overlapping characteristics that can be further masked by self-awareness. Traditionally, they're perceived on a climbing scale, from narcissism (the least) through sociopathy to psychopathy (the worst). The more callous the abuser is, the more likely we're to refer to them as sociopath instead of narcissist, psychopath instead of sociopath.

Identifying characteristics include self-confidence, fearlessness, apathy, deceitfulness, shifting the blame for their actions onto others, disregard for the rights of others, manipulativeness, fake charm, bullying, obsessiveness and meanness.

A sociopath may have a small conscience, robbing a co-worker but feeling something was wrong. That makes it easier for the sociopath to pretend a weak emotion is a bigger one. The psychopath, who feels nothing for you, will have to totally mimic it.

For the same reason, the sociopath can form weak attachments to an individual, family or group (or political party) but a psychopath would have to pretend that connection. A sociopath will be impulsive and angry, a psychopath calmer and calculating.

The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental

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Disorders (DSM-5) made it more practical by putting sociopathy and psychopathy in the same basket: “The essential feature of antisocial personality disorder is a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood. This pattern has also been referred to as psychopathy, sociopathy, or dissocial personality disorder.”

I will refer to them simply as sociopaths except in later chapter where I wish to make emphatic point about the abhorrent nature of a politician and a businessman seeking to destroy me.

Sociopaths put their well being considerably ahead of everyone else's. Not all are self-aware that their emotions don’t tick like those of the people they meet. Their lack of empathy is replaced by boredom, greed, frustration and rage. Sometimes there are no emotions all. They lie without guilt. They never say sorry and mean it.

For those who realise what they are, their manipulation of others will be greater, as will the accompanying impression management. They'll look after their appearance and gain a respectful job or position in the community. They'll give their attractive attention to the nicest, most trusting people. Their awareness and where they are on that scale of mental disorder will decide how much and how regularly they harm others. Sometimes it'll only be about how much they can get away with it.

Self-awareness is a double-edged sword, the struggle between desire and not wanting to get caught. Whilst it's easier to be themselves behind closed doors, they need to maintain a mask at work and play. They can live seemingly different lives; the good job, wife, kids and charity donation part masking their nastiness and crime.

Some are more successful than others, others have less impulse control. Prisons have more sociopaths, on average, than free society does. But it’s discomfotring to realise that those who got a good education are more likely to be better social parasites.

Take Kevin Dutton's personality test at Wisdom of Psychopaths.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying and cyberstalking are synonymous though the latter is used more often for serious cases.

It involves repetitive online harassment of an individual by an individual or a group emailing or posting mockery, cruel rumour, lie and threat. The goal is to harm someone through mental assault and by damaging their reputation. The political goal is to discredit or intimidate. The bullies may seek to get others involved via the
bandwagon effect, utilising propaganda and fake profiles. Cyberstalking can involve identity theft and continue offline.

In South Africa, the Domestic Violence Act was expanded into the Protection from Harassment Act (PHA) which includes cyberharassment. The goal of the PHA is to protect but it is also being negatively used by politicians as a weapon of oppression, cheaply silencing critics, and truth in the Public interest. That wasn't the purpose of the law and thus it requires better definition.

**Cover-Up**

A cover-up, whether successful or not, aims to conceal evidence of criminality or incompetency. The reason to conceal may be to avoid embarrassment or punishment - the loss of money, position or power, and, in the case of politicians, the diminishing of election returns.

In a passive cover-up, information is denied through avoidance or direct refusal. In an active cover-up, the tools are deception, propaganda, threat and harm.

The DA repetitively practices all this. They've been assisted by the very agencies that are mandated to protect us. It's betrayal of us by Government.

**Conspiracy**

A conspiracy is an agreement by, or coalition of, people to do something wrong or illegal, which can be achieved via a legal action for illegal end, or via illegal action for legal end.

It can be planned openly or in secret. It can exist over a short term or operate as an ongoing concern.

It's for selfish gain but can be vindictive too. Politically, it's more likely to seek or retain power and wealth by deceiving the Public and hurting opponents.

It's a plot that must initially involve two or more individuals or parties but allows others to join at later stages. No matter when they join, or if only one participant carries out the planned crime, they are equally liable, as if each had committed the deed themselves.

The conspirators can be guilty even if they don't know the identity of the other members. The latter is particularly relevant with regards defamation and propaganda on social media where real people support instigators using fake profiles.

There must be argument to consider those who are not directly part of the conspiracy,
yet aware of its existence and benefiting from it, to be co-conspirators.

**Whitewash**

A whitewash is interchangeable with “cover-up” except where there's been a superficial investigation to pretend due diligence to keep the Public ignorant and allow criminals to remain unpunished. That's what the Office of the Public Protector and the Hawks (SAPS) did for the DA. It's what the Knysna Magistrates' Court did for a bunch of local DA politicians and their cronies.

**Propaganda**

Propaganda is likely darker than you thought, and with many sub-levels.

Longman Dictionary describes it as “information which is false or which emphasises just one part of a situation, used by a government or political group to make people agree with them.”

It relies, more than anything else, on herd mentality. Only describing it as the manipulation of information and issuing of disinformation in support of a false or biased idea would be inadequate. Us humans are more complicated than that.

The Propagandist wants to ensure that the opposing side, or the target of wrath, is unable to logically counter the screwdriving of deceptive emotions into the human herd. The goal is to have the reader, viewer or listener believe that the propaganda is the only option for truth, or to so disfigure the truth so much that they fear to be associated with it.

The Propagandist seeks credibility through destruction, attacks an individual rather than the topic, pretends to be the victim whilst attacking, sickly repeats questionable ideas or lies until believed acceptable or true, appeals to emotion rather than fact, exploits audience fear and their desire to socially conform (bandwagon mentality), associates the audience with a group they've no desire to be part of so as to force them to agree, presents situations as only good or bad in order to pretend there's only one option, associates their negative idea with good cause, associates their opponent's idea with bad cause, demonises or mocks opponents with name-calling and bad themes, falsely blames opponents for situations beyond their control or only partly in their control (scapegoats), reinterprets news to suit their cause, uses selective facts rather than whole truth, avoids direct answers and speaks in generalities, uses irrelevant and off-topic facts to misdirect (red herrings) when strongly challenged, uses a supposed expert or authority figure to justify their false
idea, pretends what they're saying is widely accepted (e.g. use of several social media accounts under different names), and outright lies.

Propagandist politicians are as much humankind’s best friend as low-calorie fast food helps fat people. Their help is as contradictory as dagga for asthmatics.

They want you to believe what they say and do what you're told. They know you're too lazy to think for yourself. They're counting on the fact that you're like almost everyone else who obeys, that you are, on average, one of the herd.

The Republic of South Africa

Be appreciative of that fact that South Africa isn't strictly a democracy. If it were, the mob would rule – gays, whites, Indians and immigrants would probably be dead. South Africa is a Republic, a "constitutional democracy" wherein the law and not the majority will be obeyed. When we speak of 'democracy', it's only in the loose sense of citizen equality and the intended (but never gained) servant Government.

Citizens

Citizens are people who have the right to live in South Africa and aren't employees of the state. Collectively, citizens are most often referred to as the Public which has a reciprocal relationship with Government whom they elect and support in return for its protection. The mutually beneficial aspect requires underlining. The relationship is guided by the Constitution which includes the Bill of Rights and supportive laws.

Civil Servants

Civil servants are Government employees serving the Public of South Africa and its Constitution. They're supposed to act with integrity, openness and without bias, always putting the interests of the Public first.

Politicians

Politicians are members of Government elected (not hired) by the Public to fulfil roles ranging from Councillor to President. Although, common usage makes the description interchangeable, the politician is not a servant but rather a representative of the Public. The dilution of common ideology and goals by votes for hate and bias is seriously undermining the fabric of our society.
PART 1

The Corruption Begins...
CHAPTER 1

Unfriendly Tourism

“Something stinks in Knysna. It’s unacceptable. People in positions such as the Head of Tourism and the Mayor of Knysna are not there to be powerful but to accept responsibility for bettering the lives of us citizens. All races in Knysna need to stand up and demand transparency from our local government. Bigger than race, culture and political party is the common bond we share as humans in a town where most are suffering. It’s time for change. It’s time for answers. Something smells in the beautiful town of Knysna. We need more toilet paper.”

- Mike Hampton (2011)

Nobody getting killed in the first couple of chapters. Everybody gets to keep their fingernails because there weren't any good cops to do the pulling. In another chapter, I'll do it myself, rip them off... twist some nipples too... but I'll keep the shock therapy for you. The longer you read, the wetter the sponges on your head will get, the more electricity I'll send you. But you've got to get through this first because everything needs beginning.

* * * * *

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has tried to make it complicated but it's as simple as knowing which direction is up and which is down. All Government money, which means our money, must be used wisely, and be accounted for. It's a contract between us and the politicians, signed for by our Constitution and the Laws supporting it. In even simpler terms, taxpayers' cash isn't meant to be any government official's or private individual's piggy bank.

The Constitution states that tourism is a government function. That should be the religion of a town like Knysna (pop. 74,606) which exists because of its tourist based economy. The First Commandment should be: "Don't fuck with Tourism.”

But the politicians violated her anyway. Maybe, initially, they didn't fully know what they were doing wrong but sure did when I told them. And when I wouldn't let go, some got the notion they had to destroy me. Their bad seed grew into a beanstalk which I climbed to get a better view of what was happening below.

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My introduction to Knysna Tourism was that I initially scored in 2010. I was unaware of the company's illegality when I was retained to run eventing workshops for the disadvantaged communities of Knysna. Eventing was a big part of Knysna, and my goal was to enable more people from the poorer areas to get involved.
The first two workshops were well received. There were thirty-one students between them, and their composition was interesting in retrospect.

They included Chris Spies, spokesperson for the local SAPS (South African Police Service). He was a lot like a politician, becoming an obstructor rather than a communicator. Donovan Pofadder and Rowan Spies would become DA councillors in 2016. Shakespeare Arends joined the ACDP (African Christian Democratic Party) and become the DA's coalition partner in 2017. Our start may have been friendly, but they later refused to assist me against crime...

The follow-up community feedback session revealed that coloured and black people were deeply dissatisfied with Knysna Tourism. They justifiably felt excluded from the economy of the town. It was perceived that Tourism's white-only Board of Directors had only white interests at heart. Considering the slow pace of change and that white contractors were getting most of the money, they were probably right. I reported this and more to CEO Shaun van Eck via a cursory email and subsequent meeting. He congratulated me, saying that it was information they needed to consider.

Van Eck was a likeable man with one arm. I admired him for regularly making jokes about the fact rather than hiding something that couldn't be hidden - his recent website was well named as SingleHanded.co.za. He would sometimes be jokingly referred to as the One-Armed Bandit, and then more nastily as that after I turned Knysna Tourism into full-blown scandal. I wasn't a fan of that insensitive description but now realise its appropriate reference for the slot machine Knysna Tourism was for a few winners.

Despite the resulting topics, the community session I hosted was well received by the participants and Van Eck. That was strangely contradicted behind my back by Glendyrrr Fick, the Development Officer for Knysna Tourism. I felt that whilst she was smiling at me, she was thinking I was cooking in the kitchen of her ambition. That 'kitchen' would later take her on holiday to New York and Jamaica, at the Public's expense, courtesy of Van Eck.

Despite a waiting queue of students, the third workshop was strangely cancelled, one day before the deposit was to be paid. Not knowing why was frustrating. CEO Van Eck refused to answer my queries. I never had a contract which turned out to be standard practice for Knysna Tourism. I sensed that the workshops that were supposed to become empowerment practicals were fading into black economic empowerment (BEE) bullshit. I had no work lined up and never knew how I'd survive the following
month. But I survived and had two more experiences with Tourism over the next 8 months.

I provided the awesome band GoodLuck for the 2010 opening VIP function of the famous Knysna Oyster Festival. And I hosted a small concert with 10 bands during the December holiday season. The latter event failed after Knysna Tourism, without consulting me, moved two previously rained out events onto the same date. It was an obviously disastrous decision for a small town, amplified by the main road being closed for hours. For me, it became a speedy trip into a personal debt which I’ve never paid off.

In the build-up to the concert, I’d wanted to spend more sponsorship money on direct marketing than design of the marketing. I had the solution in one of my best friends being a graphic artist. But the design sponsorship was being paid direct from Knysna Tourism to the design company Van Eck had chosen. He told me I’d lose my full sponsorship if I didn't use them. That made no sense until I realised that 2Heads Advertising & Design, without tendering, got all Tourism’s work. So much of it that they’d opened an office next door.

I was been strong-armed by a one-armed man. And he did it so casually and with a smile that I wasn’t sure if he realised what he was doing. That made it more disturbing.

Shaun Van Eck recommended I hire Magnetic Storm, a sound and stage company based in Port Elizabeth. They were a reputable company but the distance of 260km made the cost impractical for a show hoping to attract a crowd of 1000. More important was the conflict of interest. Magnetic Storm was owned by his brother, Glenn van Eck. Essentially, the sponsorship I received would have been passed on to his family – taxpayer → Knysna Municipality → Knysna Tourism → me → Magnetic Storm.

Nowadays, after his disgraceful departure from Knysna, Shaun van Eck is an occasional event organiser for the company. And his brother is in partnership with him in a business called The Tourism Coach. And there's more but I'll tell you that just now.

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I began climbing that wicked beanstalk of unanswered questions for a better view of the town below me. My website, KnysnaKeep.org, which was supposed to become a children’s charity, instead became full-blown activism with a lot of informative and
frustrated blogs.

In June 2011, I emailed complaint to Tourism’s Board of Directors:

"From my experience of Shaun van Eck and some of the staff, I’m disappointed and angry because there is a lack of transparency, professionalism and honesty. I believe that they do not have a team, there’s mishandling of funding, and that a better direction needs to be chosen that better represents the town itself.

As a member of the public, several requests for public information has not been provided after 2 weeks (websites are long out of date). I seek budgets, the latest AGM report and details of community projects (not an advertorial but real information that shows that Tourism is utilising budget wisely). These are essential so as to determine if budgeting has been wisely distributed.

I sent the same request to the Mayor’s office via email but also failed to get a response.

The negative impression I’ve received is undoubtedly shared with some. There’s a bigger picture than my experience. We need to define it and deal with it so as to help our town, especially during this challenging Recession. I believe that it’s imperative that we bring these matters to the public’s eye and ensure that the new municipal government gives it the attention it deserves. Unlike those who are applauding the DA, I believe that they have to prove themselves first. But, before all that, and before I publish more specific blogs, I approach the Board (whose names are not even posted on the website) and members of Tourism for clarity.

As I’ve clearly stated in an email to Shaun van Eck, I don't wish to deal with him as he’s a liar. That's bad embodiment for Knysna Tourism. I don't wish to be a member of Tourism in its current state.

I don’t know who certain Tourism staff have allegiance with so this is an open letter. Your response would be appreciated. Let’s sort.”

Instead of the Board responding responsibly, I instead received an email from Van Eck which included:

"...You have a choice to make at this stage. You may withdraw the letter from the Board and suspend your hate campaign and I will walk away from the conflict. Should you continue, I will make sure that the TRUTH reaches every
ear that you reach, and that further every Tourism CEO and Municipal Manager in SA is warned of your modus operandi. As it did in my arbitration, the TRUTH will triumph and your selfishness will be seen for what it is. I seldom threaten, but you are targeting three of the things I hold most dear - my family, my desire to make a positive difference in Knysna, and my morals and life approach based on the example of Jesus."

The arbitration Van Eck referred to was for when he'd previously survived trouble. More relevant now was a disciple of Jesus threatening me. That religiosity became more bizarre than hypocritical when it was alleged that Van Eck related a dream of his to the congregation of the Knysna Vineyard Church he attended. Therein, he was the biblical Joseph wearing the multi-coloured cloak. Somehow, if it wasn't fabricated, he'd interpreted it as a message to the Church to help him whilst he was being unfairly persecuted.

I had dreams too... well, let's go with the theistic flow and pretend I did.

In mine, the Vineyard Church refused the taxpayers' money Van Eck gave them to bring a Christian speaker to town. A fellow church member never got R6,500 per month for taking photos Knysna Tourism would never own. And other church members never viciously maligned me online and behind my back. One of them, Dr. Martin Young, would never become a DA politician who'd insidiously try tear me apart.

My dreams were of that Church kicking sinners out. Unfortunately, like Van Eck, I was only dreaming despite Section 9 of the the Constitution of the Vineyard Church being about 'Discipline':

"Suspension or expulsion of members for disorderly conduct, erroneous belief or any other justifiable cause shall be by ballot after investigation of the alleged offence and unsuccessful effort to bring about restoration. Private offences should be dealt with in accordance with the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15-17."

I don't know which bible the Vineyard reads but I consulted the New International Version for those chapters from Matthew:

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'
If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

Van Eck and Young left the Church on their own steam, the former because he moved to Nelson Mandela Bay, the latter's reasoning unknown.

If new Board Chair Mark Dixon and Vice-Chair Greg Vogt had accepted my 2011 offer of "let's sort” then I'd have been living a different life. I wouldn't have become an activist, wouldn't be in exile, and Knysna Tourism wouldn't have received approximately another R36-million in irregular funding from Knysna Municipality. And the *irregular* funding model of Knysna Tourism would possibly not have been replicated across the Western Cape, the only province of South Africa where the DA rules.

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Side note. Governments and their auditors like to use terms that dilute or change true meaning. Some are oxymoronic. Think of 'tax relief', 'tax refund', 'smart bomb', 'good war' and 'minor crisis'. My pet hates are 'political correctness' and 'irregular funding'. The truth in this book spits on the first one so let's address that inappropriate word 'irregular'. When defined as 'to not be regular', it doesn't sound that bad. Like you could take a pill to overcome constipation. Except this is more the enema you'd choke on.

When Government doesn't follow processes governed by law, that's breaking the law. That makes 'irregular' mean 'illegal'. There are exceptions e.g. moving money from the sports budget to emergency funding during a natural disaster is understandably irregular. But that's rare. What often happens is someone being bad. And if that person is in a position of Public trust, and knowingly involved in approving irregular funding, that makes them bad poetry, a crook in my book.

I'm a firm believer in white-collar crime not being white at all. We need to use a better phrase for that too. The fraud of billions is a more effective murderer than all the serial killers in the world.

If I haven't rammed my point into your head, tell me which of these these descriptions tells you what's going on:


or
“Crooked government officials and politicians in South African were responsible for approving R60-billion in illegal funding to private businesses in 2018. That comprised 75% of the R80-billion in irregular expenditure, the remaining 25% necessary for disaster management.”

When government steals money, it means greater pollution, load shedding, broken robots, dangerously potholed roads, less cops, less staff and equipment for healthcare, more shacks, pit latrines for toddlers to fall into etc.

Yeah, now you've got it. Those things get people killed. South Africa's bleeding like a soldier who got his head blown off. It's red-collar crime.

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Knysna's a small town so my blogging and queries drew attention. Especially when I deliberately used controversial post titles such as 'Something Stinks in Knysna' and 'Shaun van Eck is an Arsehole'. I was questioning pillars of the social community which resulted in me receiving insults or the cold shoulder from a lot of people, online and in the street.

But it served a purpose as the most powerful politicians in the Knysna DA finally agreed to meet me. Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, Deputy Mayor Advocate Michelle Wasserman and Councillor Esme Edge promised answers. Notably, Wasserman and Edge doubled as Knysna Tourism directors. Plus, Edge was the Chairperson of the Municipality's Section 80 Finance Committee.

For a while, it seemed positive. Edge even changed a lunch meeting to a dinner with wine. But it was obvious that she was more interested in me than the issue.

Ward Committees are one of South Africa's great failures so to be referred to one was obviously meant to cock-block me.

Municipalities are divided into areas called Wards. Each has a citizen Ward Committee acting as a conduit between their area and the relevant Ward Councillor. Knysna had ten at that stage but added another just before the 2016 local elections.

It's mostly a way to address smaller issues, from potholes and speed humps to park benches and broken pipes. The reason for the law stating that Ward Committees cannot be political is because they must serve everyone. It's intended to be about the health of the community, not politics. Instead, it's the first step in a flight of political machinations to control a town.

Ward 10 was my area, more commonly called Knysna Central. It's arguably the town's
most important as it contains the central business district, most tourist accommodations, and the seat of local government. The N2, the national highway running along the long East coast of South Africa, passes through it. The other side of the ward makes up for that ugly convenience, hugging the large tranquillity of the Knysna Waterfront and estuary.

It seems like a lifetime ago that I'd wanted to join the DA. I have bumbling Councillor Richard Dawson to thank for persuading me not to. Before the 2011 local elections, he'd given me a crash course into the incapability of local politicians.

Dawson and a fold-up table stalked the entrance to Spar, the main grocery shop in Knysna Mall. He was attempting to recruit people to the DA.

I’d fallen in love with Knysna, wanting to stay forever. And true love cannot exist without action. I wanted to play my part. And I was under the mistaken white cultural belief that the DA were the party to fight the ANC’s growing corruption. I was keen to join.

I told Dawson I wanted to help and could maybe assist the DA through eventing and fund-raising. That likely made me different to most people on their way to buy bread and milk. I add that because it should have made him more eager to recruit me.

I was keen but not an idiot. I first needed to know what the DA's plan for Knysna was. He responded with generalities about South Africa and the DA standing up for us against the ANC. I repeated that I was enthusiastic but wanted their local manifesto, not a national slogan. He hummed and ahhed some more, I repeated myself until he admitted they never had a plan. I asked if there was somebody in leadership who could provide me information. That's when it got weird.

I'd been courteous so him getting upset was unexpected. He never shouted but he raised his voice as his face reddened. He was over 70 at the time, I thought he may get a heart attack. I'd mistakenly thought he was a conscientious pensioner volunteering. He arrogantly moaned at me for not knowing he was the Chairperson of the Knysna DA Constituency. Or maybe it was the DA Chief Whip. My memory's fuzzy. He may have been both.

Wanting to extricate myself from his self-importance, his bad health, and a few curious shoppers, I picked up one of the self-addressed envelopes that came with the application form. I said I'd seriously consider joining after somebody emailed me info.
He snatched the envelope back, saying something like “these things cost money and shouldn't be wasted on people who can't make up their minds.”

Not only didn't the DA know what they were doing, they were petty.

“Irony's a bitch,” is a phrase that doesn't get tired. Dawson would become my Ward 10 Councillor. He'd assume the position of Speaker in Council, a position as powerful as the Mayor's. He'd also become a director on the Knysna Tourism Board. And a couple of years later, he'd file a High Court application against me, wanting to shut me up for criticising him and the DA.

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I'd discover that Wasserman, Edge and Dawson had previously been Ward 10 Committee members before becoming DA Councillors. Wasserman and Dawson would take turns being Deputy Mayor and Speaker.

Kevin Grinaker, a property developer, and active DA constituent was also a Ward Committee member. I'd later use his racism to get rid of him.

Dr Colin Lang would join once Richard Dawson became the Ward Councillor. At a meeting I attended, he was antagonistic and dismissive of me. If only I’d known then that he was the life partner of Dawson. A 2013 Facebook post stated they’d been together for 47 years.

Another, Dee Hollely, doubled as the DA's Constituency Treasurer for years. Whereas I sent a letter to the Knysna Tourism Board calling for Shaun van Eck's dismissal, she launched a petition supporting him.

It's unsurprising that the Ward 10 Committee wouldn't help me over the following difficult years. They were part of the problem. They weren't allied to the DA. They were DA. I wasted my time being frustrated. Bigger monsters were coming.

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Furthermore, in her letter of obstruction, Mayor Wolmarans accused me of being rude. Of course, she never discussed the issues. Her words were distraction... and pestilential when she stated that all my emails, smses and blogs had been sent to Helen Zille and Alan Winde.

Zille was then the Leader of the DA, the official opposition to South Africa’s ruling ANC. Centralising power, she'd doubled as the Premier of the Western Cape since 2009. She was the boss of 5.8 million people, a responsibility as big as the governments of New Zealand and the Congo. We need those kinds of comparisons for
better assessment of the duty involved... and the power politicians have to lose.

Alan Winde had been dyed DA blue in 1999. The portfolio they gave him expanded so, by the time of Wolmaran's letter, he was the Provincial Minister of Finance, Economic Development & Tourism. That's a lot of clout in one bottle. And now, in 2019, the DA intends him taking over Zille's job.

The title "Minister" normally refers to national portfolio chiefs but that's what the DA calls their lesser Provincial Members of the Executive Council (MEC). I'm going to be South African and, like the other 8 provinces that aren't the Western Cape, refer to Winde as MEC Tourism. It could be considered that his additional role as Knysna's Constituency officer was more important. He was our representative to the Western Cape Parliament.

I considered Mayor Wolmaran's letter to be intimidation. Why else would she act as if I'd done wrong and mention two powerful politicians? And why, if she wasn't going to help me, would she provide them a copy of our correspondence and my criticism?

I was naive to be immensely frustrated at the time. But it was then impossible for me to know I was in a battle that would result in me writing this book many years later. I now realise that Wolmaran's letter was a bonus – it directly sticks Zille and Wind to the shit at the beginning. It's no wonder they appear many more times in this story, trying to be behind the scenes but likely major conductors of it.

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I complained to Premier Zille to no response. A second complaint resulted in her then Chief of Staff, Geordin Hill-Lewis, referring me to MEC Winde. I'd been given a ticket into the circus of Government I've never escaped.

Winde was unhelpful on the telephone. He had his assistant, Lucille Fester, strangely refer me to the Knysna Chamber of Business. It was clear from previous discussions that Chairperson Dave Hendry and Deputy Chair Craig de Villiers were friends of Knysna Tourism and Van Eck, supporters of the DA, and against me. I'd also heard that Hendry's family were members of the Knysna Vineyard Church.

It was suspicious. Why would an MEC and prominent DA politician, respectively an employee and representative of the Public, refer me to private businessmen? Why would they then deny they'd already spoken to Winde about me, caught out because Winde told me? Did any of this have to do with Winde having grown up in Knysna and having owned several businesses there? And possibly who he was still friends with being more important than the Public he was paid well to serve? I've no definitive
answer to those questions.

One of my rare encounters with accidental justice was the Knysna Chamber of Business closing in June 2013. Hendry stated on Knysna FM radio that the Chamber no longer had the finances to keep even the "little things" such as the website going. That I was broke and had several websites running said a lot about their skill. Hendry would later get involved with one of the main propagandists against me, a psychopath called Mark Allan.

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Prior to those 2011 local elections that made Wolmarans Knysna's Mayor, Zille had campaigned for her and the DA. Considering Wolmaran's later obstruction, it was ironic that she'd run her election campaign on the promise of accountability, transparency and an open door policy. That's what we all want to hear from those who want to represent us. It had become her mantra, an obvious election strategy but not an intention.

That rally with Zille was held in the coloured township of Hornlee where Wolmarans lived. From the stage, she said, "I will work hard and be accessible and approachable. You can come and talk to me in my house, and I will do my very best for you and for everyone in Knysna."

I was one of a handful of white people there. More notable for wearing a blue DA shirt whilst hobnobbing, was Knysna Tourism CEO Shaun van Eck. When the DA won the election, his niece posted on Twitter: “My uncle is CEO of tourism in Knysna and he is really happy that the DA has won.”

His fortunes would change as my protest accidentally opened a pathway for opportunists far worse than him.

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I possessed the handicap of too much empathy and a worry repetitive mind. I use the past tense as I've gotten wiser and more emotionally mature. Maybe it was the simple choice between falling apart or getting stronger. I've gained more perspective and compartmentalise trouble better. And caring too much is best tempered with a bit of "I-don't-give-a-fuck". That balancing act helped me during the Great Knysna Fire disaster in 2017. But, back in 2011, I was a mess... and following my nature which was to dive deeper into it. It was the start of a different life.

Eve Ensler, writer of 'The Vagina Monologues', described that perversity of conscience
well. "An activist is someone who cannot help but fight for something. That person is not usually motivated by a need for power, or money, or fame, but in fact driven slightly mad by some injustice, some cruelty, some unfairness - so much so that he or she is compelled by some internal moral engine to act to make it better." She may have been right that activism is madness.

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I'd had a few bad experiences before Knysna. I'd become an adult as South Africa became the Rainbow Nation, as people fought for their handful from the pot of gold. Other situations found me in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I'd stood against a sadistic teacher in school, read horrid secret files when doing National Service in the Airforce, got beaten and mugged several times, rescued a guy from being being killed, helped my neighbour who'd been stabbed in the lung, witnessed a gang rape I could do nothing about, met corrupt cops, seen underground battles for control of the Durban drug trade, and been told that a steroid-crazy enforcer wanted me dead purely because his girlfriend told me she was breaking up with him (his own people, crooked cops, had him killed him four years later).

Many of you South Africans reading this have likely experienced crime that made you scared. There was a stage in my life where I was scared a lot. Fear never leaves fully after it's paid a visit. It's like a door to somewhere dark opened, and all you can do is erect a security gate inside yourself. Being South African is a security gate industry.

The point is that by the time I arrived in Knysna, I knew bad people always did more bad things unless they were stopped. In the same way, they'd probably already done bad things I didn't know about. You can't teach an ostrich to fly. It's their nature to act a certain way. And if one of them charms you into believing otherwise, they're the one you should be worrying about most.

Knysna Tourism, a private company funded with Public funds, was running at a loss yet receiving more money instead of its CEO and directors being held accountable. Politicians were responsible. I was going to stop them.

But I wasn't prepared for how bad it would get. I'd thought there'd be some application of rules, for the avoidance of embarrassment or political revenge. For whatever reason, I expected someone to help. I was wrong.

My activism nightmare had begun...
Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, Deputy Mayor Advocate Michelle Wasserman & Councillor Esme Edge (2011)
CHAPTER 2

Blue as a Bruise, Winde as a Fart

"Some bruises you wear like badges of honour: when you got it playing rugby, or quad racing, or falling off something while drunk, no opportunity is lost to show off a good contusion. A bruise inflicted by someone else, however, is a whole other story: it's like a big flashing arrow marking you out as punchable, and before long there'll be boys queuing up to add bruises of their own, as if they'd just been waiting for somebody to show them it could be done."

- Paul Murray (author 'The Mark and the Void')

The central question is whether the spending of taxpayer’s money requires oversight? It may seem to be the dumbest question of all time yet remains the most relevant.

In our beautiful, undeniably fucked up country, citizens complain in crescendos of whispers. About burst pipes, broken roads, electricity prices, preventable petrol increases, preventable fluctuations of our currency, and so many other things. Yet the overwhelming majority do nothing to stop the rotten element in our Government that's making us bankrupt.

It's like they're yelling, “Don't leave me out, come rob my house. I'll give you a beer if you break into a sweat carrying my shit. Wow, check at those muscles. You must work out a lot.”

I'm not like that.

This may be an exposé and an appeal to the President but it's also a conversation between you and me. I want you to understand why I felt compelled to become an activist, why the DA put me through hell. I know some of you, maybe most of you, are reading without accepting what I've got to say. But I'm stubborn so I'm trying anyway.

Realise that the DA isn't Jesus unless he's got that blue tinge you get when you drown. That's what will happen to us if we try walk on the watery promises of Western Cape politics.

Since my protest began, Knysna Tourism has illegally received approximately R34-million of taxpayers’ money. Its inception was 8 years before that, in 2000. Consequently, the final figure will be nearer R50-million. That private company, with politicians on its Board of Directors, was able to pay whichever contractors they favoured. They aren't the only town under the care of the DA doing that. Consequently, I expect the figure to rise exponentially.
The awkward fact for DA supporters is that their party's corruption will likely continue until their supposed enemy, the ANC, stops it. Yeah, I know how you feel.

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Section 67(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) states that:

"Before transferring funds of the municipality to an organisation or body outside any sphere of government otherwise than in compliance with a commercial or other business transaction, the accounting officer [Municipal Manager] must be satisfied that the organisation or body has the capacity and has agreed to to comply with any agreement with the municipality and comply with all reporting, financial management and auditing requirements as may be stipulated in the agreement, and that it implements effective, efficient and transparent financial management and internal control systems to guard against fraud, theft and financial mismanagement...”

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Knysna Tourism is a Section 21 company primarily funded via Public funds. For you to understand the crimes that followed, I need to get a bit technical. Stay with me because it's possible this is happening in your town.

The name 'Knysna Tourism' is a misnomer, giving the appearance of an official government body when it's a private company. The name should have been a brand belonging to the Municipality (which is the official representation of the Public). The Municipality should have either fulfilled its mandate directly or tendered the responsibility to a differently named company servicing the brand.

It's important to make that distinction because people were confused, thinking that Knysna, a tourist-based economy, couldn’t exist without Knysna Tourism. The town cannot exist without tourism, but it can exist without the business deceptively named 'Knysna Tourism'.

Knysna Tourism only existed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Knysna Municipality which paid it 4 to 6 million rand of taxpayers' money annually. That funding was delivered via grant-in-aid.

Note that ‘grant-in-aid’ refers to the transfer of municipal funds to organisations or bodies assisting the Municipality in the exercise of its powers as defined by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA).

The MFMA applies wherever Public money goes. However, for years, Knysna Tourism
mostly operated without contracts or tenders with the majority of its suppliers. From an alleged R2-million surplus, the organisation ran into debt 4 years in a row. From 2010 to 2013, it was bailed out each time by the grant-in-aid despite it being illegal to fund debt with Public funds.

In 2013, an internal cash analysis showed monthly losses whilst an independent audit report stated that there was “significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern.”

Problems were seemingly swept under the rug despite over R200,000 spent on legal fees against CEO Shaun van Eck who was found guilty of four charges of gross misconduct.

The independent disciplinary inquiry by Deseré Barnard included that:

"...The charges which Shaun van Eck has been found guilty of are serious in nature. Shaun was appointed in a very responsible position as CEO of Knysna Tourism. It is important to bear in mind, that 70% of Knysna Tourism’s budget is provided for by the Municipality and constitutes public money. The balance of the funding is provided by members contributions. Importantly the money which supports this organization is not Shaun’s own money...

I have already dealt with the fact that the majority of funding for KT constitutes public funding. There is simply no basis for Shaun to assume that he would have the authority to extend credit on behalf of this organization [to private companies]...

For a period of 13 months, because the organization could not complete a simple task such as arranging for proper signatures with the bank, Shaun ran the petty cash through his own account, on one occasion up to an amount R30,000...

The non-payment of creditors reflected badly on KT, and also on its major funder, the Knysna Municipality.

From the evidence, it appeared almost as if Shaun ran Knysna Tourism as his own business...

It is difficult to understand how Shaun could make a decision to send an employee on an expensive trip to Jamaica even if Shaun believed that the experience gained by the employee would be to the benefit of Knysna Tourism. Having regard to the amount of money involved, one would have expected
Shaun to first clear this decision with his employer, the Board. This Shaun did not do. It is indicative of the fact that Shaun knew that this trip was out of order, in that when questioned about this trip by the Board at the Golf Club, Shaun mislead the Board members by indicating that this trip was a sponsored trip when it was not so. This action of Shaun is grossly dishonest... Taking the totality of the charges into consideration, Shaun has been found guilty of gross misconduct, gross dishonesty, gross negligence and gross insubordination. My recommendation to the Board is that Shaun’s employment be terminated with or without notice.”

Instead, Shaun van Eck was given R270,000 after signing a non-disclosure agreement. He got a golden handshake, the Public a golden shower. I consider it to have been a bribe so that we would be denied the whole truth, and so it would be harder to hold the guilty accountable.

The press release by Knysna Tourism on 25 January 2013 conveniently excluded mentioning it:

“The matter between former Knysna Tourism CEO and the Knysna Tourism Board was settled in an amicable manner. In a joint statement the parties confirm that they leave the relationship without prejudice, wishing each other well for their respective efforts in advancing Knysna as a top tourism destination. The terms of the settlement remains confidential by agreement.”

Confidential, my arse. Cover-up was afoot.

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The seriousness of the situation was amplified by the municipal officials and politicians on the Board of Directors. They were supposed to be held ultimately responsible for the organisation. It wasn't Barnard's job to look beyond Van Eck but it's obvious that others needed punishing too. Van Eck, to a degree, was right to be aggrieved, not as an innocent but as scapegoat. Whereas he got sheared, other Board Members in dereliction of duty seemingly got rewarded.

Development Officer Glendyrr Fick was the employee “sent” to Jamaica via several days’ layover in New York. She’d told people about her personal holiday destination before it become a 'staff' trip. Afterwards, she became Knysna Tourism’s Office Manager and got a raise.

DA Councillor Esme Edge got promoted to Deputy Mayor. The Section 80 Finance
Committee should have been one of the first to deal with tourism's illegal finances, but she was its Chairperson.

DA Councillor Michelle Wasserman moved to the Speaker position. Later she left for a few years, returning in 2018 as the DA Federal Executive's intended Mayor. They haven't fulfilled their plan, but she joined the Mayoral Committee, doubling her pay within 2 months of re-entering Council.

Mayor Georlene Wolmarans became the Speaker after the 2016 elections, meaning she hung onto the same pay grade.

ANC Chief Whip Stephen de Vries had his studies illegally paid for by the Knysna Municipality, approved by Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Grant Easton and the DA-majority Council. It wouldn't be surprising if his silence about DA corruption, a misnomer as he was involved in it, eventually traded for a well-paying Government job (for which he seemed to be studying towards).

CFO Grant Easton was promoted to Municipal Manager, allegedly paid more than allowed.

For almost 2 years after Van Eck got pushed out, Knysna Tourism ran without a CEO. That, alone, should've stopped its funding. The company was controlled by a few Board members headed by Chairperson Greg Vogt. As company rules stipulated that only non-executive Board members were allowed, it was illegal for Vogt to act as an Executive. Yet he did, illegally paid as a consultant through a third party until he inevitably became CEO.

Vice-Chair Nan Raturat became the Chairperson. Edge would later renew her marriage vows at Raturat's guest house, Villa Castollini.

And for the next 4 years, despite continuing scandal and my growing protest, Knysna Tourism continued to be funded by politicians from the Public purse.

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Premier Helen Zille never loved our town in her role as leader of our province. But she 'loved' us as a DA politician before elections. As she'd done for the local one in 2011, she appeared before the 2014 general election. Again, Knysna's issues were ignored. Again, we were told, in mostly general terms, that the DA was terrific, and the ANC sucked.

I'll explain later in the book how Zille tried to embarrass me but relevant here is that she refused to answer my questions which I wouldn’t let go. MEC Alan Winde came to
her rescue by telling the crowd that he’d have a meeting with me the following day.

Winde was accompanied by then DA Constituency Chairperson Peter Myers and DA Concordia Branch Manager Magda Moos. It turned out their goal was to only pretend to be helpful whilst maintaining the political wall against me.

This is an extract from a letter I sent them and Zille out of frustration:

"The goal has long been to understand the financial situation and management of Knysna. This email primarily concerns the Knysna Tourism aspect of that. It further serves to assess the credibility of Alan Winde’s, Peter Meyers’ and a DA Branch Manager’s offer to assist, and the DA’s claim to transparency and accountability.

I have exhaustively tried to get answers and being repeatedly blocked for almost 3 years by the DA, Knysna Municipality, and the Knysna Tourism Board. It is notable that you, Alan Winde, have been contacted several times the past 2 years. It beggars belief that you, as MEC for Tourism, whose made many visits to Knysna Tourism, are not aware of the problems and controversy they’ve experienced.

At our 1 Feb 2014 meeting at the Log-Inn Hotel, you promised to deliver detailed budgets of Knysna Tourism but have so far failed to do so. However, in an email, you said, 'I am aware that Mike’s mail below asks for deeper detail on the tourism budgets. Once he gives me the detail needed, I will ask for it on your behalf and report back to the group.' I’d clearly asked for a budget, as I have many times, that shows exactly who got paid what. Nevertheless, to seize the opportunity for 100% clarity on Knysna Tourism’s finances, I've supplied a summary of my previously, unanswered questions (which are 100% relevant).

It is further notable that you, Alan, have refused several requests for an audio copy of the Log-Inn meeting – that recording should have been the foundation for follow-up. It makes no sense (except if the reason is to delay) that I provide the minutes (from memory) of the meeting before you will give me the recording you have in your possession. The recording would be 100% accurate.

Alan Winde, please erase my doubts and worry that this is yet another blockade by the DA. Please respond to this email positively and actively. Please be genuinely helpful. Let’s get this matter behind us and look towards the future of Knysna.
Helen Zille, I address you (again), as DA Leader and Premier of the Western Cape, as you have also been aware of my complaints and requests for investigation into Knysna Tourism for over two years. This bad situation has been allowed to carry on for far too long. You’ve failed to respond to a single complaint and publicly perpetuated the falsehood that I’d been helped. You have failed to address those who’ve poorly represented us. I can hope that you will finally step in, first by responding with emailed good intention and, secondly, by encouraging all involved (that includes your local councillors) to cooperate. You should extend that goodwill by responding to the challenge I made to both you and Alan, in the letter entitled, ‘Dear Helen Zille, You’re My Disappointment’. These are serious issues that should not be recklessly (or intentionally) disregarded.

Your silence conflicts with the DA’s promised rules of engagement and accountability and thus, in turn, has become a serious issue itself.

Please start upholding the DA’s website promise of 'a maximum 30-day turnaround time for national correspondence'. Your failure to act has cost Knysna a fortune and contradicts the local election promise of austerity.

The Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act does not allow you to ignore maladministration (and I’ve repeatedly made you aware of the maladministration and possible fraud at Knysna Tourism – ignorance is impossible). You have also failed the Local Government Municipal Finance Act which states ‘that a municipal entity must investigate allegations of financial misconduct against the accounting officer, a senior manager or other official of the entity’.

There has only been silence, delay and reasons why not to answer my questions – that can only be labelled as cover-up. Choose to stop that negative process now. What’s in the best interests of Knysna should be in the DA’s interests too!

Honour your claimed DA policy of committing to ‘efficiency and accountability’, ‘clear complaints and feedback mechanisms’, and having ‘constant and ongoing interaction between the government and its voters at all times’.

Say that you will gladly cooperate (because you believe in transparency).”

Winde refused to hand over the recording of that meeting. I believe he wouldn’t because it would implicate him.
Moos, a Public figure, was ridiculously granted a protection order against me for me taking her photo and blogging that she’d lied about promising to sort the Knysna Tourism issue. Although she never followed through, she also laid a criminal charge of crimen injuria and initiated suing me for R100,000. Yeah, I took a photo of a Public figure. How’s that for oppression. It’s obvious that the DA wanted to scare me into silence. You should be frightened too.

Moos' daughter was best friends with Mayor Georlene Wolmaran’s daughter, both working for the Municipality in the planning department. Soon thereafter, her daughter got a job working in the Mayor’s office.

Moos' case opened the floodgate. Others involved in the murkiness of Knysna Tourism also launched cases against me. Edge's life partner, Advocate Julie Seton, was deeply involved in several of these court attacks. It was a DA concert for the deaf and dangerous.

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Although I'm telling you what happened topic by topic, know that the madness was overlapping. It was hard being poor and trying to cope with it all.

It had soon become obvious that Local Government, Provincial Government, the DA and their 'opposition' were never going to enforce accountability. Consequently, I'd laid complaint with the Office of the Public Protector.

Like many South Africans, I admired the institution because its leader, Thuli Madonsela, seemed to be a rare beacon of light in the fear about our country’s future. That enchantment was slowly replaced with the reality that the Office of the Public Protector is as rotten as the rest of South Africa's Government. I use the present tense intentionally. I'll explain more about that in next book but note that my faith was shaken in those early days.

Senior Investigator Bruce Wessels ran the George branch of the Public Protector. Although 60km away, it served our area and many others. He contacted then Municipal Manager Lauren Waring who wouldn't cooperate as, according her, Knysna Tourism was a private company she had no control over. Instead of laughing at the absurdity and illegality, Wessels accepted her reason for refusing assistance. Maybe they laughed, instead, behind my back.

Knysna Tourism’s existence was obviously dependent on the millions in Public funds Waring approved. Additionally, the Board of Directors and its committees included
politicians and municipal officials. Waring was one of them.

Wessels chose to ignore that tourism falls under the competencies of a municipality. It doesn't matter whether one outsources, makes it semi-private or public private participation. It falls under the Public Sector and that means it's the Municipality’s responsibility. And the MFMA applies wherever Public funds goes, no matter how many times it passes hands. We'd discussed it. Wessels knew it was the Public Protector's job to investigate.

Wessels ignored the minutes of a Knysna Tourism Finance meeting in February 2013, in which Grant Easton, the CFO of the Municipality, had stated that Public funds would cover Tourism's debt - it’s illegal to fund debt with public funds.

Wessels also ignored that the only grant-in-aid that Knysna Municipality's Grant-in-Aid committee didn't assess and process was Tourism's. Consequently, that was serious breakdown in Supply Chain Management (SCM), and long after the fact that the contract to manage tourism should’ve gone out to tender but never did.

The organisation even received grant-in-aid whilst in contravention of it's SLA with the Municipality.

In 2014, a document surfaced as scary snapshot of Knysna Tourism's finances. There were “unforseen” monthly expenses of R20,000. I assumed that was Chairman Vogt's pay on the side. Plus, there was another R33,000 listed under consultants. Strangely, cash wages of R45,000 were also being paid out.

The biggest concern was that one of the stipulations for Tourism to receive funding (and thus exist), was that it had to spend 20% of the funds it was given on development for previously disadvantaged communities. That amounted to approximately R800,000 that year yet only R1,000 was being spent monthly. I considered them robbing the poor.

There was obviously a plot against me when Greg Vogt, like Moos, laid a charge of crimen injuria against me at the local police station. It never got to court but Vogt also applied for, and received, a protection order under the Protection from Harassment Act (PHA).

Public Protector investigator Bruce Wessel, who'd previously promised me he would never let the matter go, let it go... and sent a letter to Vogt encouraging him to find a legal solution to stop my allegations. Wessels couldn't have known I’d come into possession of that letter, after he 'warned' me to expect legal action.
Even to the casual biased observer, the DA's choice of threat over cooperation had to look suspicious.

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Despite the losses and unresolved issues, Waring had a plan to turn Knysna Tourism into a bigger organisation that would also represent local industry, essentially becoming a Chamber of Business and a Tourism agency. Considering the blatant crookery she'd allowed (and participated in), it's possible she'd had that plan a long time, and had no intention of it being derailed. That attempt at control from a foothold of corruption frightened me, more so because I'd heard that MEC Alan Winde was supportive.

She'd get her way, Knysna Tourism eventually becoming Knysna & Partners. And then it'd fall apart, another financial loss to the Public. Thereafter, it reverted to the name of Knysna Tourism and its original mandate.

Before that happened, so that it could become Knysna & Partners, a consultant was hired. Dirk Joubert was an employee of Organisation Development Africa (ODA). He's currently a Director there.

Vogt, when he'd been trying to win me over, had told me that Joubert's introduction to Tourism had been through Waring who had Knysna Municipality pay his initial fees. Allegedly, no tender had gone out, the decision done without consulting Knysna Tourism's Board of Directors. Frustration was evident in a letter Vogt sent Waring.

Vogt also alleged that Waring knew Joubert personally.

But Vogt would quickly adapt to her game. After all, he wanted to become CEO. It was soon apparent that Vogt had no intention of giving me what I'd been after for years, a detailed breakdown of exactly who'd gotten money from the organisation. It's possible he'd strung me along to make me less critical whilst he sought to solidify his position.

Joubert and Vogt worked together to change the constitution of Knysna Tourism so that it could become that new organisation with greater mandate (which included allowing Board Members to be paid). Tourism took over the paying of ODA's services.

Vogt would dodgily bill his own services via an outside company called Conservation Global in which he was soon to become an ex-partner. The company received no benefit as they paid the full amount to Vogt when they received it. I believe the owners of Conservation Global that Vogt had pulled the wool pulled over their eyes. They were genuinely angry and, after a delay, transparent about what happened. But
as Swiss foreigners operating a conservation program, they were understandably unwilling to be public.

It was a cosy arrangement between Vogt and ODA, leading to obvious conflict of interest. Joubert was hired to narrow down the 115 applications for the position of Knysna Tourism CEO. Vogt made the short list.

Leslie Pieters, an ex-Board director and well-known restaurateur, was observer to the process. He stated in an email to me:

"ODA has served as a consultant to the Knysna Municipality for the best part of 14 years... He has been involved in the selection process of the past 4 CEO’s of Knysna Tourism. In each case he had worked with, had knowledge of, or had interacted with various candidates that applied for the position. This time it was no different. The process in each case, including this one, required the sorting out of over a hundred applicants to a short list, then after more checks and balances, to a final five candidates. Dirk Joubert’s role as the facilitator of this process did not compromise or complicate the process."

The attributes Pieters was claiming were ironically the reddest flags of all. ODA’s long-term business with Knysna Municipality was a worry, not a benefit. As an experienced businessman with a long history with Knysna Tourism, and a man aware of my protest, he should have realised that the selection process was corrupted.

ODA had other contracts with Knysna Municipality. It was earning money approved by Lauren Waring who was central to the cover-up of what happened at Knysna Tourism. She was also one of the three directors selecting Vogt for the CEO position. Waring was, according to Vogt, responsible for Joubert initially getting the Tourism work. ODA went on to earn money from Knysna Tourism which Vogt would have approved as the unofficial CEO, whilst Joubert was working with him. And Joubert's past interaction with several of the candidates and chosen CEOs should’ve been further worry at conflict of interest. It's human nature to like or dislike somebody more than a stranger.

Joubert lied he'd provide me answers as to how much ODA had earned. Knysna Municipality refused to comply with my PAIA request, illogically stating that "the work involved in processing the information would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the municipality."

Vogt was arguably the worst person to represent Knysna. He was under investigation for alleged abuse of animals. This was never proven but at the time he was in major
dispute with the Knysna Elephant Park, his previous employers and the second biggest tourism attraction for Knysna. It was the biggest scandal at the time.

That the town was a tourist-based economy selling nature should have made Knysna Tourism shy away from controversy. Instead, those in other kinds of conflict of interest, embraced Vogt. They had to if they wanted to prevent being held accountable for past transgressions.

It's unsurprising that Knysna Tourism repeatedly and publicly stated that the selection process had been rigorous despite the fact they'd skipped the obvious reference check with Vogt's previous employers and partners who were mad at him. As marketers, they understand that sufficient repetition, not facts, planted ‘truth’ in the Public mind.

At Vogt's inauguration as CEO, from which I was banned, Municipal Manager Lauren tripped over herself when she said:

"**The Board took advice on the [elephant abuse] matter. We spoke to legal practitioners, we spoke to environmentalists and we spoke to various authorities that are concerned in this matter or similar matters. And, based on that, there is an issue, it’s not going to go away, it can’t go away... but that shouldn’t prejudice the appointment, in any way, of Greg. The Board will take steps to protect or mitigate any reputational risk that this might pose... One of the reasons why I’m on the Board is to protect the Municipality’s investment.**"

Mayor Georlene Wolmarans made a [statement](#) in support of Vogt which claimed,

"**His leadership is exactly what we need as a new chapter opens for Knysna Tourism. Council is confident that with Mr Vogt at the helm, our tourism industry will continue on a path of success.**"

That success never happened. Instead the company and local government sank deeper into controversy and abuse of Public funds.

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Summarily, Vogt became CEO, granted the position by a panel that conveniently included his ex-fellow Board members; Municipal Manager Waring, ANC Chief Whip De Vries and Deputy Chair Nan Raturat. They were all involved in the period that finances were in the red and Van Eck was farted out with misappropriated money.

The Knysna Tourism Corporate Governance code of practice and conduct states that the Board of Directors “must ensure that all decisions on all material matters remain in the hands of the Board” and is “ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPANY."

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*Same Shit, Different Government: Book 1 – The Corruption & The Intimidation*
If Vogt, Ratarat, De Vries etc. were Board members supposed to carry most of the blame, why was Van Eck out and Vogt in?

I described Vogt's ascension as Knysna being “smacked in the face” and as “the worst news I'd heard in five years... He isn't only the man at the centre of the elephant abuse scandal but also the primary figure in covering up the nepotism and favouritism that led Knysna Tourism into financial ruin.”

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I laughed when the Knysna Elephant Park, of which I'm fond, sponsored two large pot plants as part of a street beautification drive. One was emblazoned with the Park's name, the other with AERU, their research centre. They were placed either side of the entrance to Knysna Tourism. They were angry with Vogt and Knysna Tourism... and he'd be reminded of that every day.

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The need for cover-up made predicting some actions simple.

Vogt's appointment was convenient for the Board and especially the DA. Keeping it in-house, Nan Raturat replaced Vogt as Chair of the Board. I predicted that CFO Grant Easton would become Municipal Manager. That would protect him, and the others involved, including the DA-majority Council who continually approved funds. The necessity doubled for those councillors who were also directors on Knysna Tourism's Board.

The latter included Speaker Richard Dawson who filed papers against me in High Court but never followed through. Two of Van Eck's friends did. Councillor Edge too. Although not appointed, Edge's life partner, Advocate Seton, applied to be a Tourism Board director, and, much later, for several positions in the Municipality. She eventually secured a small, allegedly unadvertised, position on the Planning Tribunal. Councillor Eleanore Spies would take a turn on Tourism's Board before becoming Mayor in 2016. When I queried her, she lied to my face, laughing that she would never be a director and risk being my target. She'd later steal Public funds to sic lawyers on me.

Frank Kirsten was previously a reporter for the Knysna-Plett Herald newspaper who'd refused to act on my evidence against Knysna Tourism. Consequently, it was unsurprising when she became the new Public Relations officer for Knysna & Partners. It was her that had refused me entry to Vogt's inauguration where it was guaranteed
I’d have been the only one to ask questions they didn’t want to answer. After Knysna & Partners imploded, Kirsten was contracted illegally by Mayor Spies as the Communications Manager for Knysna Municipality.

In 2018, Spies was overthrown by DA Councillors Mark Willemse and Peter Myers who used the funding of Tourism as one of their selfish weapons towards getting power. The DA Federal Executive, MEC Anton Bredell, MEC Bonginkosi Madikizela and MEC Alan Winde were angry, attempting to restore power to their cover-up faction.

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The Knysna Council agenda supplementary for 13 August 2018 mentioned Knysna Tourism’s funding and contract more than ever before. This was possibly because Director Planning Marlene Boyce was the Acting Municipal Manager whilst the agenda was prepared. Boyce is a friend of Councillor Peter Myers. Both Myers and Boyce were against the last contract with Knysna Tourism, Myers having miraculously reversed his position. Well, not miraculous at all as he was fighting for his survival against other DA members.

The legal argument used by the Knysna Municipality against the funding of Knysna Tourism was the same I’d stated for years. The Municipality and Council always knew it was illegal. Because of the faction fight (Myers and Willemse versus the rest of the DA), they were finally forced to temporarily change their relationship with Knysna Tourism.

The report makes no mention of the May 2017 Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Attorneys legal opinion which would have substantiated this and my position. The opinion, procured by the Municipality, was rumoured to be expensive. It must be considered fruitless expenditure as the illegality of Knysna Tourism has always been logical i.e. I’m a citizen versus a Government that knows more than me.

Nevertheless, the Cliffe Decker Hofmeyr report made it clear that politicians should not be on the Board of Tourism and that the services must be put out to tender.

Although the SLA had always been illegal, the report states that the SLA expired in June 2018. That meant that Tourism was funded for at least another two months beyond the contract.

The report refers to a meeting with the provincial Departments of the Premier and Tourism. Notably it doesn’t state with whom but with or without them, Premier Zille and MEC Winde would be responsible, the two most relevant people who’d failed to
act on my complaints for years.

I was secretly informed that MEC Winde had chosen to ignore the report when it first came out. He’d allegedly ordered the DA to approve Tourism’s illegal funding again (which they did). This is substantiated to a degree by my call to Knysna Tourism’s then Chairperson, Elmay Bouwer. According to her, I was the first to inform her that Winde had ordered her company’s funding. The funding happened soon thereafter.

On 15 September 2018, I received a partial copy of an investigation that had been hidden from the Public. The De Swardt Vogel Myambo Attorneys report noted 'irregularities' and called for disciplinary hearings and criminal charges against Mayor Spies and 2 directors. For different reasons to mine, one of the charges was that Knysna Tourism was illegally funded because then Municipal Manager Kam Chetty's contract had been fraudulently backdated to try make the transfer of funds look legitimate.

As I've similarly done in the past, I informed the DA Federal Executive, DA Leader Mmusi Maimane, Zille, Winde, Bredell and many others. As usual, they chose silence instead of embracing the fight against corruption. I don't believe in sunny ignorance during a flood.

Councillor Spies got a protection order against me just before the report was presented to Council in a meeting closed to the Public. Again, I believe the DA was gagging me against the Public’s best interest.

Instead of the DA punishing her, Councillor Spies was promoted to Speaker of the Garden Route District under which Knysna falls. She's on the Mayoral Committee (MAYCO) with her 'husband', Rowan Spies.

Shaun van Eck may have been the earliest to leave the story but resurfaced as a director on the Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism Board in 2018. Interestingly, Jannie Gie, another previous Director of Knysna Tourism, was also on the Board. It would thus seem impossible that Van Eck's controversial background is unknown. More so considering that he assumed the position during the DA's reign over the city, appointed by Mayor Athol Trollip’s office. Trollip, previously a member of the DA Federal Executive, also ignored my couriered complaint.

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The DA’s next move was to outsource Knysna’s tourism function to WESGRO. They're a tourism, trade, investment and promotion agency; a private company that’s taken
over much of the Provincial and Local Government's mandate in the Western Province. Essentially, they're the bigger and successful version of what the failed Knysna & Partners was meant to be.

Despite the faction wars, both sides of the DA were strangely determined to support WESGRO, having learned nothing from their sins with Knysna Tourism. New Mayor Mark Willemse skipped the legally required Public participation process and his previous, politically motivated concerns about Knysna Tourism's funding. Maybe because he wanted to make a deal with the DA leadership to stay in power (they'd wanted him out).

Willemse released a statement in July 2018 that Knysna Municipality had made the decision to go with WESGRO. Thereafter, there was a photo of him and MEC Alan Winde smiling for the signing. WESGRO's contract was clearly illegal, and thus warrants a deeper look into the company's role provincially. And, once more, no one punished, the cover-up continued.

WESGRO already has a relationship with the DA's provincial seat of power, the City of Cape Town. It cannot be ruled out that the bigger relationship there would out influence the interests of Knysna. It's worrying that Alan Winde, as a DA bigwig and possibly the next Premier, would retain indirect influence.

My fears are validated by the DA and Provincial Government long being aware and in possession of documents relating to my complaints about Knysna Tourism to Parliament (2015-2018) and the Public Protector (2013). My legal requests for info from Knysna Municipality, Knysna Tourism and the Office of the Premier remain unanswered.

After all that's happened, it's impossible to be shocked by the fact that Tim Harris, the CEO of WESGRO, is an ex-DA politician. He used to develop their economic policies and was previously DA Leader Tony Leon's Chief of Staff. It's likely that Zille and Winde have a close relationship with him the same way they do with Leon whose company, Resolve Communications, received communications contracts from the City of Cape Town.

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Whether the DA's power at perception management succeeds or not, it won't change the fact that private tourism companies are being illegally funded from Public funds. I use the plural. This may have begun with the deceptively named Knysna Tourism, but I expect it to eventually storm across the province.
I was told MEC Alan Winde couldn’t afford to allow Knysna Tourism to be exposed and punished because that would affect “another 30 municipalities” who were similarly and illegally funding private companies to fulfill their tourism mandate. The number “30” may have been generalised speech but there are coincidentally 30 local and district municipalities in the Western Cape.

I know that nearby Mossel Bay Tourism and Bitou Tourism are also Section 21 companies mostly funded by Local Government. The ANC recently took over Bitou Municipality (a.k.a. Plettenberg Bay) but the company was set up during DA rule, with help from Knysna’s Greg Vogt.

Consequently, I don’t know what the final loss will be but it's reasonable to conclude that it will run into hundreds of millions of rands.

Getting the whole truth and a final figure is obstructed.

The latest barricade was erected by Solly Fourie who worked for Winde as Head of Department Economic Development & Tourism. I sent him a formal request under the Promotion to Access of Information Act (PAIA). His response to my PAIA was:

“I need to draw your attention to the fact that the Department is not in possession of a funding model for the tourism function of any municipality in the Western Cape. Local tourism is a local government competence. As such, the Department also does not have any record of money received by municipalities from public funds nor in respect of any agreements entered into. It is therefore suggested that in order to obtain copies of the relevant records you request directly to the relevant municipalities. Hope the above information suffices.”

My response was:

“Your wrongful stance saves me the appeal delay. From the Constitution, one goes down to Provincial Legislation and thereafter to Local Government Legislation to look at competencies. Tourism may fall under the competencies of a municipality but it has to go through you. What you’re effectively saying is that you and provincial government doesn’t matter, doesn’t need to exist. That, of course, is impossible because you, Solly Fourie, do exist. In your position, you cannot be unaware of who I am and my fight against the illegal funding of Knysna Tourism and your boss. Your argument is obviously misleading and obstructive. It shows loyalty to Alan Winde and the DA, not the Public. It’s loyalty to corruption. If you wish to prove me wrong, then tell me that it
matters to you that tourism companies are [allowed to] be illegally funded by your department. That would be a positive beginning.”

Fourie never responded.

And when I appealed anyway, he ignored me.

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I was told thirdhand that Winde said that he can get Western Cape Government lawyers to find any loophole, and that, if need be, the Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr report will be countered.

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Keeping it in the faction is the name of the game.

Councillor Wasserman, who'd been among the first in the DA to deny me info, had left Council but now returned. That had been rumoured before her selection so it's possible that the others who applied were abused as smokescreen. She'd been associated with Winde her previous term. He'd been referred to as her mentor. It's now said she's his proxy in the Knysna Council. Only future actions will confirm or deny that.

Late 2018, Winde was announced as the DA's candidate to take over from Zille as Premier in 2019. That wind was smelt by Bantu Holomisa, leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM), way back in January 2018. He'd said that there was a plot to make Winde the Premier. I confirmed the DA's intention for Winde soon after. Again, a position had been decided before democracy had a chance to breathe. Decisions seem not be made by the Public or within party structures, only by few leading a faction within the party.

The official announcement happened the same week the DA told the Public that Michelle Wasserman was their Knysna Mayoral candidate. The DA may have invented something new in their pursuit of faction politics. No local election was in sight and, even if Cape Town never liked him, they already had a sitting Mayor in Willemse. But, as stated, they went quiet after Willemse signed the WESGRO contract.

Zille would be dumped into the area too. Or maybe she volunteered. I'll leave that bruise for the sequel.

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The DA could have chosen to admit a problem – fix it → punish → and move on. That
would have benefited Knysna, provided stability and saved a fortune. It would've backed up the DA’s claims to be anti-maladministration and corruption. It would've saved them from almost a decade of controversy. It would have made the DA look good.

Instead, for the sake of protecting a few, cover-up ensued.

It's logical there's greater motivation, a lot more at stake than rot in a small town, a bigger reason for the cover-ups and intimidation that'll grow in this book. I believe that one turn of the key to unravelling this mess, and explaining why the DA tried to destroy me, is Winde. He's in the crosshairs just before he's expected to be promoted into the province's highest position.

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These twists and turns of people and positions reminds me of a cartoon in which a teacher is speaking to a monkey, a penguin, a goldfish and an elephant: "For a fair selection, everybody has to take the same exam. Your first test is to climb that tree."
Man of dubious hats, Greg Vogt, and controversial Municipal Manager Lauren Waring
MEC Tourism Alan Winde (now Premier candidate)
CHAPTER 3:
The Mayor, Minister & Property Developers

"Find out where the people are going, and buy land before they get there."
- William Penn Adair

"The struggle of people against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."
- Milan Kundera, The Book of Laughter and Forgetting

Face it, if you're the average citizen, you don't control your future. Not because you can't but because you're lazy. You're like almost everyone else who allows others to make important decisions for them. Then you bitch about the Government at a braai, or during the intermission of a rugby or soccer game. And you feel ok cause you're drinking a beer in the company of other whiny bitches.

If I just described you, the biggest question in your life should be, "Who do I want to control my future?" Would your answer include politicians and property developers?

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Since 2013, the DA-led Knysna Municipality has supported an illegal tender that was the first major step towards determining the future of its residents. Instead of calling the objective something comprehensible such as 'The Plan for Our Future', they went with 'Integrated Strategic Development Framework'. My opinion makes it the 'Insane Selfish Developers Fraternity'. But for you, I'll just call it by its acronym, the 'ISDF'.

The ISDF is supposed to become the blueprint for Knysna for the next 30 years. It determines everything from where development will be permitted and infrastructure erected, where people will work and live. That's disturbing considering that the tender was illegally awarded to those who never won the bid, and that many involved were in conflict of interest.

Knysna was said to be the test case for the Western Province. Don't think of the Western Cape as somehow less meaningful for only being part of South Africa. It's an area the size of Greece with a population greater than Denmark or Ireland's. This is about more than Knysna. It's about what the DA might do anywhere they rule, and that they consider the interests of property developers to be more important than us. It's likely about power wanting more power.

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In May 2013, I posted an article about several controversial property issues on opposite sides of town. I wondered if there was a link between them. That it became
my most popular blog at the time meant my worry was shared.

Lauren Waring was the Municipal Manager of Knysna. I once described her character “like grass after a pig’s snout has dug through it; slippery and muddily ugly. No matter how she ignores or lies to the Knysna public, she’s still going to walk home with her 6-figure salary every month. Residents associations fear her. Businesses are frustrated by her. I have come to despise this woman because she despises Knysna with her actions.”

She oversaw Knysna but didn't live in it. She commuted from George Municipality. How residence wasn't an employment stipulation escapes me but it's awkward fact that would be repeated with one of her successors.

Chris Mulder is the owner and director of Chris Mulder & Associates Incorporated (CMAI). He's the most famous and infamous property developer in a town once flooded by his ilk. The Americanised boom may have bust in 2009 but he seemed to continue doing well.

He was the brains behind Thesen Islands which splashed 568 houses and apartments in the middle of the sensitive Knysna Estuary. Prices range from R3-million to R30-million. Many stand empty most of the year, holiday homes for global trotters. It's a remarkable construction admired by some but hated by others who believe it to be the anti-thesis to the natural beauty Knysna's famous for.

I too have my doubts about whether it should've been allowed to exist. Although only a guard house and a bridge away from the centre of town, Thesen Islands is a gated community. It's essentially dislocated from the people of Knysna. I object to the fact that us regular folk aren't allowed to walk its shores. There's a small Public section with shops catering to the rich but the restaurants have their moments of popularity with the locals. From a developer's point of view, it was a job well done. And the residents' association, who are our fellow citizens, are well-intentioned and efficient.

And as much as no one wants to be a gardener or a maid, they also don't want to be unemployed. Thesen Islands is a contributor to the job market. It must also pay a lot of taxes.

My view is that what's done is done, so we may as well embrace it. I regularly walked its few public streets, enjoyed meals, drank excessively over-priced beer, and took photographs.

Mulder, however, will never escape the controversy.
CMAI was part of the Knysna Creative Heads Consortium (KCH) which 'won' the first ISDF tender. The consortium was headed by Mulder and had been established for the purpose of becoming the ISDF service provider.

Resident Susan Campbell read my article and began conversation with me via email and phone. She would become both a major player in Knysna and a feature in my life. I used to describe her as a fellow activist but now have serious doubts about her ultimate intentions. But, at that stage, her work made her remarkable. She'd previously halted questionable development in Uitzicht, had turned a family property into an environmentally friendly bush camp, and, with regards the ISDF, had compiled an impressively factual and intelligent objection. It helped that she was an attorney.

Three days after my initial article, I blogged a version of Campbell's objection on behalf of several conservancies and homeowner's associations.

Campbell had done the hard part, but I’d given it wings. Certain circles in town were abuzz. Others began waking up.

Later that month, the Cape Times published 'Knysna Charm at Risk'. The Cape Argus followed with Melanie Gosling's 'Knysna Developer at Centre of Storm' on its front page. Gosling was a family member of a local businesswoman who was one of the main forces in the Noetzie Conservancy, on the other side of town to those Campbell was objecting for. The circle of dissatisfaction was complete.

But the Knysna Municipality, our Local Government, still wasn't listening. Their determination to disregard the Public's opinion made the issue bigger. I singled out the usual unhelpful suspects with, “Lauren Waring, our controversial Municipal Manager, has chosen to ignore residents’ associations. Our Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans, has again forgotten to be our leader. In fact, our politicians, from both the ANC and the DA, have been scarily silent.”

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But Public participation, no matter that it's most times mockery and ineffectual, is guaranteed by the Constitution.

A meeting was set up for September 2013 at what Knysna Creative Heads (KCH) had creatively called an ISDF Connection Café. It was actually an abandoned shop in an abandoned mall that our small, town library was temporarily using whilst its home got a charming yet absurd R5-million makeover (which would go over budget by half-a-
million, consultants benefiting).

The ISDF flyer used community words such as "integrated", "interconnect", "interactive", "share" and "your" a whopping 17 times. It was meant to make one feel special, a believer in the promise of, "Giving us all a better life and a better place to live." As a final say, they even saluted our involvement in capitals: "YOU will shape the future by sharing your ideas for a better Knysna."

Sign me up! Oh, wait! There’s was that pesky worry that the people who were praising us may be lying to us.

On my blog, I related **what happened next:**

"It was a first to drink wine in the library. I ignored my paranoia which said we were being lubricated into stunned lambs at a slaughter. In fact, every member of the public skipped mentioning past complaints and mused as to what was about to be delivered. That was an incredible feat considering we were surrounded by politicians who had either lied, being unhelpful or obstructive too many times before.

There were even two non-white, opposition politicians there, no mere tokenism considering that they, in the past we try to forget, were suppose to score from BEE developments from the same white people who were in the room with us. That wine sure felt comforting.

They said nothing. At least nothing of value that would explain the future of Knysna, the blueprint that may decide the future of the Western Cape. Over a poor-quality microphone, Municipal Manager Lauren Waring, Mayor Georlene Wolmarans and ISDF Director Dr Chris Mulder spoke for approximately 30 minutes. They spoke with sufficient positivism so that some of the audience clapped at the end... despite us having learnt nothing at all.

A summary would say, 'We worked hard, we’re the best qualified and there are going to be more interaction Café’s.' If it had been delivered in a cup, it would have taken us longer to drink than one of those free wines. Our future should be longer than that.

Susan Campbell stood to ask questions. This was my first time meeting her in person. You’d think that such a person would be respected by those supposed to be guiding our future but exactly the opposite happened which begs the question, 'Whose future does the Knysna Municipality truly have at heart?"
This was advertised as an interactive meeting and only minutes before the speakers had spoken much about Public participation. Yet when Campbell tried questioning, she was refused by Georlene Wolmarans, the DA’s rent-a-mayor for Knysna. This prompted this writer and others to voice our disapproval, saying that we wanted to hear the answers and had questions of our own. The obvious objection by the Public found Chris Mulder, to his credit, heading back to the podium.

Campbell was very polite. She spoke in a calm voice and began by saying that she respected the Mulder family and that her questions were not targeted at them but at long unanswered questions involving the ISDF.

But the meeting became chaotic. The Mayor began acting like a spoiled child at a party, shooting comments from the sideline and totally disrupting the meeting. The staff were ordered to pack up which led to loud noises of more voices, packets and scraping chairs. It was an intentional act of sabotaging public participation. The DA’s part in the lie was exposed.

The Knysna-Plett Herald later reported that Mulder was told, 'Not to entertain them.'

The meeting collapsed into two small groups jammed between chairs and bookshelves; Campbell and Mike Maughan-Brown (the Knysna Town Planner); me and Chris Mulder. People awkwardly jostled to and fro, trying to catch both conversations. I attempted to multi-task but had to give up trying to hear what Campbell was saying to instead focus on a visibly upset, Chris Mulder. Later, it was said that Campbell had asked excellent questions which Maughan-Brown failed to answer, and had instead ended by telling her, 'Take us to court.'

Chris Mulder was constantly raising his voice and, for minutes, prodded me in my chest. I pointed out what he was doing and looked around me so as to convey to him that there were witnesses. He took a breath, calmed down and I’m pleased to say that we eventually got to the point where we could shake hands.

My main question to him was how were the Public supposed to trust the ISDF process if we didn’t trust the awarding of the tender that started it? He wouldn’t answer that, insisting that it was the Knysna Municipality’s responsibility to do so. I disagreed, saying that the leader of such an important project does not shirk responsibility, and should want to step out from under the stormy cloud so
that the ISDF could move happily along.

He was at pains to say that he wasn't benefiting from the ISDF as he'd be busy with the Crossways development project, near Port Elizabeth, for the next 7-8 years. However, Mulder wouldn't state to me, as requested, that his company or his family would not be involved in future developments in Knysna.

It was an intense conversation filled with repetition that gained no answers.”

Despite loud opposition from the Public, the DA and Municipality were determined to proceed. It led to many asking who the DA works for. It gave impetus to the the DA being the 'Developers Alliance'.

The size of that question mark grew when Campbell later revealed a long sought-after investigation by Provincial Treasury and Local Government. She'd gained it through the same Public Protector investigator who'd given me such a hard time. It proved what had long been suspected, that the ISDF tender process was fatally flawed. The findings were damning.

One of the first things you need to know is that MEC Local Government Anton Bredell is a big figure in the DA. Like MEC Tourism Alan Winde, he's part of Premier Helen Zille's inner circle. He's currently the Chairman of the Western Cape DA. It was obvious why Bredell had wanted to hide the report. He'd signed for it, defied it, and given the green light for the project to go ahead. He'd favoured property developers who'd never won the bid.

The DA and Bredell had long been mired in property scandals across the Western Cape but now, for the first time that I was aware of, there was damning proof.

Deepening the political mud was that it affected the recent elevation of Grant Easton to Municipal Manager, replacing Waring. He'd been Director Finance during the Knysna Tourism scandal.

I'll return to that report but let me first point out what was known long before its release.

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The ISDF tender is rotten.

In April 2013, the Knysna Municipality appointed Knysna Creative Heads (KCH) to prepare the ISDF for Knysna. KCH is led by Mulder and includes his company CMAI, Urban Econ and Marike Vreken, a planning consultant known to fight for rich
developments in environmentally sensitive areas. From the outset, it seemed as if the tender was being pushed their way.

Despite the importance and scope of the tender, bidders were only given three weeks to respond. KCH had an unfair financial and knowledge advantage over other bidders. The previous year, Mulder and CMAI had been appointed to investigate and obtain the necessary approvals for an intended residential property development by PG Bison, a forestry company that's the biggest private landowner in Knysna. The Knysna Municipality then appointed CMAI to make a Structure Frame for that area called Rheenendal. The deal was that PG Bison would pay CMAI the bulk of the money whilst Knysna Municipality would contribute a nominal amount that wouldn't need Council approval. The appointment was made even though the area would be reviewed as part of the ISDF process. They were being paid for work that would have to be done again.

CMAI had become known for various controversial development proposals outside the urban edge. As part of KCH, and with intentions to build a new waterfront alongside the Knysna Estuary, it possessed the most conflict of interest. Despite their advantages, they came second in the bidding process. The winner was City Think Space which was based in Cape Town. But KCH was given the tender.

The ISDF tender was prepared and awarded under the watch of Director Planning & Development Mike Maughan-Brown. Before working for Knysna Municipality, Maughan-Brown advised PG Bison’s parent company, Steinhoff, on issues relating to their property and forestry settlements.

The value of the ISDF public participation was also in doubt as Pat Mulder, Chris Mulder’s wife, carried it out despite having no relevant qualifications or experience. In one meeting, she defended PG Bison, CMAI’s client, regarding the contentious issue of forestry communities.

Keeping it in the family was their son, Steff Mulder, who prepared the Human Settlement Plan for the ISDF.

Also defying fair and impartial approach were the municipal officials involved in awarding the tender.

Mike Maughan-Brown was a member of the Bid Adjudication Committee (BAC) that dealt with the ISDF tender. If there was a single person who should have pointed out the conflict of interest of having a local property developer head up the ISDF, it was him. Before being a municipal official, Maughan-Brown’s town planning firm, wished to
change the proposed urban edge of Knysna. Chris Mulder wished to do the same. They even wanted to include an existing nature reserve. Doing so would have favoured the profits of property developers wanting to build gated communities in sensitive areas.

In 2008, when Knysna’s first development framework was prepared, Mike Maughan-Brown, Chris Mulder, Marike Vreken and VPM all delivered objections which included opposing the proposed urban edge (which they wanted extended).

Ilse van Schalkwyk, Knysna Municipality’s Manager of Economic Development, represented the BEC (Bid Evaluation Committee) during the BAC meeting for the ISDF tender. The decision to award the tender relied on her evaluation of the bids. But Van Schalkwyk should have recused herself as she was associated with two of the companies forming the KCH bid – she used to manage the George branch of Urban Econ, and Chris Mulder had been a client of Urban Econ.

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According to Susan Campbell, 133 people and organisations objected to the awarding of the ISDF tender to KCH.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring was obliged by law to appoint an independent person to deal with the objections. Instead, the Municipality’s Director Legal Services Melony Paulsen initially dealt with the objectors. Paulsen was for supporting the wishes of Council, not the Public who paid her salary.

After further outcry, the Municipality appointed CJ Ballan Attorneys.

Both actions suggested defence rather than helpfulness. Some objectors receiving no response at all. No hearings were held. Campbell, who was representing many citizens, requested to address the Council. She was denied.

Bianca Currie, from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, released an independent, 21-page report that recognised that a:

"Significant issue emerging from the Knysna ISDF process is the unresolved conflict between the Knysna Municipality and civil environmental groups. The dispute is not being acknowledged and has been left to fester, breeding suspicion and mistrust in the process."

The most detailed, critical and damning objection was Campbell's 29-page report. By law, the Municipality was compelled to reply yet Municipal Manager Waring dismissed it in a single letter that failed to address the serious allegations therein.
The Knysna-Plett Herald's 12 June 2013 edition stated that Mayor Wolmaran's response to the Public's frustration had been to threaten "that the Knysna Municipality may choose to take legal steps against persons and publications should they publish any information deemed defamatory about the municipality or its officials.” It was in remarkable contrast to her election campaign promises of transparency and an open-door policy.

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The Knysna Municipality and Council, particularly the DA, were determined to push the ISDF tender to KCH – the politicians failed to fulfill their oversight role and, instead, looked the other way.

That the ANC weren't bludgeoning the DA with it, gave strength to the rumour (which I've never confirmed) that ANC biggies were seeking BEE shares from PG Bison. BEE, pronounced as the acronym B.E.E., is 'Black Economic Empowerment'. It's the robbery of South Africa, an elite few becoming appallingly rich instead of helping the poor. In return, companies, especially those established during the Apartheid era, trade wealth for a multi-racial curriculum vitae that's in turn traded for contracts for more business.

I made appeals to Premier Helen Zille, Mayor Wolmarans and many others – all ignored me.

Through my websites, I led an online campaign to promote Campbell's objection and educate the Public. The long-term challenge was to combat the Public's inevitable topic fatigue.

Public pressure stopped the ISDF from being implemented... but not cancelled. Millions were spent and municipal meeting after municipal meeting mentioned the ISDF as if it were imminent.

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In May 2014, Mayor Wolmarans sent a request to MEC Alan Winde for the ISDF allegations to be investigated. I assume he was still our representative to Parliament at that stage. The situation was odd because no facts had changed, and the DA or Municipality could've called for a local investigation any time the previous year.

As Wolmarans was a supporter of the controversial tender award, it was seen by some as a way of protecting herself whilst getting a green light from higher government which supported it too. One rumour was that she was ordered to send the request as the DA leadership believed that an investigation by their loophole government would
find a way around it. What happened was probably unexpected by both sides.

Wolmarans waited until August to announce to the Knysna Council her request to Province. The Council reacted as if they’d been bombed. It cannot be coincidence that Treasury and Local Government had completed their investigation the same month (something discovered much later). That's the investigation I mentioned earlier. There was a plan afoot and the Public weren't part of it.

MEC Anton Bredell’s department took over and kept delaying the release of the report without explaining why. A summarised version eventually arrived in Knysna in November 2014 but was only revealed to the Public in February 2015. No reason was given for Bredell not supplying the full document. But it was possible that the Mayor had lied and withheld it.

Its importance compounded as it affected the appointment of Grant Easton as the new Municipal Manager. Mayor Wolmarans had stated that his appointment required Bredell’s full report before being enacted. That implied that Easton needed to be cleared of any wrongdoing regards the ISDF tender. Despite that, she conflicted with her own statement by appointing him anyway. Political lies had become a way of life.

Bredell’s summary, nevertheless, seemed to emphatically concur with the objectors – he listed 10 major points against the ISDF. It seemed like a conviction but-

-in total contrast, and without explanation, Bredell stated that he saw no reason why the ISDF couldn't proceed as the discrepancies hadn't affected the process. The report, his email and decision blatantly didn’t add up.

Campbell pointed out that:

“For reasons best known to her, the Mayor has decided to annex only the letter from Bredell, rather than the full report, to the agenda for the meeting of the Mayoral Committee scheduled for 19 February 2015. Considering that the letter was sent on the 25th of November 2014 and it refers to ‘a report which is attached for your consideration’, we have to assume that the Mayor is in possession of the report.”

Facing a blank wall that, according to her, made no sense unless it was to favour the interests of a few over the many, Campbell sought the full report. Her requests to Bevan Ellman (Knysna Corporate Services Manager), Anton Bredell and Graham Paulse (Chief Director of Municipal Performance, Monitoring and Support) failed for a year. She applied through the George Office of the Public Protector which retrieved it
half a year later.

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Halfway through the Council Meeting of 27 November 2015, just before she left the room, Campbell handed out copies of the full provincial report into the ISDF. It was damning, proof that Bredell had attempted a whitewash and that his contrary actions should be considered fraud.

Irony of ironies was that Mayor Georlene Wolmarans had just announced Knysna’s clean audit. And masochistically funny was that Grant Easton had requested a further R579,000 for the ISDF tender. Besides the irregularity of paying more money than contractually agreed upon, Easton was unable to explain what the money was for. No one on the Council, when asked, could state which councillors were on the ISDF Steering Committee. It was a classic meeting of incompetency and evil lunacy.

In Council on 10 January 2016, Easton's requested figure was mysteriously dropped to an even R250,000, and said to be for a community consultation session. Some agreement seemed to have been reached under the table during the holidays. Councillor Peter Myers had claimed to me that he’d become a politician because of his opposition to the tender process involving the ISDF. Now he agreed that the extra money should be paid. No one asked for a breakdown of how the monies would be used or why Easton had changed it from the previous amount of R579,000. The meeting was extremely confusing in that it wasn't clear from the Public gallery whether the money was approved or not.

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The 16-page investigative report into the ISDF showed repeated compliance errors that made the choice of words in the conclusion seem tame:

“The assessment showed that there are procedural deficiencies in adherence to the SCM [Supply Chain Management] prescripts and regulations. Furthermore, the Municipality should guard against the possible future conflict of interest.”

Summarily, the tender for the future of Knysna wasn’t awarded to the highest scoring bidder and wasn’t legally compliant.

The tender should’ve been shot down in flames. Instead, there was no move to admit wrongdoing or correct the problem. Instead, life continued as if it hadn't happened. We were understandably worried.

I lost reference notes and a computer in the Great Knysna Fire so I’m unsure whether
I'm quoting or paraphrasing Campbell:

"Knysna’s most well known property developer, previously employed by the town’s largest landowner, was managing the process in which Knysna’s future would be determined. The process was been overseen by the Town Planner who was previously a consultant to the landowner. The DA was made aware of all the conflicts of interest but instead of investigating defied due process and seemingly white-washed the situation in favour of property developers over the Public they were meant to serve."

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Like a phoenix with a gimpy leg, the ISDF rose again. At the beginning of 2017, the DA made an anonymous post on their Facebook page. The request was for the Public to look at the ISDF plan.

I made the 'fatal' mistake of asking the following reasonable question:

"Its beginning was an illegal tender. The protest against that has led to the hold-up of ISDF implementation for years. Please explain where we stand with the investigation. Is MEC Bredell's, then Mayor Wolmarans', the Planning Department's, and the Legal Department's role being questioned too? Please show that this is no longer being whitewashed or conveniently (and only) dumped on suspended Municipal Manager Easton. Please identify yourself when answering. Thank you - www.knysnakeep.org/minister-anton-bredell-mayor-georlene-wolmarans-knysna-tender-scandal-1."

When the DA deleted my comment, I questioned them on it, saying that their poor actions would be reacted to.

They deleted that comment... and a third...

...and made a new post, stating, without mentioning my name, that I'd been banned for "grandstanding".

The screenshots can be viewed online.

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The ANC may rule South Africa but are entirely dysfunctional in the Western Cape. What should've been normal was instead strange in August 2017.

ANC MP Richard Dyanti stood in the legislature with one of my corruption summaries in his hand, questioning MEC Anton Bredell. He even read out the threats against me
by Dr Martin Young who would soon become a DA councillor.

Dyanti had long refused to respond to me, hadn't spoken to me about what he was going to do, hadn't researched the topic, and did nothing thereafter. It was pure grandstanding, a politician pretending to be opposition. Thankfully, a junior ANC member in Cape Town told me about it afterwards. That person never understood why his/her leaders weren't capitalising on what had sensationally happened. The opportunity to take down one of the most powerful leaders on the other side was skipped. It suggested that, for all their dancing, the top brass in the ANC and DA in Cape Town aren't political enemies. I wondered if the likes of the ANC's Cameron Dugmore could ever “enemy” as he'd hidden in Helen Zille's cottage during Apartheid.

Through luck and persistence, I found the video of what happened. It was better than watching 'House of Cards'.

Bredell repeatedly perjured himself. He was the Father Christmas version of Pinocchio, looking fatter on YouTube with every obvious lie, sending me presents of evidence against him.

[Interruption: I have a complaint with Parliament that's had three hearings. They call it the 'Love Knysna Petition'. Cause I don't want to confuse you with my confusing life, I've been introducing villains and themes rather than a blow by blow account. But note that the complaint includes the topics of Knysna Tourism, the illegal appointment of Easton, intimidation, and other stuff. The ISDF tender's in there too.]

When queried about Knysna corruption, and the ISDF tender, Bredell lied that the Public Protector had cleared it. He claimed the impossible because part of the my Love Knysna Petition to Parliament was because the Office of the Public Protector failed to investigate my complaint, and refused to investigate their staff member, Bruce Wessels, who suspiciously failed to do so.

Bredell lied that Treasury and Local Government had cleared the tender which was blatantly untrue if you'd read the investigation he'd signed for and then tried to hide.

Bredell implied that Parliament had cleared it too which was also lie because the process hadn't finished. And a decision had yet to be made by the time this book was released, 20 months after his lie.

The DA Federal Executive and Premier Helen Zille ignored my complaint against MEC Bredell for committing perjury in Parliament, protecting himself and the property developers he favoured against the Public. So, I tried a different route, a step lower
down the ladder of power.

Sharna Fernandez, the DA's Speaker for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, acknowledged my complaint in November 2018. On the Provincial Parliament website, she states: "As Speaker, I hope to draw the attention of all citizens of this province to the rights and responsibilities our democracy has bequeathed them."

I ccied ANC members and Alan Winde who'd become the DA's candidate for Western Cape Premier.

But she has continued the DA's pattern of silence.... and since been placed at a respectable #6 on the DA's Western Cape candidate lists for the 2019 election. She's assured of a good job whilst Bredell keeps his – he's #8 on the list of 42 candidates.

Bredell is protected because the DA is a lie needing to protect those who lie for it.

And ANC leaders such as Richard Dyanti, Cameron Dugmore, Khaya Magaxa, Faiez Jacobs, Pierre Uys and Ebrahim Rasool are suspiciously slumberous. The constant protection of the DA by the ANC should be concerning for anyone believing in the need for opposition as a step towards honesty in politics.

As citizens, we are cursed to walk beneath the ladders of politicians.

* * * * *

I shiver when the DA repeatedly tells national media that they're the party of good governance. They're rarely questioned on their claim. It's more likely that they'll be compared positively to the ANC's negativity. If we were the sleeping resident, we'd get burnt as much by a DA shack fire as we would by an ANC house fire.

The only time I recall the DA being seriously challenged was with regards Cape Town's water crisis in 2018. Until then, they'd been given undying support and a get-out-of-jail-free card. But the world's party metro suffering from drought was impossible for even international TV to ignore. Even harder after President Ramaphosa mentioned it in an interview from the World Economic Forum in Davos.

That residential and small business anger has combined with other rates charges to linger into today. The ratepayers, whose bills shot higher than Table Mountain, must have been angry in January of this year when it was announced that the City of Cape Town had over-collected rates by R900-million, and that the desalination plant wasn't operational.

* * * * *
Knysna isn't alone. The DA's referred to as the Developers Alliance in other places. Resident's of the Western Cape are aware of controversies regards the Tafelberg School site, Philippi Horticulture Area, Clara Anna Fontein, Maiden’s Cove, Foreshore, Kommetjie, Glencairn, Bo-Kaap, Big Bay and Princess Vlei. The DA may pretend to be liberal whilst having a socialist base seeking votes but is cruelly neo-liberal at the top.

R3-million spent on the Knysna ISDF tender and six years wasted. Worth far more was Knysna's unknown future. At least we learned that the DA didn't and doesn't care about us. Knowledge is power that can be used, whether by vote or writing a book.
CHAPTER 4:
Praise the Backstabbers

"Until you realize how easily it is for your mind to be manipulated, you remain the puppet of someone else's game."

- Evita Ochel

I'm only a cynical bastard if what I say is mostly untrue. This isn't about exceptions such as real leaders and revolutions. This is about “everyday life” wherein we're frustrated at our shrinking living standards but still able to braai or dance the weekend.

Politicians from the majors know where they stand with us. They must be nice to get allocated an office by their party. Then we're a nuisance to be tolerated the next five years. If they engage, we'll keep asking for more. So, it's better to speak in generalisations and avoid us as much as possible until we're mentally exhausted into silence. Unless it arrives with destruction, protest has as much chance of survival as a television news cycle.

But the politicians repetitively turn up for the Media to say something they know we want to hear. It makes no difference whether it's positive or negative, they just must resonate our too often uneducated opinion about the latest topic. They need us to know they exist so that we can forgive them before the next election.

We're conditioned to hope and hate, forget and repeat... and live in a box designed by someone else's intention for us.

I'm inside a 'pretty' box that feels real, taught to believe that everything outside is terrifying darkness. No matter how much my little-little box keeps shrinking-shrinking, I'm going to bend and squeeze to stay inside it... and never discover that inside is the lie, and everything outside is all that matters.

Constitutional democracy is more for the politicians than voters... which makes them fear other politicians more than us. There's always someone who wants their chair, or to fight them for the chair with the bigger cushion. From our viewpoint, them switching places doesn't change much. Different faces don't alter the nature of politics, only who builds the boxes.

We've little to do with who rules the DA or the ANC. The laughing Jacob Zuma is the ultimate proof of that. But the same logic applies to President Cyril Ramaphosa and DA Federal Executive Chairman James Selfe - they live in a world of chairs not boxes.
You're right if you pointed out that there’s leeway at the bottom. At some point, they had to climb out of the box and onto the chair. It's more probable that someone lowered a ladder. No matter how they got there, ask yourself how many politicians names you knew when they got elected in your backyard. And if they later got kicked out of Council for being a thief, was it because of Public action... or because another politician or their own party wanted their chair? And of all those thieves that lost their chairs, how many got sent to that box called jail?

There are too many useful idiots and not enough anarchists.

It isn't democracy, just fucking boxes and chairs.

* * * * *

Much that went wrong in Knysna began under Municipal Manager Lauren Waring. Those wrongdoings couldn't have happened without support from Director Finance Grant Easton. It was logical that to maintain cover-up, Easton would have to replace her when she left, the same way Vogt had replaced Eck at Knysna Tourism.

Like Van Eck, Easton was a deeply questionable character who’d become a scapegoat for DA necessity.

* * * * *

I publicly predicted that Easton would become Municipal Manager. I almost lost my psychic status when he never applied.

A different white male emerged as the top candidate. But instead of hiring him, the Municipality re-advertised the position, stating they wanted an equity appointment. That meant they wanted a black or coloured person. The excuse for wasteful expenditure on more advertising contained a smidgeon of truth since the Municipality was behind on its equity goals. The illogic was not having advertised the stipulation the first time. What followed can only be explained as cronyism.

The previous winning white candidate was strangely allowed to reapply. That made perverse sense when Easton applied too. Maybe his presence was meant to be less conspicuous with other white folk in a black space.

Legally, the employer is required to adhere 100% to the requirements of the advertised post. That translated into the applicants needing to speak two main languages. Easton should’ve been immediately disqualified as a Scotsman who only knew English.
Before that, Easton had bizarrely been made Director Finance despite not having an accounting degree. He only had a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration. Without that ill-gotten director's experience, it would have been further impossible to justify his application for the Municipal Manager post. During the short-listing process, it was stated that Easton's foreign qualification would have to be verified. That only happened long after he'd gotten the job, after Campbell and I had separately made complaint. The situation smelled a lot like Vogt's selection as Tourism's CEO, when his previous employers weren't contacted.

The concern is that when the wrong people get the job as a government official, they're compromised, possibly loyal to those who gave them the job rather than to the Public who pay their salary.

It was even stranger that the white and less qualified Easton was awarded the position when competing against a black candidate with a doctorate in Public Administration.

Roy Steele was the private contractor from ODS Consultants who assisted the selection panel that decided the appointment of Easton. It was rumoured that Steele and the panel disagreed.

The only logical explanation for Easton's hiring is that it was predetermined. The interviewers included those involved with him in maladministration and corruption. Deputy Mayor Esme Edge and ANC Chief Whip Stephen de Vries were both Tourism Board members, and Wolmarans was Mayor during that period. And it's possible that De Vries had been bribed through having his studies illegally paid by the Municipality, approved by Easton.

But Easton's appointment was delayed. As mentioned in the previous chapter, Mayor Wolmarans was forced to withdraw her motion that would've gotten him the job. That u-turn happened after DA Regional Manager Jaco Londt entered the building, calling an emergency meeting with the caucus. On her return, a clearly rattled Wolmarans told Council she was withdrawing her motion until she received the full ISDF report. That could only imply that she was waiting for Easton to be cleared of wrongdoing. It also suggested that her DA bosses in Cape Town were already aware it wasn't looking good.

I assumed our activism efforts had forced the DA to want to steer clear of another controversial decision, at least until they had a better plan in place.

In contradiction, Wolmarans re-tabled her motion a few weeks later, on 26 March 2015. She'd obviously been given the go-ahead. I don't know why but I'm guessing...
she'd been told that her bosses would protect her.

Wolmarans wouldn't answer COPE Councillor Elrick van Aswegen why she'd lied to Council regarding the re-advertisement, the equity issue, and for the appointment requiring the ISDF report. Speaker Eleanore Spies never pressed her to explain, chose the DA's side, and called a vote knowing they were the majority.

Easton was made Municipal Manager and paid more than legally allowed. He was dubbed as the "Captain of the Pirate Ship". Even the Knysna-Plett Herald, once the fan of Easton, carried that front-page title.

Campbell, through the Knysna Ratepayer's Association (KRA), questioned MEC Bredell regarding Easton's salary and his unverified qualification.

Bredell's response was bizarre, stating that Mayor Wolmarans had the right to negotiate a premium as Council had given her the power to do so. I can't imagine how local nepotism trumps national law. And that was after the controversy of Waring's excessive salary which we'd been told would be rectified with her replacement. Regards the qualification, Bredell should've supplied an official verification from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Instead, he unprofessionally used the results of a website search engine. The real verification would only happen after my complaint to Parliament.

The second Parliamentary hearing for my Love Knysna Petition was held early 2016. In the presence of Wolmarans and Edge (who'd changed her name to Esme Jefferys), Easton dismissed all my allegations without addressing any of the main facts I'd presented. It was clear that he represented the Municipality and the local DA because Wolmarans verbally deferred to him in the presence of Edge, Paulsen and Christopher Bezuidenhout, the Municipality's Communications Manager. None of them realised that their lies would be explosively exposed, and that the DA would backstab Easton and Edge.

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Back in Knysna, politics continued to be nasty business but thankfully aimed inwards.

Councillor Peter Myers had hatched a plan to take over the Council when he was still the Chairman of the DA Constituency. He'd since replaced Richard Dawson as my Ward 10 Councillor.

Susan Campbell delivered a complaint against Easton just before the 2016 Local Elections. Even though we'd long stood against Easton and shared notes, she
suspiciously refused to share her evidence with me. Her odd behaviour was emphasised by the fact that I'd given her the opportunity to speak in Parliament against Easton and the ISDF. It had gained her television coverage.

The DA rarely acts on complaints, and hadn't ever on mine, but Campbell's friends were Peter Myers, Eleanore Spies and Mark Willemse. All had entered Council through consecutive by-elections, allegedly as part of Myer's plan. The DA caucus had split roughly in half. Wolmarans led the other side. The timing of the complaint was obviously intended to be damaging. It worked. They won, Wolmarans lost.

The election happened just after the disciplinary procedure against Easton began.

Every DA councillor supporting Wolmarans was removed. They were the scoundrels the DA had hypocritically boasted about for repeatedly helping the Municipality score clean audits from an Auditor General that seemed to have taken sides with the DA instead of the Public. But politics is marketing, and marketing can cockroach quickly in different direction. Cape Town was backing Myers (but would turn against him the following year).

Wolmarans was supposed to have been dropped too but was allegedly saved through her friendship with ex-Independent Democrat (ID) mate, Patricia de Lille, who was then the DA's Mayor of Cape Town and one of the candidate interviewers.

De Lille and Helen Zille had once upon a time despised each other. Zille had been more of a liberal then. De Lille had belonged to the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) whose slogan was chillingly 'One Settler One Bullet'. But De Lille left them to start the ID. And the DA had needed a partner to stabilise their control of the City of Cape Town, willing to overlook De Lille's history for political convenience. The DA would do act similarly in 2016 when informally working with the white-hating Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) to gain control of the Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay metros. The ID dissolved as an identity, joining the DA in 2010. The DA used the foothold to take control of the province.

We may never have proof of what deal they made. However, it was notable that when Zille became Premier, De Lille replaced her as Mayor of Cape Town's three million residents. De Lille was one of four ID members who got that title. Wolmarans, who failed to win her ward in the election, was top of the proportional representative (PR) list. That meant that the DA made her the Mayor of Knysna. The Public had nothing to do with it. I'd been living there for two years and never heard of her.

What most never realised is that the ID had hedged their bet in case they were...
betrayed. De Lille deserves a lot of the flack she receives but kudos to her self-preservation smarts. The ID would only officially become members of the DA at the 2016 Local Election. Until then, De Lille had leverage. And that allegedly saved Wolmarans from the dustbin where her comrades went. Wolmarans was moved sideways into the position of Speaker (which paid the same salary).

The DA moans about the ANC’s “cadre deployment” but the DA do the same without using that term. The USA was as devious when they never named their segregation laws collectively as something like “Apartheid”. Controlling the narrative and marketing are the legs of the beast that’s politics.

My consolation was that Deputy Mayor Edge, who'd been involved in an intimidation campaign against me, got kicked out as gracefully as an old bucket. Advocate Julie Seton, her life partner and one of my main protagonists, was also placed too far down the PR list to get elected. They knew their fate before the election results. They defended Easton, criticised the DA and supported the ACDP. Betrayal can be a funny bitch called spite. But its even funnier that later, when the winning faction became the underdogs, those 'ladies' were back supporting the DA, the other faction of course.

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Easton was suspended on 30 August 2016. The charges against him included:

- Unlawfully enabled and allowed the continuous use of the local premium preference policy [which allowed suppliers to circumvent B.E.E.]. Failed to implement the recommendations from the Auditor General, causing irregular expenditure of R7,924,285 (which means the Public was overcharged/robbed).
- In respect of the ISDF tender, illegally enabled the appointment of Knysna Creative Heads Consortium at a value of R2,749,338.
- In respect of Jam Electrical, an irregular expenditure of R1,133,234 (which the husband of Manon McDonald, Manager of the Electrical Department, received for his one-man company).
- On behalf of the Knysna Municipality, entered into two unlawful loan agreements with ABSA Bank Limited for the amounts of R17,301,600 and R1,720,000.
- Misled Council in respect of disciplinary proceedings against Budget Manager Avitha Sunkar (who’d been suspended, costing the taxpayer almost a million in stay-at-home pay).
− Inappropriate personal bias expressed to Susan Campbell in 2014 regarding a tender, to the effect that he would not, on behalf of the Municipality, "...do business with those Indians? I am sure Avitha [Sunkar] got them involved."

− The arrogant and disrespectful statement to the Auditor General: "With respect, it appears that the Auditor General is auditing on the basis of Regulation. If that is the case, then, in future, Knysna will resort to the meaningless performance system of tick boxes i.e. do a report regardless of the value or meaning of the report. That is not what performance management is about but, if that is what the Auditor General wants and expects and audits, then that is what you will get. Put bluntly, this approach adds nothing to service delivery but everything to compliance, and compliance is made up nonsense."

− An affair with an employee in his department which, over an extended period of time, caused significant staff problems.

− Irregularities in respect of town planning approvals undertaken whilst Council was on holiday in the middle of 2016.

The disciplinary wasn't about truth and justice. It was about controlling the mess the DA had dug itself into. It was also about trying to keep Knysna blue.

My five years of complaints were as irrelevant as me been proven right. The DA and the Municipality never contacted me. Campbell would start buffering me regarding matters involved the new DA faction, led by Peter Myers who'd became Deputy Mayor. She was part of the faction, not as DA but as a highly active supporter of Myers.

Several charges against Easton had direct relevance to my Love Knysna Petition. It was clear proof that only a few months before, the DA had lied to Parliament. Unfortunately, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) has failed to hold them to account.

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The sixth day of Easton's disciplinary hearing was held on 15 March 2017. He'd heard the evidence against him and was supposed to begin his defence. Instead, he quit. The Municipality agreed to pay him his past bonuses and salary for the next six weeks. A similarity to what had happened with Shaun van Eck at Knysna Tourism. The waste of Public funds made my skin crawl.

Maintaining hypocrisy, the Municipality proclaimed victory. They stated in the Knysna-Plett Herald that the evidence against Easton had been "overwhelming". After I
pointed out that the Municipality had gone to the newspapers first, before posting it on their own website, the Municipality uploaded it, confirming the word “overwhelming”.

If "overwhelming", why had they not concurrently initiated criminal charges against him (as the law required)? Why did they not hold him financially liable?

I believe forcing him to quit was the only goal. In that way, a liability was removed, his accomplices were off the hook, and a new DA faction had been empowered.

Subterfuge is expensive. In total, it had cost the Public approximately R2.5-million for the DA to get rid of Easton.

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DA MEC Bredell recommended Johnny Douglas as Acting Municipal Manager. Douglas had previously been overpaid by the DA to leave when they’d taken over five years earlier. Douglas failed to respond to my request for the information I’ve related to you. I discovered the charge sheet against Easton in an envelope that had been squeezed into a crack in my front door.

That wasn’t my first anonymous informant. Some had scores to settle. Others were simply afraid to lose their jobs. I hope I get to shake their hands one day. They’re a happy reason to drink alcohol. I’m sure some of them are reading this book – thank you for assisting my pursuit of truth.

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Easton agreed to meet me but cancelled with the excuse that he was needed in Cape Town. He said he was now a hired gun who had to go wherever money was offered.
Johnny Douglas (Knysna Municipal Manager)
Grant Easton (Municipal Manager 2015-2017)
CHAPTER 5:
The Mayor of Cronyism

"A farmer is sitting on his porch in a chair, hanging out. A friend walks up to the porch to say hello, and hears an awful yelping, squealing sound coming from inside the house.

‘What's that terrifyin' sound?’ asks the friend.

‘It's my dog,’ said the farmer, ‘he's sittin' on a nail.’

‘Why doesn't he just sit up and get off it?’ his friend asks.

The farmer replies: ‘Doesn't hurt enough yet.’

- Amanda Palmer, author of 'The Art of Asking'

The DA-led Bitou Municipality commissioned a report in 2011, into irregularities between itself and a company called Xylophone Investments No 10 CC. The result showed that Rowan Spies, who’d become a DA Councillor in 2016, had been involved in fraud and graft. It was reported that there was ANC connection. At the time, his wife, Eleanore Spies, was the ANC Mayor of Knysna. One payment had gone into their joint account.

After the DA made Eleanore their Knysna Mayor in 2016, an opposing faction of the DA forced an investigation which was conducted by De Swardt Vogel Myambo Attorneys. The 2018 recommendation was that she and top officials be disciplined and held criminally liable for a series of different wrongdoings.

Additionally, Eleanore had arranged for her friend, Fran Kirsten, to become the Municipality’s Communications Manager. It was alleged that it was a trade for the money she didn't have to pay Kirsten for being her election manager. The Auditor General found the contract illegal to the tune of almost R400,000.

Fortunately, the DA had marketed themselves as the anti-corruption party, and Helen Zille and Mmusi Maimane listened to me. That meant all crooks were expelled from the party and prosecuted-

-EXCEPT THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

Instead, the DA buried both reports and promoted Rowan and Eleanore to the Garden Route District's Mayoral Committee (MAYCO). Knysna and Bitou were among the Municipalities that fell under it. Their new boss, Memory Booysen, was Bitou’s ex-Mayor.

Kirsten would occasionally pop back into Knysna Municipality for smaller jobs.

Welcome to the Western Cape.
Before you go to the toilet, you've got to feast. I'm unsure when that began for Eleanore Spies so can only follow the smell...

Under her ANC Mayorship, there'd been accusations that the FIFA World Cup soccer money had been mishandled, and that government officials had stolen branded equipment and clothing meant for township kids. I hadn't been an activist then and have never investigated it, so it can only be treated as rumour. And it's likely no one cared after the French grabbed the spotlight with their infamous protest. All would've been totally forgotten if the soccer team hadn't burned a bus with Knysna's name on it four years later. Then it was quickly forgotten again.

The rumour that Eleanore had been a DA spy whilst in the ANC rang much louder.

It was said to have begun when she was on the ANC's Regional Executive Committee with Stephen de Vries and Victor Molosi (who took turns as the Knysna ANC's Chief Whip from 2011 to 2018, a period of DA rule). The alleged deal was that Eleanore would pass on info against her enemies in the party. There's no proof of this but she become the ANC Mayor of Knysna (2007-2011).

Apartheid has long been over but its legacy, truths and lies, lives on harshly. Race, unfortunately, defines much of our South African lives. It's currently inescapable, especially in politics.

By the time the 2011 elections approached, Eleanore had become a darling among a social set of white women but unpopular amongst non-white ANC members. It was claimed that she was helping the advantaged more than the disadvantaged, that she'd forgotten her community.

Again, no proof, but the result was the local ANC dropping her so far down the candidate list that she'd never re-enter Council with the 2011 elections. But she allegedly had a friend in Gwede Mantashe, then the ANC's National Secretary General. He allegedly overrode the locals, placing her at #2 on the list. That guaranteed more local anger and her a position... but not as the boss of the town. The discontent her sudden elevation caused became ironic as Spies was unhappy not being the top dog. She was accused of getting revenge by campaigning for others against the ANC. This has been told to me so many times it's either folk lore, the truth or a version of the truth.

There's value in relating what could explain her meteoric rise in the DA, and their
repeated refusal to hold her corruption accountable. Once in bed together, it's possible that none could tell each other's secret lest the other do the same. If not this secret, then maybe this book will encourage another to leak out. But I wouldn't have published this without one high-ranking ANC member going on record.

Ralph Stander is a Knysna resident and an ex-member of the ANC PEC (Provincial Executive Committee). He and I used to disagree a lot, my bucket of water versus his fiery, racial politics. The power of talking is that we mellowed over the years, sometimes disagreeing but more often able to appreciate the other's insights over the occasional coffee or breakfast. He and I are proof that South Africans from different backgrounds can put differences aside to focus on what we have in common. And that we can speak about topics other than politics (well, sometimes).

He left office and the ANC several years back. He refused to answer new questions about the Spies family. He'll likely be cross with me for resurrecting an old interview.

Mike: "Is there truth to the rumour that Eleanore Spies was undermining the ANC in Hornlee and Concordia [suburbs of Knysna] before she quit? Allegedly, part of the fallout with the ANC was because she was telling people in her ward not to vote for the ANC whilst she was the ANC Mayor, just before the 2011 elections. Is there truth to this?"

Ralph: "That was definitely the case. There are a few comrades who gave affidavits to that effect. When she didn’t make it in ANC processes, she became very angry and was determined to show the ANC. She and other comrades indeed showed the ANC by supporting the Independent candidate in Ward 8. That didn’t only make the ANC lose the ward but also [helped lose] the Knysna Municipality and Eden Municipality. The worst thing for any organisation is when its destroyed from the inside."

Mike: "Eleanore sued you for R200,000. What was the result of the case?"

Ralph: "That was a scare tactic for reporting the matter to the powers, and for questioning her love for attention from the white community, and her lack of attention to the coloured and African communities."

Mike: "Do you deny that she was approached by the DA? Or that she approached them?"

Ralph Stander: "I've been told she approached them in 2011. Remember, there was also the agreement with the DA [before that]. She’s officially DA now and
at least everyone knows where she stands. My big concern is those agents who are still inside the ANC. Under the previous regional leadership, of which she was part of, there was some kind of agreement with the DA at those two municipalities [Knysna and Eden District, which was renamed Garden Route]. I’m still trying to get the details. I know part of the agreement was to keep Ricky van Aswegen and The Knysna Community Forum out of running the municipality.” [Van Aswegen folded the Knysna Community Forum and joined COPE, making him their only councillor. He supported the ANC in Council until the DA put him on their MAYCO – politics has everything and nothing to do with us].

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Since her rupture with the ANC, Eleanore had been an estate agent, the manager of an old age home, and a teacher at Concordia High School. Apparently, a failed business was in the mix. An inconsistent résumé never mattered if she was only passing time before returning to Council. Considering her activities, that seemed true.

In 2012, the George Herald newspaper photographed Eleanore having fun with Alan Winde (DA MEC), Richard Dawson (DA councillor) and Shaun van Eck (Knysna Tourism CEO and member of the DA Constituency).

Under the title Knysna First, I called a meeting in attempt for people to find common cause. DA Chairperson Peter Myers told me that he couldn’t make it but met me separately, telling me he’d gotten involved with the DA to fight the ISDF tender which he considered the greatest threat to Knysna. He acted like he was my friend and that we’d cooperate. I’d soon discover how fake he was.

My meeting, which Eleanore attended, was sadly fake too. Few were interested in cooperation. Some arrived only to bitch, some to find out if I was running for office (which I wasn’t).

As previously related, I had that disagreement with Zille at her 2011 rally, and the consequent useless meeting with MEC Alan Winde and Myers (who began showing his true colours). Eleanore accepted my invite to the latter but cancelled last moment with flimsy excuse. In retrospect, it’s possible she didn’t want to be in a situation that directly revealed she was on the DA’s side.

Eleanore was a member of the Audit Committee, a civilian oversight body that all local governments are required to have. Some are good, most useless. Unfortunately, the Knysna committee was the latter kind (it’s improved immensely since). It had failed to
hold the DA-led Municipality accountable for its spending spree; the purchase of Nissan Jukes at a higher price from a supplier who never won the tender; expensive out-of-budget office refurbishments and; the unsupervised spending of millions that spiralled Knysna Tourism into the red.

Eleanore announced an anti-crime movement in her home suburb of Hornlee. It seemed as hollow as a doughnut, convincing me she was managing her image, aiming for return to political office. I offered her lunch to ask the question.

Uninvited, Rowan arrived halfway through, ordered food and drink, and left me with the bill. Besides him being a dick, his appearance was notable since they'd recently gotten divorced. Why was he interested in me and her secret political ambition?

But Eleanore admitted she was running, leading me to believe she'd be independent. She asked for my silence so that she had time to prepare. I may have had doubts but agreed. I'd long hoped for independents in Council, politicians who serve residents instead of Cape Town.

Her anti-crime initiative went nowhere. And she became a figurehead rather than a participant in Leisure Unlimited, a community upliftment/look for tenders group that also went nowhere. But she was getting her name around.

It would turn out that she and Myers were working together, which must have meant that Winde, as the representative to Knysna, was involved too.

The new DA faction would take over the town.

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'Shock as Knysna’s ex-ANC Mayor Turns DA Blue' was my May 2014 header, delivered in two parts. That may have been true for others but obviously not for the ANC and me. Eleanore may have had a contingent of white socialite ladies in her corner, but most older DA supporters were taken by surprise.

DA Councillor Magda Williams had died, and by-elections have no sympathies. My main memory of Williams was her wanting to work with me and being embarrassed when she was banned by the DA from doing so.

Eleanore was running for William's Ward 5 seat which stretched from the farmlands and township of Rheenendal, across the N2, to some of the wealthiest suburbs of Knysna - Belvidere, Lake Brenton and Brenton-on-Sea.

Eleanore stayed on the opposite side of town to Myers who lived in Brenton-on-Sea. A
group of people from that little, latter place would play a large role in our town's future. I'd guess that it's over 25km from her area to his. Yet Myers decided she and not he would compete in the by-election. “Compete” isn't the best word as she was guaranteed to win on the DA ticket. She faced mixed reactions in the rural coloured area but was embraced by white folk along the coast and estuary.

To me it was obvious that the DA were planning to eventually make Eleanore the Mayor. Online, I posed that as a question to the Public.

On her first day as DA councillor, she got promoted to Speaker, put in charge of the Council's integrity and rules of order. That also ensured a good salary.

“On the surface, I like Eleanore,” I blogged. “I'll give her a chance. She's smart. Knysna can definitely use smart leaders. But Eleanor needs to prove that what just happened wasn't her and other politicians outsmarting Knysna... again.”

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Within a month, Eleanore and I were at loggerheads. I knew for certain what she was, and she no longer had to pretend to be nice.

Rowan Spies had failed to respond to queries about the Mazars Report against him, and his relationship with his wife. He made it clear in June 2014 that he wouldn't deal with me:

"There is nothing I want to contribute to your current crusade against my ex-wife, especially since you see it fit to use my divorce as fodder for your blog. I am a private citizen and see no need to answer any of your questions. My private e-mail is rowansps@gmail.com so I'd appreciate it if you could direct future questions there. I doubt I will find it necessary to answer any."

He never has.

I blogged strongly when Eleanore lied that she’d meet me but didn’t. Her response was to try discredit me. DA loyalists, the Knysna-Plett Herald, had a 400-word letter limit. They published her 800-word letter against me. It included “I will not be engaging Mike Hampton on any platform at any level.”

I responded with the 'Lies and Failures of Eleanore Spies' but the newspaper refused to publish it. I was denied right of reply.

The Constitution of South Africa was dying in Knysna. The DA had no intention of changing. Eleanore and Rowan had found their perfect political home.
Two months before the 2016 Local Government Elections, I posted 'Did DA Top Man Backhand Cash When Wife ANC Mayor?' and 'Urgent: Download This Secret DA Document'.

I was referring to Rowan Spies, who was still Eleanore's husband when he was implicated in graft and fraud in neighbouring Bitou Municipality. At that stage, she was still in the ANC.

When the DA took over Bitou in 2011, it ordered an investigation into a company called Xylophone Investments. Rowan was the frontman. His partner was Estelle Gie, wife of a local businessman considered to be well-connected to the ANC.

Moby Dick’s was a respected restaurant with rare beach location on Council property. The lessee was booted early 2011 after the Council put the lease of the premises out to tender. Whether true or not, it was a move widely seen as an ANC plot for friends. Henk Visser, the restaurant owner, stated to the Sunday Times that, “There is obviously a political agenda.”

The matter became more contentious when Kobus Smit, the mining billionaire and owner of the famous Featherbed Company in Knysna, stated via affidavit that Xylophone’s tender documents had fraudulently used his company’s name. Notably, Rowan Spies had previously worked for Featherbed. It's logical to suspect that he was involved, or solely responsible, for creating the false application.

It's possible that there was a family interest in getting into the trade. Eleanore had failed to secure the Knysna Oyster Company restaurant tender from SANParks. Rowan, before becoming councillor, ran a SANParks tuckshop in the Knysna Forest.

The Moby Dick's matter became clouded and Xylophone vanished from view.

I'd initially failed to find info about Moby Dick's, only gaining those affidavits in 2018. But in 2014, Attorney Hardy Mills, who was supposed to be my lawyer at that stage, gave me related documents by mistake. He was based in Bitou and had represented the Municipality and several politicians in the Western Cape. As I was unaware of the second issue involving graft, I was fascinated by the damning report by Mazars. Rather than use the information as a victory over the ANC, the DA strangely buried it too.
It involved a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) function hosted by the municipality. It was a window into kickbacks from Xylophone to Ralph Links, then Bitou’s Head of Strategic Services. Links was also considered to be ANC.

In a nutshell, Xylophone charged for work that they didn’t do. Ralph Links then provided the same work at the Municipality’s expense. That ensured Xylophone made good profit.

Money, with the reference ‘Ralph’ was paid into the joint account of Rowan and Eleanore. That appeared to be the kickback. Estelle Gie, Rowan’s partner, claimed it was an error that should’ve been referenced ‘Rowan’. However, she was unable to explain why the amount was separate to Rowan’s share paid a minute before.

Additionally, Gie lied that PAYE tax was paid on the ‘Ralph’ payment. In fact, all Spies’ payments, EXCEPT for ‘Ralph”s, had PAYE paid.

Worsening matters, Mazar’s proved that Gie fraudulently altered a date on an email to support her version of events with falsehood.

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Johann Brummer, a Bitou DA councillor during the scandal, had publicly expressed concerns regarding the situation. He said that he was the one "who had uncovered the Xylophone scam." He told me that he didn't want to get involved in the mess again as he considered the DA cover-up to be the main reason why he was expelled from the party. He believed that decision had been made in Cape Town, and that MEC Anton Bredell had been part of it.

Many months later, an informant gave me a copy of a detailed email between Brummer and MEC Bredell. Although it doesn't mention the Xylophone/Spies matter by name, it seemed to be referring to it (and other serious matters). That letter requires investigation on several levels. Why didn’t Bredell act on it. Why, instead, was a Council investigation in its advanced stages, cancelled?

After I published my article, Prieur du Plessis, a partner in Mazars, the firm which had undertaken the audit for the Bitou Municipality, contacted me. He complained that the report was confidential and that I must remove it from my website. He also wanted to know who’d given it to me.

The report is the property of the Bitou Municipality, paid from Public funds, and thus the property of the Public. I considered his threatening me with lawyers as acting as proxy for the DA. I wasn't going to be bullied. It helped that I was facing far worse
intimidation at the time.

I reported the situation and Rowan Spies to Premier Helen Zille in July 2016, a month before the local election. It was a face-to-face meeting followed by detailed emails for which I have read receipts. Downloading the emails (zip folder), only a fraction of what I’ve sent her, will show that she was given information on serious issues ranging from Knysna Tourism and the ISDF tender to the intimidation I was facing. In stark contrast to her promised action, Rowan and another candidate I reported became DA councillors the following month.

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In 2016, when the full elections came round, Eleanore remained Myer’s ward councillor and added the Mayoral throne.

Myers participated in that election... but in my overwhelmingly white ward which was approximately 20km from his home. He became Deputy Mayor. But it was well known that he ran the DA and the Council. Clashes were inevitable. Myer’s plan would spectacularly backfire. There was no way Eleanore was going to be #2 again.

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3 August 2016 is symbolic for Knysna politics. There may have been a bunch of confusion and announcements arriving much later, but that was when the DA clung onto Knysna through coalition. The town won and the town lost. That could be said for every place in South Africa, but the generalisation isn't what I mean.

3 August 2016 is a question mark. It’s representative of the foggy nature of politics and its accompanying power that claims to be for the people yet never explains itself.

- 12 of 19 councillors were replaced.
- 6 of those were from the DA, the ‘clean audit’ winning team made less a team by faction politics removing 60% of its members.
- 1 extra ward added meaning 2 extra councillor seats needed warming.
- 3 small parties and 1 independent climbed into Council, adding an uncertain dynamic that never existed during the DA's previous term of office.
- The DA announced victory only to discover that it wasn't. The rush for the best coalition deal began. The DA were spoilt for choice, capable of offering the lowest trade. No non-DA member would become Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Speaker but they had other MAYCO seats to trade.
Velile Waxa, Independent after being a name in the ANC, became the DA's partner, gaining himself a seat on the Mayoral Committee (MAYCO). I’d later discover that the DA had secretly funded his campaign, and he’d get arrested on suspicion of assassination.

1 loser, the African National Congress (ANC). The victory of the smaller parties had to come at their loss. But they’d later conspire with two DA councillors and get their revenge.

3 August 2016 was between 5 years we never understood and 5 years we couldn't predict. More 'parties' became involved in the struggle for control than there were on the ballot papers. There was certainly more than one DA.

Earlier that year, Director Town Planning Mike Maughan-Brown, the second highest ranked municipal employee, had quit. He may have given two months notice, but his action was unexpected, allegedly impulsively decided in anger and frustration. It's rumoured that his decisions were being questioned at every turn by the incoming DA faction headed by Peter Myers. He's now selling kitchen cupboards in the UK, a far cry from the powerful man he once was.

Pariksha Gobrie, who'd replaced Easton as Director Finance, quit after a few months. Although it took the Public by surprise, it'd been internally rumoured that she was going to leave because she'd been offered a better job. However, it wasn't presented that way. Instead, she was projected as having left due to political interference. Even the local newspaper's headline said so. Her departure became a grand exit in support of Municipal Manager Grant Easton (or was it?).

Easton had been under fire. External investigators were digging into his decisions. He clung to office, supported by the ANC and soon to be departing DA members who prevented a quorum in Council by not appearing or walking out. But when elections were over, the investigation's results were in. The ANC were outvoted by ex-ANC members such as the KUC and Independent Waxa who, by default or intent, exacted revenge on an ANC they felt had previously betrayed them. Easton was suspended.

And, as I told you earlier, he quit during his disciplinary.

What of alleged whistleblower, Avita Sunkar, whom Easton and Gobrie were attempting to get rid of? What of the prime, municipal waterfront property that Maughan-Brown wanted to donate to a private company? What of my petition against corruption that was crawling through Parliament without any mention, on record, by the Knysna Council?
There were many 'what ifs' and 'what abouts'. This series of books won't address them all, not if I'm to get to bigger things before you commit suicide because of the insincerity and hopelessness of it all.

Many days had been politically afire, but 3 August 2016 was when the tide changed in an unfathomable sea of power flecked with foam from Cape Town. All residents could do was learn how to swim in an ocean of confusion and distrust.

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'DA Governs Knysna' was the header of the 15 August 2016 press release by the Knysna Municipality. The DA hadn't won the Local Elections but found a way to cling on. Considering how evil defecated thereafter, the following extracts would become ominous and laughable:

"The Democratic Alliance (DA) won six out of the 11 wards situated within Greater Knysna. The final results gave the DA 10 out of the 21 available seats in Council. Cope received one as did the ACDP and the Knysna Unity Congress and the last remaining seat went to Independent Councillor, Velile Waxa. After several meetings the DA has entered into a coalition agreement with stalwart Waxa - resulting in the DA officially being the party that will govern Knysna for the next five years."

There was more wrong that their failure to use commas.

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Few notice the hypocrisy of DA supporters acting negatively towards ANC politicians but welcoming them when they cross to their side. There are sometimes legitimate reasons but often seems like selfish retention of salary and power. It's not like they suddenly become new people with different beliefs.

The sheer elasticity of it makes me believe that political party identities are a marketing con, that friendships and getting rich supersedes ideology and election rhetoric. It's why politicians sell hate. The Public have more in common than they have differences yet fail to keep an eye on their leaders whilst directed to squabble amongst themselves.

The DA's new team was dressed in the ANC's green and gold. Spies had previously been the ANC Mayor. Municipal Manager Johnny Douglas had performed the same role under her then. And 'Independent' Councillor Waxa, the DA's coalition partner, had been a major ANC figure and municipal employee when he'd led protests blocking the
national road. Team DA.

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I’d be comforted if overweight politicians worked so hard they lost weight. But five years of DA rule hadn't given me anything I wanted or hoped. And Mayor Eleanore Spies would literally get fatter as her corruption grew during her 2016-2018 reign. She was a honey sucker truck in reverse. The DA had squatted many times before but her self-serving, political diarrhoea, and the party's support of it, stained our lives.

The first major falsehood by Eleanore was saying that:

“There should be a communication strategy in place to ensure questions that arise get addressed. This is crucial and close to my heart.”

The second was that:

“...the DA council also undertakes to stop corruption by increasing resident’s awareness of their anti-corruption hotline and anti-fraud policy. The DA has already taken steps to tighten up their Supply Chain Policy to comply fully with the relevant legislation.”

Because propaganda requires repetition, Spies ended with:

“Greater Knysna will experience a completely transparent Local Government, one that bides by legislature and one that is free of corruption.”

The 'speech' was almost a copy and paste job of the DA's 2016 National Municipal Election Plan promise:

“To stop corruption by increasing resident’s awareness of their anti-corruption hotline and anti-fraud policy... achieving greater transparency in the supply chain system.”

But no corrupt official from the previous DA misrule would be prosecuted. And Georlene Wolmarans, the despicable previous Mayor, had switched places with Spies to become Speaker, a position requiring her impossible impartiality. There she’d earn the same pay as before and be responsible for the morals of councillors. It was another political fart joke.

What Mayor Eleanore Spies had meant to say is that she was repeating the DA’s traditional pre-election lie and that the DA could never be included in the definition of corruption because they’re not blue lizards from out of space (hey, fuck David Icke, I’m being facetious).
I delivered several complaints to the new Knysna Council, twenty-one copies, one for each councillor (DA, ANC, COPE, ACDP & Independent). It was signed for by their staff. Considering I'd named it *The Elephant in the Room Complaint*, it was appropriate that none responded. The ANC and COPE, who were supposed to be the DA's opposition, weren't interested. And the ACDP voted blindly with the DA on every decision in Council. The Independent was in coalition, getting double the salary.

Before the 2016 elections that would make her Mayor, Eleanore Spies was said to be deeply in debt. Her financial status would be emphasised much later when it was discovered that Candace Myers, wife of Peter Myers, had loaned Eleanore R40,000. Eleanore allegedly wanted more, and then refused to pay back the original amount saying it was a gift. Candace mocked Eleanore on Facebook.

I was told that a deal had originally been made, that Eleanore would get Johnny Douglas as Municipal Manager and Peter Myers would get Marlene Boyce as Director Planning & Development. If there's truth to the trade, it's a serious breach of law and an earthquake in the Knysna Municipality. When Eleanore and Peter fell into opposing DA factions, Douglas and Boyce were aligned with their alleged sponsors.

Fran Kirsten was Eleanore's election campaign manager. The tandem rumour was that Kirsten's payment would arrive later in the form of her appointment as Knysna Municipality's Communications Manager. That happened but as a consultancy contract instead of a permanent position. However, during the Great Knysna Fire disaster, Kirsten told Cape Talk Radio that she was a municipal employee. She wasn't but that was the original goal.

Eleanore's journey to despot had begun quickly.

Eleanore Spies, the new Executive Mayor for Knysna, went to Hornlee Primary School to talk to the kids about what politicians do. After her talk, she asked for questions.

One boy puts up his hand up. Eleanore asked for his name. “Mike Hampton,” he said.

“And what is your question, Mike?” she asked.

“I have several,” he says. “I collected them from the class.”

“Go ahead, Mike.”
“First, what happened at Knysna Tourism?” asked Mike. “Secondly, how can you be Mayor when you, as Speaker, previously failed to investigate complaints against your fellow corrupt councillors? Is your husband a crook? If he is, does that mean the DA is a crooked party? And, last, whilst Knysna was in crisis the two weeks before the elections, where were you? Why was Councillor Myers always in the news and not you? Is he your boss?”

Just then the bell rang for lunch time. Eleanore gave a big, politician’s smile and told the kiddies that they would continue after the break.

When they were back in class, Eleanore asked, “Okay, where were we? Oh, that’s right, question time. Who has a question?”

Several kids put their hands up. Eleanore pointed to a little girl and asked what her name was. “Busisiwe Mkhwebane,” she said.

“And what are your questions, Busisiwe?”

“Why did the lunch bell ring 20 minutes early? And why is Mike missing?”

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Kirsten’s contract never went out to tender. In the small town of Knysna where almost everyone I knew was struggling, R35,000 per month was a lot of money, probably more than Kirsten had ever earned before. She became a main figure in blocking honest communication, continuing the negative role she’d previously performed as a journalist of the Knysna-Plett Herald and as the public relations officer for Knysna Tourism.

Previous Communications Manager, Christopher Bezuidenhout, would work as the Mayor’s "Office Manager" whilst still receiving salary as Communications Manager. Bezuidenhout’s position was not on the organogram and had not undergone the Integrated Development Plan’s (IDP) required Public participation process. It was illegal too, and thus wasteful expenditure.

Kirsten’s contract was contravention of both the Knysna Municipality’s Supply Chain Management (SCM) policy and the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA).

The Municipality tried to pretend that Kirsten was needed as a specialist to overhaul communications. Susan Campbell told me that Kirsten only had a qualification as a gym instructor.

After I exposed the crime and asked from my website if Myers was her boss, Mayor
Eleanore Spies held a meeting with me on 2 September 2016. She promised cooperation. Considering that I’d been banned for five years, I didn't believe her but took the opportunity to put matters on record. Thankfully, Eleanore and all the officials with her, were more arrogant than smart. My audio recording is an essential listen. Its reality is in utter contrast to what happened next. It would clearly show that she was a liar and that the meeting was the first step in a set-up to try discredit me again.

I’ll leave the intimidation for Part 2 but, basically, Eleanore issued a propaganda press release against me, likely written by Bezuidenhout. They claimed I was uncooperative when in fact the recording shows I was polite and they were evasive, and that they promised to come back to me with proof and answers. Their disinformation was accompanied by an extremely nasty campaign to discredit me via social media. And Knysna Municipality banned me on Twitter. My complaints to Christopher Bezuidenhout and Bevan Ellman, the Director of Corporate Services, were met with avoidance.

During a tea break for a Council Meeting, which I almost always attended, Kirsten ridiculously threatened me with arrest for taking photos of councillors. I responded by taking a photo of her for which she immediately converted to a smile (which dropped as soon as the camera was down). Then she called Richard Meyer, Head Disaster Management and hypocritical weekend pastor, who hung nearby but wisely chose not to act. I call him hypocritical because he too never addressed the corruption I’d laid complaint against. I reported Kirsten’s absurd threat to Municipal Manager Johnny Douglas. He acknowledged me but did nothing.

In July 2017, I met CFO Mbulelo Memani to discuss several issues. Memani was new which is probably why he met me. Fran Kirsten was a main topic. Unfortunately, it took Memani months before he refused to pay Kirsten any longer. By then, Eleanore and Kirsten had a back-up plan.

They were going to switch Bezuidenhout and Kirsten around. He would go back to the job he was being paid for, and she would become the Mayor's Office Manager. Except that title wasn't being used. In-house, it was labelled as ”Kirsten's job" before she got it.

But Kirsten unexpectedly discovered the true value of her friendship with the Mayor. She got screwed for Eleanore's political convenience.

Without the legal requirement of advertising a vacancy, ”Kirsten's job" was given to Priscilla September. She was the niece of Councillor Velile Waxa who was intending a motion of no confidence (MONC) against Eleanore. He wanted disciplinary charges
against him dropped, and more power in the coalition the DA had formed with him. After September's appointment, Waxa dropped the MONC.

September's appointment must be considered a bribe but at least the more diabolical Kirsten was forced out.

Bezuidenhout returned to being Communications Manager and Kirsten had to settle for the odd, small contract which included her stepping in as a temp in Eleanore's office. After Eleanore was overthrown in 2018, September quit. Waxa's currently on trial for assassination. But let me not get too far ahead. That'll be in the next book.

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The Auditor General found the appointment of Christopher Bezuidenhout as Mayor Spies' Office Manager, and the contracting of Fran Kirsten as the Communications Manager, to be wrongful.

"Position of Manager: Office of the Executive Mayor not on establishment. The Manager in the Office of the Executive received a monthly salary of R34,812 for a period of 11 months in the 2016/2017 financial year and the total cost of his remuneration is R382,932. This results in irregular expenditure of R382,932 as it is in contravention of section 66(3) of the Municipal Systems Act."

Knysna Municipality's response to the situation was pure lie, implicating them further:

"Following the inaugural meeting of the Knysna Municipal Council on 15 August 2016, Mr CF Bezuidenhout, Manager: Communications and Customer Relations performed the duties of managing the office of the Executive Mayor in addition to his duties as Manager: Communications and Customer Relations. Mr Bezuidenhout was remunerated as in terms of the post to which he was appointed and not as Manager in the Office of the Executive Mayor as per the audit finding. It is imperative that it be pointed out that a secondment is a temporary transfer of a worker into another position and not an appointment or employment of a person into a post as contemplated in Section 66(3) of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000. Mr Bezuidenhout was and still is, employed by the Knysna Municipality as the Manager: Communications and Customer Relations. Mr Bezuidenhout was never employed nor appointed by this council as Manager: in the Office of the Executive Mayor but merely temporarily transferred into that position."

The contracts to Kirsten trading as Out There Consulting resulted in R382,545 irregular
expenditure. The Auditor General added that Kirsten didn't possess “specialist nature that they warranted deviation from competitive bidding.” The Municipality capitulated, accepting the finding.

In any sane, democratic society, there'd have been consequences to crime. But the DA are insanely undemocratic, so no one got punished. And later, as will be related, they would get promoted after more wrongdoing.

I repeat that everything I'm telling you in this book I've already reported to the DA's leadership and several National agencies. None will honour their duty to protect.

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Eleanore and Rowan Spies are married in children and politics. They live in the same house. I consider their divorce, like their career, to be a convenience. Some say they got divorced because he's a verbally abusive alcoholic. It's been reported to me how horrid he gets, wanting to belittle her and be the “man”. But if it were for that reason, something else would've altered in their lives.

They electioneered as a couple. The church had no problem with them attending a Valentine's dinner as a couple. Rowan would call her his “cherrie”, or in English slang, his “chick”. As I type this, his Facebook cover picture is of them as a couple.

The only logical reason why they divorced was their joint desire for political office. DA rules don't allow married couples in the same Council. Although legal, it would also have looked suspicious with him being on the district council above her.

After all the twists and turns, which included her being overthrown by rebel DA councillors, the DA had to make a new plan to support them. Currently and ironically, they're on the Mayoral Committee of the Garden Route District Council... together.

"As often happens in politics, you can be heroes and liberators but if you hang around long enough, you can be the villains too."

Those were the words of Eleanore Spies when she was still Speaker. I disagree. I believe that she and her husband were villains from the beginning.... and because Helen Zille and the DA knew it, possibly helped them plan it, they're villains too.
Eleanor Bouw-Spies
@DA_Eleanor

When #DA #Mayor I will ensure better communication to #knysna residents. @GBusinessCircle @KnysnaDA @Knys_Guy
The smile Fran Kirsten threw at me just after she threatened to have me arrested for taking photographs of politicians during Council tea break.
CHAPTER 6:
The Other Evil Politicians Do

“When we've got these people who have practically limitless powers within a society, if they get a pass without so much as a slap on the wrist, what example does that set for the next group of officials that come into power? To push the lines a little bit further, a little bit further, a little bit further, and we'll realize that we're no longer citizens - we're subjects.”

- Edward Snowden (the honourable fugitive)

Expecting a political party to be honest and altruistic is as useful as a conversation with a cow. I've got nothing against cows but I'm adverse to the Knysna Council Chamber. Politicians called councillors still meet there to moo or deny the recommendations of municipal officials. The decisions I witnessed were not always in our best interest.

An impartial person might consider the Council Chamber conservatively tasteful, but I spent too many years making my arse sore in the Public gallery. I found the photos of Government leaders adorning the walls as appealing as the heads of animals shot by colonialists. And to have a photo of Helen Zille beside Jacob Zuma was as hilarious as coughing.

I observed incompetency, stupidity and selfishness in between a million hours of boredom. There were occasions where it ran from morning to night. And I had to stick around because the Municipality would often put the most important items late in the agenda so that the people who cared the most wouldn't witness it, having had to leave for work, fetch the kids etc.

Diligence gave me stories. Clues made rumours into soup, soup became blogs and complaints. I did my best to do what no one else seemed to have done before, to keep the Public of Knysna informed. Activism had become a full-time job without pay.

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Maybe you're like most people I've met who haven't stepped into the workplace of the Government they own. No, paying rates or a traffic fine doesn't count. And, yes, we own it. So, when something repeatedly goes wrong, we're the most to blame. Ignorance doesn't erase that responsibility. It's like blaming the school because your uncontrollable sperm is the result of your shitty, sugar parenting.

If you don't know how a Municipal Council handles your well-being, let me explain.

In the case of Knysna, 76,000 people are the responsibility of 21 councillors. That
latter figure gets unofficially smaller as it's a small number that wields the majority of the power.

To simplify it, imagine those 21 councillors being split into 11 DA members and 10 ANC members. On the agenda is a proposal to approve the awarding of a tender to a company that will plan the town's future for the next 30 years.

10 ANC councillors vote against the proposal whilst behind the scenes 4 DA members also vote against it. $10 + 4 = 14$.

Theoretically, 14 councillors opposing the deal outweigh the 7 councillors supporting it. But in our constitutional democracy, a party most often represents one position only. The majority within the party rules. That means that the DA’s 7 pro-tender councillors defeat their 4 anti-tender councillors, and collectively become 11 pro-tender votes. Thus, the ANC's 10 anti-tender votes are defeated.

The proposal is approved even though the majority were against it. The Public may never know how each councillor voted because the parties usually makes controversial decisions behind closed doors. A ward councillor could even vote against the majority of his residents' wishes, and then lie that he didn't. It's unlikely that a councillor will publicly substantiates their vote, at least not in meaningful manner. Consequently, it's extremely difficult to hold councillors accountable. They serve the party, not us.

In 2018, the DA versus Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille resulted in the Court ruling that a councillor can vote according to their conscience. That was mostly a hollow victory for the Public. The reality is that most councillors would be too scared to go against the party's wishes lest a different reason be found to remove them. Basically, they're bribed with a salary to ignore internal corruption.

In Knysna, in 2018, the DA didn't bother to hide their illegal action, and launched disciplinary hearings against Mayor Willemse and Councillor Myers for not voting with the others. The conflict of interest was in the others belonging to the same provincial faction trying to cover-up the corruption involved.

It's unlikely an apathetic Public will pay the hundreds of thousands of rands that would be needed for a councillor to challenge his party's leadership in High Court. Consequently, the power of the party defeats him, the interests of the residents, and the law.

The situation can be made more complex if party infighting has caused factions.
reality in Knysna is that there were two DA 'parties' and two ANC 'parties'. There's jostling for higher positions which are willing to make secret allegiances with the 'opposition' which seems to exist more on TV and in supporters, than in Council rooms.

A politician can gain a majority for their faction if they're in the position to offer a bribe. The Mayor always has that clout. She can buy votes through her selection for the Mayoral Committee (MAYCO). Many will sell their loyalty for double their salary. Instead of the MAYCO having the best and brightest, it's more likely to be filled by fools and opportunists who obey the political positions and desires of the Mayor. That's what happened in Knysna. In effect, the Mayor's position was worth 5 votes. All she needed was 1 more vote to control the whole Council.

If the Mayor is loyal to the Premier, or hoping to one day be promoted provincially, the Premier controls the local Council. It's quite easy for 76,000 people to lose control of their future to an outsider who cares nothing about them. The country is a massive field wherein it's us who are the cows monotonously chewing grass whilst someone else decides whether we should be milked, sexed or slaughtered. Most often, when we're complaining, we're just another cow farting at the ozone layer of change.

Any or all of this might explain why not a single politician of the many I met over eight years was willing to meaningfully stand against corruption, if at all. The rare times the Public thought they were doing that, they were either attempting damage control or taking down rivals of their gang leader.

"Democracy is the freedom to choose our own dictator," is an old saying. It isn’t democracy, it’s frighteningly insane.

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There's much more I wanted to tell you in this section of the book but I'm sure you'd prefer to read about the the madness that followed. Your majority vote rules so I'm going to rush through a few issues, starting with a forensic audit which only benefited the auditor.

The Knysna Vehicle Testing Station was closed, and four officers suspended in 2013. ENS Africa was appointed to conduct the forensic investigation and paid R670,000 for their services. During the investigation, Peter Allwright, an employee of ENS, started his own company, Horizon Forensics. The Municipality then hired him to continue the work. That added another R785,000 to the bill.
It must be investigated why the Municipality gave the work to Horizon Forensics without tender, essentially helping establish Allwright's new company which has since been contracted by other DA municipalities in the region. When the ANC took over Bitou Municipality, and a dispute arose, Mayor Peter Lobese essentially accused Allwright of working for the DA.

Notably, after earning salaries for staying at home for two years, the Knysna traffic officers were cleared and reinstated. Were they guilty or victims of a money-making scheme at the expense of the Public? The report was kept hidden from the Public. The final cost to the taxpayer was an estimated R3-million... for zero result.

The Municipality denied my request, via PAIA, for information. My PAIAs being denied had become a regular feature.

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Refurbished offices with TVs and DSTV subscriptions contributed to councillors and directors overspending their budget by R481,656 in 2014. The extra sting was the DA having made austerity a fundamental election promise.

The High Court ridiculously and unprofessionally considered me having offended the dignity of Deputy Mayor Esme Edge because I asked in a photo caption if “she was too sexy for her furniture”. I was mimicking that irritatingly effective song, 'Too Sexy for My Shirt'.

If only I’d had the balls back then to respond to Judge Allie with 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'.

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Manon McDonald, Manager of the Electrical Department and vehicle fleet, was allegedly involved in graft and tender fraud.

In 2014, she secured Nissan vehicles for the traffic department. The tender contained irregularities and wasn't awarded to the winning bidder. An internal email shows that the Municipality knew something was wrong before the transaction.

Round the same time, Manon and her husband, Johan McDonald, were alleged to be driving new Nissan vehicles. I had two acquaintances of theirs contact me to say that they’d personally scored from the deal, one even saying they’d received a vehicle free.

Later that year, the majority of the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) quit in protest at outside interference in their committee. The Director of Technical Services and the
Manager of Environmental Management claimed interference of their responsibilities and the undermining of the BEC.

Manager Jonathan Mabula laid complaint against Director Mike Maughan-Brown for interference in the supply chain. The Municipality responded by instituting disciplinary hearings against Mabula. Again, they showed that a cabal in the Municipality were almost untouchable.

Before they quit, the BEC reported that the tender of Nissan Knysna had gone missing. Municipal Manager Lauren Waring failed to investigate appropriately. No criminal charges were laid.

A citizen with connections to the Municipality informed me in June 2015 that Manon McDonald had given her husband, Johan, a contract. An employee of the Electrical Department informed me that her husband had received most of the department's work for years, valued in the millions. Another informant told me that Johan had received contracts under different company names over the years. Another acquaintance of the McDonalds said that had been happening for a decade. There's that saying, "where there's smoke there's fire'.

Manon McDonald handed in her resignation. The DA-led Municipality of George, immediately west of Knysna, hired her as their Fleet Manager. George is the DA's seat of power for the Garden Route District under which Knysna falls. The DA appear to have protected her.

Back in Knysna, only a token tender was investigated several years later. Although found to be illegal, the Council accepted Cliff Dekker Hofmeyr Attorney's recommendations that they not pursue recovery or punishment as the costs involved wouldn't be worth it. The attorneys strangely stated that the fact that the Municipal Manager had been pursued on offences was sufficient deterrent to other staff not to do wrong.

Cover-up complete.

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There were riots by Knysna's Oupad residents that led to repeated closures of the national highway (N2) in 2016. The Municipality failed to inform the Public that the main spark was a problem with the T20 tender involving housing, causing a delay, seemingly the Municipality's fault.

Worsening the situation was that Leon Naude, Chairman of the Knysna Ratepayers'
Association and DA constituent, called for live bullets to be used on the protesters. He was supported by Kevin Grinaker, another DA constituent, and the recently ex-Ward 10 Committee Chairperson. He suggested that a D10 be used, that's the infamous Caterpillar bulldozer Israel has utilised against Palestinians.

Both men had previously failed to act on my complaints against the DA but they'd gone too far for loyalty to matter. My Facebook post sparked outrage. The DA got rid of their members without acknowledging my complaint.

Susan Campbell, on behalf of the Knysna Ratepayers' Association, laid complaint against the awarding of the tender. A 100% black owned company that scored the most preference points, submitted a lower bid, and would do more work, lost to a 100% white owned company offering less. It was possible through the Municipality offering an illegal bonus scheme to local businesses. It was called the 'Preferential Premium Policy'. Taxpayers lost a small fortune.

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The Municipality probably thought that 'Preferential Premium Policy' sounded better than 'Public Pickpocketing Policy'. It granted bonus points to local suppliers which was used to circumnavigate Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B.B.B.E.E.). A tenderer who didn't submit the relevant certificate, and didn't score the highest points, could still walk away with the work and money. It's likely that favouritism was made easier.

The loss to local taxpayers in 2017 was R9-million.

The Western Cape Auditor General (AG) and Provincial Treasury only gave useless warnings. The AG even awarded a clean audit. Consequently, the Municipality continued the illegal practice for another year. By the time the AG stopped it, the final figure would've been higher.

Susan Campbell complained to the Western Cape Treasury and the Knysna Council against Municipal Manager Lauren Waring. No one responded.

It later became one of the disciplinary charges against her successor, Grant Easton but he quit. Thereafter, the matter was swept under the carpet.

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The Sedgefield desalination plant hasn't been used since its inception in 2009. The Municipality claims that the cost to the Public for its water would be too high. However, the upkeep costs taxpayers millions of rands annually.
Early 2017, I had an email conversation with Tom Callaghan, the Divisional Director of GTEK (Pty) Ltd Water, the company that had installed the plant. He said, "DWS and The Water Research Commission [had wanted] to upgrade the plant with new technology and service and maintain it properly. The upgrade would be at NO cost to [the Municipality], and price of water would be within current municipal rates. We never heard back from the municipality. Very frustrating for us".

Why did the Municipality chosen to waste millions on operating a desalination water plant that it isn't using when it could switch providers and put it to use in a water scarce area?

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The East Head is one of Knysna's main tourist attractions. It includes two restaurants and a shared parking lot beside the opening of the estuary to the sea - a priceless location.

**Without tender**, the Municipality leased half of it to a restaurant owner in 2018. The other restaurant tender, having begun much earlier, was so poorly handled by the Municipality that unpaid rent, unpaid rates, and consequent court action has cost the taxpayer R7-million.

Despite the massive arrears, the Municipality installed a pre-paid electricity meter to assist the debtor. He made more money whilst not paying his other bills.

Eventually, the restaurant's doors closed. For a year, the Municipality has failed to award a tender which means another half a million in rental lost.

No one has been held accountable.

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The Knysna Municipality's year-long suspension of Budget Manager Avitha Sunkar cost the public over R870,000 in stay-at-home pay. Sunkar's suspension appeared to be victimisation, especially as she was said to have been instrumental in saving the town R40-million. The lengthy suspension may also have been the result of political factional power plays.

Sunkar, who was clearly unpopular amongst her colleagues, laid grievances which were ignored by then Municipal Manager Grant Easton (who was later charged himself, for misleading Council regards her). Instead, grievances were laid against her and she was suspended.
Outside of the normal municipal budget, each Ward Councillor is allocated an annual budget for infrastructure repairs. In 2018, that was R3.5-million each. It's money that can easily buy favouritism rather than what is most needed for the Ward collectively.

I attended a Ward 10 committee meeting wherein some monies were dispensed at the whim of Committee members, without submission by the Public.

As none of the projects are designated before budgeting, the practice must be considered irregular expenditure, even more so because politicians are barred from interfering in the role of municipal officials.

This was amplified by the fact that in 2017, the DA allowed their coalition partner, Velile Waxa, to deviate R250,000 to buy soccer gear. It seemed obvious that they were bribing him. That he was given it whilst facing disciplinary charges for tender interference and threatening a woman made the situation more concerning. It was coalition no matter the cost.

In a little town called Knysna, the DA was involved in continuous corruption. I'm just one citizen. I cannot know the full reach of their dirty hands but it's obvious there are more blue fingerprints awaiting discovery.

Could that, in turn, be multiplied everywhere the DA rules? That's possible considering the emails I've received from other towns but not had the resources to investigate. For example, the alleged destabilisation of Bitou though DA funds is frightening, more so through the squashing of the police investigation and the complicity of the media that'll hopefully, eventually, go down in history as an example of the National Party having never died.

Because the leaders of the DA are involved in cover-up and criminal protection, it's reasonable to conclude that everywhere under them should be scrutinised.

When you read what they did to me, you'll be horrified.
INTERRUPTION
Important Definitions (For Online Travellers)

Fallacies are tools of propaganda. With caveat for personal adaptation, Big Think lists 6 types. Everyone should know them to be less victim or unconscious aggressor.

1. Ad Hominem:
"Mike cannot present a Petition to Parliament because we never elected him."
The most common fallacy ignores the merits of an argument to attack an individual, using either falsehood or irrelevant fact.

2. Bandwagon:
"Everybody likes Mark Willemse! You should vote for him too!"
Doing something for popularity isn't the same as doing something for just reason.

3. Slippery Slope:
"If we listen to Mike about the DA, the ANC will takeover."
It uses fear to avoid addressing an issue, stating effect that cannot be proven. If the DA had addressed the corruption issues presented, it would have lessened controversy, given them credibility and made them stronger for the next election.

4. Strawman Argument:
Mike: "I’m angry at the DA Mayor's refusal to be transparent about corruption."
Troll: "Haven’t you seen what state capture has done to our country? Are the ANC paying you? Anyone who supports you is against South Africa."
The troll deliberately misinterprets the point and attacks that imaginary point of view.

5. False dilemma (or options):
"If we listen to Mike and remove Knysna Tourism’s CEO, the industry will collapse."
There are rarely two options and the worst possible scenario is unlikely to become true. Here, the opposite would’ve occurred. Wrongs admitted and fixed would've stabilised the organisation to the benefit of the industry and town.

6. False Equivalence:
The town clerk is a serial embezzler. Mr. Jones litters everyday. They hate our town.
Embezzlement results in jail. Littering gets a warning. However, the accusation suggests both equally bad. That wrongful argument is often used in political context, by supporters of one party against another.
PART 2

Intimidation
CHAPTER 7:
An Unholy Union

“There is no real me, only an entity, something illusory, and though I can hide my cold gaze and you can shake my hand and feel flesh gripping yours, and maybe you can even sense our lifestyles are probably comparable: I simply am not there. Myself is fabricated, an aberration. I am a non-contingent human being. My personality is sketchy and unformed, my heartlessness goes deep and is persistent. My conscience, my pity, my hopes disappeared a long time ago (if they ever did exist). I am blameless. Each model of human behavior must be assumed to have some validity. Is evil something you are? Or is it something you do? My pain is constant and sharp and I do not hope for a better world for anyone. In fact, I want my pain to be inflicted on others. I want no one to escape.”
- Bret Easton Ellis, author American Psycho

Do politicians steal? Or is it that we're giving them whatever they want? Surely that's the only way an outsider could interpret us doing nothing about it. We're like a healthy person laying down to die.

But it hasn't been as simple as that for me. I didn't lie down and so they came for me. Being beaten and mugged several times in my life cannot compare to the cruelty I faced in Knysna. The DA was willing to do anything to maintain power through cover-up. The National Party, the masters of apartheid's deception and oppression, would have been proud of them.

It began with Mark Allan, a failing businessman who became my cyberstalker. I believe he's the real deal psychopath.

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A couple of hours surfing porn will make you realise all kinds of humans exist. There's a big difference between wanting to spank the housemaid and the possibilities of what can be done with a whip to a woman tied into painful position.

Psychopathy's the same. It isn't one size fits all. Be glad that they're not all serial killers like in the movies. We meet them in our everyday lives. They could be our boss, our lover, or my reader. They're more likely to be surgeons, priests, pilots, politicians and salespeople than artists and charity workers. Some are aware of their nature, others aren't. Some are productive, some destroyers.

William Dutton, psychologist and author of 'The Wisdom of Psychopaths: What Saints, Spies, and Serial Killers Can Teach Us About Success', makes strong argument for psychopaths having a place in society. Their fearlessness would likely have made them the best hunters and defenders of the tribe thousands of years ago. In modern times,
the coolest head controlling the scalpel may be your greatest chance at surviving the operating table. The surgeon may not care about you, but the fulfilling of his super ego delivers positive result. Cold comfort doesn't get colder than that.

The lack of empathy is what separates Jeffrey Dahmer from regular folk. Conversely, if we found a bit of our inner psycho, we'd be less fearful and more determined.

We're all on a sliding scale of some sort. Some of us more anxious or confident, cleverer or dumber. It's obvious that not all of us are as steadfast and wise as Ruth Bader Ginsburg or as intelligently brave and sexy as Isobel Yeung. It's the same for psychopaths. But the higher they're on the scale, the less positive emotions they're likely to have, and the better able to copy them. They may be less occupied by guilt and love but jealousy, selfishness, frustration and anger sometimes burn so hot as to make devils proud.

In following chapters, I'll dig into the craziness of Allan and his associates which includes a surgeon who became a DA councillor. It's a trip into the dark side of Knysna's 'social' nature. Every town has it but possibly needs a common target to become visible. I was that target. My blogging was a light bulb for mad moths.

The first moth was Mark Allan.

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Mark Allan owned pitiful websites, possibly hundreds of useless website urls, a Thai restaurant and, later, the Find IT SA directory. Ownership may have been in the name of his Thai wife, but she spent her life cooking in the miniature restaurant located in Pledge Square, behind the memorial to the dead. I don't believe she had anything to do with what happened to me. And considering what Allan was willing to do to me publicly, I wonder what he was like behind closed doors. I still think of her as the saddest person I saw in Knysna.

I believe Allan, a man obsessed with control, was the owner of everything. Ironically, he was unsuccessful, battling to stay afloat. His final attempt to succeed in Knysna involved borrowing money from his family (outside of Knysna) to purchase that directory. It soon shut its office doors, operating from the garage beneath his house before closing.

Unfortunately, Allan lived at the bottom of the hill I lived on. I had no car so would regular bump into him on my short walk to town. Coincidentally, the offices of Knysna Tourism were there too. Allan would become 'friends' with then CEO Shaun van Eck,
he who received the R270,000 farewell gift for doing so much wrong.

I don't believe that Allan is capable of being friends with anyone. They're relationships for convenience, including the convenience of hurting. Van Eck was the manipulated fool. He would eventually offer me a peace pipe but refused to renounce the dirty deeds done against me by Allan and Baden Hall, another mate of his. It was clear to me that Van Eck was a sham, only seeking revenge on Greg Vogt, his replacement.

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I could never have predicted what was to follow when Allan approached me in 2011 with project ideas I didn't want to be involved in. There was no need for me to write content for his websites or find others to do the writing for him. I had my own, more successful websites. I wasn't making money, but I was getting attention and growing. Mine were bigger and looked infinitely prettier.

As he lived in my road, I wanted no hard feelings after having composed two blogs for him. I tried to be nice about stepping away by offering to build him a better website for free. He turned me down, got very arrogant, belittled me, and said that I never understood the internet. Although he was awful at it, I would later discover that the internet had been his obsession since the 1990s, before it became common place in South Africa.

He approached me a second time, wanting me involved in selling advertising to restaurants. I made the mistake of initially agreeing to the possibility since it was one of my intentions for my LoveKnysna.com. I reckoned two working together could accomplish more, but I wanted out before we reached an agreement.

My concept was 'The Food Agency'. I'd made a logo but wasn't convinced. A more benign name such as 'Garden Route Restaurants' was more likely to attract web traffic. But without discussion, Allan registered 'The Food Agency' domain... in his name only. Then instead of us working together, he wanted me to do all the work, him claiming I'd get all the money. I worried that he'd get rid of me as soon as I'd established the business.

Besides me blogging, I'd be selling an ad package to the restaurateurs that included placements in other media. It made no sense that Allan wanted most of that spent on Find It until I discovered he was in the process of purchasing it. I was being conned.

He was a dangerous liar because he did so with sincerity. He would act as if he were helping me. His frustration, however, was 100% real. I couldn't put my finger on it.
but, beyond what was obviously wrong, he made me feel uneasy. Something behind his face ticked differently to normal folk, urging me to create distance.

The death of our amicability was when I suggested he focus on one goal instead of hundreds. His response was to travel from calm to explosion in split-second. He yelled repetitively that his family (who'd lent him money) had told him the same that morning, and that we were all wrong. You had to be there to understand how bizarre and out of context the situation was. He freaked in tomato-faced fashion. That was the only time I saw the real Mark Allan in person, the psycho beneath the mask.

His cyberstalking began soon after. On rare occasions his mask would slip online but his persecution of me seemed to be far more a game he enjoyed.

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Allan began with objectionable comments on my political and social commentary website, KnysnaKeep.org. He became the first person I banned.

Under the name 'Admin', he resorted to blogging negative remarks about me at Outreach.co.za, a website registered to his wife but listing him as the technical contact. It should be noted that the over 30 domain name registrations I discovered were also in her name. I'm confident she wasn't involved in any, and that Allan was deliberately hiding his name from the internet. Additionally, not a single photo could be found of him.

Outreach.co.za claimed to be a community blog and excessively used SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) words such as “empowerment”, “social responsibility”, “community development”, “political opportunism”, “corruption”, “Knysna” etc. Yet it's sole purpose was attacking me. Over 100 blogs – he was dedicated. Allan was trying to negatively associate me with key words and counter my naturally earned domination of some in Knysna.

His website ideas may have been awful, but he was savvy at defamation and disinformation, especially through distortion of real facts. He was planting seeds of doubt regards my intentions and associations. He knew what he was and how to use it against me. He would accuse me of actions he was doing. Ironically, he pretended that I was the pretender. Accusation via mirror would become common form of attack.

"The CEO of Knysna Tourism has been suspended by the Board pending a disciplinary hearing... And now, it's the vultures that are gathering. One in particular whom I am familiar with. An opportunist and fair weather friend of
the worst sort who goes by the name of Wicked Mike… Clinically unsound… You would like to be recognised as a charity worker and activist? But it is not going to happen. You like the rest of them are driven by your own self-interest… This man is dishonest. His anger has nothing to do with the plight of the masses. He is merely using them. Using their desperation to hide his lack of ability, his abuse of the skills he has and his belief that he is somehow entitled to share in the bounty… He is a hungry sort with his eye firmly fixed on the public purse… slips comfortably into this cesspit of moral bankruptcy keeping an anxious eye on the trough of plenty… there is an odds on chance you are taking dirty money my friend. So don’t start chirping about democratic principles, equality, justice, transparency and the freedom of speech. It’s a lie, you know it and you are part of it… How can you flip flop from being an organiser and fund raiser for the DA one day [I never was] and a vitriolic accuser the next?… You are not the white messiah you seem to think you are. You are irrelevant and the only reason you are tolerated and accommodated is because you are being used… After all the finger pointing, I think it is time you publicly declare who is funding you.”

I don’t pretend. My handicap is caring too much. I wasn’t been funded nor aiming for a crooked share of taxpayer’s cash. That was exactly what I was fighting against.

But it’s easy to sow doubt. And for propaganda to work better, it must be replicated and supported by different voices.

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On the forum at GardenRoute.com, numerous negative remarks were made against me by profiles called Odd, Conrad Zeelie and Talktown. All were fake profiles connected to Mark Allan through associated websites. Some website names may have been fake, but the hidden links directed to Allan. It’s possible that all three profiles were Allan himself, but I suspect that a copywriter, occasionally contracted to Knysna Tourism and Knysna Municipality, was one of them.

The fact that GardenRoute.com allowed the hatred seemed to be part of the bigger wave that had people siding with their mates at Tourism versus me. I may have later turned a popularity corner, but those early years found me infamous and alone. Conservative Knysna wanted to maintain its belief that its establishment was strong, clean and respectable. But denial cannot change black into blue.

At GardenRoute.com, the propaganda built on what had been said before. Whereas it
had previously been falsely claimed that my workshops with Tourism were cancelled because they had no value, now it was said that I’d been fired. Of course, the corruption wasn't been discussed. The goal was to distract and discredit.

Knysna-Plett Herald would play a large, negative role in Knysna, shielding corruption, banning me, and allowing attacks against me. Unsurprisingly, Talktown and the Zeelie profiles were attacking me there too, suggesting there was a conspiracy between me and Knysna Tourism Chairperson Greg Vogt against Van Eck.

"Shaun van Eck is being victimised and treated unfairly. Two years ago, he terminated a project that was being funded by Tourism and run by a garrulous blogger who then went ballistic. And who has been hounding him relentlessly ever since. That blogger now works for Greg Vogt... It is interesting to note that Wicked Mike has removed the featured post calling for the Knysna Tourism Board to press for criminal charges to be laid against Shaun. This, I suspect, is as close as we are ever going to get to an admission that there is a questionable relationship between him and the Chairman of the Tourism Board... he now wants to sue me for statements I did not make. This despite the fact there are plenty I did actually make and where it is quite possible that I might have overdone it a bit. And if I have, I apologise sincerely, will edit, retract, withdraw and hell no, I won't grovel as instructed. I think he will just have to settle for an insincere apology on a publication he has a problem with. This all started on Outreach.co.za."

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Stolen identity added more weight to the lies. 'Conrad Zeelie' not only defamed me but contacted Knysna Tourism. I'd learn that the real Conrad Zeelie was in fact a jeweller whose shop was less than 10 metres from Allan's restaurant. Allan was no friend of his neighbour so had appropriated his identity for his dirty business. The real Zeelie was horrified but wouldn't push charges, insisting that he didn't want to get involved.

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One tactic was to take something I’d said and twist it out of context to be evidence against me (but ironically with no evidence supporting it). But on the internet, reading is often believing, and few readers would take the time to research what they’re told. Those who were friends of those I'd pissed off in my pursuit for truth would happily jump on the bandwagon. Some people believe what they want to believe. Others
manipulate them.

Allan descended another circle into hell by posting a blog on Outreach.co.za that associated me with child abuse. He tagged it with the, “Child abuse in Knysna the Garden Route, kiddieporn, paedophiles, paedophilia, Adrian Forbes-Wilson.”

He said:

"...despite your obvious and very public concerns about the welfare of disadvantaged children, your coverage of two recent child porn cases was sketchy at best. You ignored one totally. Whereas in the case of Forbes-Wilson you showed uncharacteristic compassion and understanding. Why? ...What are you hiding Mike? What makes you the angry unhappy person you are?"

Allan claimed my '30 Ways You Can Help Knysna' lacked truth because it didn't mention "two girls who were callously murdered", "abuse against women" and "paedophilia busts". He claimed I was "simply dishonest and self serving".

His accusations were as ridiculous as if he had stated that I hated horses because I'd eaten fish. The escalation was alarming. I began to wonder if he was dangerous in other ways.

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When sent a lawyer's letter, Allan slandered the firm online:

"I was going through the summons I have been served by Yogesh Pama of Mosdell, Pama & Cox, trying to understand why, after all that has been said and done, Wicked Mike believes I have defamed him... This summons makes me wonder who Pama is and what he wants? A wandering spirit who changed his name because someone mistook him for an Asian mystic? A man with no purpose who settled in Knysna for no reason other than the fact this is where friends of his lived? A painter of complex pictures no one has ever seen? Or just a divorce lawyer making a modest living by carving up families in trouble? And before I get hit with another defamation suit, I am just asking questions. I do not understand why a man with his vast experience wants to waste my time dragging me to court. Or is he just another frustrated bully like his client? This is not the first brush that I have had with 'Pama, Pork Chop & Melon'."

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Attorney Donald Curtis also worked for Mosdell, Pama & Cox. He knew that Allan was a bully. He'd represented an unnamed female employee of FindIt SA. The case had
obviously gotten under Curtis' skin. He refused to give details but believed that Allan had intimidated her into dropping the case. Curtis was upset.

As Allan had used Outreach.co.za against me, in limited fashion he used KnysnaDiaries.com against the manager of the Knysna Waterfront, Sheldon Meese. Again, Allan posted anonymously. I questioned Meese about it, discovering that his real 'crime' was being wise enough to not trust Allan and have no need of his services.

Three people contacted me to tell me how Allan had ruined their lives in the Nineties and early 2000s. I can't verify their stories but there was a ring of truth and consistency of theme I could relate to.

Allan would allegedly target an individual, his goal to defeat them through psychological harassment. His main tool was the internet which, at that time, was relatively new in South Africa. The women told me that they and some of their family members kept themselves anonymous online. Allan had scarred their lives.

The last alleged victim was male. He stated that he and Allan had been business partners in online adult pornography. He said that Allan wanted total control which he wouldn't agree to. Allan, to allegedly gain ownership of their two websites, drugged him, took compromising photos, and blackmailed him into giving up his share of the business.

He also claimed Allan supplied Thai women to The Ranch which, at that stage, was the most famous strip club in South Africa. It was alleged to offer more intimate services. After The Ranch closed down, Allan allegedly assumed his ex-partners identity to report the Hell's Angels to the police so that he could gain control of their premises for his own strip club. When his plan was revealed, Allan escaped threat and Johannesburg for a new life in Knysna.

By chance, I distantly knew the manager of the clothing brand in Durban that had bought one of Allan's alleged websites, Roxy.co.za. The manager had been a few years behind me in school, but I'd met him properly a decade later through his mother who'd been my awesome landlady. Unfortunately, he was unhelpful. I believe in responsibility to the bigger picture but, to a degree, I understand why. Roxy, an alleged adult website for teen stripping and fucking was now a famous teen girl surfer brand.

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After I’d exposed ten of Mark Allan’s fake identities, and Facebook had banned his Gerald Turner profile, he began posting comments as himself. That was the first time in twenty-two months of defamation against me. He would eventually have four Mark Allan profiles that never interacted on a social level or displayed a photo of him.

Bevan Lackay, then the Community Manager at News24, one of South Africa's largest media outlets, said: "He sets up profiles purely to pass 'commentary' on articles that you publish, and has no interest in engaging elsewhere on News24."

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I exposed Jaco Dercksen as a likely fraudster through 'Warning to Accommodation Owners'. On News24, I renamed the blog as 'South Africa's Great Spammer...or is that Scammer?' Allan, always the perverted opportunist, responded to my article by accusing me of being the internet criminal:

"You are a bully. You use your questionable skills to harass, intimidate and bully. You seek attention and don't care what damage you do in the process. It must stop. Your insensitive self-seeking victimisation of Shaun van Eck turned me from being a cynical recluse into someone who would support fracking in the Diepwalle Forest if I thought you were taking a stand against it. You have converted me from being a pessimistic denialist into a political activist with an agenda and intent to vote DA, just because I know it will get up your nose. All of this must stop. I am not the troll, you are. And Jaco Dercksen in this case is not the bully, you are... I watched as you stalked Shaun van Eck and insulted and offended everyone from Knysna Tourism through the Municipality and up to the Premier's Office. You just shut your eyes and pull the trigger... And by the way, why do you use that term 'Bad People' so often? I find it incredibly creepy. It's baby talk. Why did you leave Pietermaritzburg? Are you the open book you would like people to believe you are... You are drunk with power... You are out of control. You are a cyber-bully and it must stop."

By that stage, I’d gained a court order against Allan. Knysna’s deplorable police refused to act on it. Allan knew they wouldn't, even dared me online. Allan could attack me with impunity. His propaganda campaign escalated.

He publicly offered to give my home address to Dercksen who’d threatened me. I would later be emailed by a resident of another town that there were outstanding warrants of arrest for Dercksen. The local police wouldn't accept my complaint and those on the other side of the country never responded to my messages.
Allan’s mention of “Pietermaritzburg” and “baby” in back-to-back sentences would later become notable when Baden Hall, his associate, would falsely imply that I was forced to leave Pietermaritzburg after molesting children. Reality was that I’d reached fragile low point after a break-up with the woman I loved, had experienced a let-down by a mate I worked for, and decided to change my life. I impulsively got on a bus to Knysna, meaning to stay for only three days but landed up being a resident for eight years. The town was impossibly pretty. I never wanted to leave. Knysna became my next lover. I’m missing her as I type this.

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Early on, I never realised Allan was a psychopath, that his attack was mostly personal. The political angle was relevant but only as a tool to manipulate others against me.

Allan's false identities boosted Shaun van Eck’s whilst disparaging me. He seemed to have an agenda to help Van Eck as his disciplinary case approached. Van Eck initially and impossibly claimed to be unaware of what was happening but admitted Allan was helping him to promote his new business on online. Years later, he would refer to Allan as his friend.

It was obvious at that early stage that Allan intended to sic a crew of trolls on me.

Allan approached Van Eck's ex-right-hand, Nicci Rousseau Schmidt, who was the Public Relations head for both Knysna Tourism and the Knysna Municipality. He wanted them to work with him to silence me.

"Nicci, as discussed, you guys and the municipality in particular, cannot afford to ignore Wicked Mike. He is all over Google... Let me have two or three people who are interested in learning how to become trainers that train the next set of trainers. We could easily drown out the rantings of what is merely a wicked troll, pushing him off the page and into cyber oblivion."

She turned him down so he turned against her in a blog. He then went to Greg Vogt, the director most responsible for Van Eck's removal. When turned down again, he trashed Vogt too.

However, Allan would continue standing against me whilst pretending to be standing up for the honour of Knysna. His real goal was to defame me so badly it would destroy me. Comments clearly begging to be deleted were allowed on the Facebook pages of the Knysna-Plett Herald and the Knysna Municipality. My appeals to them were in vain. They were already against me. Allan was on their side.
He would eventually find helpers, several of them DA. As a group, the accusations against me would compound. Being labelled “clinically unsound” would gravitate to narcissism and finally sociopathy. Indirect references to me being a paedophile would become a parent witnessing me molesting his kids. Allan also expressed interest in having me jailed. That wish was taken up by my attackers like an insane torch for the liberation of the corrupt.

It took an extremely arrogant DA to work with Allan. It was as if they were saying, “We’re too powerful to be punished.” Although the DA may have thought they were using him, or that he was their ally, he was using them. He saw the DA, and especially Councillor Dr Martin Young, as nasty tools for his pleasure. But it began a slippery slope the DA are still sliding on. It turned some of their supporters against them. And I’m hoping that it’ll eventually result in longer jail sentences. It was also extremely useful in exposing other nuts in town.

A chapter on Allan is grossly insufficient. He’s did so much more and has a dark background needing discovering. But he’ll likely escape punishment for the crimes he committed against me for the DA’s benefit. He emigrated to Thailand. I don’t know if he’s still there. But the internet is everywhere so his cruelty continued long after. A few residents weren’t cowed by him, mocking him in return:

“I reckon it's a sad picture. An old fat man sitting at his computer in his underjocks, 10,000 k's from here, in a permanently impotent rage, spitting bile into a community that couldn't care less what he says.

Ag shampies, man. Look at what you’ve become? Are you not a bit embarrassed for yourself Mark?

Mike Hampton has captured your life!

Cheer up, Mark. Sure, its easy to become despondent when you realise that nobody gives an elasticated wank about your opinion. Don't give up and don't let it get you down! Try and forget that you've pissed a substantial portion of your life away patiently shovelling lorry-loads of arseblubber into the internet.

Forget that you believed, for no reason that the rest of us can fathom, that this was worth doing.

Abandon your conviction that important men with moustaches were leafing through your penetrating observations with grudging approval.

Bravely ignore the fact that everyone has actually been shitting themselves
laughing at you.”

But Allan's rarely made a comment the past year. Apparently, he's running out of money in Asia. Maybe he's desperately self-focused in a small village with poor internet connectivity. Or maybe he's got a new victim, one that doesn't fight back.

There are no compliments in my observation that Mark Allan is clever and experienced. He's evil. It'll be interesting to see how his ego handles this book. No matter what words of protest he may hollow into existence, he likes the attention. I imagine him enjoying my words... and I've got more to say.

My life was to become far worse.
The only known photo of Mark Allan,
taken by me in the local SuperSpar in 2015
Mark Allan I have been involved in many things I am not proud of. One of those was joining the ANC after it was unbanned in the early nineties. I have operated in the shadowy world of murky politics most of my adult life. As I mentioned to you I was an information gatherer and after selling my security company I invested in the adult entertainment industry. One of the sites I acquired used to harvest the content off the news groups. It was groundbreaking stuff in those days. That content was then auto sorted into categories and graded by users. It is where the internet started and to give you an example the company that preceded Mweb provided us with free hosting and bandwidth because they didn’t want their client base accessing the content elsewhere. This was probably worth thirty to forty thousand rand a month.

3 hrs

Mark Allan The other site I had an interest in was an anonymous personals platform. Again a virtual goldmine of sensitive, very personal information, dishonesty and weaknesses. You would be surprised at who and how trusting they were. I wanted to build Facebook before there was a Facebook. But I didn’t have the coding nor the graphic skills. Those that had either didn’t want anything to do with it or they were Swingers. And if you know any Swingers you will understand why that is just not possible. I eventually gave up, put the domains in mothballs and kept them off the market until I couldn’t be bothered to renew them.

58 mins · Edited
CHAPTER 8:
Dr. Sociopath & the Disciples of the DA

"If a politician found he had cannibals among his constituents, he would promise them missionaries for dinner."

- H.L. Mencken

This is a montage of threats Dr. Martin Young emailed me over a few days at the end of March 2016. The DA made him their Councillor five months later.

"Attention Hampton…

You seem not to realize that you are in no position to negotiate. I’m surprised you even tried. We hold all the cards, and have all the power to make your life really and truly miserable…

The moment it is out there that Louis’ Steakhouse supports you and enables you, there is bound to be a consequence to their business…

We are an open consortium of all the people in Knysna you have ever dared to attack, now come together to make sure you pay handsomely for your activities. In addition are wealthy businessmen and women who are prepared to pay to see it stopped. No names. You’ll probably never know. Feel better now?

Jail is more than likely your next Knysna destination…”

What Young called "Louis' Steakhouse" is just 'Louis' to locals. Online it's 'Louis Restaurant & Bar'. The restaurant never supported me. The owner wasn't my friend. I was just a customer who occasionally introduced tourists and others to the biggest meal in Knysna. And, in Winter, it would be great to have a drink next to one of the two large fireplaces.

As I had for many businesses, I’d given it free advertising (without it being requested). Through LoveKnysna.com and Facebook, I promoted what I loved and what I thought would make an impression on visitors. I wanted my town to grow. Consider me punting Louis' here for the inconvenience the politicians caused.

I’d been told that Young had been going door to door, telling businesses to ban me. He'd then have the audacity to ask them to donate money towards legal fees to put me in jail. Owners had told me what was happening but wouldn't go on record for fear of harm. I expect that hateful politics inducing anxiety wasn't encouraging investment in Knysna. However, the DA would blame my blogging for that.
I worried that I couldn't prove what was happening but caught Young in the act at Louis'. Not wanting to further inconvenience the poor lady he'd cornered, I held my tongue, instead sending Young an email later. His response was to threaten me. So that nothing is taken out of context, the full emails will be provided at the end of this chapter. They are also made more important by me having given them to Premier Helen Zille who will get her special place in the next book.

Louis' was only one example of businesses feeling intimidated. My goodwill meant nothing. Louis' later asked me to stay away. I may have been disappointed in the venue but did so for a year because it wasn't fair that innocent people were being dragged into the DA's dirty politics. But it also wasn't fair that I had to suffer too. It's like when three big guys start picking on someone small in a club, and the bouncer asks the victim to leave because he wants to stop the fight.

Nevertheless, Louis' was one of my first stops when I was back in Knysna for a few days in 2018. The meals were as big as ever!

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The evil of Dr. Martin Young had innocuous beginning a few months before. I met him indirectly at a meeting wherein the DA were wanting to designate Public drinking areas. I was against it.

I'm not a prude. I enjoy social drinking and I don't mind drinking alone. A couple of beers would sometimes burp an article out of me. I've illegally had drinks in Public spaces - it's relaxing to have a sundowner somewhere pretty. But sneaking a drink isn't alcoholism or destruction. It isn't the same as getting wasted, smashing bottles and frightening families on a family outing. The law keeps us furtive and thus in check.

Alcoholism is a notable characteristic of Knysna (and the Western Cape). It's particularly problematic in the poorer areas which have shebeens (illegal taverns) open all night. Drinking shifts up a gear on Saturday, reaching top speed on Sundays when the hospital treats the most associated injuries. Businesses complain about unproductive Mondays, when hangovers are so bad that, to function, some employees have been seen drinking regmaakers on their way to work. Drunk walking across the national road has killed the blurry and the innocent. The saddest consequence is Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) which occurs most amongst the coloured community. FAS falls under Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) for which South Africa has the highest rate in the world, and the Western Cape is the most offending province.
It's heart-rending meeting a dim-witted kid with odd appearance.

Instead of debate through merit, the intention to create Public drinking spaces become a racial topic. The DA was lashed online, mostly by the white middle class, who saw it as a cheap ploy to get more non-white votes. I did too. Although several black and coloured people I spoke to were against it, they were the quiet ones. Their politicians increased support by labelling opposers as “white racists”. Some were but not the majority.

Besides being unproductive, it demonstrated how Apartheid is encouraged by a minority to live forever. I'm not exaggerating. I have doubts whether South Africa will get fixed. The optimist in me is bleeding to death. I need a fucking drink!

I posted a sign online saying: "Warning: Consumption of alcohol may make politicians forget about democracy and Public participation."

But my fellow citizens were so loud that the DA were forced to hold meetings in all the wards. Peter Myers, leader of the DA via proxy, was my Ward 10 councillor and the main promoter of the intended policy. With one exception, everyone at that meeting stood against him.

The exception was Dr. Martin Young who seemed to be sucking up to Myers. The problem is that a very white Young was trying terribly to label other whites as racist without using the word. His approach was to pretend that he understood coloureds and we didn't. It was farcical, especially considering, for example, that many mothers of all colours want their children safe in Public spaces. And one coloured municipal manager, Marlene Boyce, objected to me that Young was speaking, in essence, on her behalf.

Later that year, the DA had the terrible and hollow marketing idea of requesting an anti-racism pledge, as if a signature changes behaviour and makes liars honest and shitty people into sugar. Whereas most DA folk were wise enough to stay behind the scenes, Young proudly posted a photo of himself and the signed pledge on Facebook. He's regularly wanting approval but not always understanding how best to get it. He crack-brained added: “What does it imply about those that refused to sign?”

I may have mixed feelings about Chris Gould, then the head of one of the ratepayers’ associations and firm supporter of Councillor Myers, but he hit the nail on the head with:

"For God's sake Martin, have you lost it completely. This has got to be the most
embarrassingly smug and self-righteous post I have seen this year. Don't you understand how awful this looks? We all get it. You're not a racist. Yay!!! Most of us don't feel the need to sign a paper saying this. And then taking a photo of holding the paper. And then post said selfie on your Facebook page. And then, for God's sake, crudely imply that anyone who hasn't signed the pledge is a racist! Again, I ask you Martin, have you lost it completely?"

A better example of “imply” was after Young posted a photo of Fort Hare university which had gotten trashed during student riots. The first comment was by Stuart Lightley, a white subscriber:

"I haven't used a word in 20 or more years but when I see this…"

Any South African would immediately pick up that what was meant was the worst word of all - "kaffir". It's the word that symbolises Apartheid more than anything else. It's the pain and disgust of generations squeezed into six devilish letters stomped into one word. Implying it is the same as saying it. The second damnation is that Lightley admits he used to say it. The third is that 47-million blacks in the country were being labelled by the actions of a few. But his comment remained, maybe because he was a regular support of Young. But maybe it's just because Young isn't like most of us, finds determining morality difficult, and makes decisions according to the retrieval of approval.

At that meeting about drinking, Young was unbelievable and a touch loony. When people agreed with my position and criticism of the DA, Young was visibly upset, more than he should've been. I came to believe that's because he's a sociopath, that his ego's desperate need for appreciation had been dented. Because he's a wannabe version of Mark Allan is one reason I don't call him a psychopath. Another is that he prefers the 'sociopath' description, even if it were to publicly diagnose me as such. I believe he's self-aware, that his accusations against me are part deflection, part vindictive. To me, he is Dr. Sociopath.

As much as Mark Allan understood that sex was a weapon, so Young understood his doctor title could be used to abuse. They became a tag team of malpractice.

Just before the 2015 Christmas holiday season, it was announced that the majority of Knysna was against Public drinking areas. The DA lost. It was rumoured that Young was going to become a DA candidate. Like Allan, he made me his obsession.
More claws, jaws and knives were after me between February and August 2016. February marked the submission of my evidence against the the DA to Parliament. That became known as the Love Knysna Petition. August 2016 was designated for the Local Government Elections.

The disinformation and intimidation campaign against me deepened. It was clear that those involved meant to destroy my credibility, undermine years of activism, and cloud issues in favour of the DA and their politicians who hoped to be re-elected or elected.

The main social media sites against me were Knysna Knews, Protecting Brand Knysna and Wicked Knysna. The pages of Knysna Municipality, the Knysna-Plett Herald and several individuals were also utilised. Mark Allan had several smaller groups. Martin Young used Knysna Acoustics Complete Hearing Solutions, the outlet for his medical practice. On Twitter, there was an ugly parody of me called Angry Mike.

Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK) was a misnomer. It existed only to attack me. Proven administrators were Young and Allan. Little players supported them. As PBK came into existence immediately after Hampton Factor was closed by Facebook, it's reasonable to conclude that Hampton Factor was theirs too.

Even though it was a play on my nickname, it seemed more honest when Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK) changed its name to Wicked Knysna. After a long fight, Facebook deleted that too.

Knysna Knews still exists. It masquerades as a news page. But all it's ever done is share other people's links. Up until I left Knysna, it's rare original posts sought either to discredit me or support the DA. The administrators of that page were married couple Deputy Mayor Esme Edge and Advocate Julie Seton (who'd become a 2016 DA candidate). As Edge had divorced and remarried, changing her surname back to Jefferys was reasonable. But, depending on what role she was playing (which seemed more like scheming), Seton used Lopes and Jefferys too.

No hens have ever clucked as much for themselves as those two. These political wannabes aren't criminal masterminds. Their selfish-minded villainy only remains unpunished because it's been convenient for the power controlling the corrupt society that Knysna is. So, despite their efforts to discredit and jail me, I can't think of them
as anything more than the drunken hens of the DA. And I doubt Winston Churchill, if he’d had Facebook, would have posted as many wine jokes as Esme Jefferys. He would’ve been smarter to realise that it doesn’t hide the problem, it highlights it.

The hens tried to be anonymous behind Knysna Knews but I was informed after somebody overheard them, in the Knysna Municipality, bragging and laughing about their bitchiness. Their ownership of the page became well known amongst DA councillors - a shot at me was worth a laugh. Publicly, they refused to admit that they were the admins and none who’d spoken to me would go on record. But I found a different route.

Clues were DA photos including Edge more than any other, and that one odd post was for a missing cat – Edge is a cat fanatic. I was able to substantially reveal their identities after I compared the timestamps of Knysna Knews posts to those on their personal pages. That included Knysna Knews' direct (rather than sharing) use of a personal photo taken by Edge.

Exposed, Seton tried damage control by lying they’d never acted secretly but even her ally, Allan, stated that I’d exposed her.

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Commenting, liking and sharing posts against me were DA councillors Peter Myers, Mark Willemse, Eleanore Spies and Louise Hart. Aspirant DA candidate Magda Moos was there too. There were factions within the DA but the only thing that seemed to unite them was their hatred of me.

There were shares to the DA's official Knysna page, Willemse's Ward 9 FB page, and the Knysna Business X Change FB page. The latter was a project of Allan and Dave Hendry, the ex-Chairman of the Knysna Business Chamber. Allan reckoned:

"Everything I have said, meticulously recorded by Hampton himself, is all true. And if anyone is interested in more details, I can refer them to the past CEO of the Knysna Chamber of Business, who will corroborate almost everything I have said."

Frequent negative commentators had ties to the DA and Knysna Tourism.

Kevin Grinaker had been a Constituent and a Ward 10 Committee Member. Manon McDonald was the ex-Manager of the Municipality's Electrical Department. Candace Myers was the wife of DA Councillor Peter Myers. Baden Hall was a friend of Shaun van Eck, and an ex-DJ for Knysna FM which had also supported Van Eck. Martin
Hatchuel, a tourism writer, had been a business partner with Greg Vogt before Vogt replaced Van Eck. Hatchuel picked up work from Vogt and the Municipality. Ashley Barnes and Gustav Malan were copyrighters, and employees of Jam Factory and Magnetic Creative which scored work from the Municipality. Barnes became friends with Fran Kirsten who acted against me from the Municipality's side. Others will be mentioned in passing.

Mark Beard, the wealthy owner of Autolink, was notably and keenly present. It was rumoured he was a donator to the DA.

Whether by realisation or the unconscious flow of inner foulness and cattiness, Mark Allan had gotten his wish for a gang of trolls.

Consistency and themes ensured the conspiracy was real. Observe the patterns of their online behaviour through the examples I provide.

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My brand was 'Love Knysna' so it's notable that it was being tarnished by accusations of self-interest and local economic destruction.

Advocate Seton: "What has this Johnny come lately actually contributed to our town?" Her life partner, Deputy Mayor Edge, added: "And he cost us millions in tourism! While people are dying, his ego prevails."

Advocate Seton: "The person costing the ratepayers millions is Hampton."

Advocate Seton: "In my opinion the damage he has done to brand Knysna single-handedly is horrendous."

Knysna Knews: "...on the whim of an individual who has already cost this town hundreds of thousands of rands in wasted man hours, responding to vicious attacks, quite apart from the damage to brand Knysna together with the economic cost resulting from him."

Mayor Wolmarans: "To date, his campaign has cost local ratepayers thousands..."

Baden Hall: "I have experienced first hand when selling my property that the potential buyer had second thoughts of purchasing in Knysna as direct result of the negative postings of this narcissistic twerp."

Dr Young: "He damages Knysna's brand considerably. That hurts everybody who lives here. Knysna Tourism gets R4 million a year to grow the brand - rates
and tax money. Hampton destroys it for his own ends."

Dr Young: "Hampton claims to love Knysna, but his five years of 'activism' have achieved little other than to divide our town and create an unhealthy atmosphere of suspicion that has already severely damaged the Knysna brand."

Mark Allan: "Hampton you have given nothing. You take, you consume, you destroy."

Candace Myers: "You are killing our town."

Dr Young: "He damages Knysna's brand, not to the average visitor as much as to the serious investor in our future - new businesses, factories etc."

Knysna Knews: "We certainly do not endorse the actions of Hampton which have so damaged our town."

Dr Young: "Hampton’s posts can cause ten times a negative effect, at a minute fraction of the cost, of the money and effort invested into Knysna Tourism - your money... Knysna's brand is damaged every time Hampton opens his mouth in his obsession against council, and you and I pay the price.... Hampton’s negative publicity for Knysna will make fewer people come here on holiday, buy properties, retire here, invest in new businesses here, have their families visit here, have restaurant meals here, buy locally manufactured goods, and will cost jobs. This is exactly the opposite of what he claims to desire for Knysna..."

Councillor Myers: “The question is does Knysna deserve to have its reputation tarnished and have potential investors discouraged because of these unsubstantiated and often irrational allegations involving a huge conspiracy to cover up claims of corruption and maladministration. Even if one job opportunity has been forgone, as a result of a potential investigator turning away from investing in Knysna because of Hampton's unsubstantiated and irrational rantings – it was a job that was badly needed by someone in Knysna. Hampton may be able to live with that – but those of us who truly love Knysna cannot."

Knysna Knews: "Mike, stop damaging the town you pretend to love..."

Dr Young: "Mike Hampton' does not really 'love' Knysna."

Councillor Myers: "Love Knysna’ - by the way what a joke – he should actually call it Hate Knysna"
Angie Manser: “He also has an FB page called Love Knysna, but there is no love there, more like Hate Knysna.”

Candace Myers: "You are definitely not helping anyone but yourself."

Mark Beard: "He has zero scruples."

Councillor Myers: "It is now reasonable to conclude that the only reason that you continue with your allegations against the Knysna Municipality is to benefit from it commercially by generating more traffic to your site."

Advocate Seton: "He is paying to boost his posts to destroy our town. please do not for one second think that he loves Knysna. The only reason he achieves 20,000 views is because he is using uninformed donors’ money to pay to boost his posts, it is damaging our town to the extent we are losing massive investment and there is nothing amiss. I love the hashtag #hamptonmustfall."

Candace Myers: "This must end #hamptonmustfall."

Knysna Knews: "Mike has single-handedly destroyed brand Knysna and takes pride in it so he is destroying economic development and jobs. Stop supporting him if you love Knysna. Mike is bad #hamptonmustfall."

Knysna Knews: "...anything but good mike has single-handedly destroyed brand Knysna and takes pride in it so he is destroying economic development and jobs. Mike is disastrous stop supporting him if you really love Knysna. Mike is bad #hamptonmustfall."

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To demonise me, the DA had to create fear amongst their influential white electorate. That could only work if I were part of a hidden agenda rather than a corruption fighter. Consequently, the second theme implied I worked for a third force or the ANC.

Councillor Myers: “It’s not so surprising that in an election year, an ANC controlled body [Parliament] would accept a petition that is mostly misleading or untrue regarding a DA controlled municipality. This is called politics.”

Dr Young: "As a person who admits to being unemployed, I wonder who in fact Hampton works for..."

Dr Young: "You are the one ducking all the questions about whose agenda you are serving."

Mark Allan: "Who is paying your bills Hampton? You have been unemployed for
five years. If you are clean, lay it out for everyone to see. But my bet is that you get cash payments for which you sign little chits, that no auditor will ever see."

Mark Allan: "When it comes to disinformation, he is a natural. Took to it like a duck to water. I have no doubt he (Hampton) is being used and it would not surprise me if he has an expense account."

Mark Allan: "I object to parasites that believe they are owed a living, dipping into the public purse. Hampton has been unemployed for five years. Where is he getting the money he needs to drive the disinformation campaign that he has run over that time?"

Mark Allan: "Hampton, you are a natural but left to your own devices a rank amateur. Has your handler abandoned you. A compromised asset?"

Wicked Knysna: "And one of the questions you won't answer is if you are being paid, or if it is just spite driving you to do whatever you can, to destabilise local government in the Western Cape?"

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The third theme was to continually pretend that my accusations were baseless. Of course, that required them to ignore the evidence blatantly and repeatedly. Check out this one crazy example of a Facebook attack (and understand how much time it takes to fight a gang of trolls).

Knysna Knews were dismissive regarding the hearings that a committee of Parliament had called regarding my petition:

"Having read the submission, [Hampton] focuses on Knysna Tourism which has been dealt with exhaustively, and there is quite simply nothing amiss. Unlike Hampton, we don't intend to endlessly bore people by reiterating statements previously made... The ISDF issue has been investigated, found not to be lacking... The appointment of the municipal manager has been dealt with and [Hampton] then makes a bunch of baseless and unfounded allegations imputing impropriety. Apparently, Hampton's understanding of municipal finances and affairs is superior to that of the auditor general..."

The 'joke' was on them. That petition process has been ongoing for years but, through other means, Knysna Tourism's funding and the ISDF tender were found to be illegal, and Municipal Manager Grant Easton quit during his disciplinary proceedings. Knysna
Knews and Mark Allan were voracious supporters of Easton until that moment. Unsurprisingly, in conflict of interest, Seton had acted as Easton's advocate.

Commentators had, on several occasions, made it clear that the anonymous posts by Knysna Knews were unacceptable. Imagine if it had been known then that Edge and Seton were travelling to that hearing they were defacing. That would have added context to Knysna Knews preposterously adding:

"So the whole parliamentary hearing hoo ha is certainly not proof positive of anything amiss... Reading the submission, it would appear [Hampton] wanted the deputy mayor invited simply to ask a question about her personal life. This certainly has nothing to do with municipal maladministration and has everything to do with Hampton's vendetta. Utilising parliament to further one’s own ends ostensibly in the name of our town simply cannot be condoned... So, let's think twice about who should be facing the music... Viva Knysna #hamptonmustfall."

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The fourth theme was mental disorder. Young and Knysna Knews promoted that I suffered from a "narcissistic personality disorder". As they became more confident in their attack, they devolved that into sociopathy.

Dr Young's response to a woman posting a positive comment about me was to compare me to a murderer: "Your image of him as a hero is fantasy, much as there are many women who still support Oscar Pretorius and think he is an innocent victim. It's inexplicable to me."

Dr Young: "As a medical doctor I know a parasite when I see one."

Mark Allan: "As described by Martin Young, he is a parasite."

Dr Young: "I think you're backing one very disturbed individual here."

Dr Young: "My call to all who truly care about Knysna is to see this man for what he really represents i.e. an unbalanced individual with a cyberstalking habit who does not earn his own living, lives off handouts, yet has not achieved anything other than to make the lives of those who do make an effort within council more difficult, as well as damage all of our prospects. I believe I know what drives him, and my medical experience tells me that it is a condition of character that is itself usually denied by those who possess it most."

Tracy Clifford Statt: "I heard a psychologist discussing the Narcissistic C: Personality Disorder... I think we may be observing one publicly." Young
responded with: "I have had that diagnosis in mind for a very long time..."

John Kew, a fake profile, commented on Martin Young's FB: "He daily hang out at a local pub. Punching, begging drinks off old pensioners. He was banned from a local pub for this already. He need help. Medical. Any head doctors willing to sponsor."

Knysna Knews: "The man in our opinion needs either institutionalisation or incarceration."

Baden Hall: "Campbell and Hampton deserve each other. I'm sure that there's communal facilities at Weskoppies." The latter facility is well known as a centre for the evaluation of prisoners with possible mental disorders.

Dr Young: "His traits are more like those of a cyberstalker than of an activist."

Knysna Knews: "One has to ask the question how does a person who probably requires psychological help ends up with such a following that the Sunday Times, not even a Iqbal Survé newspaper, actually quotes him."

Baden Hall: "This village idiot maliciously attacks people... This village idiot... this cretin survives on donations from other village idiots."

Mark Beard: "Why can't I see the village idiot’s posts on this page."

Dr Oliver Mark Dakers: "He fits somewhere between the covers of DSM-5. As they say, nothing here, just move on". DSM-5 is the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders'. Dakers became one of 3 doctors who supported the DA to write against me. I don't consider that coincidental.

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Through his personal Facebook, Dr Young officially announced his DA candidacy on 20 February 2016. 3 days later, he abused his doctor title by sharing it to his medical page. He, the aggressor, pretended to be the victim. Here's an extract:

"I have applied for consideration to stand for election as a PR councillor in the next local elections under the DA banner... Success, even if nominated, depends ultimately ion you, the voting public in the local elections in August this year.

There are, however, two major obstacles in the way.

The first obstacle is that my relatively easy life at present, with lots of time for my own interests, will come to an end should I be successful in my political
ambitions. But I am more than ready for that at a critical time in our country's history...

The second inevitable obstacle, and my main reason for writing this post, is the person of Mr. Mike Hampton, serial blogger and owner of the Love Knysna and Knysna Keep Facebook and blog pages. I have already been targeted by him over my declared intentions. Please allow me to deal with him in some detail here, using the same media that he does.

Unlike Hampton’s habit, I will base my argument on a factual analysis of his 670,000 words of blog postings and his replies to criticism on Facebook from local residents, councillors who have been extraordinarily patient with him, and myself... I hope that you will come to your own conclusions about why Hampton pursues his agenda against local government despite years of appropriate response that have found his allegations to have no substance.

Hampton claims to love Knysna but his five years of ‘activism’ have achieved little other than to divide our town and create an unhealthy atmosphere of suspicion that has already severely damaged the Knysna brand... The council and municipality, prime targets of Hampton, in the eyes of the reading public, ARE Knysna. They are inextricably linked... every time Hampton opens his mouth in his obsession against the council, you and I pay the price... allegations of corruption, especially when unfounded, are more than damaging. They are crippling...

Every item on Hampton's copious charge sheet has been addressed at many levels... and no corruption has ever been found... his questions have gone beyond those of a reasonable activist, and have taken on characteristics more like those of a cyber stalker. What may have been reasonable questions five years ago have taken on a more sinister nature... 'Cyberstalking is the use of the internet or other electronic means to stalk or harass an individual, a group, or an organisation. It may include false accusations, defamation, slander and libel...'

Hampton's activism has already seen several successful court judgements against him, none of which appears ro lessen his desire to continue in his harassment. The judgements against him are not for political deterrence by a corrupt judiciary as he claims...

We find ourselves living in a town 22 years after true democracy started, yet
where time traveller visiting us from 1994 would see little change... There are very tough decisions that will have to be made as to what it should cost us ratepayers to live here, and where resources will go towards challenging the inequality that so tears up our country.... Hampton's incessant and untested accusations via social media create an atmosphere of mistrust which will hamper any good council initiatives to make a substantial difference to Knysna that moves all its residents towards equality...

Hampton has never been elected nor appointed by Knysna residents into a role as 'activist'. The support and encouragement he gets from some Knysna residents have the effect of closing down open and transparent communicative government. Councillors under unwarranted, persistent and malicious attack are not going to be allowed to deliver their best. It is humanly impossible when one is being cyberstalked...

My call is to all who truly care about Knysna is to see this man for what he really represents i.e. an unbalanced individual with cyberstalking habits... My medical experience tells me that it is a condition of character that is itself usually denied by those who possess it most. I cannot say more than that for ethical reasons....

I am prepared to put the words of Gandhi into effect - “Be the change you want to see in the world” and will be happy to serve ALL residents of Knysna both in their ENT related medical needs and as a PR counsellor...

If not elected, I will remain committed, unlike Mr. Hampton... under the only party I believe has the ability to move our town and country forward as a truly multi-racial democracy.

Ultimately. The person who really gets to decide what happens to Knysna, and what Hampton or I should be allowed to do or not do, or to get away with, is you the resident. Your opinion does count, and can be heard here and elsewhere.

We cannot, as Knysna residents, allow the festering boil that is Hampton's ineffectual and highly damaging 'activism' to continue. It costs you and I more than we realise.

I'm taking a firm, unequivocal stand, and I invite you to join me.”

I hope that you're laughing at Young's reverse psychology, that criticism of politicians
is criticism of the people of Knysna, and that citizens are allowed opinions so long as they aren’t in support of me. And if I’m not stopped, I’ll be responsible for the continuation of Apartheid and the inability of local government to operate. And...

To overcome the awkward evidence I’d presented, Young didn’t mention what it was. Instead, he dismissed it, pretending it had been assessed and found to have no value. He later contradicts himself by saying that my accusations are “untested”.

Young's statement was supported by white folk. It was like a Catholic communion wherein everyone drank the blood of Young and ate of the body of the DA. Overall, to give him credit, it was a fine piece of propaganda... timed with Knysna Knews' posts against me and Parliament. Expectedly, they supported each other’s posts, with comments and shares, as did most of the those I've named and more.

Young's pretence at doctor's ethics was theatre. On Knysna Knews, four days earlier, he'd associated me with Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Knysna Knews (a.k.a Adv Julie Seton and Deputy Mayor Edge) took his queue, turning it into a post. My counter comment, a link to my first submission to Parliament, was ignored.

I don't consider it coincidental that on 25 February, the Knysna-Plett Herald published two letters against me by members of the medical profession. Another full-blown campaign was running against me.

The first letter was 'Hampton does not love Knysna – here is why'. Composed by Young, it ran over the newspapers word limit. The same had been allowed the year before when Speaker Eleanore Spies wrote against me.

The second letter, entitled 'No constructive engagement from Hampton' was composed by Doctor Douglas Seton. If you raised your eyebrows at that name, your suspicion is correct. He's the brother of Advocate Julie Seton.

All three doctors failed to mention the corruption involved which was impossible unless intentionally nefarious. Their goal was to character assassinate me whilst seeming reasonable. The 'credible' voices of the community had spoken.

Young wasn't interested in fighting corruption, creating jobs or saving the environment. He ran his campaign on the promise to remove a citizen obstacle called 'Mike Hampton'. I can't recall any politician having done something similar. His tactic may have inserted us into South Africa's history books. If so, it was one foot forward for sociopathy and a giant leap backwards for the self-proclaimed morality of the DA.

* * * * * *
Early March 2016, the Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK) crew appeared to have reported my personal profile as a fake identity. They also reported many of my Love Knysna posts as defamatory etc. (no matter the topic).

Enough complaints are more important than motivation or merit because Facebook seemed to practice a guilty until proven innocent policy. The result is that my personal profile was taken offline. That automatically deleted the associated Love Knysna page.

There was rejoicing on PBK. The benefit to me is that it further showed the Public how suppressive the DA was.

Uncharacteristically, Facebook was responsive to me within 24hrs, republishing my profile and page.

* * * * *

This chapter started with quotes of Young threatening me. It's obvious that he already felt so secure with the DA that he was willing to go on record. Here are the full emails, mine in italics:

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young
Sent: 24 March 2016 10:15
Subject: Attention Martin Young: stop your unfounded defamation campaign

This a request for you to:

1. Stop approaching businesses in an attempt to get them to join you in your crusade against me.

2. To delete all threads referring to me on your Facebook pages. That would include shutting down Hampton Factor and Protecting Brand Knysna. I don’t have to pick and choose because they are all geared towards discrediting me, often with the most hateful and insulting speech.

If you want to serve Knysna, you should do so through good example, not a campaign based on your hate.

*

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton

Attention Hampton
I am an activist. I do what is necessary for our town.

I have discovered your weaknesses and what drives you. I will not stop until your sick campaign against Knysna’s people comes to an end.

You will be surprised to know how many businesses want you gone from Knysna. We will be tapping into that desire to fund the legal costs of countering any challenge you bring.

You will do jail time in this town. It’s not a threat, just a statement of fact, based on your own actions. And you will have no one else to blame but yourself.

I, unlike you, have 17 years of being a good example in serving this town, with an emphatic record.

You have been a dismal failure in doing anything concrete for Knysna.

I feel sorry for you, because I know that you cannot see it in yourself.

So bring it on, bully boy. Help me teach you a lesson. I’ve faced far bigger and scarier adversaries than you and have yet to lose.

* 

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young

You said, “Surprise, surprise, just the man I’m talking about,” when I walked into Louis’ restaurant at 11.40am today. Considering my earlier email, the timing would be comical if the matter weren’t so serious.

Before you noticed me, I’d been standing behind you, listening to you defame me, asking the poor bar lady to get the business to stand against me, along with the other businesses you had already collected to do so.

To your credit, you never tried to lie about what you were doing. It would have been disingenuous if you had as it correlates with your actions on the grossly misnamed Protecting Brand Knysna.

It would be a sad indictment if the DA accepted your application.

* 

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton

Oh they’ll come around, believe me. I’m betting money and business survival
comes long before any sense of friendship you can offer them. They just need to understand what drives you to do what you do, and what it costs them. The moment it is out there that Louis' Steakhouse supports you and enables you there is bound to be a consequence to their business. It’s not the kind of negative image a business wants in Knysna.

I have no need to lie anywhere or under any situation and certainly will not start now.

PBK [Protecting Brand Knysna] will continue and will have a strong influence on making your life harder, by giving fair comment on your activities, and allowing debate where you allow none.

So it is going to get much harder for you to do what you do here. And you make a big mistake if you think it is only me – the number of activists dedicated to seeing you stop your nonsense is growing by the week.

As for your views on my capabilities and the DA I don’t care the slightest bit what you think. I’m determined that you will be a spent force if and by the time I get to serve this town in another capacity. Notice is served.

* 

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton
FYI.

Get one of these or equivalent and perhaps I’ll reconsider your value to this town.

[he attached a certificate of service that he received from Knysna Rotary Club]

* 

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young

I already know that you’re arrogant. You don’t need to prove it to me.

What i need if for you to be fair and decent person of reason.

* 

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton
I request you to stop abusing Knysna’s democratically elected leaders on your Facebook page and on your websites. Your efforts have shown no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing and have severely damaged Knysna’s image at ongoing considerable financial cost to the town.

There is enough evidence of your non compliance with the court orders against you in three cases to see you do jail time.

I am prepared to make an effort to see that this does not happen on five conditions.

You permanently delete your website Knysna Keep and all its online records
You permanently delete your Facebook page Love Knysna
You end your senseless and wasteful campaign against elected Knysna leaders and suitably appointed Knysna officials
Any future web presence you decide to have never includes Knysna by name in the title and is open to public comment and interaction
You agree to have counseling for Narcissistic Personality Disorder – we will make an effort to see that the costs thereof are covered by interested individuals.

You have 72 hours to comply with the first two requests, failing which my team’s efforts to see you imprisoned as soon as possible will intensify.

We have other plans to achieve the first two points with you doing jail time but hope and trust you will see the value in seizing this opportunity while you still can.

Yours sincerely

Martin Young

*  

From: Mike Hampton  
To: Dr Martin Young

You do not own brand “Knysna”.
You do not represent Knysna.
You do not represent anyone I’ve been in court with.
Threatening me with jail is heinous and reprehensible.

You have never presented any information to counter any of my articles, in particular my submission to Parliament. You talk and type a lot but without substance.

You practice as a medical doctor, not a psychiatrist. You have never had a conversation with me let alone an assessment.

What kind of doctor are you if you don’t believe in the doctor’s motto of “do no harm”? What kind of doctor would use their medical page to attack me? What kind of doctor would seek to damage my charitable work; my kids project and the free advertising I give local businesses?

Not a healthy one.

Your cyberstalking campaign is unfounded and disgusting. You, Mark Allan and Martin Hatchuel seem to be nasty peas in a dirty pod, destructive for the sake of self-interest and political interest – facts are absent, your lies abound.

It’s worrying that you’re friends with DA politicians. It’s even more worrying that the DA hasn’t stopped you and your conspirators (not a warm “team” at all) from staining their image. That you’ve applied to be a leader of our town is disturbing on a much darker level.

The only positive is that your actions are revealing who you are. Online, you and your “team” are damaging the public’s opinion of you. Mark Allan doesn’t care; he takes joy in it no matter which way he goes. But you, Martin Hatchuel, Mark Beard, Angie Manser, Ashley Barnes and Gustav Malan live here. Due to pending cases, I leave out the names of our politicians who should be included too. But all of you are ensuring that the public will never look at you the same way again.

Regards your crusade to have businesses attack me, you’re illogically approaching them blindly, failing to realise that I’ve been a patron of some and have given many free advertising for over 6 years. You have no relationship with some of the businesses you’re trying to get to join your crusade against me. They call me and tell me about the nutty guy who spoke badly about me. That you put them in a uncomfortable position makes them most uncomfortable with you, not me.

Mark my words, your “Consequences – Just Ahead” sign on Twitter will prove
prophetic, not for me but for you and your team of cyberstalkers.

Stop being an obsessive bully.

PLEASE TAKE A DEEP BREATH. Take several...

...way up the pros and cons. Be rational. Consider my words and your actions instead of just reacting. Share this with your cohorts. Act together, removing all posts against me, refusing to participate negatively on Knysna Knews or the DA’s FB pages, deleting Hampton Factor, deleting Protecting Brand Knysna, deleting AngryMikeH. Then each issue a brief but sincere public apology.

If you can’t do that for our town then at least do it for self-interest.

I will re-post the apologies once and, if you all do so, I’ll write a collective article to bring this matter to a close. Thereafter, I won’t mention you again. You won’t mention me again. If we unfortunately find ourselves caught up in court cases of others, we address it minimalistically, with simple facts and no emotion. Overall, we don’t seek conflict.

If we do, it will make Knysna less messy, more able to focus on issues instead of personalities gone wild. Our town needs less ego, gossip and negative entertainment. It needs more focus on construction and working together as our tough times likely get tougher.

*

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton

Thanks but no thanks.

Well then, jail is more than likely your next Knysna destination.

You need it. You deserve it. And you’ve earned it. Consequences!!!!

I am not practicing as a doctor in this instance, but as an activist who truly loves this town.

As for your diagnosis it is clearly apparent by your actions and writings. No consultation required.

We will see who is still active and happy in Knysna after this is over. That is all I have to say to you.

[unfortunately, his last sentence wasn’t true]
From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton

I was wrong.

I do have something more to say to you.

You seem not to realize that you are in no position to negotiate. I’m surprised you even tried. We hold all the cards, and have all the power to make your life really and truly miserable. I am more determined and more persistent than anyone you have ever opened your mouth against. I remind you that you started this.

I think that you should reconsider my offer. You have less than 48 hours to do so.

* 

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young

It is unfortunate that you always have more to say.

Do you have a messiah complex or are you able to define who “we” is?

You’re twisting words again. There was no “negotiation”. I offered you a solution and you rejected it. We know where we stand.

As for your 48hr ultimatum, exactly what is supposed to happen at Monday at 8.31pm? Does your threat extend beyond the comfort of your armchair nastiness and political ambitions?

* 

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton

The warrants of arrest are already issued Mike. We will choose exactly when to use them.

Any time, any place, you have no idea.

* 

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young
You failing to answer the questions = zero credibility.

*

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton
Oh alright then.

'We' are an open consortium of all the people in Knysna you have ever dared to attack, now come together to make sure you pay handsomely for your activities. You've never known when to stop, nor when is enough.

In addition are wealthy businessmen and women who see the damage you are doing and are prepared to pay to see it stopped.

No names. You'll probably never know.

Feel better now?

*

From: Mike Hampton
To: Dr Martin Young
At the very least, you've made it clear that it's a conspiracy of nonsense and cowardice.

*

From: Dr Martin Young
To: Mike Hampton
It's very serious. No nonsense to it.

You've no one to blame but yourself.

* * * * *

Noam Chomsky drank from the fountain of understanding when he said, "Propaganda is to democracy what violence is to dictatorship."

The DA slogans of anti-corruption, clean governance, accountability and transparency are lies. They’re propaganda marketing, repeated and repeated and repeated until the Public sucks them in like snot from a nose.

Jacob Zuma’s version of the ANC was labelled as cancer. The DA pretended to be the cure. But after Cyril Ramaphosa succeeded him as President, the DA's fingers of
accusation involuntarily bent backwards to point at themselves. They're no different to any major political party in the world, incestuous and cruel.

Politics is about power for self-interest and, often, outside interests. If you dare jeopardise its position and money, it'll seek to destroy you like it did me.

* * * * *

As mentioned earlier, I reported Young to the DA. That included a face to face meeting with Premier Helen Zille. Their response was to make Young a councillor. No one voted for him. The DA made him one of their proportional representatives. The only logical explanation is that he was rewarded for doing their dirty work.

Now for their fifth theme, paedophilia.
MEC Tourism Alan Winde and Dr Martin Young at DA conference (23 September 2017). Winde had ignored my complaints and seems happy to be with Young here. It’s frightening that Winde is the DA’s 2019 candidate for Premier of the Western Cape.
Oliver Mark Dakers He fits somewhere between the covers of DSM-5. As they say nothing here, just move on.

3 · 6 hrs

Tanya Nicholls That's quite an intimidating wrath you have posted. I do support you, the DA, however, the mood is spoilt. Unlike me?

2 · 5 hrs

Mark Allan One of the silly people who do not believe disturbing, depraved verse is any reason to question the village activists right to organise outings for underprivileged and vulnerable children.

5 hrs

Martin Young Tanya, do you have any idea what this man is about???
I do. The devil is in the detail.

1 · 5 hrs

Tanya Nicholls Go easy on your comments,

1 · 4 hrs

Martin Young Tanya Nicholls do you know what a 'sociopath' is? Do you know how much damage they cause? I find it ironic that you would urge caution against those opposing a sociopath. It indicates that you don't know the dynamics, and what is really going on. This man has caused untold misery, disinvestment and job losses in our community. And I must 'watch my comments'? No, man!!

2 · 4 hrs
CHAPTER 9:
Kiddiefucker

“When one person makes an accusation, check to be sure he himself is not the guilty one.”
- Piers Anthony

“Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.”
- Noam Chomsky

The Democratic Alliance (DA) repeatedly took me to court and threatened me with jail. I was falsely tarred as a paedophile, a sociopath, working for the ANC and a destroyer of the town I loved. That first despicable description associated me with a nine-year old girl who went missing in 2014.

It was obvious that the DA's propaganda wanted to discredit my charity work with disadvantaged kids. It was entirely perverted but politically logical. They needed me to be a monster, not a citizen helping my community. The nicest thing in my life was helping children. That some people respected me for it never fit into the demon the DA were attempting to portray me as. I went from child helper to child abuser with fake social media comments and a small town's rumour mill.

I could write a book on the intimidation alone, but the bigger corruption context is more important. This 'kiddiefucker's' anger is going to have to settle for a chapter whilst remembering author Carroll Bryant's infamous tweet, “I would rather vote for a paedophile over a democrat.”

Throughout, I want you to ask yourself what you would have done if you were me?

* * * * * *

My community activism wasn't only politics. Love Knysna was a major project of mine. I blogged a quarter million words to inform tourists and locals about “the prettiest town in South Africa”. It may not be a megalith but at least it gave Knysna 330,000 views it would otherwise have never had. When you visit the website, I'm sure you'll recognise the effort.

Love Knysna Projects was the natural extension. There were challenges but my memory sums it up as a three-year joy. I got to see the better side of adults and, together, we made kids happier. The focus had mostly been on the Rastafari community but had expanded to Hornlee, another area of Knysna.

I undertook separate projects such as making the website for the Judah Square (130,000 views). On rare occasion, I asked for donations for school clothes etc. But
the focus was on the educational, pleasure trips which were all documented with photos on the website. My website description showed how simple it was:

"You will never stand taller than when you kneel to help a child' is a grand quote of sacrifice and community that we should all live by. However, when you become a volunteer at Love Knysna Projects, your only goal in kneeling is so that you can see children smile... and they can see you do the same. Volunteering has never been easier. We don’t expect money donations, just your time and positive attitude. The goal is to have fun whilst taking children on excursions to beautiful places in Knysna. These trips range from beach picnics and hikes to visiting major tourist attractions.”

I’d organise free entry to where we wanted to go. Most venues wanted to participate. Most of the time, all a volunteer needed was a car, seatbelts, sandwiches and fruit. It was reciprocal education for those white volunteers who’d never experienced the townships.

Townships are the legacy of apartheid, places of economic or voluntary culture association. As Brenton-on-Sea and the East Head was overwhelmingly white, so Hornlee was coloured, and Concordia and Khayalethu black. People divided by colour remains far too common in South Africa.

The trips were even better when volunteers brought their offspring with because kids playing together can become adults playing together. Kids are where our better future begins. It's said often enough but more people need to give it meaning through action.

We enjoyed the places we visited, from stunning beaches and the forest to Birds of Eden and the Elephant Park. We visited the seahorses at SANPARKs and organised lectures for the Sustainable Sea Trusts which which went on to establish Knysna as a Hope Spot. I'll never forget the excitement of those sitting in a restaurant for the first time. Can you imagine being fifteen-years-old and having never experienced that? On another occasion, a girl was so excited at the concept of sugar sachets that I held my tongue as she put seven of them into her cup of tea.

Occasionally, some were singled out for extra treat.

There was a birthday party for a girl who was about to go for another operation for her bow-leggedness.

Girls who undertook a community census for me got pampered at the famous Pezula
Spa. They described it as the highlight of their lives. It's dismaying how people can see something on TV, dream about it, but think that they'll never have it. From township to 5-star luxury was a big jump. It showed them that the world was within their reach. We have to teach possibility. Mind jumping requires practice like almost everything else.

But the obvious good of Love Knysna Projects only motivated the propagandists to discredit me more. I found it harder to organise volunteers. Some became unavailable and others didn't turn up on the day in need. Increasingly frustrated, I suspended the project.

It made sense for me to focus 100% on the corruption, defeat it, and then return to make the project bigger. That I still haven't won the war made the children the biggest losers. Unfortunately, Knysna's politicians care more about greed than they do about children. I can generalise because none (from all the parties) stood against what happened (and is still happening).

* * * * * *

I was approached by Hornlee residents to help Essie, a teen orphan who wanted to return to school. With assistance from my Facebook subscribers, she gained food, school clothes and stationery.

That positivity was reinterpreted by DA Councillor Peter Myers on his Facebook as:

"[Hampton's] recent appeal for a child in need may also be a scam – a way to enrich himself."

That he said it at a time his colleagues were implying I was a danger to children was calculated. It was a continuation of the child abuse theme. Unsurprisingly, they were involved in his comment section. Remember that he was the Chairperson of the DA Constituency. He was the ultimate local authority allowing the dirtiness against me. I was having a difficult time with the fact that Susan Campbell, who I'd seen as an ally, was his biggest supporter. She was always excusing him, making him another Jesus walking on the water without getting hit by a boat. I don't believe that he'd have survived so long in the political arena without her dedication to him.

When Warren Fleming, a well-known citizen and photographer, criticised Myers, he was attacked by regular protagonists Advocate Julie Seton, Dr. Martin Young and Candace Myers. None bothered to question Peter Myers for his awful, unsubstantiated statement. The goal, as always, was only to hurt me.
Mark Allan commented that "[Hampton] is befriending yet another teenage girl and using it to promote himself as the concerned and conscientious member of the community. This is so wrong." His comment was liked by Esme Edge.

The same week, Edge asked the Knysna-Plett Herald newspaper to investigate me for child abuse. She provided no proof because there wasn't any. Being a member of a gang had made her drunk with power.

The editor, Ingrid Erlank, was aware of the propaganda I was forced to deal with. She found Edge so outrageous that she gave me a call in which we found ourselves in disagreement. I saw it as an opportunity. I wanted Erlank to write the story which I knew would clear me and make the DA look bad. Erlank chose to be human being and a mother rather than a journalist. She refused, saying that it would only damage me because some people don’t remember the facts, just the claim.

Her choice would prove unhelpful because I’d only face more accusations from the same shitty people. And when Erlank was forced out of the newspaper for questioning the municipality on other matters, her replacement was happy to allow horrid lies to stand against me on their websites.

No matter our contrasting positions, I believe, wholeheartedly, that Erlank made a decision that was moral to her. And, if it wasn't for her, I’d never having been able to directly tie Edge to the putrid kiddie mess.

* * * * *

Mark Allan went further, trying to wildly cast suspicion on me for two crimes I had no association with. The first was a murder, about a 100km away, over a mountain pass. He eventually let that go but stuck with Liyema Beleni, a child feared dead after she’d gone missing from Knysna. He never stated directly that I’d kidnapped her, but the implication was there. As obtuse was him trying to twist the meaning of a poetic line I’d posted with a weather report.

I’ve quoted many bad things my cyberstalking propagandists have said but they are only examples. They don't reflect the quantity I faced, that repetition was a means of enforcing the lies. If I provided all, this book would've taken longer to deliver and become unbearably boring. However, I want you to follow the link to a strong sample on this topic. Here are snippets from several comments Allan made:

"Unhealthy obsession? Let me explain unhealthy to you. Two days before the Knysna-Plett Herald reported Liyema Baleni missing, Hampton made a very odd
post on the Love Knysna page. He then carried that article as well as another about a local gangster’s body being found in a burnt out car on the Prince Alfred pass road. What I have been wanting to ask him for so long, is why I couldn’t find those posts when I went to look a them a few days later.

The first one worried me. It was out of place, it was odd. ‘I’ve made love to darkness, made reality disappear, kissed fantasy so light would reappear’. The timing was odd. The fact that all three disappeared at the same time, was odd. Was there a connection?...

Because the questions I am asking also involve a young girl. But this one disappeared. Just like the posts on his blog. Did he explain why?...

What is your dark side, Mike Hampton? Would you not care to explain how you ‘made love to darkness’? And more importantly why that post dropped off your page?... It was odd at the time and got odder still... Being one of his most attentive followers, bells started ringing... The first one worried me. It was out of place, it was odd. The timing was odd. The fact that all three disappeared at the same time, was odder still. Was there a connection? This is the question he does not want to answer.

And here are a few questions for you. Has Liyema Baleni been found? Do we, 'the community' know what happened? If she hasn't been found may I suggest you ask Hampton whether he deleted those posts from the Love Knysna page and more importantly why....

Liyema Baleni existed, the question is whether she still does and whether you are concerned or not. That is something that has really bothered me for close on two years now. But what bothers me even more is that the "Knysna community" for one reason or another does not feel comfortable with the questions they should be asking. Why?...

I am talking about a nine year old child. You talk about black poenanie. What the hell has racism to do with the fact that three posts were removed from Hampton’s Facebook page and the communities responsibility to keep their children safe?

Trying to ignore the fact that someone committed a premeditated murder while you stood idly by. Trying to ignore the fact that little nine year old girl is still missing. What was the story no one wants to tell. Why did Hampton remove those three posts? Who is he trying to protect?”
Thinking that what Allan was saying originated from insanity would be reasonable but wrong. Allan was mostly calculating. He understood propaganda.

I couldn't find the screenshot but Allan had elsewhere referred to me as being ashamed of having had "black poenanie" i.e. “black punani” i.e. “black vagina”. Worse than the crude racism is that he was implying I’d raped that poor, missing girl.

Young, on his page, had previously allowed Allan to associate me with the girl. When Allan, seemingly in a rage of frustration, brought her up as “poenanie” again, Young must have realised his ally had overstepped the line into Public disapproval. Young pretended moderation yet blamed me at the same time:

"Mark, your anger and obvious hatred of the man is sometimes overwhelming. I understand it but don’t want to become as consumed by it as I think you have been. I think that’s what others have tried to convey here. It's just another example of 'brand Hampton' and the damage it causes. You have always offered your support to me and I appreciate it greatly.”

Baden Hall somehow saw it as an opportunity to insult me as a beggar.

On Knysna Knews, Edge and Seton had also allowed many outrageous and defamatory comments by Allan against me. So did the Knysna Municipality and Knysna-Plett Herald. Both would be so complicit as to allow the defamation against me to stand whilst sometimes deleting my response.

Allan commented on Facebook removing some of his Baleni posts with:

"[Hampton] went back two years and diligently reported most of the comments I have made about the Liyema Baleni posts he made. Facebook considered them to be a little too close to the bone and has deleted them."

* * * * *

The more I refused to give up my pursuit of bringing the DA to justice, so the propaganda escalated. Anything I posted, no matter the topic, could be hijacked. When I made a post about Suicide Prevention Day, Young reposted it, insulting me and stating that citizens never had the right to question councillors:

"This, honourable people of Knysna, is why you do not want this man irrationally challenging local government, taking vulnerable underprivileged kids on trips, soliciting handouts, pretending to represent YOU!! It is a ridiculous claim that he makes. Your representatives on council have undergone arduous selection processes AND the electoral voting process to get into the positions..."
they are. And he challenges them?? Where is his mandate to do so?”

Another example was my being transparent in asking my subscribers to ask me questions. I’d done so before, willing to answer anything, personal or political. I believe in walking the talk. Young and Allan’s PBK deliberately mistranslated that into:

“He wants you to ask him the questions he won’t answer. Ask him about his dark side. Ask him how he associates his nasty rhyme with Brand Knysna. He has gone to an awful amount of trouble laying it all out for us to see in the [Knysna] Keep. One million words and counting. All you have to do is ask the right question.”

Below that, PBK made the first comment:

“Ask him about his unnatural 'interest' in children – especially boys! Think I’m fabricating this… think again. I have first hand proof of this is my own home.”

Baden Hall seemed to have become another administrator of PBK. On his own page, previously, he'd posted:

“He’s apparently been run out of Queensburgh and Pietermaritzburg allegedly on account of the parents of young boys (and a few girls) becoming concerned about the undue attention he gives them.”

and:

“Heralding from Queensburgh, KZN, after his 'hasty exit', that town was left battered and bruised, well at least a certain segment of that younger set were left battered and bruised...”

I left Queensburgh, with a positive testimonial, when I was 17. Pietermaritzburg has already been discussed.

After Protecting Brand Knysna changed its name to Wicked Knysna, the attack continued:

“Once again begging the question of why you consider it to be appropriate for someone with such deep rooted, dark, sexual fantasies to be driving a 'charity' that organises picnics for prepubescent and underage children.”

I shared a post by the Knysna Education Trust, complimented their work with preschoolers by saying, “We've gotta love kind people. It's only through all of us being kind that Knysna that Knysna will find a positive way forward for all.”

Wicked Knysna re-posted my share, turning something beautiful into:
“You are anything but kind. And a forties something single man with no girlfriend, who writes and is proud to publicly display disgusting depraved rhymes, should stay well away from small defenceless children.”

The post was liked by Young and several of his regular supporters, Anne Acton and Michael Sangster.

Baden Hall: “If I were the parent of impressionable children, I would be more than a little concerned.”

Martin Hatchuel: “You could construe the publication of that poem as a call for child abuse.”

Hatchuel should have been the quietest person in the 'room'. His step-son, Kyle Maspero, had become an infamous, under-aged murderer. It’s possible that Hatchuel was lashing out at me for reporting on it. However, it cannot be seen in isolation as Hatchuel had spat more nasties about me before the murder, and his connection to the Knysna Municipality and Knysna Tourism was tangible.

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Dr. Martin Young is an ENT (ear, noses, throat) specialist. He's never been my doctor and he's not a psychiatrist.

If I'd been his patient, he would've had to follow the rule of “do no harm”. His attitude to that is dismissive, summed up by one of his publicly stated intentions towards me:

“As a surgeon, I cut things out of people and really hurt them in order to make them better. This is no different, social 'surgery' getting down and dirty in addressing the negatives in our community, and trying to remove them. I don’t like it, but we probably need it.”

If Young's bedside manner doesn't make you dying to be his patient, would you want him as your DA councillor? For the continuity of the theme, I jump ahead to where the DA had made him a member of the Knysna Council. His job of assaulting me online continued.

When I reported Advocate Julie Seton's misconduct to the Cape Bar, she submitted, in her defence, a fake psychiatric diagnosis of me by Dr Young. This chapter presents it word for word, link for link, with their use of italics and bold highlights. Whilst you read it, I want you to ask yourself how the DA leadership you think you know reacted when I reported it to them.
Mike Hampton revealed.

Dr Martin Young
MBChB, FCS(SA)Otol.

Who IS the Mike Hampton hiding beneath his extensive social media persona? Honest activist or manipulative sociopath? Simple irritant not to be taken seriously or a potential threat to local society?

Hampton himself has given us as much as we need to come to an opinion, by analysis of his extensive written content on his own websites and Facebook pages.

This analysis is based completely on his own writings, actions and publications. Inferences are made not on only one or two instances but on a general pattern of behaviour which is on public record on his sites www.knysnakeep.org, www.wickedmike.com, and his Facebook page Love Knysna.

Mike Hampton’s character appears to fall most clearly into that of either a ‘malignant narcissist’ or a ‘sociopath’. It is debatable as to which condition is more harmful to others, and many experts describe the two interchangeably.

This paper will stay with the term ‘sociopath.’

The argument that Mike Hampton (MH)’s actions best fit that of a sociopath is presented below.

1. No one is born destined to be a sociopath. There is invariably a story of childhood abuse or unhappiness that profoundly damages the child’s self-esteem and character and personality development. Adult behaviour stems directly from childhood emotional abuse.

A disturbing story of a bad repressive mother and child relationship sets the scene perfectly.

2. A sociopath is physically and emotionally unable to show empathy with or feelings for the situations of other people. There is no sense in which his actions come with a sense of regret or shame for pain and suffering he inflicts. In fact, damage incurred will often be gloated at by the sociopath. The basis of this is an incredibly poor self-esteem, so far buried into his subconscious that the sociopath is barely aware of it. Instead the sociopath presents a ‘fake’ façade of confidence, but which rapidly breaks down when challenged.

These aspects are evident in the manner in which MH enjoys or revels in his
‘exposures’ of local leaders on his websites and the damages caused. He sees this as a marker of success in pursuing his goals, bearing in mind that discrediting people, naming them ‘liars’ and ‘cowards’ has no bearing on the details or outcomes of his accusations. It appears his own self-esteem is only enhanced by the more people he can criticise in this manner and the more damage he can cause. Yet, criticism against him is unjustified in his own view.

3. A sociopath is a masterful, highly skilled manipulator. Often charismatic and charming, the personality of a sociopath can be overwhelming. He will tend to dominate conversations and try to hog the limelight, demanding to be heard. Many relationships with sociopaths begin with dream romances or dream business partnerships. In reality the sociopath is sizing the other person up, giving what he thinks the other wants to hear or see, and is finding exploitable weaknesses to be used later. As a result, sociopaths have very few long term friends or functional and healthy adult relationships.

‘Love Knysna’ Facebook page can be considered in this regard, a charm offensive or strategy of endearment to Knysna’s population but where the aim is ultimately for a search for admiration and self-gratification, as well as generating an income via donations. This feeds directly to his www.knysnakeep.org site, a much darker, more politicised site. MH remains unemployed, a single, early middle aged adult, with few acknowledged friends, as evident on his own social media profile.

4. A sociopath will NEVER acknowledge nor admit that he has a problem. He is incapable of self-reflection and self-realisation. As such it is invariably his victims who make the connection with sociopathy as a cause of their own distress, and this is then confirmed by the victim’s friends, therapist or healthcare professional. The last person to accept the assessment is invariably the sociopath himself. There is also no cure or therapy. Sociopaths become worse over time, not better. As the network of people he can manipulate grows smaller because of his cover being broken, the sociopath will become more desperate and demanding, or resort to more harmful tactics. Invariably the person the sociopath hurts most is himself.

The list of MH’s Knysna victims is extensive – anyone who disagrees or challenges him in public, or who does not acknowledge his arguments, is treated in the same way, appearing in reputation-damaging blogs while being
accused of corruption, lying, cowardice and more. His extensive blogs are devoid of any self-realisation, or thought that perhaps he may be wrong in any instance.

5. Ironically, the sociopath will play the ‘victim’ role to perfection when challenged, avoiding all sense of self-responsibility. Failures are always someone else’s fault. Always.

Hampton plays this role to excellence, accusing Facebook pages, set up to counter his claims, of being in collusion with the DA, as part of an organised effort to defame and discredit him because of his ‘activism’ and not because of his unfair tactics and refusal to allow criticism. His anger at being treated in the same way he treats others is clearly apparent.

6. Sociopaths react to criticism with anger, often completely disproportionate to the insult. In business arrangements, where risk is part of the game, this inevitably causes massive disruptions. After an unsuccessful business venture any normal person will think, “Oh well. That didn’t work. Let’s find something else.” Not your sociopath – he feels a victim and that it was not his fault, that other people caused him to fail.

Witness MH’s response to having an extended contract with Knysna Tourism turned down 6 years ago, and his extensive process of demanding ‘retribution’ which has followed, putting blame on anybody involved with the organisation in any way, extending from Knysna Tourism CEOs, local mayors, local counsellors, municipal managers, all the way up to Western Cape premier Helen Zille. In addition, MH will not allow any criticism on his own Facebook pages. Anyone who does is blocked and prevented from replying. Even those, interestingly, of whom he demands answers.

7. Sociopaths are obsessive gatherers of information, particularly that deemed to be against them, and of anything useful against a targeted individual. The phrase “Everything you say and do can and will be used in evidence against you” applies particularly well to those engaging with sociopaths.

MH’s submissions in the numerous court cases he finds himself embroiled in are legendary for the hundreds, if not thousands, of pages of recorded perceived slights and insults. It appears to be part of his tactic to try and overwhelm court officials and magistrates with volumes of his ‘evidence’ – little of which appears to be necessary or even relevant to the case at hand.
8. Sociopaths at some stage usually get into trouble with the law, for overstepping the mark in some form or other.

Hampton has three warrants of arrest against him for harassment, and one suspended sentence for contempt of court, the conditions of which he has allegedly already broken.

Interestingly MH has realised a way to force people to have to listen to him, and to lead them into direct and expensive conflict, by laying charges in the local judicial system. Being a self-declared destitute, there is no prospect of those who win their expensive cases against him with costs of recovering that money. It is another manipulation and abuse of the system by a master manipulator.

The risk of more serious transgressions of the law increases with age, and as the ‘normal’ successes of a sociopathic trait become more rare.

9. There are invariably ‘dark’ sides to sociopaths, habits or pastimes that are invariably socially unacceptable. Pornography, addiction, gambling, drug abuse, or abuse of others are often related activities.

MH is a writer of poetry, the contents and contexts of which would make any sensible community reluctant to permit him contact with other vulnerable people, children in particular. And yet he arranges charitable activities for underprivileged children.

More of his ‘work’ along the theme of child abuse can be found here.

No organisation or group that seriously has the interests of children in mind would allow a sociopath writing poetry such as this to have influence on vulnerable underprivileged children. It is extremely disturbing that the Knysna population is canvassed for donations to permit this to happen, and even more disturbing that it is allowed to continue openly. MH’s defence of his entitlement to do so is reprehensible.

10. Cyberstalking and cyberbullying are clear tactics of sociopaths to get what they want.

MH has used his skills as a web designer, writer and blogger extensively to damage the reputations of his victims, individuals and organisations. His SEO skills ensure that this damage appears very high on the person’s search profile. His email campaign against ordinary officials including demands with time limits oversteps the mark of reasonable activism. Interestingly MH accuses others of
cyberstalking him, evidence again of inability to self-reflect or self-analyse. In other words, hypocrisy is markedly evident, another trait of the sociopath in being unable to see himself in context of his own responses to others.

The commonest and most practical advice to anyone involved with a sociopath in a relationship of any sort is to break up the relationship by ending it and leaving. This is obviously not possible where the abuser-victim relationship exists between a sociopath and a whole town or organisation.

The only practical solution towards ending Knysna’s situation is a process of education or informing all residents about him so that MH no longer gets the support, affirmation and donations that he needs to continue living in a town without offering anything positive in return.

MH should ideally serve the judicial consequences of actions he has already taken and of which he has already been found guilty. This process is dependent on those with judgements in their favour finding the time, energy and the money needed for a return to the High Court or other courts.

Those who do associate with MH and support him should be made to realise that they bear responsibility for allowing him to continue his activities and should pay a similar cost to their own brands and reputations.

When their cover is blown, most sociopaths will at some time give up and move on to fresh territories and unfortunately fresh victims. This is not a great solution, and just creates more victims.

No decent town deserves this kind of attention, and our hope is that someday MH might learn a long and costly lesson, that a whole town cannot be manipulated indefinitely for his own ends, and that perhaps he will turn his skills towards something better and more productive.

Dr M H Young
MBChB, FCS(SA)Otol

Martin Young is a former general practitioner with ten years of general practice and counselling experience. He is now an ENT surgeon in public and private practice in Knysna.

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That you're reading this book means you've got the brainpower to sum up the
intentions of Young's 'diagnosis' for yourself. But I've got indignant points to make, starting with it being generalisation without evidence. Young's cherry picks examples that have the possibility of being misunderstood. Some exist on lie alone. As you'll discover in the next chapter, there's commonality and continuity to their propaganda themes. A nasty plan was afoot.

Repetition isn't an argument for truth but Young understands that it works on the general populace. It's a characteristic of propaganda used by both communist and liberal governments to praise themselves and demonise their competition. Donald Trump stops bragging about himself to insult those who disagree with him; the ANC wants to 'liberate' black people from white people whilst ignoring that the vast majority of South Africans are black, and that the ANC has been in power since 1994; the ACDP trades Jesus for power; the EFF temporarily switches personal bling for workers overalls when in Public view and; the DA positions itself as the anti-corruption party yet refuses to address its own corruption.

We'd have to be insane to trust most parties yet that's what we do every election.

It disturbs me that gross liars have inherited our Earth and that Young is only one fingerpointer in an endless queue of politicians misdirecting us. But when the unjust finger is grotesquely pointed directly at me, I want to break it in a way that you hear the bones snapping.

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Doctor Martin Young's qualifications were placed twice in the diagnosis, at the beginning and end. He, Advocate Julie Seton, or both, wanted to ensure that the reader is misled into believing he's a credible authority. In between, he used the word "sociopath" 34 times so that the reader would be assured that I am one.

Young said that, "This analysis is based completely on [Hampton's] own writings, actions and publications," yet fails to mention any of the copious evidence I've provided against the DA he's part of. He has fiendish agenda so, of course, he's not going to mention the Party's role. Instead, he ignores the millions of words I've blogged, and pretends that one blog and several poems prove I was abused and thus must be a sociopath terrorising a town. Fucking ridiculous.

Yes, my relationship with my mother was difficult. She had an awful childhood, then got pregnant and married young. She was damaged. She became an agoraphobic and a fundamentalist televangelist supporter. By coincidence, the day I wrote this, I was told that one of my mother's loves was Creflo Dollar, the preacher who got his
supporters to donate him $25-million for a personal jet.

My mother's passions were a bad combination for my childhood and inquisitive mind. She drove me to books and then threw my books away. But it was far worse for her.

I let off steam through youthful writings, digging through the dark to reach the light. Facing emotional challenges head-on made me stronger, cleverer and more insightful. It made me stop blaming my mother and being responsible for myself. That's simply becoming an adult. That I remained a lover of expression and valued justice was bonus. Whereas I left her house at the age of 17 and was 43 at the time of Young's 'assessment', she remained trapped in the prison she'd made for herself... and she would die in it.

I long ago made a choice to put my life online. I don't hide my past because I'm not ashamed of who I am today. The twists and turns made me into me. Although I can always improve, I'm the best, to myself, that I've ever been.

I was in dilemma when my mother's cancer got bad. Young wouldn't know the struggle I experienced or the choices I made. Of course, he wouldn't - he's not a shrink and has never had a personal conversation with me. In fact, he and the DA's propaganda gang turned down my offer for a meeting on record. Young wasn't interested in dialogue. He was just a corrupt politician abusing his doctor title for political ends.

He wouldn't know that I spoke to my Mom regularly the final year of her life. She may not have acted like my mother for decades, but I had compassion for her as a human being in a lot of pain. I also spoke to her for the sake of my Dad. Young didn't mention that my parents were married for 46 years or that I have a good relationship with my father. I'm worrying about him as I write this book, unable to be there if he needs me lest police come knocking on the door.

Young says I'm playing the victim but it was revealing, one year later, when he lied that I wasn't a victim of the Great Knysna Fire, only pretending to be so as to abuse the real victims. The reality is that the DA weren't enjoying my criticisms and exposures of their negative actions during the disaster. Young was the sociopath trying to take advantage of me being at a low point after my possessions had burnt along with the place I'd loved and rented for two years. Unsurprisingly, the DA-led Municipality never helped me. Their goal had only been to destroy me.

Young accuses me of always blaming others so as to transform the DA's propaganda pages into an illusion of mine. That wouldn't work if he'd admitted that he'd been
highly active on several sites, He was an administrator of the worst one, Protecting Brand Knysna, which accused me of horrendous things. He'd never admit that the DA has never, not once, addressed the evidence of corruption I've reported. Instead, he reinterprets my gathering of information into an obsessive disorder. If so, that must apply to all investigators who give a damn.

Young fails to mention that I'd never been in trouble with the law until the DA gave me a continuous taxi ride to the court. He doesn't mention that there were no criminal charges, and that all the warrants of arrest hadn't been enacted, linked to civil (not criminal) protection orders involving DA members. I will address their crimes and the complicity of the court in detail in further chapters. I will also make available all the court documents for download. And in doing so, it's likely that the warrants of arrest will then be acted upon. I'm risking that so that the Public knows the truth. The DA is evil. I'll make you understand that as clearly as Isaac Newton realised gravity.

To accuse me of being a bully follows similar lie. I was one against many. Defending myself online against the animal likes of Young and Seton could never make me the aggressor. It's Young who's pretending to be the victim.

Alone, it's reprehensible to state that a "sociopath writing poetry such as this" shouldn't "have influence on vulnerable underprivileged children" and that "any sensible community" should be "reluctant to permit [Hampton] contact with other vulnerable people, children in particular." The 'diagnosis' adds weight to the aspersion that I'm a threat to children. It adds formality to the direct and implied accusations online.

Sociopaths aren't emotionally creative writers because of their lack of empathy. To say that I'm unable to experience emotion flies in wingless contrast to my online diary and the fact that the loss of women I loved took me many years to overcome. To pretend that my writing supports child abuse is equally absurd since I express exactly the opposite. Similarly, I've stood for gays and against racists. It's a package called human rights.

Young deliberately omits my good deeds and attempts to smear Love Knysna Projects without mentioning its achievements. He implies it was something sexually dirty whilst excluding the inconvenient, propaganda destroying fact that beautiful people, mostly moms, were helping. You only have to look at the photos on the website to see that there were wonderful times.

Young's hysterical by the end, saying that "a whole town cannot be manipulated
indefinitely for [Hampton's] own ends.” Unsurprisingly, he's in step with the comments by his crooked comrades.

Can you imagine if I loved myself so much that that I automatically killed people? DA supporters were turning against the DA because of their endless screw-ups. I may have exposed corruption but most times I was just the messenger.

I skipped accepting the God complex they were 'offering' because I obviously didn't (and don't) have the power of the DA which is South Africa's second biggest party. They control an area larger than many countries and aim to raise hundreds of millions of rands for each election. For two years of my activism, I lived in a khaya (colonial name for a servant's small quarters). I've no car or medical aid. Their court documents acknowledged I was poor.

What I did have, eventually, were approximately 12,400 subscribers on my Love Knysna Facebook page. 3000 of those were from Cape Town, the DA's seat of power. One screenshot showed me reaching 199,493 people with an engagement of 12,695. Ironically, that may have been for someone else's parody of Zuma resigning. Generally, I'd reach 20,000-60,000. I was (and am) most interested in engagement, the total of shares, likes & comments which are collectively called 'reactions'. Most times I posted something politically important, I'd gain more reactions than the combined total of the Municipality's, DA's, Knysna Knews' and local newspaper's social media pages. Facebook will always achieve more, especially on a superficial level, but my political website had reached almost a million views and I'd gained a quarter million on News24.

Although I expanded my blogging topics, I particularly filled the Public's need to know what was happening in their local government and, to some extent, in the Western Cape (3000 of my subscribers were from Cape Town). But because the Public are meant to obey the politicians, and not think for themselves, I was a news source the DA needed removed.

Young pretends he's acting in the Public's interest but threatens them with:

"Those who associate with MH and support him should be made to realise that they bear responsibility for allowing him to continue his activities and should pay a similar cost to their own brands and reputations."

He would later take steps to intimidate my readers too.

If he'd "blown my cover", and I’d become the sociopath "moving on to fresh territories
and unfortunately fresh victims", then why am I, years later, still fighting as I hard as I can for justice for Knysna?

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When Mark Allan posted more bile from the safety of Thailand, and said that he was passing the baton to DA Councillor Dr Martin Young, I parodied him by mixing truth with outrageous lies:

"Mark, did your Satanic Cult command you to sleep with a Knysna DA politician? Did you enjoy it? Did you keep photos? How often do you look at them, pretending to be loved? You never denied those photos. Maybe you were so embarrassed by them, afraid they'd come out, that you moved to Thailand. But thanks to the internet, you're not far away, are you?

It must be a very guilty man whose too scared to put even a photo of his face online. Next thing we know, you're going to say that you never robbed Terence Bridget, never tried to blackmail a religious man after drugging him in JHB, didn't get into trouble with a biker gang... I want to call you a denialist but you're so unsuccessful at everything you do that would be too close to calling you a success at something.

Don't tell me, Mark, that the story about the goat and you isn't true too? Please don't.”

Thank you for setting aside this special Facebook time to cyberstalk me and humiliate yourself in public. You care. I'm flattered. Pity you're not a sexy woman.”

When he protested, I pointed out that he had missed the point:

"Anyone can say anything about anyone without proof. If you can repeatedly associate me with a missing child and the murder of a gangster, and expect it to be miraculously true because of a poetry line I wrote years ago, surely readers should consider it true that you're a satanic-bridget-robbing-goat-nobbing-blackmailer?

The fact that you go on and on with your lies shows, very much, that you care. It may be psychopathic, it may be obsessive... but whatever it is, it translates into YOU CARE A LOT. You can claim to hand the baton to Martin Young but he's just a mini-you, a man who has already dropped the baton repeatedly. You can hand out lots of batons – to Martin Hatchuel, Baden Hall, Julie Seton, Esme
Edge etc. they are all bound to fail as you have, quite simply because I have the evidence and all you lot have is a propaganda campaign.

Your efforts to destroy my life are going to do the opposite. They are going to reward me with damages, they are going to make my kids project massive. Your failure may have been spectacular but the fireworks is far from over. The show in Knysna will be colourful and beautiful. Thank you, to all of you, for being my cowardly cyberstalkers. Thank you!”

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Dr Martin Young has built a façade of respectability. He's worked hard at it.

Firstly, his claim to be a Christian is laughable. A pattern of behaviour reveals true character. His actions show him to contradict any noble definition of a member of that religion. And it cannot be coincidental that Young, at one stage, led the praise worship at the Vineyard Church, the den of Knysna Tourism's CEO and other people who worshipped him before our town. I'm not labelling everyone who went there as monsters but if they weren't cleaning 'their' House, then the integrity of their faith is in question.

For years, the Mail & Guardian refused to publish the DA corruption I reported to them. Ironically, their Thought Leader section has 55 opinions by Dr Martin Young. 'Whiteness is like herpes' and 'An inconvenient truth about paedophilia' may be controversial but I mostly agree with what he says on a number of topics. What I don't accept is that he means what he says, especially the religious stuff.

If a serial killer says the sky is blue, it doesn't mean he's sane. He's only pretending to be you.

You must meet or listen to Young in serious life, or follow his Facebook posts when he gets frustrated, to understand that he only appears civilised. Something else seethes beneath. If Golem were to dress in white skin, a white coat and eyeglasses, it would look like Dr. Martin Young.

The "Dr." title is a societal hallmark for knowledge and expertise. That Young used it for the abuse of power belittles its significance.

The real Young isn't a political doctor I'd trust to have power over an anaesthetised Public. But the DA does. My appeals for justice fell on the deaf ears of the DA Federal Executive, the Knysna Council, Helen Zille, Mmusi Maimane, Jaco Londt, Peter Myers and many others.
Not only did the DA fail to address his many criminal actions but, when he resigned at the end of 2018, they made him an adviser on their health policies.

My thoughts about Dr Martin Young are best expressed by quoting the author Clive Barker, "To call you excrement would be an insult to the product of my bowels."

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I regularly had days where I wanted to quit. The baddies I chased weren't most to blame. Instead, my frustration was largely for the Public that had given control of their lives to the very people they complained about.

The tragedy is that whether I continued to fight or not, they'd likely vote in more bad people, probably without knowing their names or what they represented, and then go on to moan again about their favourite political party, as if their vote hadn't played a part in their horror show.

The next section, the second Interruption, may seem wild but it's me addressing the average citizen's herd instinct and the status they blindly bestow on those hurting their community.

At the beginning of this chapter, I asked what you'd have done if you were me? It was obviously a repeated debate with myself but is relevant to you too. You're a fellow South African in our criminal country. What if you stood up for right over wrong? What if what happened to me could happen to you?

I chose to not be a coward. I chose to fight. I'd always done so for the Knysna I loved but began to do more so for myself, accepting that I was alone.
Kynsna SAPS and CPF remind all about dear LIYEMA BALENI a 9 years old girl who went missing two years ago on 28th August. She was last seen in Jongani wearing a pink top and grey pants. The investigation and search continues. If anyone has information about this case please contact:
Kynsna SAPS (044 3026900 )
or CPF (Cheryl) Eriz 022 5749657

Mark Allin At the time, the feature that appeared in KPH was added to the Love Kynsna Facebook page, as was a subsequent article concerning the body of a local gangster that was found in a burnt out car on the Umpulwe Rd. They were then quietly removed together with an obscure post by the person who administers the page. That original post was made two days after this gangster went missing and two days before the KPH reported her missing. I have been asking why they needed to be removed ever since. And I would suggest, at the very least, the SAPS speak to Kynsna and find out...
He wants you to ask him the questions he won’t answer.
Ask him about his dark side
Ask him how he associates that nasty rhyme of his with Brand Knysna?
He has gone to an awful lot of trouble laying it all out for us, to see, in the
Keep.
One million words and counting.
All you have to do is ask the right question.

Protecting Brand Knysna
9 hrs · 4

Protecting Brand Knysna Ask him about his unnatural “interest” in children....especially boys!
Think I’m fabricating this...think again. I have first hand proof of this in my own home.
Like · Reply · 5 hrs
This is not kind Hampton.

You are anything but kind. And a forties something single man with no girlfriend, who writes and is proud to publicly display disgusting depraved rhymes, should stay well away from small defenceless children.

But you do have a point when you say "It's only through all of us being kind that Knysna will find a positive way forward for all". So why don't you pack your bags and go and inflict your very ugly presence on some other unsuspecting community.
Mark Allan Hampton would like to be something he is not. He is obsessed with the need for recognition and acclaim. But he can't do it without attacking others and tearing into those who are actually addressing the issues he merely talks about. I have known him longer than most and fell out of favour when he took up with the JEF. He is not well. That much should be obvious. But he is running a disinformation campaign that has all the hallmarks of a professionally orchestrated destabilisation programme. He needs anything from six to ten thousand a month. Where is it coming from? Can you tell me? Because he won't.

Yesterday at 12:24

Mark Allan As for what you call a mancrush Lauren Donson, I thought I had already explained that my concerns are rooted in three posts concerning a small nine year old girl that disappeared from the Love Knysna page. Questions that I have been trying to ask Hampton for two years now. Questions he will not answer. Questions no one wants to address. I have already explained this to you after you so crassly brought up the subject of black poenanie. Your cavalier barrack room humour actually disgusts me. You are also a racialist. So goodbye and the best of British luck to you.

Yesterday at 12:48

Anne Haefele Mark Allan, you are not doing anything to help Knysna. Please do not attack someone like Lauren, who is expressing what she feels. Your comments are unacceptable.

Mark Allan Black poenanie, fucking meatheads, mancrush, whites this, whites that, insults all in the name of Jesus? That is acceptable to you? I wasn't attacking him. I was telling him politely to fuck off. The bit about the nine year old that disappeared off the Love Knysna page? You missed that yet again. That acceptable to you? I think not
#ChildProtectionWeek (CPW)- 29 May- 05 June 2016 will be observed under the national theme: “Let Us All Protect Children to Move South Africa Forward”. The 1st of June is commemorated globally as the #InternationalChildrensDay. Speak out, report any abuse immediately!

Mark Allan Knysna Projects is run by a forty year old single man who is chaperoning young children on picnics and outings. He publishes disgusting depraved “poetry” online because he has a need to peel back the layers and expose the reality of who he is. Am I the only one who believes that this is something that should be questioned? Am I the only one who believes that this is highly inappropriate? Am I the only one asking the questions which are not being asked?

Like · Reply · 31 May at 02:14

Knysna Municipality Thank you. Regrettably we can't comment on these statements. Please report it to appropriate authorities.

Like · Reply · 31 May at 21:26

Mike Hampton Knysna Municipality and Knysna DA, thank you for giving me more evidence in the case I’m building against you. Sick that you’d be allowing such propaganda to stand. Sick that you work with sick bastards such as Mark Allan, a man whose admitted to working in the sex and drug trade. Associations tell us a lot about our leadership.

Like · Reply · 31 May at 22:59
And this, honorable people of #Knysna, is why you do not want this man irrationally challenging local government, taking vulnerable underprivileged kids on trips, soliciting handouts, pretending to represent YOU!!

It is a ridiculous claim that he makes. Your representatives on council have undergone arduous selection processes AND the electoral voting process to get into the positions they are. And he challenges them?? Where is his mandate to do so?

He is simply not qualified to act as he has. There are others far better qualified and more disciplined to do so. We are NOT saying that our decisions should not be questioned, but that the issues raised should serve the interests of all residents and not one individual. It should not represent personal ambitions and agendas.

Knysna's brand has been severely damaged by this man. He has cost us investment, new residents and thereby jobs, all in pursuit of his own self aggrandizement. It cannot continue. It must not continue!

How long must one man, with questionable motives, hold a democratically elected local government to ransom?

I am more than prepared to defend my actions against him BEFORE my election onto Council because I have seen and recognized the futility and long term damage of both this man's motives and actions. We have a right to be angry, and to act 'angrily' against disruptive and damaging individuals. If I have broken the law in doing so, then someone charge me!
Protecting Brand Knysna

As a surgeon many days I cut things out of people and really hurt them in order to make them better. This is no different, social 'surgery' getting down and dirty in addressing the negatives in our community and trying to remove them. I don't like it, you don't like it, but we probably need it.

5 Likes 3 Comments

Mark Allan, Angela Tremain-coker, Wendy Radermeyer and 2 others like this.

Mark Allan Necessary. But what about the healing process? Hampton touches on issues, he touches people, uses their concerns to build his pit of misery. Issues such as the protests which result in burning tyres on the N2? Issues which are not being addressed in the public domain.

6 hrs · Edited

Mark Allan If he has done one thing, Hampton has demonstrated how one disturbed individual can hold a town to ransom. Could we not learn from this? Could we not use his “tactics” to institute a healing process?
My journey to belief in Jesus

Posted by CareSpace.net Young on Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Why I am a Christian.

Do you have to sacrifice your intellect for blind belief when you become a Christian? So many people searching for meaning to their lives are put off by this possibility. The answer is an emphatic “No!” For many years before I became a Christian I believed I did. Now I know the opposite is true.

So what changed? I stopped listening to what everyone else had to say ‘for’ and ‘against’ about belief in general, and Christianity in particular, and began to examine the possibilities for myself.

About Me

Martin Young
Knysna

I am eternally restless, always pushing the boundaries, an early adopter, obsessive about the things I am interested in, a bit hyperactive, and an adrenaline junkie! My poor wife!! She has given me two beautiful children and a home to grow old in! I love her everything I have. I write as a hobby, and contribute to medical publications, and international blogs on medicine. I play guitar, sing a bit (not very well!), write music, and lead worship for our local Vineyard church. I have a hard-won faith, found by the long and difficult route, in a God who loves us equally and passionately, and His Son, Jesus, who died that we might live lives of eternity.
CHAPTER 10:
The Nastiest Town in South Africa

"Truth is still truth even if no one believes it. A lie is still a lie even if everyone believes it."
- Source unknown

"Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it."
- Saint Augustine

"Through all the ways of our unintelligible world, the trivial and the terrible walk hand in hand together."
- Wilkie Collins, 'The Woman in White'

My readers were being intimidated too. Even people I didn't know who saw through the bullshit and criticised my attackers. More often that not, it was Mark Allan and DA Councillor Dr. Martin Young who scolded, insulted and scared them.

A regular tactic was to join their pages and then tag them in horrible posts, as if they had committed my 'crimes'. Businesses were tagged too. It was a lesson in not accepting invitations to the pages of people you don't know. But some of my ensnared subscribers were older and less wise to Facebook, not realising that all they had to do was unsubscribe from the pages of the beasts tagging them.

Allan was vicious towards women who stuck up for me. A young mother whom I hardly knew, saw me in town and gave me a hug. She said Allan had made her cry.

People didn't even have to comment. They were considered guilty by association, just for being my subscriber. Young and accomplices would threaten to sue them.

The bullying worked to a degree in that some unsubscribed from my page and many, particularly women, stopped posting comments in support.

* * * * *

An example of the insanity was the targeting of Amanda Forrow who met me once.

Those my age will recall that Forrow was a Radio 5 and SABC celebrity. She was the first to run a consumer watch programme. Thereafter, she took up motivational speaking and spiritual counselling. I met her for a pleasant conversation years before. Meeting her was enough for my cyberstalkers to throw her under the wheels of the political bus.

Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK) distinctly showed that the rights of the Public meant nothing, and that the goal was to make them too scared to know me:

"When will people realize associating with or supporting Hampton rubs off on
them??? This is ‘brand damage by association’ to colossal levels. And it is time to pay for that association. His supporters should deservedly pay an increasing share of the cost of the damage he does to Knysna. This is an entirely democratic process whereby the majority rules.”

PBK wasn’t the majority and a mob cannot rule a Republic. But these examples from the comment section show that nastiness rather than constitutional rights was their sole intention.

“Oh no, this pic was taken whilst Mike Hampton and Amanda Forrow were enjoying “sweet-nothings-pillow-talks” whilst discussing their 'on board the UFO acceptance speech'!!!”

The photo was cropped, of unknown source, and showed only Forrow. Over snacks coffee and polite conversation, us strangers never got around to sex. That PBK was using an age-old weapon against a woman was extra mean.

“Amanda Forrow, the lady who has been declared persona non grata in every station in the land, who was allegedly stood up by [radio host] Martin Bailey for a more attractive, slimmer and intelligent person, who has run out of people to con in Knysna, not to mention the alleged bilking of the Turbine Hotel a few years back. She and Wicked Mike have had such a cozy relationship all these years... hatching plans on who to destroy next. The 'truth' she claims!!! Ha ha ha, now that is so funny. Only people with two (or less) brain cell(s) would consider any validity in her 'truth'... but then again, she is an ardent 'Conspiracy Theorist'!!!”

“Does she have a ten year old? Nope! Like the Black Widow Spider, she kills anything after mating with her, although anyone stupid enough to attempt 'gatte-jag' should lie with the consequences thereof!!! Thankfully, the gene-pool self-regulates...”

After being strongly criticised, PBK ensured there was no misunderstanding:

“This page is for one purpose only – to counter the damage Hampton and his supporters do to Knysna's brand. There are several administrators. It is unpleasant but necessary. There is no alternative in dealing with a sociopath. We've looked. We've tried. This is the only way. If you google dealing with narcissists and sociopaths this is to be the common recommendation by experts. Narcissists are incapable of taking advice or guidance towards more fruitful and profitable means of exchange. This is the only alternative to more
traditional methods of dealing with unwanted individuals which involve criminal intent, threats and bodily harm which is how Durban got 'rid' of Hampton. He has a track record. That route is reprehensible. This is the only ethical alternative, to call him on his bluffs and to expose his supporters and their motives.”

Except, as usual, their 'facts' were rubbish. 'Durban' hadn't got 'rid' of me, and Forrow had only met me once, wasn't a supporter and wasn't involved in politics. It's unsurprising that, like my Dad, she got the hell out of Knysna.

Several voices made those PBK comments. A profile called Paul Sharp identified them as Mark Allan and Baden Hall. PBK responded that they were, “Not just one person – a whole consortium.” That comment compares to Young's words elsewhere. Young may not have been involved under his own name but as an admin he was responsible when others made a post or comments under the page name. What ever happened there represented them all. They were culpable.

PBK was right about Sharp's profile being fake. I even wondered if it was chosen because, long time ago, that was the name of my best friend. I've since identified the person behind it but their words and not their identity is relevant here. PBK was wrong in saying it was me. And Allan was wrong in saying that it was Forrow. The latter mistake is relevant to the next part.

Baden Hall was another admin. He'd been a strident supporter of Knysna Tourism CEO Shaun van Eck and was extremely unhappy with me for blogging about his lunacy as a host on Knysna FM, and as a snake oil salesman for con artist company Mannatech. The related photos of him on Facebook made him look like a televangelist (which may have been the hallelujah intention).

His next 'product' was MMM. He was happy to engage in the obligatory slippery speech:

"We're all off to Mauritius in September, and each and everyone has spending money of R5,000 and R100,000 every month... for the rest of their lives! If you want to be part of this group of global go-getters, let's talk.”

As justification for the product not being a con, he posted that Andile Mngxitama had joined the scheme. Mngxitama is a black supremacist who'd been booted from the EFF and would become the founder of the BLF (Black First Land First). BLF wants to steal lands from white property owners, gets happy when white school children die, and supports the Guptas and Zuma (the people most associated with the capture of the
South African economy). He wasn't a a sane product reference before and is even less now. But who cares? Not Hall who could say that:

“My wife, my son and his girlfriend are shortly leaving on a 5 week holiday of Europe and UK, all paid for, thanks to MMM.”

Hall had displayed serial nastiness and disregard for the Public and was the first person to lay criminal charges against me. He was an ardent supporter of Young and Allan's filthy comments about me. I was also told that he was angry with Amanda Forrow for something that had happened in their distant past.

The current description on his Twitter profile gives me chills: “Life-Skills Coach and Mentor.” Like Allan and Young, “Insanity Skills Coach and Cyberstalker” is more grade appropriate. I consider those who support them to be students in their Sociopath Academy.

Rants & Raves Knysna, run by Mark Allan, was one of the earlier Facebook groups against me. In a screenshot at the end of this chapter, you'll find Allan adding Seton to the group (and Edge welcoming her). More importantly, that 2014 post found Baden Hall strangely associating Forrow and me.

Hall's long-term grudge against Forrow and me continued leaking as elegantly as a short man's penis dragging on a tiled floor:

“Mugabe, Hitler, Stalin and many others of their ilk believed that what they were doing was 'right' and had the unequivocal support of the 'masses'. History has judged them accordingly. This person [Hampton] will be no different, especially after we survey the ruinous surroundings of Knysna once he has departed... A person is judged by the company he keeps... well, Amanda Forrow (together with all her numerous aliases) being one such supporter, as well as... er... er... er... can't think of anyone else at this moment! That is damning in itself.”

When I received a High Court gag order from Deputy Mayor Esme Edge in 2015, Hall was over the moon about it. Adding weight to conspiracy is that he said eight more cases were coming at me. No lizards or UFOs, just the regularly nasty kind that can be found in humans throughout history. Further at issue here is that he used it to insult Forrow again, and imply she was next. He was obsessed.

I knew Hall was involved with PBK but, as with Seton and Edge at Knysna Knews, I needed proof. When questioned, Baden's involvement wasn't denied but that's
suggestive rather than conclusive. But another PBK post revealed him within hours.

Paul Sharp questioned PBK with:

"Care to explain to your followers why Ms Forrow was so viciously attacked. Or why you sanitised that thread so thoroughly? On the very thing you accuse Hampton of doing."

Allan responded:

"Maybe Baden removed the posts he made about you."

Allan had thought Sharp was a fake profile being used by Forrow. Sharp had claimed Hall was an admin. Allan had just confirmed it.

'Dr. Martin Young, Explain the Attack on This Woman' was the header of my blog. Young failed to respond.

The situation became another damning factor the DA wouldn’t count as reason to not make him councillor later that year. Nothing else could explain the repetitive torridness unless it was the job the DA had given him. He was their Man, untouchable.

* * * * * * *

I don’t want you to get insult fatigue and be numb for the rest of my book. I’m going to rush through things such as Angry Mike which was a Twitter parody of me. Later, the name was changed to Butthurt.

Martin Hatchuel was allegedly the creator. I can’t confirm but there were substantial clues. I’d regularly drunk coffee with him in my early years in Knysna so I knew his sense of humour. Additionally, he was the most involved in sharing and commenting on Angry Mike. It was also interesting to see which topics were chosen.

The Parliament hearing for my petition was mocked. Hatchuel, a contactor for Knysna Municipality, had anonymously composed and released a press release about it on behalf of the Municipality. And Knysna Municipality's Communication's Manager had refused to reveal who wrote the press release against me on April Fool's Day. Could that have been Hatchuel too?

Most importantly, at the same time Hatchuel was talking about a cricket match on his personal Twitter profile, it was mentioned on Angry Mike and on Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK). The latter unsurprisingly suggests he was another member of the admin “consortium”.

Regular twits were usual suspects Young, Barnes, Hall and Beard.
Repeated subjects were that I hated Knysna, was going to jail, and was like the Guptas. Basically, the propagandists had me pretending I was saying a bunch of dumb stuff. Occasionally they’d throw in an image to mock. For example, the top of my head was shown, and Barnes called me a “knob”.

Beard was true to his character and liked the post, “Maybe Zimbabwe needs me. Activists have a short shelf life there.” Beard also commented on another post that he wanted me to go “bungee jumping with no strings attached”.

One post continued the paedophilia theme. It showed a nerd with the caption, “Played the guitar... got arrested for fingering a-minor.” Hall liked that one.

Knysna fell under the DA’s East Region Manager, Jaco Londt. He repeatedly failed to act on my complaints and, after a meeting, refused to respond to any. However, he responded to the Angry Mike profile and added a smiley. I’m betting he knew what was going on.

They displayed a few clever moments that made me smile but, overall, most were childish and some just mean.

* * * * *

Wanting me jailed had become regular theme but one PBK post, in particular, stuck like gum to the shoes of my enemies.

“So this is what we are going to do...

We are going to ask Knysna residents to crowd source R50,000 for legal fees to put this problem away. There are two, if not three, watertight cases that can see our protagonist do jail time for contravention of court orders. This is not an individual responsibility. This is Knysna's responsibility, and should be funded as such.

Watch this space.”

Mark Allan and Mark Beard you know. Manon MacDonald, as reminder, was the disgraced manager of the Knysna Municipality’s Electrical Department that I’d exposed for giving contracts to her husband. Sue Ryan was the local leader of the Ubuntu Party which I’d mocked for their dangerous election slogan that promised poor voters free electricity. The fake love in that party had become obvious with their comments against me, especially when they sided with the dangerously immoral.

The result to PBK’s call for money to jail me was:
Mark Beard: “Count me in subject to more details please.”
Sue Ryan: “Count me in too…”
Mark Allan: “I'm in.”
Manon McDonald: “I'm in!”

* * * * * *

Ashley Barnes and Martin Hatchuel falsely tried to tar me as a copyright thief in July 2016.
SANParks had invited writers to experience their new tourism route in the Knysna Forest. It was well organised and enjoyable. Professor de Jongh gave a lovely speech which I recorded and posted online for history buffs to enjoy. It would become another good deed punished.
Hatchuel and Barnes publicly accused me of plagiarising audio from Hatchuel's video of the interview. On Knysna Gossip Column, Barnes used “steal”, “no ethics”, “absolute fraud”, and “leech” to describe me.
The lie was obvious. If they’d believed it, they’d have contacted me first. Plus Hatchuel must've noticed me recording with my cellphone, my arm held out (it was a small group). My recording was also better quality.
I emailed them, demanding an apology. Barnes never responded. Hatchuel was immediate with, “Go fuck yourself.”

* * * * * *

Subscribers, which is to say the Public (which is you), had been intimidated before. But in September 2016, the DA put them on the shooting range and mass fired threats of legal action if they continued to be my subscribers. The simple act of liking my page had become a crime to the DA.

I don't know all involved but they included Dr. Martin Young (who’d recently become a councillor), Mark Beard and Sonwabo Oliver Ndevu whose picture found him in DA regalia. Julie Seton was allegedly involved but the person who told me was too scared to show me the proof.

Here are extracts from their threatening letter:

"You are listed as one of my friends having liked Love Knysna's Facebook page in the past. Doing so at first glance is understandable. You may not know any more about what is going on there nor even care."
The level of tolerance for the persistent harassment of individuals on Council and in the Municipality running Knysna by Michael Hampton has diminished considerably. The damage he is doing to this town is not irrelevant, and there is proof thereof.

The chances of wide based and emphatic legal action seeking damages against him to put an end to this campaign of harassment is growing.

The problem is, he is a self declared destitute. And this is where you unfortunately come in. You have 'liked’ his page. It is even worse if you have 'liked’ or 'shared’ a post that can be considered litigious.

You may be at risk of being sued alongside him for damages. If you don't believe me, please check up on social media law.

I'm not telling nor asking you to do anything. You may believe in what he is doing or support him. That is your prerogative.

As a friend, however, if you do NOT support his views and/or methods, I advise you to distance yourself as much as you can by 'unliking' his page. Hit the Like button at the top. You will get a window asking to confirm the 'unlike'. Select it. If he has blocked you, you won’t see that button, and will have to report that situation to Facebook so they can remove you.

If you have friends also on the page that you care about and don’t want to see facing legal claims against them, please spread this message!

This is about protecting Knysna residents from even more harm done by Michael Hampton (Wicked Mike).”

The composition of the letter smelt like a doctor. Those participating deserved an Oscar award for their fake concern.

The sudden pothole of unsubscribers motivated me to work harder until they were higher than before. I wasn't going to be intimidated. And I was especially proud of those who stood up, either by contacting me or commenting online – thank you.

* * * * * *

I knew that it was a 'Hail Mary' but I had to try stop the escalation. I sent this letter to my cyberstalkers:

Subject: Meet and discuss?
From: Love Knysna - Mike <mike@loveknysna.com>

Same Shit, Different Government: Book 1 – The Corruption & The Intimidation
Attention to some of the people involved in the political campaign to discredit me.

Why is it that so many DA people and supporters will not accept my challenge to a public meeting, debate or interview about my allegations of political and municipal corruption in Knysna?

Mayor Eleonore Bouw-Spies won’t (she killed her election promises of transparency and communication in her first month in office).

Knysna-Plett Herald Editor Elaine King won’t (her big boss in George said their lawyers were against it).

Speaker Georlene Wolmarans won’t (she had to be threatened with arrest to eventually turn up in Parliament).

WILL DA COUNCILLOR DR. MARTIN YOUNG TURN UP?

I’m inviting you people addressed at the start of this blog to a recorded discussion.

You have repeatedly tried to discredit me and my allegations of political corruption in Knysna. You never provide facts but possess many insults and accusations.

I’m offering each of you one hour. That means one on one in polite, reasonable discussion with me.

We’ll introduce ourselves, saying who we are and what we do. And you’ll be honest by stating if you have any connection to the DA or Municipality.
You don’t get to twist the agenda into yours. We’ll only discuss the main issues themselves:

1. The illegal ISDF tender
2. Knysna Tourism’s abuse of public funds
3. The Mazar’s report on Rowan Spies and his appointment as an Eden Councillor
4. The untendered appointment of Fran Kirsten
5. The propaganda campaign against me
6. The responsibility of the DA regarding these issues

As Amanda Martin’s hot issue is the Ubuntu Party, that’ll be included for her/he alone [it turned out to be a He who’d railed against me for questioning his friend, Michael Tellinger, the international, nutty leader of the Ubuntu Party. Nevertheless, name removed as he has shown great value elsewhere].

As Rowan Spies and Fran Kirsten are topics, it’s fair to offer them the same opportunity.

Each can bring a silent witness.

Surely one on one, recorded for the public, is as honest and transparent as it gets?

As most of you are acquainted, you can discuss among yourselves which day in October is the best to start. I will meet 5 of you that first day, one after the other, with a 30-min break in between.

If you believe you can prove I’m lying, or simply present evidence to better educate me, you should be jumping at this opportunity to either help Knysna or discredit me.

You could even use this as an opportunity to build bridges...

Please mail me your response by September 30 or comment on my Facebook (if you’re not banned).

Thanks.

Political conspirators don’t do honest discussion. I had no takers but received a bizarre email from Ashley Barnes.

* * * * * *

Whereas the males in the campaign against me would unfairly reduce women into
bitches, Barnes was the real kind.

I've already mentioned that Barnes was a copywriter/marketer getting work from the Municipality. I've related a few nasty things she said and supported. Some of her Magnetic Creative colleagues contributed too.

What I'm about to share isn't diabolical evil, but an example of how trivially unhinged some of my foes are.

Mango Groove is a famous band in South Africa with Claire Johnston as its singer. I don't know them. They were just one of the many good bands whose Youtube songs I posted on Facebook. I sometimes liked to start my subscribers' morning off with a song. Besides loving music (which was most of my life before Knysna), I shared from different cultures in the hope people would relate across the divide.

Whereas Barnes never accepted my offer to a sane meeting about corruption, cyberstalking and consequent peace, she somehow found my song post as reason to scratch again. It was also unhealthy, celebrity bombing.

"On 12/10/2016 08:16, Ashley Barnes wrote:

Claire Johnston of Mango Groove is a good friend of mine. In fact, I consider her my best friend. I have requested of her that she not support your latest post - not that it would even enter her radar. Just know - she is not a supporter of you, silly little Mike. You think you're a music aficionado, but you're really just a useless wannabee with the intellect of a boiled potato.

Ashley Barnes
Business Director
Magnetic Creative
+27 (0)44 382 0565
magneticcreative.co.za
twitter.com/magn3tic
fb.com/magn3tic"

*

"On 12 October 2016 at 08:32, Love Knysna - Mike wrote:

Your trolling comments already litter social media. No need to cyberstalk me via email, especially with something so irrelevant and trivial.

It's also inappropriate for you to speak on behalf of another.
'Please don"t contact me.”

*

"On 12/10/2016 12:19, Ashley Barnes wrote:
Oooo - bit late, dontcha think, Mike?
Who contacted who first?
Let's just add " Fucking Hypocrite" to your list of accusations.
Guess who else is on my list of contacts? Advocate Friedman is a personal pal of mine.
Go on, you arsehole - try to take this further. I'm literally itching.”

*

On 12 October 2016 at 12:23, Love Knysna - Mike wrote:
Hateful and foolish. Again, I ask that you don't contact me.

*

"On 12/10/2016 12:53, Ashley Barnes wrote:
Too late. I have the means. And you have just crossed the line.
If I don't get a public apology, kiss your ass goodbye. Seriously, Mike - this is one little step too far.
Alternatively, email me a private apology and I'll leave it at that. You're barking up the wrong tree to have an argument.
The reason why I don't want to publicly crucify you is that I believe there is truth behind the smoke that you're stoking. Truly, I do not deny there are issues with our current leadership which I'll never deny you support in that regard.
Make me a friend or a public enemy - your choice once again. Just know, your issues are a drop in the ocean of nationwide complaints and you are damaging our town with your current posts. I will not support the damaging shit you deem to be reflective of our town.

YOU ARE CAUSING DAMAGE AND HARM! DESIST!!!”

*
“On 12 October 2016 at 13:02, Love Knysna - Mike wrote:

From top to bottom, your email, in tone and wording, is unreasonable.

It's you who supported the propaganda against me, supported some very nasty types with political agenda.

I've never met you. I don't know you. You decided to jump into my life, seeking to damage mine. And now you threatening me again. It may just be the type of person that you are.

Again, go away!’”

*

“On 12/10/2016 17:02, Ashley Barnes wrote:

Remove me from every public threat and I'll consider it.

YOU, go away!”

*

“From: Love Knysna – Mike, Date: 2016/10/12, 5:08 PM

Very childish, uninformative and unproductive. This will be the last time I respond.”

I believe in the 'broken window' construct. If that window doesn't get fixed, some kid is likely to throw a rock through the window next to it. Graffiti follows. Then garbage, prostitution, pimps, drug dealing, bad cops, mugging and killing. The Knysna version was that the authorities and politicians hadn't fixed what needed fixing, instead inviting every lunatic to their failure party in my 'honour'.

Barnes's self-description on Twitter was appropriate: “Advertising Strategist and Business Director of Mischief.”

***

Protecting Brand Knysna (PBK) made a derogatory post about me after Knysna Municipality’s banned me. Mark Beard responded with his hope that my father would kill me. Ashley Barnes liked that. Then the fake profile of Amanda Martin incorrectly said, “He lives with his father, who moved down here.”

I had wanted my Dad with me in Knysna. My Mom was dead and my sister, my only sibling, lives in the United Kingdom. The Municipality always wants rates from retirees so it should have been a story with a happy ending.
But my Dad is a gentle man without stomach for conflict. When he gets happy for a long period, he becomes charmingly childish in his excitement. It adds an innocence to him which I'd love to achieve. He doesn't talk politics, can't name my enemies and he's not going to read this book. He'd rather drink tea, gamble on the horses, and talk to the last of his five dogs who'll likely die before him. And because he's a kind man whose had enough hardships (and too many operations) in his life, I want him to enjoy the time he's got left.

I love my Dad. I hope to spend more time with him when (if) I manage to extricate myself from this mess.

Subsequently, although a lovely empty plot, with a view of the Heads, was bought by him on his one trip to Knysna, I sold it within a year. My dad would rather stay as faraway from Knysna as possible.

Unfortunately for Beard, if my father were to drown me, it wouldn't be in the satisfaction of a Knysna bathtub.

* * * * *

I'm sure you're beginning to understand why I relate to Marilyn Manson who sang that he, "Wasn't born with enough middle fingers". That became my slogan.

I still love Knysna but the DA turned it into the nastiest town in South Africa.
Counterclockwise from top left: Baden Hall (snake oil salesman), Ashley Barnes (copywriter & marketer), Martin Hatchuel (copywriter & marketer) & Mark Beard (Autolink Knysna),
Baden Hall: Good piece of written there, Andrew!

Mugabe, Hitler, Stalin, and many other if their ilk believed that what they were doing was “right” and had the unequivocal support of the “masses”. History has judged them accordingly. This person will be no different, especially after we survey the ruinous surroundings of Krysa once he has departed.

Personally, I don’t believe he will depart for the simple reason that no other community would want him in their midst, whilst he does not have two brass farthings to rub together to hitch a ride from one end of town to the other, let alone to another town altogether!

Heralding from Queensborough, KZN, after his “hasty exit” that town was left battered and bruised, well at least a certain segment of the younger set were left battered and bruised, huge inferences can be drawn from his writings, and even more, from the lack of content within his writings! As he has zero credence in any pursuance, he requires the use of a pen (in this case computer) to “paint pretty pictures” to project a persona that is not him!

A person is judged by the company he keeps........ well, Amanda Forrow (together with all her numerous aliases) being one such supporter, as well as........ er......er......er....... can’t think of any one else at this moment! ~~~That is damning in itself, I guess~~~
So this is what we are going to do.....

We are going to ask Knysna residents to crowdsource R50 000 for legal fees to put this problem away.

There are two, if not three, watertight cases that can see our protagonist do jail time for contravention of court orders.

This is not an individual responsibility. This is Knysna's responsibility, and should be funded as such.

Watch this space.
Now he's whining about being banned from the Muni's Twitter account, can you believe? This is the person who bans ANYONE for dissent on his site, including me, and is amazed when others follow suit.

Delusional is too kind a word.

I think the trick here is to ignore the troll until he packs up and leaves.

Like · Reply · 4 reactions · Yesterday at 08:58

Mark Beard Couldn't we ask his father the fetch him?
Like · Reply · 1 reaction · Yesterday at 11:22

Ashley Barnes If you were the father of that, would you fetch him??
Like · Reply · 1 Like · Yesterday at 12:51

Mark Beard Ashley Barnes I need to be honest. I would hold his head in a bucket of water till the bubbles stop. If he was my son.
Like · Reply · 1 Like · Yesterday at 13:04

Amanda Martin He lives with his father, who's moved down here.
Like · Reply · 16 hrs

Mark Beard Couldn't we ask his father the fetch him?
Like · Reply · 1 reaction · Yesterday at 11:22

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Like · Reply · 1 Like · Yesterday at 13:04

Amanda Martin He lives with his father, who's moved down here.
Like · Reply · 16 hrs
MARK ZUCKERBERG, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY FACEBOOK SUPPORT HAS IGNORED MONTHS OF INFO REGARDS CYBERSTALKERS???
BY DEFYING EVIDENCE & THE DEGENCY OF REAL COMMUNICATION, FACEBOOK IS SUPPORTING EVIL POLITICIANS & DAMAGING THIS ACTIVIST.
CHAPTER 11:  
April Fools' Day

"Politicians are just the unnatural lubricant on the democracy-flavoured condom that government dons every time it tries to disguise the fact that it's about to screw its citizens again."
- Chris Roper

April Fools' Day has been more farts than highlights, never a feature in my life.

As a child, I wasn't like most boys. Although I felt the awkwardness of peer group pressure, I couldn't, for example, participate in the stupidity of fart jokes. I wasn't devoid of humour, just leaning more towards the meaningful or twisted kind found in movies such as 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off' and 'Lethal Weapon'. I haven't changed as an adult. I'm not into most stand-up, excessively swearing or shouting comedians. But I appreciate the sweets on knives offered by George Carlin, Bill Hicks and John Oliver. Bill Maher is so good, simply the best, that I forgive his occasional liberal fanaticism.

My joke on the DA and the Knysna Municipality was spontaneous. Whether you find it funny or not depends on the kind of humour you fancy, and what you want or don't want from this world. What was certain is that my target didn't find me funny. They issued a press release against me. Because their reaction said a lot about who they were, it was meaningful... and intensely hilarious.

* * * * * *

The fake press release I composed on behalf of the DA and Knysna Municipality was posted on my blog. Strangely, that wasn't a dead give-away. Maybe the commentary I opened with was good decoy.

I hope readers realise that this is more damage control than genuine attention. The Mayor admits it's not her decision but from higher up. They haven't even contacted me yet they put out a press release. It's election year, folks! Nevertheless, I will approach the meeting with genuine intention – we need to clean up the past and paint a better future - Mike

**Mayor Wolmarans to Meet Mike Hampton**

1 April 2016

Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans has announced that she will be meeting self-proclaimed activist, Mike Hampton.

"For five years, Hampton has made allegations about corruption and
maladministration,” said Executive Mayor Wolmarans on Thursday. “For five years, we’ve denied that there’s any truth in that. We are, proudly, the Clean Audit Town. Unfortunately, Hampton has persisted, resulting in our having to attend an inappropriate meeting of Parliament.”

At that meeting, Municipal Manager Grant Easton and Mayor Wolmarans openly addressed concerns regarding Knysna Tourism, the ISDF tender award, the Municipal Manager appointment and the blocking of communication. Any irregularity in the first three were emphatically denied. For the last, Mr. Easton pointed out that he had unblocked Hampton’s emails as soon as he had taken over governance of the town.

"Parliament has currently been on a three-week break," informed Mr. Easton. "We do not know if we will have to attend again or if answering questions by email will suffice. We are hoping that Parliament doesn’t waste any more more of your ratepayers’ money. The last trip was expensive, a further waste because several members of our delegation never got to speak at all. At least our tour of Parliament was insightful and enjoyable. However, we would rather encourage people to holiday in Knysna.”

Executive Mayor Wolmarans continued with: "We denied Hampton a meeting for several years because we believed that no answers would satisfy him. We believe that his goal is to blemish local government for reasons he hasn’t declared. His blogging suggests a political motive supporting a third party.

However, at a recent meeting with MEC Alan Winde and MP Jaco Londt, it was suggested that we speak to Hampton and bury this matter once and for all. We suspect that it will not remain buried for Hampton but we can hope that it’ll be buried in the eyes of the public.”

A team of people from local government will meet Mr. Hampton on April 8. This will include previous directors of Knysna Tourism, the Mayoral Committee, Corporate Services Manager Bevan Ellman and Legal Services Manager Melony Paulsen. There will also be a yet to be decided upon observer from the Western Cape Government.

They will answer which questions they can and then gather whatever other information is needed, hopefully before Parliament questions again.

The Knysna Municipality and the Democratic Alliance reconfirmed their commitment to good governance, truth and transparency.
Knysna Municipality press release by Christopher Bezuidenhout.

Maybe the joke press release was believable because almost everything in it about their bad behaviour was true.

* * * * *

I remind that Knysna Knews is Advocate Seton and her married partner Deputy Mayor Esme Edge). They posted:

"Folks, it is the first of April - April Fools' day! This is obviously not a genuine muni press release. The communications manager's name is not even correctly spelled in the alleged "press release". The Municipality have wasted enough money on a disaffected individual. This is just another attention-seeking ploy, calculated to make the council look bad. History has proven meetings achieve nothing. Hopefully somebody will take steps regarding the usage of the logo and infringement of copyright."

Knysna Knews said that I should be sued for infringement of copyright for using the Municipality's logo. It's was another example of the fundamental mistake that had been made from the beginning. These despots and wannabe despots had grossly failed to realise that the Government is us, the People, and that municipal staff are our employees working in the building we provide. It's our fucking logo. South Africa belongs to all of. Knysna isn't an exception because a handful of entitled people drink wine together.

In the comment section, Mark Beard expressed his ignorance of citizen rights by wishing for my death again: “I hated the movie The English Patient. Towards the end of the movie, I was shouting, 'Die, just DIE!!' I feel the same today.”

Ashley Barnes liked his attitude again.

Theirs and other reactions were to be expected but I was disappointed that a few of my supporters thought I’d deceived them. So I spelt it out the same afternoon, under the header, 'My April Fools' Joke to Fight THEIR Manipulation of YOU':

> Over the past 5 years, do you associate the DA and the Knysna Municipality more with truth or lies, open doors or closed doors, Public interest of self-interest?

This morning I announced that Mayor Georlene Wolmarans and Municipal Manager Grant Easton, along with others, had decided to finally meet with me and answer my questions before Parliament returned from holidays.
That was an April Fools' joke motivated by good reason. I made the words close to what you’re used to reading on social media. I defaced myself at the start, thinking that my enemies would love that and be fooled a bit longer.

In this blog, I explain my intentions. Hopefully, you will see it’s worth, have a chuckle, dig into thought, and forgive me if need be.

For years, the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Knysna Municipality have pushed out the lie that they were cooperative with me and that my only intention was to be unreasonable. I’ve heard it again and again and again and again... as you have too. The trick to effective propaganda is repetition. Some of you undoubtedly believe them... yet who of you have ever seen evidence supporting their version of events.

The biggest early question/request that has never been fulfilled was my wanting a breakdown of Knysna Tourism’s finances so that we, the Public, could clearly see who had benefited from an organisation that was repeatedly run into the red. The need for transparency was compounded by their lack of supply chain management processes, that Public funds were being illegally used to fill the holes, and that politicians (the people we’re supposed to trust) were on the Board of Directors, supposedly to provide oversight.

Accompanying that local government lie of cooperation, communication with me was banned – that was an unconstitutional act.

With my presentation of allegations of corruption to Parliament, the campaign against me (by some DA constituents and their associates) shifted into overdrive. On social media, nasty-driven pages called Knysna Knews, Hampton Factor, Protecting Brand Knysna and AngryMikeH attacked me. Instead of our leaders being horrified at the way these sites have operated, some instead supported them, lie after lie.

The Knysna-Plett Herald repeatedly refused to deliver fair reporting, giving the DA and the Knysna Municipality a vast amount of biased coverage.

In Parliament, Easton tried to dodge a bullet by saying that he had unbanned me, as if all was well and no one was to blame. That was a falsehood because, I assume, that unbanning of my final edress took place only so that he could tell Parliament that... but who takes responsibility for the 4 years before?

Effectively, I remain banned because they will not answer my questions.
The other lie, one of disproportion, was with regards the costs of the Municipality attending Parliament. That has been repeated *ad nauseam*. It has been another form of attempting to manipulate you.

>'An argumentum ad nauseam is the logical fallacy that something becomes true if it is repeated often enough. An ad nauseam argument that can be easily shown to be false leads to the point refuted a thousand times.

*Due to the modern 24-hour cable news cycle and the fact every idiot now has a blog, argumentum ad nauseam has become particularly prevalent. In politics it is usually used in the form of a talking point, which is then reduced to a three second sound bite and is repeated at every available opportunity. On the blogosphere it takes the form of a meme, where every like-minded blogger repeats a statement used by a fellow blogger. Twitter, where every message has to be less than 140 characters, has only made this latter form of viral propaganda worse.*

Repeating an opinion again and again seems to convince people that it is true - maybe because it simulates the effect of many people having that opinion.'

*Source – RationalWiki.*

If anyone is to blame it is our leaders! If they had chosen to be transparent, we would not have reached this point. There would be no costs. In fact, honesty would have led to action. Action would have stopped money, your money, being thrown into a black hole.

Despite their attendance having taken place 16 days ago, they have not detailed their expenses. If they ever do, ask yourself how could the one-day travel costs of 4 people ever be unreasonable considering how serious this situation is? If they’d gone in one car, petrol, wear and tare, and meals would have cost approximately R3,500 for the return trip. If it’d been by plane, the cost would’ve been around R17,000.

How does it compare to the tens of millions we’ve lost with regards Cornuti’s, Knysna Tourism, the failed forensics examination of the traffic department, the ISDF, the rates battle lost against Phantom Pass etc.

I am seemingly blamed for everything that goes wrong in Knysna, as if I’m the
greatest activist and blogger who ever lived, a successful subversive working for a third force to destabilise Knysna – WHAT POPPYROT.

The truth is that THEY DON’T WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

...and they’ve escalated that to dirty level...

They never chose to communicate or be people of positive action. Instead, they punched me again and again with court cases, all seemingly orchestrated by a family member of someone high in our government. Instead of answering questions, they seemingly abused the court system, knowing I had no legal knowledge and no money to fight them...

...but they never expected me to start learning and keep fighting. Have no doubt that it has been as difficult as hell for me. I’ve come so close, so many times, to falling apart or off the edge of the earth. I’m still here, motivated by my stubbornness to gain justice and by the help some of you have given me.

So, today, I played an April Fools' joke. It was as serious and meaningful as I could make an April Fools' joke be. It’s a joke on them for the absolute absurdity of their actions and non-actions. Secondly, it was an intended representation of the Public will – what you want.

That last part was my hope in you, the regular folk of Knysna. I was betting that you wanted an end to conflict, that you want to know what’s happening in our town and feel comfortable that good leaders are in the driving seat.

My hope came true. Over 2000 of you viewed the Facebook post today, many made comments, mostly supportive, and 94 have so far clicked the Like button on FB and Knysna Keep. YOU CLEARLY WANT SERIOUS MATTERS SORTED IN AN ADULT FASHION.

Predictably, those propaganda pages (Not) Protecting Brand Knysna and (Biased) Knysna Knews had the usual malcontents sharing their small-minded, defamatory nastiness that aims to do anything but fix the mess we’re in. Remember who the people behind those pages are. Remember that it was me, not them, that revealed their identities.

I ask that you compare my words to theirs, not just today’s but with regards every politically orientated opinion you can find. Extend that questioning to the articles of the Knysna-Plett Herald and the press releases of the Knysna Municipality.
Do not allow yourself to be manipulated. Demand better.

And make fun of our local government until it becomes the serious, trustworthy institution we need it to be!

* * * * *

The Knysna Municipality published "This joke is no laughing matter":

"Although media outlets throughout the world traditionally publish fake articles for April Fool’s day, an attempt by local blogger Mike Hampton to do the same falls short of this proud tradition.

It has come to light that his post of 1 April on LoveKnysna.com titled "Mayor Wolmarans to Meet Mike Hampton” was meant as an April Fool’s joke. In the opening paragraph he asserts: "I hope readers realise that this is more damage control than genuine attention. The Mayor admits that it's not her decision but from higher up... Nevertheless, I will approach the meeting with genuine intention – we need to clean up the past and paint a better future.”

Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans says: "We at the municipality do not find it funny at all and view it as yet another veiled attempt to spread rumour and misinformation to the public. It was done in bad taste and crosses the line. Many people mistakenly took it as fact, when it was actually devoid of any truth.”

Mr Hampton later admitted in the comments that “it is a joke with good reasoning which will be explained next week.” With this statement it is obvious he is not in touch with the spirit and standard practice of the tradition which requires that the post be retracted by noon.

"By not removing the post and fuelling the fire with his comments, Mr Hampton has revealed his motives as deliberately negative and provocative. It is now nothing more than asinine lies,” adds Mayor Wolmarans before continuing: “It would seem his followers are not impressed by his tactics either.”

On the LoveKnysna Facebook page, the comments quickly turned negative when it came to light that it is fake with comments ranging from "April Fools joke. I hope not,” to "Ill placed April fools joke... sadly” and "I suggest no more April fools jokes from you Mike...” with another person commenting "If, on the other hand, it is a joke, it is no wonder he has such bad press” and "Well done Mike. This is a foolproof way to diminish your support base".
A local media consultant, who wishes to remain anonymous, says: “This sort of thing is unacceptable and unduly embarrasses the people who he is targeting.”

Main stream media outlets usually take the mickey out of the general populous without becoming personal. This year, Independent Newspapers had an article on the licensing of bicycles, which is a classic example of this tradition. Similarly, Netwerk24 had a story on the Queen issuing a decree that English may longer be used as an official language in South Africa.

Both of these were full of hyperbole, absurdity and humour being obviously fake at closer inspection. Mr Hampton’s article is not and could be construed as libellous.”

* * * * *

The Municipality ignored my comment on their Facebook that they had, as usual, failed to present the full story.

My subscribers can criticise me but what the Municipality did was to redact them into politically motivated propaganda advantage. They also ignored that Seton had been negatively involved and criticised by the same subscribers they were quoting.

Note more from the same comment thread, the difference between what the Municipality quoted and the more that was said:

**Municipality's version of Wendy Dewberry:** "Ill placed April Fool’s joke... sadly... I suggest no more April fools jokes from you Mike…”

**vs**

Wendy Dewberry: “Ill placed April fools joke... sadly. Or maybe not... I dunno. It does raise the points... I suggest no more April fools jokes from you Mike.” And when Seton tried to insult, Dewberry said: “Our understanding of the illness within Knysna Municipality is not through Mike... there is no duping going on. Please do not make the error of assuming this is an issue of one person pulling the wool over people's eyes. No one who supports Mike believes what we believe because of what he says. If you check our demographic you would see that we are not uneducated. We believe what he fights for because we have seen this ourselves and, in law, the public has a right to transparency. He is just the one with nothing to lose, the one who can come against the impunitable Municipality without threat to child and dollar.”

And for the other subscriber who was also quoted twice:
Municipality’s version of Patrick Sodoff: “If, on the other hand, it is a joke, it is no wonder he has such bad press... Well done Mike. This is a foolproof way to diminish your support base.”

vs

Patrick Sodoff: “If, on the other hand, it is a joke, it is no wonder he has such bad press... Well done Mike. This is a foolproof way to diminish your support base... Esme Edge has hardly been daubed with the claim that she 'has been accused of single handedly destroying Knysna.' [as Hampton was by Knysna Knews]. Not by a long shot. And for an advocate [Seton], personally involved in many of these cases, to be hurling cheap shots like 'libellous schmuck' on a publicly accessible website, invites all kinds of retribution... These 'revelations' by Hampton are not all without foundation, not by a long shot. Many responsible citizens would readily agree that Hampton's assertions to the Parliament sitting have, at the very least, some merit, and Seton's protestations do not sound to normal, rational, suspicious human beings like those of someone confident of her position... Seton's advice to [a subscriber] to 'start using her own mind judiciously' is basically saying: If you don't agree with us, then your mind is not being applied. The mere fact that Seton is publicly airing the washing gives rise to the very important question: Is she protesting too much?”

The DA-led Municipality was mocking me without realising they were mocking the idea that they would ever meet me to discuss serious issues. They were against the open-door policy they claimed to practice. They were unable to see that important summary.

That's what my post was about, that they'd failed to communicate fairly and openly, and address serious issues of maladministration and corruption. That was no laughing matter. It was one of the reasons why we were in Parliament together.

And for Government to quote an anonymous “local media consultant” was pathetic. I've already pointed out some of that kind involved in the campaign against me.

The use of 'consultants' was an ongoing concern because, essentially, the Municipality could use taxpayers’ money to hurt me and for cover-up. Note how evasive Communications Manager Christopher Bezuidenhout was with regards who was sharing his job.

The month before, in between political offices, Michelle Wasserman commented online
about the coming elections that: "REGISTER FOR CHANGE is an odd slogan for the DA to use in a DA-led municipality."

** * * * * * **

I pretended they were good people. They responded that I was wrong to do so. Painfully hilarious. They deserved to be parodied.

As homage to cruel, Government insanity, this book was meant to be published on 1 April 2019, the national holiday for politicians. Unfortunately, ex-DA Deputy Mayor Esme Edge and Advocate Julie Seton, villains I’ve detailed, approached the Court whilst I was in Namibia. They gained an order that essentially banned it from being published on 1 April or any date thereafter. Consequently, I published earlier, on 28 March 2019.
Love Knysna

24 mins • 

I hope readers realise that this is more damage control than genuine attention. The Mayor admits that it’s not her decision but from higher up. They haven’t even contacted me yet they put out a press release. It’s election year, folks! Nevertheless, I will approach the meeting with genuine intention - we need to try clean up the past and paint a be... Continue Reading

Mayor Wolmarans to Meet Mike Hampton

I hope readers realise that this is damage control and not genuine attention. It’s taken them years to get... knysnakeep.org
If I Were the Devil...

"There's that biblical story where small David bravely stands against a hulk of man called Goliath. With courage and skill, David slays Goliath. But David fought only one man. And Goliath has been resurrected into a modern hydra beast composed of billionaires, multi-national corporations and their government servants, all wielding immense power. They've proven they're willing to use that power in the interests of the few rather than the many, knowing that the many, most often, will let the few get away with it. We are the many fools."

- Mike Hampton

“Today, I am the Devil, sharing our thieving, bloody South Africa. I do so in the Hope you will see through me. Take back control of your lives. Defeat me. I dare you.”

A July 2014 blog of mine began that way. I'd been pondering the death of Nelson Mandela, the theft of South Africa by the Gang of President Jacob Zuma, and the refusal by Premier Helen Zille and MEC Alan Winde to address DA corruption. That contemplation gained a layer when a derivative of Paul Harvey's essay, 'If I Were the Devil', hissed into my mailbox.

Harvey was a national radio commentator in the USA in the Sixties. He postulated what he'd do to corrupt civilisation if he were the Devil. Since then, each generation (and different countries) have expressed their zeitgeist version of Harvey's essay.

It was perfect timing as the debate in my head had again resulted in there being effectively no difference between the ANC and the DA - one smirking with crime, the other more devious about it. South African bias wasn't going to change the fact that corruption is proportional to the amount of power wielded. With less power, the ANC would be less corrupt. With more power, the DA would be more corrupt. But they'd still both be corrupt.

Bad thoughts and that email climaxed me into into a gush of words:

"If I were the Devil in South Africa, I would whisper to Helen Zille and Cyril Ramaphosa that they must never listen to the Public... but ironically yell as loudly as they can to the Public, "WE'RE LISTENING," so that is all the Public hears;

I would convince the Public that right and wrong can only be determined by a few who call themselves Authorities;

I would persuade the Public that character and community service are not considerations when choosing leaders, and that all that matters is ANC gold or
DA blue;

I would delude their minds into thinking the power they entrust the self-serving Politician with are blessings from voters traded for a better future;

I would promise the voters austerity and transparency, and then laugh as I did the opposite, knowing they are powerless to seek justice for another 5 years after they stupidly failed to seek justice the previous 5 years;

I would make the ANC rage against capitalism whilst driving fancy cars and feasting in the biggest houses;

I would make the DA rage for liberalism whilst practicing socialism;

I would suck goodness out of society whilst sending the Politicians to church, giggling as I made some of them pastors;

I would convince the Public that big business is there to help them, and that they can help the economy by gambling what they have. And for those who will not give in, I will give them unions that will ask for more, more and more whilst ignoring the poor;

I would tell them that bankers are their friends and then start my own bank to transfer their wealth to Myself;

I would make their pay so small and the price of food so high before convincing them that they can live their dreams now with the loans I give them, enslaving their sperm to Me;

I would make the Police aware they are powerful, and that the powerful can do as they please;

I would make human issues so helpless that humans begin protecting the lives of animals more than the children I made poor;

I would abuse animals, making a million more the activists could never save from the butcher's floor;

I would make meat so convenient and cheese so creamy that carnivores eat without guilt and vegetarians pretend dairy is unrelated;

I would de-bone the Middle Class because that is every country's backbone;

I would control the Media, every night polluting the mind of every family
member with my agenda until they love Me, or hate me because they want to be me;
I would promote needless toys and hair accessories to the youth, and get their sports heroes and music idols to wear them;
I would ensure teachers are frustrated and schoolbooks missing so that uneducated, non-individualistic children grow into adults like their parents who do what I say;
I would, with all these things, make the lives of parents so miserable that they stop parenting whilst blaming teachers into depression expressed through the greed of unions;
I would promote chauvinism and radical feminism so the majority of people in between would be afraid to express opinion;
I would promote ego so that heteros oppose homos based on my brother's Bible instead of fact, corrective rape enact;
I would ban euthanasia and marijuana oil so that those in pain can enjoy others in more pain through the eyes of wide-screen TV;
I would take advantage of the dread of AIDS and make the victims ostracised; let the desperate think they can cure themselves with dicks in babies traumatised;
I would dull or scare the minds of good people, making them believe morals are optional, sharing unimportant, and that hiding is not hiding, just keeping to themselves;
I would replace love and trust with the weak and needy dating narcissists;
I would tell all of them that they are not responsible for their choices, that someone else is always to blame;
I would promote willful ignorance so they can pretend they are doing something whilst doing nothing, a society of social media warriors;
I would promote helplessness because they have the power to defeat me;
And then I would start the fun over, giving them elections again and again...
I guess I would leave things exactly the way they are now, perfectly imperfect.”
I made minor alterations to my original for this chapter but that bit about banks and pastors was there before the VBS scandal and the ascension of Mmusi Maimane.

* * * * * *

When the countries of Earth signed an agreement that they wouldn't stake claims to the moon, they never excluded private interests from possessing that right. It was inconceivable to them that anything but government, the collective wealth of the people, would ever possess the wealth needed to travel so far. But now Jeff Bezos (Blue Origin, Amazon) and Elon Musk (SpaceX, Tesla) are in a realistic race to space. In the next decade, it's likely there'll be space tourism. It's conceivable that corporates will be mining the moon and landing on Mars. Their adventurous capitalism will further mankind. And the politics of it all will likely be crazily out of mind.

For now, the majority of the rich, especially the corrupt, are more interested in immediate, earthly desires - their pleasure at our expense. We, as a society, are perversely willing for Earth to be our Hell.

What Government data clerk will stand up for what's right if he'll lose his salary from which 50% is spent on rent? And it's all too easy to compromise and compromise until the innocent become the corrupt. The higher in government, the more likely someone will look the other way from wrongdoing or participate therein. It only seems ironic that the one earning the million-rand salary is more likely to be corrupt than the one earning one tenth of that. Humans are addictive by nature. And money and power make addicts quicker than heroin ever will.

There are exceptions to every rule and being rich or wanting to be rich isn't a crime. There are those who've been exceptionally generous... and I'd love to be rich. But, for the most part, it takes regular citizens to be the counterbalance e.g. to be oversight over government and corporates, to defend the rights of the majority. That's where voting, community service and activism come in.

* * * * * *

Can you think for yourself?

Can you handle me saying that Gandhi was a hypocritical masturbator, that Mother Teresa's ego made her the empress of the poor, and that President Obama isn't a gentleman, instead wickedly pro banks, pro public surveillance, and pro war?

If you don't think for yourself, the politicians will take more.
The war most of us are fighting isn’t the real one. Our bias likely defines our political morality – “We’re right, they’re wrong.” Fingers pointed like an erection gone wrong.

We become citizen soldiers to acronyms such as DA, ANC, ACDP and EFF. We support an ideology we barely understand. We support their funders we don’t know.

Giving up our thought for another’s may be tragic but not so much as when we try justifying it by shouting louder, becoming part of the white noise that devil politics needs to survive. The consequence of our action is the subversion of truth and the consolidation of sheep mentality. If we make it a habit, we make the hate, fear and madness normal. And we become the proverbial lamb sitting at a table with a pack of wolves, voting on what’s for dinner.

This political war is filled with propaganda and skirmishes, a pushing and shoving for attention, wealth, and power. Whether it’s the Republicans versus the Democrats in the USA, or the DA versus De Lille here, they’re all eating the same meal which is us. It’s self-service, not Public service. Make that an understanding, not a colloquialism.

Stop saying that they don’t care but then hugging them as if they do.

The ugliest is when party loyalty is based on the colour of our skin. Race is used to divide and conquer us.

As much to blame is our apathy towards educating ourselves towards substantive opinion. What should count is the heart of a person, and if they follow it with action. Belief without action isn’t belief at all.

Few would disagree when told that there are good and bad black people, good and bad white people. But common sense is somehow forsaken when having an opinion about the state of our towns - tourism, economics, crime, politics etc. Everyone has opinions. Few justify them. It’s mostly a destructive affair between apartheid and reverse apartheid, white versus black, have money versus wanting money, indifference versus jealousy, numbness versus screaming.

I’m not suggesting we suppress opinion. For example, why can't we speak about the law and racists logically? Why is it ok for me to criticise whites speaking English in a 'black' accent to blacks, but less so to be disappointed at black women’s excessive hair extensions and skin-whitening cream?
I'm deeply concerned that freedom of speech is being thrown into jail, and those that are 'free' are casting their vote to ensure that it becomes status quo.

Willful ignorance eventually hurts everyone. If we don't think for ourselves, the politicians will silence us more.

We're a flock of hate that the politicians are breeding to be killed as short-term vote for their trip to that market called Parliament. It's the decivilisation of South Africa.

* * * * *

I wish we were all coloured atheists, less superficial, more thoughtful, and less inclined to want to jump on the populist conveyor belt. If we all looked the same, and thought independently, politicians would have to find different ways to make us hate each other.

If we realised that, we could skip generations of sex to think differently now. It's not just a thought, it's advice.
God, Politicians & Pastors

MY SERVANT, WAKE UP.

Mmmm, whose there? [yawn] Is there someone at the door?

I AM YOUR GOD. I AM EVERYWHERE... INCLUDING AT THE DOOR.

My Lord, My Lord, you’ve heard my prayers! Oh, what joyous morning in Knysna.

NOT SO JOYOUS, MY SERVANT CALLED JUDAS

But... err... My Lord, I fear you have the wrong house.

DO YOU CHALLENGE THE LORD AND HIS SENSE OF DIRECTION? DO NOT, FOR I AM EVERYWHERE AS I AM CERTAIN I TOLD YOU BEFORE.

I would never challenge my Dear Lord... it’s just... that... my name is Gerald.

NO, IT IS NOT. I HAVE COMMANDED THAT THEE, HENCEFORTH, BE CALLED JUDAS

[gulp] Ok, my Lord.

I AM DISAPPOINTED.

In meeeeee?

CONFESS, TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE DONE SO THAT I KNOW WHAT I KNOW AND YOU KNOW WHAT.

I am confused, My Lord. I worked for years to build a church for you. I’ve filled it on Sundays with important people who’ve donated almost generously to you, My Lord.

IT IS TRUE, YOU HAVE DELIVERED MANY OF MY CHILDREN FROM THEIR SATURDAY HANGOVER AT THE BAR NAMED HORNLEE NIGHT SPOT. I AM EVERYWHERE... AND TELL THE OWNER THAT HIS GLITTER BALL DOETH DISPLEASE ME.

Anything you say, My Lord, I’m glad that I’ve pleased you... and can please you more.... in these strange ways.

DO NOT PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH FOR IT IS I WHO CREATED WORDS AND I AM DISPLEASED. IT IS SUCH THAT YOU HAVE PISSED ME OFF WHICH IS TRUE BECAUSE YOUR LORD SAIDETH.

Oh no, My Lord, how have I offended My Creator of all that I cherish?

LIKE THAT R2000 SUIT AND NEW NISSAN BAKKIE WITH CHROME TYRES YOU BOUGHT FROM THE “ALMOST GENEROUS” TITHES.
Oh... err... you know about that?

THE LORD DOOTH NOT MAKE QUESTIONS, THE LORD MAKETH STATEMENTS. SO IT IS SO BECAUSE IT IS SO.

I wish to make myself better in your image, My Lord, and to attract more people nearer to your likeness. My Lord.

WHAT KNOW YOU OF MINE IMAGE. I AM NOT IN NEED OF MORTAL COTTON AND LONG HAIR. I AM NAKED AND INVISIBLE. I AM EVERYWHERRRE. I AM HERE.

Sorry, My Lord, sorry, My Lord, your Judas begs forgiveness.

THAT... IS... NOT... POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE GREATEST SIN OF ALL.

But she was so young and beautiful. Please forgive me as my wife often forgives me.

THAT IS NOT WHAT I SPEAK OF, NOR YOUR WIFE THAT COVETS THE POSITION OF A PASTOR’S WIFE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

Was it the loan from the coffers, My Lord? Know that I will give it back.

THAT IS ALSO NOT WHAT I SPEAK OF.

Is it about the eternal damnation of that young boy if he didn’t wash my car, My Lord... which, I think, was more like a fib than a lie, My Lord.

NO.

Please guide me, My Lord.

YOU LET POLITICIANS INTO MY HOUSE.

But they wore such fine clothes and attracted more sheep to my flock, My Lord.

MY HOUSE, MY FLOCK.

Yes, My Lord. Sorry, my Lord. How may I seek penance?

THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS, MY JUDAS, THERE IS ONLY MORTAL DAMNATION.

[gulp]

I SENTENCE THEE TO LIFE ON A SOCIAL SECURITY CHEQUE IN THE TOWNSHIP WHERE THE POLITICIANS CANNOT HEAR ME.

Oh, nooooooo....

OH, YES. MY WILL IS DONE.
Please Stop Destroying South Africa

"We live in a society of victimization where people are much more comfortable being victimized than actually standing up for themselves... A lot of people don't want to make their own decisions. They're too scared. It's much easier to be told what to do."
- Marilyn Manson

"Five percent of the people think; ten percent of the people think they think; and the other eighty-five percent would rather die than think."
- Thomas Edison

I'm not a lifeguard, how about you?

How extreme must our fellow citizens' ignorance be before we stop making excuses for them? It's like a person who can swim drowning in a pool because they didn't want to swim. More people need to be responsible, not rescued.

I feel strongly about this so I'm going to risk pissing you off before asking for your help. Take a dive off the high board. Let's find out if you drown in disapproval or surface in agreement?

* * * * * * *

This is about willful ignorance, the state of brutal bliss which explains why most of you have chosen dependent thought and to let South Africa fall apart.

Politicians happily lie to the Public, safe in the knowledge that the Public would rather be stupid than change what they know. Selling fear of the unknown is ironically more powerful an aphrodisiac than selling truth and merit.

Willful ignorance is when a person knows the truth but chooses to ignore it. Or, as a more precise example, when a person chooses to have more faith in their beliefs than allow the opportunity for their intellect to prove them wrong. Willful ignorance, in the context of violent South Africa, is political religion choosing the colours of skin and parties over reasonable arguments and facts. The willfully ignorant refuse to acknowledge anything that doesn't pretend to agree with them, even if their world contradicts their position by falling apart around them.

* * * * * * *

Before you automatically apply your inflexible DA versus ANC and ANC versus DA positions, read these examples:
1. Gayla Benefield, a resident of the picaresque, small town of Libby in Montana, was shocked to find out that the mortality rate of her town was 80 times higher than the American average. She discovered asbestosis from the local mine, W.R. Grace and Company, to be the cause. The disease would kill over 400, including her parents. She, her husband and much of her extended family would get the disease. It would later be alleged that the mine had knowingly ejected 2300kg of asbestos laced dust into the air daily for years. Furthermore, it was in the bark of firewood, in compost for gardens, and used in the building of sports fields for schools. Benefield campaigned for three decades to expose the presence of the disease and the mine as the cause. She was vilified by her community. Victims were labelled as liars extorting the company. Some took to putting bumper stickers on their cars saying, “I Don’t Have Asbestosis.” Their willful ignorance led to painful respiratory and cancerous deaths.

2. There are variations but many Creationists believe Earth was made in six of our calendar days, six thousand years ago, Genesis is a historical account, and humans lived amongst dinosaurs. Noah took pairs of every species aboard a cruise liner that Harry Potter would’ve been proud of (that’s millions of living and now extinct species). Willfully ignorant Creationists refuse science, or reinterpret science so that it isn’t science, to maintain unprovable belief i.e. faith. This from people whose religion was allegedly transcribed by people who believed the earth was flat and that the stars revolved around them. Notably, more adaptable religions, for whatever reason, have realigned their beliefs so that the bible is a moral guide and their God, encompassingly, created science and evolution.

    * * * * *

It’s seen across South Africa (and particularly within my experience of trying to expose the crimes of the DA) that detractors use insults instead of logic. Some people support what I say purely because they’re not DA.

Both sides resort to double standards determined by whether the crime was committed by the political party they’re affiliated too. There’s no moral high ground, no right or wrong, just party versus party hatred. Often this is based upon race.

So why do they do this? Why do many of you do this?

Rational Wiki states that “willful ignorance is a mechanism that actually protects the
brain from becoming unable to function in situations that it just can’t handle.” I prefer the term "tactical stupidity" as the consequence of illogical action is as important as the action itself.

The second reason is conformity. “People tend to believe what those around them believe, and questioning those beliefs would lead to conflict and likely rejection, and as any insecure adolescent knows, the last thing one would want to happen is to be a social reject.”

In the case of Knysna, both reasons are relevant, emphasised by financial status and fear.

I’ve written over a million words explaining my position on politics and crime yet a detractor’s inelegant argument will be as empty of substantiation, debate and construction as, "Mike, you’re a cunt" or "You must be ANC”. As on News24’s comment sections and this blog, these preconceived personal beliefs (that are an avoidance of evidence) tend to be fired from people with fake profiles, further diminishing their credibility and emphasising public participation devoid of substance.

Conservatism and bias are a regressive storm upon South Africa. A culture of hate- drenched, willful ignorance begs our destruction.

The greed of politicians and their corporate sponsors, and their abuse of Public ignorance, is as self-fulfilling as the Public’s volunteered self-destruction. It’s an uncanny situation that breathes in the moment whilst killing the future.

Jodi Picoult, the author, summed it well: “Sometimes we find ourselves walking through life blindfolded, and we try to deny that we’re the ones who securely tied the knot.”

* * * * * * *

It isn't only beliefs and political identities needing self-questioning. You can make a difference through small actions. If you're not a sociopath, it'll make your life happier whilst helping your community.

It's easy to be a good person without the risk of jail, only the pleasure of your time. You could take a weekly bag of potatoes and carrots to the local soup kitchen, give a fruit a day to a street beggar, attend community meetings, listen to the lonely at old- aged homes, or take the dogs at the local shelter for a walk on the weekends.

Don't be daunted by the few who may be unappreciative (not all vagrant druggies
want a breakfast banana, and if they throw it at you, you've got a funny story to tell. Don't let a few setbacks be an excuse to stop you from being a good person.

The key is repetition. It must become part of your life. Then you're more likely to find fuzzy pleasure through your growing empathy - the best good deeds are that two-way street. And if you've got kids, be sure to let them witness what you do, or better yet, find something you can do with them.

You can make a difference in your neighbourhood. You may not change the world but maybe your kids and grandchildren can.

* * * * *

Did you reach the other side of the pool by yourself?

Excellent.

Keep swimming with me...

... and, for your convenience, the links in this book can conveniently be found in the online Corruption Library. If my website is removed, try Dropbox.
THIS IS ONLY
THE BEGINNING...
Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa

"Fear rules the suburbs, heralded by barking dogs, a South African cacophony of grimaces for the barbed wire fences encircling the houses wherein families watch the news announcing that the ANC still rules..."

- Mike Hampton (2014)

"The time for change is upon us and we all have a role to play to create and contribute to the country we believe in. I believe everyone has the capability to collaborate and join hands to bring about meaningful change."

- Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the ANC and President of South Africa

The sub-title of this book was originally 'A message to South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa about the Democratic Alliance you don't want to know'. I changed it because I hoped that activists and citizens anywhere could relate more to it than an impermanent President of a single country. The change is irrelevant but not the original intent.

The message was to those who still think that the DA is our defence against ANC corruption and hope for a better future. I've met many of you online, rabid at the mouth but nothing to offer except finger-pointing away. If you recall that the definition of propaganda includes misdirection, you'll realise that maybe you've being part of the herd. Realisation makes further mooring choice rather than instinct.

Don't be offended if I seem condescending. To a degree, I used to be you... until I turned to the DA for help and discovered I was asking the butcher to clean its own shoes. If you don't understand all that I've said in this book, then maybe you need the good fortune to be baptised in hell too.

Hey, I'm kidding. I don't wish that on any of you good folk. You may be millions of strangers, but I strangely care about you. This book is tough love.

Back to that original subtitle's first part, 'A message to South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa'. It relates to a letter and video message I sent him through his Office in October 2018. It included the words "If my message doesn’t make you want to be human or act as our President, then I’ve only dismal choices of final protest ahead of me."

This book is an expansion of that letter and a summary reminder for you who kicked, screamed or yawned your way to the end:

"President Cyril Ramaphosa, I address you as our nation’s leader and as the ultimate guardian of the People of the Western Cape. I address you fore-mostly
as a Public servant favouring none and loving all, secondly as the leader of the ANC.

I’m not a beggar. I’m not here for political correctness. My message is frank, as it should be when concerning the darkness of corruption and resultant death.

I’m a citizen of South Africa expecting you be dutiful, and hoping you’ll be caring. Out of love for the sheep, I want you to be fearsome against the hyena.

I’m an activist belonging to no party. I consider Knysna my home but I’m currently in Durban where I consider myself to be Napoleon on Saint Helena.

I’ve a proven history of exposing corruption, mostly the DA’s because their filthy fingers reached from Cape Town into Knysna, making us their abused puppet. For this, their national leadership must be punished, some with jail.

DEMONCRATIC ALLIANCE CORRUPTION

President Cyril Ramaphosa, the corruption includes but isn’t limited to the following.

1. The illegal funding of Knysna Tourism, a Section 21 company, receiving +/- R4-million of Public funds annually. The final amount in irregular expenditure will be approximately R50-million. Supply chain management process weren’t followed. The company ran into debt four years in a row and was illegally bailed out each time by the annual grant-in-aid which was the only one not to be approved by the Grant-in-Aid Committee. In turn, the organisation gave business to whoever it wanted, without tender. A DA faction war resulted in a legal report that clearly repeated the common sense that Public monies cannot be distributed without tender process to companies with conflict-of-interest political appointees on their Board of Directors. To keep funding the company, the DA Mayor moved the function of tourism under her office. She and others conspired to fraudulently backdate a Municipal Manager’s contract so as to try make another R4-million look legit. MEC Tourism Alan Winde is implicated. Winde’s seemingly allowed the maladministration and corruption to continue because the rumour is that many tourism offices under him in the Western Cape are being funded illegally too i.e. a crack of exposure can result in flood. Winde’s office denied my PAIA request into how other municipalities are funded but similar examples would be Bitou, Mossel Bay and Cape Town. The final figure in question will be hundreds of millions. This seriousness is compounded by the fact that the DA intends making Alan Winde the next Premier of the
Western Cape. Alone, that’s reason for concerned urgency.

2. IDPs are the required 5-year plans for municipalities. The ISDF was to be the 30-year plan for Knysna, allegedly the test case for the Western Cape. The first tender was illegally given to property developers who never won the tender and had the most conflict of interest. After much controversy and delay, DA MEC Local Government Anton Bredell green-lit the tender despite his own department and Treasury’s damning investigation which he kept hidden until it was revealed by another activist. On video, Bredell lied about it to the Provincial Legislature, saying that three investigations had cleared it when none had (watch video). That’s perjury. Bredell is caught up in several controversial situations involving Knysna. It’s unsurprising that he’s also the Chairperson for the Western Cape DA.

3. A Municipal Manager, Director Community Services and Communication’s Manager were illegally appointed. They joined a list of questionable municipal employees who provided loyalty to those working against the Public interest.

4. The Great Knysna Fire disaster was the result of a two-month old fire in the bush on the outskirts of Knysna. Despite repeated complaints from residents, it wasn’t attended to by the Knysna Fire Department. A strong wind enraged the fire and cut the town off from the country, destroying billions of rands of homes and infrastructure, and taking eight lives (which included two toddlers and an unborn, 8-month old child). Many more could’ve died. The Municipality inappropriately investigated itself and absolved itself of responsibility. That false report was backed by the DA. It was obvious to residents that it was a lie. That’s now supported by investigations from Afriforum and CSIR. Fire Chief Clinton Manuel threatened me before and after the fire [Update: he’s now training firefighters in Cape Town]. Premier Helen Zille and others failed to act on my complaints. Knysna Municipality is being sued for R480-million. The lies could make that increase to R3-billion. The DA’s marketing image would be severely tarnished which is likely why they haven’t stood on our side whilst claiming the opposite in the media.

5. Helen Zille is further implicated because, in 2016, I personally reported to her that two DA candidates were corrupt. I provided her a forensic report proving that one had been involved in fraud and graft. The other was involved in a sinister propaganda campaign against me, falsely labeling me with mental
disorder and as a child abuser. Zille allowed both to become councillors anyway. Considering this and more (such as two mayors issuing press releases against me), that propaganda campaign must have been sanctioned by the DA itself, trying to discredit me for exposing their crimes as the 2016 elections approached. Their campaign continued after the election whilst our town waited for NCOP to act. The propagandist councillor would repeatedly threaten my subscribers, including stating he would sue 200 of them for R60-million. He forgot that those are the citizens he was supposed to serve. Along with regular accomplices, he maintained nasty attack against me online. He went so far as to make a fraudulent psychiatric diagnosis of me as a sociopath that’s a danger to children… and submitted it as evidence on behalf of another DA member who was also involved in the propaganda campaign. The other candidate reported to Zille became a DA councillor appointed to the District, his wife appointed to Knysna under him. He would be promoted to the MAYCO after leaving rehab and having a warrant of arrest issued against him. The DA made deals that put crooks first and the Public last [Update: Zille became Knysna’s Constituency representative, then DA Federal Chair. The cover-up continues…]

6. The propaganda was part of the same attack that found me repeatedly taken to court. The goal was to intimidate me and break me, and to suppress information in the Public interest. I’ve had 27 actions against me, ranging from legal letter threats to an interdict, contempt of court and many abuses of the Protection from Harassment Act. The judgements are either not clarified or erase my evidence and mention of the DA from existence. Those threatening to sue me included Premier Helen Zille, MEC Alan Winde and MEC Anton Bredell.

7. SALGA, the South African Local Government Organisation, took the extraordinary step of appearing unannounced in the Knysna Council to state, contrary to standing law, that they would support the Municipality in suing me, a citizen, as a test case for South Africa. It’s unsurprising that the SALGA official was reportedly hugged by the Mayor and Speaker, and that the Speaker is currently on SALGA’s provincial committee. I pointed out to SALGA CEO Xolile George the corruption and intimidation they were supporting. His response was to threaten me directly, twice, via lawyers, one internal and the other hired from outside with Public monies.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, I repeat that the above is only sample of the corruption.
This corruption has been allowed to exist and grow because of corruption in the opposition parties and the ‘justice’ system. Simply stated, some have benefited from turning a blind eye whilst others have chosen a side in the war for control of our country i.e. DA vs ANC.

However, in my experience, there’s no DA or ANC at the top, only power versus the People – in this case, especially me. I’m hoping you make my observation hesitate.

Although I want you to be President first, ANC second, you’d still need to answer why the ANC has failed to use my evidence as its biggest political weapon against the DA, its supposed main opposition? I may not choose a side but realise that, without opposition powers, constitutional democracy becomes oligarchy marketed from different angles to different groups of South Africans.

But, at the bottom, where politicians make ideology and hate convenient, opposition is the route to power from whence they can be bought into becoming pretenders. That’s what happened in Knysna under DA rule.

THE ANC BECAME THE DA, THE DA THE ANC

Between 2011 and 2016, meaningful opposition by the ANC never existed. The DA had carte blanche to act against the citizenry it was supposed to serve. The ANC Chief Whip and his right-hand man had their studies paid illegally from Public funds. The DA never objected which suggests that the ANC was bought. There’s more to that story but for the sake of brevity I’ll move onward.

There’s truth in most of the ANC being more interested in winning internal wars and internal positions than becoming one identity. To an extent, that’s what happened in the Western Cape... but not now when your ‘Cyril Ramaphosa faction’ of the ANC has gained control.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, how do you explain your opposition representatives continuously refuse to act on the evidence I’ve provided them. I speak of the likes of Faiez Jacobs, brown-bagger Ebrahim Rasool, I-used-to-hide-in-Helen-Zille’s-cottage Cameron Dugmore, and showman, Richard Dyanti? Rasool has had it for 6 months, the rest for years. Either they’re (a) Career politicians hedging their bets (b) working for the DA or (c) there’s nationally no difference between the forces that secretly promote the DA and the Ramaphosa ANC.

My intention isn’t to provoke. I want your help. But I need to understand if
that’s possible. What kind of man are you, and does the version of the ANC you lead serve South Africa first?

Regards other intended protectors, it’s clearer who they serve – bias or themselves.

Knysna Municipality denied 28 of my 29 PAIAs (Promotion of Access to Information Act requests). The DA, City of Cape Town, Western Cape Government and Public Protector did so too.

My evidence clearly demands help yet there were those in Legal Aid and the Human Rights Commission who denied such in extremely suspicious manner.

The Chair of the Cape Bar supported a corrupt DA advocate, a propagandist and the ringleader in court cases against me.

The Magistrate’s Commission pretended they had no territorial responsibility regards the Knysna Magistrates’ Court which has been atrocious towards me, from refusing my affidavit and evidence to not allowing me in the court room (yet finding me guilty without reasonable explanation).

The credibility of the Western Cape Auditor General (AG) is tarred because of its awarding of repeated ‘clean audits’ to a dirty municipality which the DA used to wave as a defence against my allegations.

The Office of the Public Protector is the worst of all because they use to be my heroes in my world without heroes. They have gone to great lengths to block investigation. That may be linked to several of their staff, including one of their bosses, being hired to work in the Department of Premier Helen Zille.

THE ASSASSINATION

President Cyril Ramaphosa, three Knysna ANC councillors were targeted for assassination, allegedly by the DA’s coalition partner and the DA’s taxi driver who are currently being held prisoner.

‘Thankfully’ is an odd word to use but, thankfully, only Chief Whip Victor Malosi was killed.

If the suspects are proven to be guilty, I believe the killing was enabled by a sick political situation that began with the DA secretly funding an ANC man to run as an Independent councillor whom they formed coalition with. Separately, the same Councillor was found guilty for interfering in a tender and for
threatening a citizen. The disciplinary hearing and outcome were delayed for a year, until a different DA faction took control of the council, the new DA Mayor voted in by the ANC.

I believe that delay to be the same reason why the Municipal Manager initially failed to send the finding to MEC Bredell for approval, and why Bredell has been slow to act i.e. dismissal of the councillor results in a by-election which the DA will lose, ensuring that they have no chance of reinstalling the previous DA faction that helped maintain the DA’s cover-up of corruption. [Update: ANC won the by-election and Councillor Velile Waxa was jailed for murder.]

It’s unsurprising yet nevertheless disappointing that the assassination of Malosi, a well know ANC figure in the Western Cape, has been unimportant to the ANC at large. Selfish politics cheapens death.

Similarly, its unsurprising that Dan Plato, soon to be come the DA’s Mayor of Cape Town, was, last week, gracelessly electioneering in the dead councillor’s ward. [Update: Plato became Mayor, and also failed to act on my complaint against fireman Clinton Manuel.]

CURRENT SITUATION

The DA is so desperate to regain control of Knysna that they advertised and chose a new Mayor despite there being no position on the Council and the DA currently having a Mayor (who refuses to step down on their command because they refuse to address the evidence of corruption he’s provided them, and because he claims to be standing up for the anti-corruption values the DA claims to believe in).

I strongly believe the current mayor is a major hypocrite finding reason to hang onto power but its unfortunate and overwhelming fact that he’s a lesser devil than his predecessor and those sharpening their knives for his flesh. It’s also true that the DA Federal Executive and Legal Commission have refused to address the corruption, instead railroading the Mayor and his MAYCO colleague (also DA). Notably and separately, the MAYCO Councillor and the Knysna Municipality have opened cases with the Hawks against their colleagues and municipal officials. That’s well founded, based on two reports by Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Attorneys and De Swardt Vogel Myambo Attorneys, both well known firms. The latter report recommended criminal charges. [Update: The DA kicked out Mayor Willemse, and no one involved in the corruption was punished.]
There’s no need for me to detail my 8-year struggle and the long list of crimes I’ve fought. Your staff have the info. More importantly, I’ve positioned you to act swiftly towards justice.

My Love Knysna Petition lies chained in the dungeon of Parliament after three hearings in Committee and one appearance in the House. Three-and-a-half years has been too damned long. NCOP Chairperson Thandi Modise must explain the delays, why the important subject matter wasn’t treated with importance, why she generally refuses to communicate, and why, when she did, she lied to me.

Modise must allow update to the petition. Members of Parliament must be provided with a summary so that they clearly understand context and gravity. That update and summary must be approved by me as there have been gross mistakes in the past. Then the House of Parliament must vote on the final action. The sanity of evidence should make them grant my request for a Joint Task Team and the placing of Knysna under administration by National Government.

The Hawks opened an inquiry, CPT OC 19.07.2018, based on my allegations of corruption in Knysna Municipality, the Western Cape Government, and the DA. That includes allegations against MEC Alan Winde, MEC Anton Bredell, Premier Helen Zille, and the DA Federal Executive. The investigating officer met me in Knysna where he stated that the case requires a project team. Consequently, two analysts flew to meet me in Durban last month. Their goal is to decide which departments should handle what. They hope to finalise their report by the end of this month of October. That isn’t guaranteed as they’re short-staffed whilst our country’s crime is abundant. [Update – the Hawks whitewashed the complaint, recommending only a few items be investigated. The investigating officer never contacted me for a year, and then committed suicide].

BE PRESIDENTIAL

President Cyril Ramaphosa, I request you discover why the NCOP Chair is acting wrongly with regards the Love Knysna Petition. For further information, speak to NCOP Committee Petitions Chair Dumisani Ximbi or the Committee’s researcher, Dr. Mimmy Gondwe.

Support the Joint Task Team request. Make the Hawks part of it but not without discovering why two previous cases were buried by their colleagues in my
district. If they short-handed, add a member of the SIU.

Have Knysna placed under national administration. Charge MEC Bredell with perjury in the Provincial Parliament. Use both courses of action as foundation to investigate the Western Cape Government.

Have the heads of the Office of the Public Protector Human Rights Commission, Magistrates’ Commission, Cape Bar, Legal Aid, Western Cape Auditor General and SAPS explain their negative actions towards me, and their seeming lack of impartiality without which they should not be allowed in office. Ask the NPA to meet with me.

Find out why the Western Cape ANC has chosen the corruption of the DA over the province they’re supposed to serve.

Discover all actions undertaken by the Presidential Hotline and your political advisor Dr. Makhosi Khoza. In your office, ask Robert Ngobeni-Hlongwane why he stonewalled me for 6 months and have him name the MPs that met regards my complaint.

End the lip service. Prove that whistleblowers and activists fighting corruption are respected and protected. Keep me safe. Have my testimony recorded as soon as possible.

IS THEIR REASON TO HOPE IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Hope kept me going for years... but as 2018 ends, I’ve lost most of it.

I’m up against powerful political forces, narcissistic in self-service and sociopathically apathetic. Institutions that are supposed to exist in neutrality support them through bias.

I’ve rejected a DA bribe and offers by several ‘opposition’ parties to run for office. By not choosing a side in our divided country, I’ve been stripped of my citizen rights by those who use our Constitution as toilet paper, the Constitution you had hand in making.

The dark is winning...

Yesterday, just after midnight, a beautiful old dog gave a half sigh and half whimper, and with a soft but alarming doof, fell sideways next to my bed – into his vomit and emptying bladder. Hours later, he regained his legs but walked in a daze, sometimes stumbling, but getting up/falling down, getting up/falling
down, again and again, for most of the day. Not even a horrible tumble down a flight of stairs could prevent his determination. Only a bye-bye fondling of his ears and the vet’s silent needle did that.

I’m like that dog, not wanting to let go despite the facts of my activism telling me that’s the only logical option. Other times I’m Athol Fugard’s tsotsi, hoping for change instead of accepting that the wall of a dying South Africa will inevitably fall and crush me.

AGAIN, BE PRESIDENTIAL!

President Cyril Ramaphosa, it’s unacceptable that your office, like President Zuma’s before yours, neglected a whole province. The Western Cape is South Africa too.

If my message doesn’t make you want to be human or act as our President, then I’ve only dismal choices of final protest ahead of me. For my sake, I hope you’re the real deal who was simply unaware.

Take one of your famous walks with me. Then help me, a town, a province and our country.

Yours in the pursuit of justice and us being the best people we can be...

Mike Hampton”

* * * * * *

I followed up in December 2018 with, “My protest, as previously explained, will go ahead. I'm aware of how small I am, and how apathetic our world is. I'm aware I'll probably lose. But if you're not going to act in the Public interest, warning them against the corrupt, I must do what I can.”

* * * * * *

Although this book is going to boil me in trouble, I present it in the small hope it provides me safety too. Same Shit, Different Government is the first step in a protest wherein I don’t want to take the next step.

I don’t count on anyone because I don’t believe there are political parties, just power groupings shifting with selfish winds that blow far about us ants on earth. But I must keep hope.

This is an appeal for Cyril Ramaphosa to stand against corruption, to be our leader and my South African President.
DA East Region Manager Jaco Londt and DA Leader Mmusi Maimane posing with ex-Deputy Mayor Esme Edge (now known as Esme Jefferys). Londt and Maimane ignored my complaints. Edge was in High Court on 27 March 2019, asking that I be punished for breaking a gag order. She mentions this (then) forthcoming book. She’s requested that I be jailed.
Please Forgive Me

"The raisin at the end of the sausage."

- *Icelandic* saying

If you're looking for an excuse to look the other way, then this book is it. You can wave it at other people as your alibi. Forget that it's part of a series and accept it as a standalone of helplessness.

Your community and country don't need you. You are worthless. Keep your head down and dodge the shadows of Government. Accepting less and less is better than having nothing at all. You're no longer South African. You're simply scared.

For you, this book is over. No need to keep on reading because I'm only going to speak about unimportant things like the future.

* * * * * *

I've long had thoughts to deliver a book. but it wasn't a pleasant option considering the trouble it'd drop me in. Instead, I worked on court cases and evidence for various agencies. When those routes failed, I again faced the difficult decision whether to publish or not.

The outcome is simple. Either I get the President’s attention and baddies go to jail, or I fail and the baddies send me to jail.

There's reason why I've been called a “stubborn fucker” before. When I commit, I commit.

My intention was to spend December 2018 on research and January 2019 puking it into pages. However, intentions are as fickle as excretions are messy. Things got in the way in between. But I was encouraged to get the job done when the Private Office of the President (Ntombizoxolo Sanda), the Office of the Public Protector (Oupa Segalwe) and the Hawks (Colonel Piet Bergh) reminded me that the never-ending hole of government misdirection will make me fall forever, that there's no intention to punish the corruption of the Democratic Alliance.

There's this burning need in me for justice for others but, personally, I want to stop falling. I haven't figured out how to fly so this book is me standing or ending.

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Through haphazard flapping, I got the research done in thirty-three days and the writing in twenty-three. To do it and other things, I never left my accommodation for
over two months, working 80-90hrs per week. I ate less, shed weight, grew a beard, reddened my eyes, and destroyed my coccyx. But I washed my arse everyday so that the dogs wouldn't sniff me out.

* * * * * *

I wasn't starting from scratch as the related activism has been my life since 2010. I know my topic well. And it helped that I wrote a lot of isolated thoughts as they occurred, going to bed with a notepad beside me. I couldn't sleep lest I let those squealing animals out to play.

There were difficult days, my mind distracting through the humidity of Durban summer and pesky insects. But halfway through it got easier. I became awake as more thoughts funnelled into one highway where road signs counted down the kilometres to a place called 'Same Shit'. Then it physically took me to another place.

Job almost done, I went to Swakopmund, in Namibia, so that I could advertise the book online without getting myself arrested. My fear became prophetic. In fact, I'm supposed to be to be in High Court in Cape Town in two days days time. Ex-Deputy Mayor Esme Edge (now Esme Jefferys) has requested I be jailed for contravening a court order preventing me mentioning her and her life partner, Advocate Julie Seton... and, obviously, their corruption.

The DA is trying to stop this book. They're not accepting that I'm all in, that intimidation and cover-up aren't options any more.

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I'm exhausted but I got this, the first book done.

That sense of achievement against the odds is tempered by the fact that with more time I could've delivered you something better, said much more, and maybe found mistakes I'm not seeing when rereading at 4am. But I'm playing safe. Time doesn't feel like it's on my side. Money will run out and then I'm screwed. I must hope that the impending election madness gives impetus to this message which is the manifestation of my cause to help my old town, protect myself and bring crooks to justice.

Then I must hope that enough people buy this book to pay my costs whilst I write the sequel, 'Book 2: The Devil, The Deaf & The Dead'. It's a matter of survival. I must get to tell you how so many Government branches and Chapter 9 organisations protected the DA's corruption. [Update: I gave the book away for free.]
My life was hell, Knysna burnt and Victor Molosi got assassinated.

I swear you'll get whiplash from the amount of times the DA and their cronies took me to Court. With extreme wickedness, SALGA (the South African Local Government Organisation), wanted to make me a test case for Local Government to sue a citizen. Realise the implications of that for our country! I want the heads of those bastard bosses to roll at the feet of our pretend democracy. Let those who eat cake eat dirt instead.

Even Helen Zille threatened to sue me. I'll dig into her, the DA Failureship, and the mockery that the other parties are. You cannot trust any of them. From the Freedom Front Plus and the African Christian Democratic Party to the Economic Freedom Fighters and Congress of the People – all lies.

There is no one to turn to for help.

Legal Aid, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Cape Bar Association, the Magistrates' Commission and NGO's like Corruption Watch - all lies.

Parliament – three hearings, no conclusion, many lies.

The Media – THE BIGGEST LIE.

Incompetency and corruption have infected South African. We're broken.

But maybe if more of us write and speak about it, we can start a conversation towards fixing our future.

* * * * * *

A virgin getting laid isn't a prostitute anymore than me writing one book makes me an author. Maybe I'll change that with another one but this, right now, is a product of my activism. This is protest. The goal is to make a difference!

I'm hoping you consider me to be a responsible citizen and that I don't belong in jail. I've tried hard to accomplish my mission but haven't succeeded yet. I need your help to get to the finish line or, at the least, an answer (whether I like it or not).

Because you chose to carry on reading makes this only the beginning. Walk with me. I don't know how long that rollercoaster will be, how it will twist and somersault, but you can always jump off. As Bill Hicks said, it's just a ride...

Mike Hampton

Midday, 25 March 2019, after eating a meat pie with gravy, and before drinking a Windhoek Draught at the wonderful Village Café in Swakopmund – it's done :)}
Will You Help Me?

"Hope has a cost. Hope is not comfortable or easy. Hope requires personal risk. It is not about the right attitude. Hope is not about peace of mind. Hope is action. Hope is doing something. The more futile, the more useless, the more irrelevant and incomprehensible an act of rebellion is, the vaster and more potent hope becomes. Hope never makes sense. Hope is weak, unorganized and absurd. Hope, which is always non-violent, exposes in its powerlessness, the lies, fraud and coercion employed by the state. Hope knows that an injustice visited on our neighbor is an injustice visited on all of us. Hope posits that people are drawn to the good by the good. This is the secret of hope's power. Hope demands for others what we demand for ourselves. Hope does not separate us from them. Hope sees in our enemy our own face."

- Chris Hedges

Apathy is sympathy for the Devil.

The world's a stage and most of the people prancing upon it are actors, empty shells of living that haven't realized that opinion is proportionate to knowledge, and belief proportionate to action.

Hate, stupidity and distraction are South Africa's favourite entertainment channels. How do we get community empathy and civil rights to compete? I can't answer that. I've been banking my head against the hard door of our country for so damn long I've got a permanent headache, the kind that shakes your teeth before exploding snot out your ears. If that's happened to you, you're the cool person I want to know.

* * * * *

I'd already pissed off the 'sensibilities' of hundreds before they opened the first page of this book. The DA subtitle would have taken care of that. Some bias is the insurmountable kind. But I've got to hope cause without it there's no reason to stand on the right side of a cliff. Besides, I have the comfort of you having read this far.

If we want change, we must grasp for it with both hands. We must also be willing to ask for help when we need it.

"WILL YOU HELP ME?"

Ok, now we're down to a more manageable crowd. I don't have to shout anymore.

* * * * *

The easiest way to help is by subscribing to my page, sharing links and urls, getting yourself and others educated. Awareness is hopefully protection for me, hopefully gets the attention of the President. At the least, the sales from the book will enable me to write the more important sequel.
Send a simple email addressed to President Cyril Ramaphosa. Tick for a Read Receipt.

You can refer to the book, and the failures by the Office of the Presidency and the Director of the Presidential Hotline to address the corruption I've reported. It can be added that the National Council of Provinces has failed, for five years, to conclude related proceedings, the Love Knysna Petition.

President of South Africa - PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za

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Now it gets harder for DA fans whom I'm asking to step outside their comfort zone.

There will always be die-hard political supporters on all sides that couldn't be persuaded of the truth if a library of evidence dropped on their head. Some people are gang members for life. Some are bound to troll me. But if you're a good South African worried by what I've shared with you, know that the DA doesn't have to be destroyed, just fixed - we need opposition parties.

Long ago, I uselessly asked people to repair the DA from the inside. Hopefully, I'm reaching a wider audience and that's worth a shot again. Tell the DA you want to keep voting for them but want answers and their strong commitment to action.

Contact their leaders. I suggest sending separate emails, ensuring you request an automatic read receipt. If no reply, follow up politely weekly, each time ticking for receipt. They may turn that auto response feature off, as they've done for me, but it's worth trying.

- DA Leader – leader@da.org.za
- DA Federal Executive Chairperson – fedexchair@da.org.za

SUBSCRIBE
About Me

I love South Africa, but I agree with Albert Einstein that nationalism is like measles.

Consequently, I'm not going to con a description appropriate to the theme of this book, something serious and respectable.

I'm just a stubborn citizen with some smarts who got pissed off at corruption. I could be you. But to tell you about you would be weird. Instead, let's make this about the less-overweight dude with a strangely shaped head called Me.

I'm argumentative and opinionated. I sometimes talk too much in company, maybe because I've got to set my spinning head free after spending the majority of time alone. That's probably what I'm doing now, talking to you. Or maybe it's me being kind to my enemies, giving them better reason to call me narcissistic. A print editor would be horrified but this selfish ending.

I'm not standing on a pedestal with my activism. I'm not perfect or trying to be a hero. There are things I wish I'd done differently. I'm like everyone else. We have warts. The difference between people is whether they cover them with make-up, wear them proudly or with indifference, or burn those fuckers off. I want to do enough to be comfortable in myself. It was a long journey that began when I was twelve-years-old. I'm fourty-seven and almost there.

Chronologically, I've been nicknamed Mickey Mouse (by my sister), Negative Mike (by my Grade 8 religious education teacher who never wore panties), Half Man Half Head (by a friend, now dead, who liked the band Half Man Half Biscuit), Peace (by music fiends Shovel, Hobbit, Bhaal and Orange), Conehead (by several), and Fat Fuck (conveniently by a mate whose fatter than me). But it was Wicked Mike that stuck, after I was strangely named that twice by different crowds, years apart. And my enemies like the way it drools off their lips. It's a winner all round.

I was never who or where I wanted to be so it's unsurprising, I've never had a career.

1989. Notable for my late rebellion against my parents and my final year at Queensburgh Boys' High School. For my History class (and sexy teacher), I did my main project on Apartheid. I cannot confirm it as truth but after the school gained special permission, I was told it was a first for the provincial education department. IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi sent me a letter of encouragement and opened the door to the Inkatha Research Institute. There I briefly met Gavin Woods. He'd later go on to heroically fight against the Arms Deal, the ANC's first great corruption scandal.
There was no way I was doing National Service, the obligatory service in the military that turned white teenagers into black oppressors and sometimes killers. The way out was to study or hide. I seriously considered running to the IFP but chose to study journalism. It was unbelievably good timing for short but invaluable experiences.

After only five months at Natal Technikon, I dropped out. I was only seventeen at the start of that year, kicked out of home and having to lie about my age to get an unfurnished flat. Money quickly vanished. I was offered a study bursary but wouldn't have been able to cover rent and food.

Finances weren't the only factor for dropping out. I was disturbed at how the news I was reading wasn't always real. For example, when an AK-47 was used in a robbery on the Durban beach front, it was dumbed down to a handgun. The ruling National Party was likely managing perception but for me it was a betrayal of what journalism was supposed to be. I was nagged by the thought I'd study to tell the truth and then be unable too.

I was also disappointed at my multi-racial class which I'd been initially been so proud to be part of. If I recall correctly, we were a test case for Natal. I was proud to be part of change in search of South Africa's soul but dampened by moments of distinct discomfort. The worst was when one of my fellow black students suddenly stood up and screamed at length and with vicious passion that he supported the PAC, and that all white people needing killing. The guy who'd I'd joked with everyday was convinced I must die for colour. My idealism, from the uneducated comfort zone of being a lower middle-class white, was shaken. I should have considered that maybe he had reason to be traumatised. I should have spoken to him. But I was too young to deal with it properly.

On the big plus side, the ANC, Black Sash and others got unbanned the first month I was there. Most of my teachers had secretly belonged to them. They were so happy. And it can never be forgotten that Nelson Mandela was released the same time. And somewhere in all that I got to secretly meet an impressive Terror Lekota (who, in modern times, unfortunately has no one answering my emails).

Suddenly I had choice rather than reaction. I did exactly what had terrified me the previous year - I volunteered for the South African Defence Force. En route, a favour from a friend's dad got me allocated to the Airforce.

I wasn't like the other cadets. After finishing basic training and another course in Pretoria, I traded the promise of a crate of beers to get myself back to Durban. I
joined 15 Squadron, the helicopter base.

I won a battle with the sadistic Captain in charge of security to which most of the troops belonged. The commander of the base transferred me from Base Ops, where we monitored flights and debriefed pilots, to the Combined Mess where I was put in charge of the accommodation and associated buildings. Despite having no rank, I filled a Flight Sergeant's post. They saved money, I got perks. I had a broom closet office and staff. More importantly, I got to be one of only two national servicemen to use the NCO’s bar. I could organise better food. And I 'bought' a lot of goodwill through my weekly trip to choose movies for my fellow inmates, or by replacing the sheets of the trainee male pilots who’d smuggle girlfriends into the base.

But I still seemed to hate it more than anyone else. Stupid authority didn’t fit well on me. Nevertheless, the Airforce gave me a roof over my head, cheep beer, my choice of steak twice a month, and illegal trips to the gloriously dingy Monk's Inn music bar in Brickhill Road. I will always remember the shock of bumping into Flight Sergeant Blackie who was drinking a beer there. We were AWOL and in uniform, reasons to be arrested, but Blackie just gave us a nod of understanding and we had a good evening.

I also received lessons in *How to be Less of a Child and More of an Adult*, and *Power in the Wrong Hands Should Be Feared*. For the first time, I willingly wrote a poem... about dictators. Maybe I was an obnoxious crusader in waiting.

Learning is endless but later political activism and the excruciating loss of love would teach me most of the rest I know now.

My intended career in the horse racing industry vanished when it became one of the first to unofficially practice black affirmative action. Being a white male was no longer a cool thing to be in South Africa. I had a host of smaller jobs before and after which ranged from being a bookie and waitron to working for the local elections and being a warehouse stock controller. Out of hundreds of applications, I was picked for training as a Customs Officer at the harbour but was so bored I quit after one day. Rowan Atkinson will be pleased that I worked only half a day at a bank – I remember the chilli hotdog in my hand when I phoned them at lunchtime to say I was never coming back.

My largest responsibility was for two years as a liaison to seventy-two sales offices in South Africa which I visited monthly. I witnessed the beauty of all our provinces as I passed on helpful info to managers, assessed complaints, caught stock thieves, and closed offices. Those trips extended to Namibia, Uganda, Egypt, Kenya, Swaziland and
Lesotho. The travel and corruption were a brain-opening experience.

Theft sank that company but not before I ate goat in Kampala, Indian curry in Nairobi, and all colours of Mediterranean fish in Alexandria. I've visited the toilet from 'Trainspotting' in a train trip across the desert to where an army General's car fetched me with flashing sirens. I've felt the absolute joy and pride of a Moslem woman's eyes in a remote chauvinistic village when I complimented her coffee which she'd made special for me after having read in a magazine that Europeans filtered it. I hired a prostitute to talk to me so that hordes of her colleagues would stop bugging me long enough for me to drink a beer in the middle of darkest Africa whilst the bar played Black Sabbath and other classics. I stood on the blackened site of a club that had been bombed the night before.

I sought an alternative life for almost a decade in Durban's miniature music scene. I was an event organizer, band promoter, booking agent, DJ and CD compiler. I was always poor, almost always frustrated. No hope and ambition could conquer the fact that radio doesn't meaningfully support local English bands, and that local artists are crushed by multi-million advertising packages for overseas artists. Most of the bands I loved disbanded. It was good that I left, people becoming nasty over the little bits there were, but its like some of my blood is missing, that my veins are thinner than they ought to be. Despite the rollercoaster of fun and anger, The Winston Pub and Burn Night Club will always warm my memory. Oh, what I'd give to see pretty Alternate and Goth girls dancing again.

My activism has deprived me of a lot of joy as a music and movie lover. I haven't had a game of pool with a buddy in ages. But I'm trying to find balance, lose weight (19kg so far) and repeat simple pleasures.

My ears appreciate many voices from classic pop to hip-hop but only seek the best of the best (which is rarely on radio so I don't listen there unless its to a political, social or crime podcast). Thank Charles Darwin for the internet! Although my taste is wide, I get the kinkiest kicks out of indie, rock and metal. Non-fiction audio books rock like hell too – they and Radiolab are my early morning walking edutainment. Everyone should make that joy into a way of life.

I'm a massive movie lover for a motley crew. Foreign movies (non-English) present a different kind of happiness as their smaller budgets insist on stronger, more realistic characters. You'd likely have a different view of Asia, the Middle East, Russia and South America if you watched their movies. You'd discover that Belgium, Korea and
Iceland exist. The screen is a wonderful way to visit a world of cultures glued together by common needs and emotions.

Movies and music probably mean more to me because of my empathy. That's held hands with Depression since childhood. I use present tense because depression is like drug addiction, always spying on the better version of you.

The loss of women I loved hurt me awfully, removing most of my quality of life for a seemingly endless period. I know what it's like to crawl on a dirty pavement and draw pictures with my blood on a hospital floor. It took me a long time to realise that my life was more my fault than sex betrayals.

Of course, I've tried drugs, like any normal person, but I've never swallowed a shrink or pretend-to-be-happy pills for that great darkness. There's beauty in depression if you embrace it; make it friends instead of the enemy. It removed society's filters and opened my mind to the real world. It gave me insight which I tried to write about. It made music sound better. I gloriously appreciated smaller things.

After the epiphanies, there was less need for depression. Action became a stabiliser. Helping others helped me. I may fear that Knysna, my greatest lover, will be the death of me, but she was also the best time of my life. I found more self-acceptance there than anywhere else. I'm the happiest I've ever been. Maybe I've achieved that rare thing secularists call 'spiritual growth'. Or political stress and fear is argument for making life into the best distraction it can be. I've debated that with a philosopher - screw the search for the meaning of life, distraction is the meaning.

I'm asthmatic so dairy is minimal in my diet. I was a cowardly vegetarian for one year and a determined vegan for four years. The last woman I loved asked me what rule I'd break for her, so we drank an immoral milkshake and ate tortured meat. My health improved. Consequently, nowadays, I accept that I need certain vitamins from meat but only allow myself it twice per week. Whilst I wrote this book, I cut down to a solitary meal but overate the last couple of weeks whilst sitting in restaurants and coffee shops. The intelligence of pigs makes me feel most guilty so I wouldn't put them in my mouth any more than I'd chew a puppy. That hasn't stopped me missing bacon and eggs but the temptation to kill them has vanished.

The world would be a much better place if we practised moderation in several areas of our lives; enjoy food but don't get fat; exercise but not obsessively; enjoy beer without vomiting or losing memory; watch series like 'Trapped' but skip the obsession with dumb-us-down soapis and sport; be regularly kind but not a sucker; obey the
rules but not those that don't make sense (Government is suppose to help us, not rule us).

I've been abstinent for many years. Activism has been my girlfriend. I should get back to sex before I'm dead (because it'd be totally bad for you to have sex with me then).

As you've probably noticed, I like quotes - thought history repeated forever.

It was immensely painful to leave Knysna. I was unable to imagine anything else before I did so. I consider myself in exile. I have no social life in Durban, and deliberately didn't made friends the past year and a half. I've remained focused on my fight for justice for Knysna. But absence eventually delivers the appreciation of new views and people. So long as it isn't jail, I'll find something to appreciate wherever I'm next... but I'm hoping President Ramaphosa takes one of his famous walks with me... in Knysna and Durban cause walking twice makes you fitter than once, for that fight against corruption.

* * * * *

You're supercalifragilisticexpialidocious for reading my book. But if you're a lawyer looking for evidence against me, you're the same shit in the same government. You can't work for the corrupt without being corrupt. See my middle fingers.

You either love South Africa or you don't. Doing something is loving.