Wishing You a very Safe & Prosperous 2014
Dear Friends,

It is a proud moment for me once again to bring out new issue of ‘GDA Calling’. We continue with the added zest in our business endeavor with great many successes to our credit even in these trying times. Our Company has crossed several milestones of success during its journey to reach a level of professionalism that has set a standard in the field of Security Services & Private Investigation.

I congratulate our editorial team for bringing out the fresh issue of ‘GDA CALLING’ which will have contributions from all the 20 regional branches and units of the Globe Detective Agency.

I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous 2014.

Regards,

Vivek Kumar
Editor-in-chief
Dear Readers,

We are very happy to once again bring out GDA Calling to your desks after a gap of about a year. I have the privilege and honour to be its Chief Editor. GDA calling is an all encompassing attempt to bring together contributions from all our branches across India as well as an attempt to mix work with pleasure. GDA Calling has had a very long history and it will be my earnest endeavor to publish some interesting case studies from the annals of its predecessor for your reading pleasure.

I will also take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy and Prosperous 2014. May this New Year bring happiness, prosperity and peace to one and all.

With Best Wises and Happy Reading,

Lt. Col. M.P. Habeebulla (Veteran)
Chief Editor.
Those who have followed the career of the ebullient lawyer Perry Mason must know the real story. It was largely due to the investigating prowess of Paul Drake and his boys that Perry converted hopeless cases into grandstand successes. Without the sleuths coming to his aid Perry would never have returned from his ‘wild goose chases’.

That was in the US and in fiction though Erle Stanley Gardner, the creator of Perry Mason, was himself a crack defense attorney and founder of a legal-aid clinic that fought for those accused of major crimes.

Closer to home and to real life, private detectives have been helping lawyers in many ways. Those who are aware of this cooperation between the two, know of the benefits to litigants in civil cases and defendants in criminal cases being tried under the pall of overwhelming circumstantial evidence.

To understand the utility of private detectives to lawyers it is essential to be acquainted with the operation of legal system in India and the duties and responsibilities of the law enforcement agencies. As a general rule the burden of proving its contentions-both in criminal cases and civil suits- rests on the prosecution. And, as a corollary it devolves on the defense to refute the contentions of the prosecution.

In civil litigations, the petitioner claiming remedies or redressal under law has to produce unimpeachable evidence to sustain his claim. Right from the institution of a suit pertaining to among others, tortuous liabilities, defamation, recovery of moneys, trade mark infringements, remedies under various family acts, the burden rests on the petitioner to produce evidence that would convince the court to give a favourable verdict.

Nobody would argue with this duty on the petitioner for it is based on sound principles of Justice. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872, Part III Chapter VII clearly outlines the duties of litigating parties. Section 101 to 112, the two most relevant sections, deal with burden of proof.

Section 101: Whoever desires any Court to give judgment as to any legal right or liability dependent on the existence of facts which he asserts, must prove that those facts exist;

Section 103: The burden of proof as to any particular fact lies on that person who wishes the Court to believe in its existence, unless it is provided by any law that the proof of the fact shall lie on particular person.

Judging from court rulings it is redundant to add that the courts want absolutely real facts for evidence, preferably in black and white. Oral contentions hardly suffice and the judicial order ‘Petition fails on technical grounds’ coldly states the inability of the petitioner to provide crucial evidence.

Inaccessible Evidence: WHY SO? For the simple reason that the petitioner has no access to an investigating agency to collect evidence germane to his case. He cannot approach government agencies like the police to help him because the police itself is busy in looking after routine law and order problems and investigating criminal cases. Moreover, police cannot be expected to keep a track of people’s activities for a long period so that the aggrieved party-no matter how just is his claim, can seek justice.

Though data is not available, a casual chat with any lawyer reveals the starting fact that they have either lost many righteous cases or refused to fight others because they know getting the right type of evidence necessary for winning the case was difficult to obtain. Mark the words: difficult to obtain and not non-existent.

The petitioner knows, and the lawyers know, too, that the evidence that can prove decisive in the case exists but they both do not know how or where to find it. None of them either has the time or the expertise to collect the material, be it documents, photographs, recordings or even finding the eyewitness that could clinch the case for them.

That is not all. At times, despite all the provisions in the statute books for redressal to an injured party, action cannot be instituted for want of basic evidence.

Detectives come to rescue: Just how can the private detectives break this impasse and help lawyers and the aggrieved petitioner. Two examples are sufficient to show how they can fill the great void existing as far as collection of evidence is concerned.
Under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act remedies are provided if a clear case of adultery is built up by the affected spouse. Now, divorce is no longer considered to be a pervert social action but has come to be recognized as the best remedy to put an end to an incompatible relationship.

For, it stands to reason that adultery constitutes the very negation of the institution of marriage, hence its inclusion as a ground for divorce in Section 13 of the Act. The betrayed party can approach the lawyer who in turn can call in private detectives to get the necessary proof.

Consider another example: Remedy under many statutes can accrue to a petitioner only if he proves his contention beyond any doubt right from the initial stages. For instance, under Trade and Merchandise Marks Act the magistrate grants an order for search and seizure to the police only if the applicant has concrete evidence that his trade mark is being infringed by unscrupulous people marketing sub-standard goods bearing his trade mark. Here, again the petitioner is stumped right from the beginning for his quest to get justice because the regular law enforcement agencies cannot come to his rescue.

**Impossible task:** And understandably so, one cannot expect the police to carry a nation-wide survey of lakhs of goods manufactured and marketed under registered trade marks. Moreover, infringement of trade mark though a serious offence that can even play havoc with the lives of innocent consumers, is not a cognizable offence.

Private detectives can bridge this gap. As a matter of fact Globe Detective Agency has carried out hundreds of market surveys to locate the culprits indulging in manufacture, storing and distribution of spurious goods and helped lawyers win cases for the aggrieved manufacturers. In many civil cases there comes a stage where the word of the respondent is pitted against that of the petitioner. The crucial point at this stage is to prove who is lying and why. In a case that Globe Detective Agency handled some time back a senior Central Government official was accused in a suit for recovery of several thousand rupees. The official was innocent and his lawyer was convinced of this fact.

In a case that Globe Detective Agency handled some time back a senior Central Government official was accused in a suit for recovery of several thousand rupees. The official was innocent and his lawyer was convinced of this fact. He approached GLOBE and the investigators checked up the antecedents and activities of the petitioner. It was found that he was not only a smuggler but a reknowned cheat in erstwhile East Pakistan. On the strength of the investigators’ testimony the case was dismissed. The burden of proof about his innocence was clearly on the defendant. Without the aid of the private detectives the accused would surely have been convicted of the crime he never committed. An instance where justice was not perverted despite overwhelming circumstantial evidence to the contrary.

So much for civil litigation. In criminal cases the situation offers wider utilization of private detectives’ services. The crimes are cognizable. Under statutory provisions, it is the duty of the prosecution (State) to collect, collate and present the evidence against the accused. But time and again, and this is a point that will get nods from jurists, lawyers and students of criminology, circumstantial evidence is so monumental that innocent persons are convicted. Of course, the accused gets a benefit of doubt if the prosecution cannot prove its case beyond the shadow of doubt.

But the fact remains and Erle Stanley Gardner was one of the many who after becoming convinced of the innocence of the accused in criminal cases, hired private detectives to investigate the cases thoroughly. The fact they got off many accused free justifies the contention that the accused should have access to some kind of collateral investigating agency so that he doesn’t bear the stigma of being set free because of lack of evidence or worse getting a long prison term. This might sound running counter to the principles of justice that the accused need not prove his innocence, but the state has to prove that he is guilty in criminal cases. Certainly not. For, during the investigation by private detectives facts might turn up that would point an accusing finger at some one else-the real criminal.

Or at times it might help the police itself in apprehending criminals. Yes, private detectives have helped even the public prosecutor. Like detectives of the GLOBE did. Some years back while carrying out investigations they stumbled on facts that showed a group of people were smuggling goods into India and were selling them by using the trade mark of an established manufacturer. The State was successful in convicting them on the evidence collected by GLOBE and Police.
In the ever-changing world of Private Security Guarding Services, the Agencies’ roles and responsibilities are quickly adapting to a heightened security environment. Security Service providers are turning to advanced training – in everything from the latest high-tech CCTV system to Celebrity Management Services – in order for their officers to be ready for whatever corporate and private security assignments come their way. In the aftermath of the 26-11 attacks on Mumbai, many companies and individuals undertook risk analysis and vulnerability assessments and then updated their security plans in reaction to that event.

Companies / High Net worth Individuals are being more vigilant about performing criminal screening and comprehensive background checks on prospective employees. They also recognize the value of highly trained Security Staff to protect accessibility, control points, their families and assets. Security Service Providers now have a better appreciation for the value that comprehensive security provides. The Celebrities and High Net worth Individuals now have a realization that effective security requires a partnership between Client and Private Security organizations, to meet the challenges and provide the Security Solutions sought for. Many Celebrity Management Companies are calling on the services of companies such as GLOBE to design and implement emergency preparedness plans. As the rulemaking process evolves, GLOBE is continuing to work with our clients to assist them in recognizing, understanding and addressing security requirements. We assist them in developing security programs, which will address existing all parameters required from time to time. GLOBE Security team has years of experience providing reliable protection for all kinds of people in the spotlight, which includes more than just Bodyguard Services but a comprehensive VIP Protection Plan.

- Famous Entertainers & Celebrities
- News Correspondents
- Cricketers & Eminent Sports Personalities
- Senior Corporate Heads

GLOBE provides more than celebrity bodyguard services. Our belief is that the best VIP protection security is based on advance preparations and planning, timely information, liaison with local authorities, and the use of highly trained professionals. We’ve found that most celebrities do not like the “mob” effect of protection that seeks to smother or cover the protected person with a physical presence. Good protective work is seldom seen but always present, its more about doing the homework on venue risk, transportation routes, itinerary integrity, and is not easily flustered due to changes. We also take into account the style and specific needs of the person we’re protecting. For more than 40 years, GLOBE’s highly skilled and trained team have provided protection for Corporate Leaders and their workforce, famous Entertainers, Sports personalities, Royal families and Diplomats. Our services range from providing one-time protections program to developing long-term comprehensive personal protection service programs. From Corporate Executives to Politicians to Entertainment giants, GLOBE has been a go-to resource for providing Security Drivers. Our team of Security Drivers possesses the necessary skills to transport VIPs safely to their destinations.

**GLOBE’s Security Drivers can:**
- Coordinate with clients’ Executive Team on a daily basis for travel security planning.
- Perform security advances of all local venues to be visited, including: routes to be traveled; airports; businesses; residences; and hotels.
- Identify and coordinate with emergency services, including police, fire, ambulance services and hospitals.
- Review intelligence briefing material for relevant information.
- Provide counter surveillance for executives (principals) and other ancillary personnel during operations and when manpower allows.

GLOBE’S armed or unarmed Security Escorts coordinate with law enforcement on a local level so that the Celebrity can travel securely with the GLOBE team and Escort Vehicles. We can design travel & route mapping to accommodate any special needs that may be required such as:

- Famous Entertainers & Celebrities
- News Correspondents
- Cricketers & Eminent Sports Personalities
- Senior Corporate Heads
Our National network of Branches and Offices allows us to access and utilize local talent, wherever the clients travel takes them. Our Local expertise provides significant benefits:

- Indigenous employees ("Locals") know the language, customs, regulations, and lay of the land.
- Concierge Services: Our team knows where to stay, where to eat, and where to visit (safely and securely).
- Familiarity with local laws, customs, and the judicial system.
- Faster response and appropriate reaction to a challenge or threat.
- Intimate knowledge of the local “hot spots” and which areas to avoid and why.
- Availability of up-to-the-minute “real-time” crime statistics.

GLOBE understands the requirements of modern times and have coupled our Celebrity Protection Programs in line with the requirements of Clients in this Era. Celebrity Protection Officers are often referred to as “Bodyguards” but the modern day Close Protection officer needs to be more than just the old fashioned “Bodyguard”. Executives and Media personalities no longer accept the stereotypical untrained “Giant” when it comes to personal safety, requiring their personal security operatives to be educated, well mannered, intelligent and able to discreetly deal with any situation should it arise.

Some Celebrities and Events Managed by Globe in the recent times:
- Two Visits to India by the Sabic Industries Chairman His Highness Prince Saud bin Abdullah bin Thunayan Al-Saud
- The Indian Cricket team over last 5 years during various International Matches.
- Bollywood Star Aishwarya Rai on two Occasions during a Jewelry Showroom Inauguration
- Bollywood Star, Hrithik Roshan during his visit to Gujarat.
- Various Players from the Indian Cricket team
- Maa Shakti Navratri Fesitival (recorded in the Limca Book of world records for the maximum dancers in a single event)
Gautam Kumar, Assistant Vice-President of Globe Detective Agency Pvt. Ltd. joined the Company in 2011. He is the third generation of the Promoter family and the first of his lot to have joined the business. Gautam graduated from Jai Hind College in Mumbai in 2009 and then went on to work in the Finance industry for a few years. During his stint in Finance, he had the opportunity to work with a number of large multinational corporations and obtained great exposure, making the experience invaluable.

Subsequently, in 2011, Gautam joined the family business and underwent an intense training program for over 7 months in Security and Investigation at our Baroda, Ahmedabad and Delhi offices. Upon completion, he was handed over the charge of our Mumbai and Pune offices. Although he has always had a broad range of interests, Gautam was drawn to the business of Investigation because of it’s a very exciting environment with lots of demands and challenges. But the thing that excites him the most about the business of Investigation is the way in which we directly and indirectly affect the lives of so many people.

One of Gautam’s biggest strengths is his strong communication skills, not only with his Clients but even with his own staff and teammates. Good communication along with an analytical mind has helped Gautam successfully handle over 200 Investigation cases from across the globe in a short span of 2 years. With difficult times ahead, the Management continues to have faith and trust in his ability to achieve better results and play a significant role in taking the Company to new heights.

The Management wishes him all the luck and success in the years ahead.

“Why would you say that?” the detective asked.

“Because everything was on sale today,” the woman explained.

Jokes A-Part
A tourist asks a man in uniform, “Are you a policeman?”

“No, I am an undercover detective.”

“So why are you in uniform?”

“Today is my day off.”

Quizeria
Q: What do you call a detective who solves crimes entirely by accident?

A: Sheer Luck Holmes
AGM of Council of International Investigators (CII) at Ireland
From Left to Right - Brian King, Mansoor Goolam, Jene Signist, Edward Signist, Sachit Kumar, John Sexton, Puneet Kumar

Mr. Sachit Kumar with Mr. Enda Kenny, Prime Minister of Republic of Ireland
Taking the Solemn Pledge….

Kudos to Mr. Sachit Kumar on being appointed as Director of Council of International Investigators - CII

GDA’s Annual Conference held at Chennai from 30th Nov to 1st Dec 2013
Our brave heart participants in Ceremonial March Past conducted at Shree Ramco Cements Limited on August 15th, 2013 at Madurai

Chief Guest, VP-Shree Ramco Cements Limited being escorted to the parade ground by our brave hearts
GLOBE/Delhi - June 1967

Tiger parked his motorcycle outside the office and rushed into the cooler confines. He latchkeyed his cabin, twiddled the knob of the fan's regulator to six and plumped down in his chair.

As the cool air played on his face he sighed contentedly. Outside the June sun was glowering mercilessly. He was still a little irritated on account of roaming the streets in the sweltering heat when the telephone buzzed.

'Yup,' he growled and listened. 'All right, put in on.'

'Chief Investigating Officer this side,' he said as the connection came through. 'What can we do for you?'

'Say, listen.' a heavily accented typically American voice came over the wires. 'How much do you charge for delivering a letter?'

'Sorry gentleman, we don't handle this kind of business and……..''Tiger could not finish.

Look I'm in a hurry,' the caller cut in. 'I've gotta run. My plane is moving in a couple seconds. Tell me quick what's the figure like?'

Some crank, Tiger thought. And then to put him off he said, 'Two hundred bucks.'

'Fine,' the American said. 'We'll do business alright.' And the line went dead.

Tiger put down the receiver half-annoyed and half-puzzled. In this business you get nuts every now and then, he amused as he made his way to Captain Kumar's room.

A biggish manila envelope arrived two days later. It bore a Calcutta post office stamp. Captain opened and scooped out the contents. He was surprised to find twenty ten-rupee postal orders in it and a sealed white envelope. Tiger sitting across the Captain watched him curiously.

Captain unfolded the letter that was addressed to GLOBE and started reading it aloud for the benefit of Tiger.

'Dear Sir, as per our agreement I am enclosing 200 rupees worth of postal orders for delivering the enclosed letter to a girl who frequents the swimming pool of Ashoka Hotel daily. I don't know her name but you won't have any difficulty finding her……'

'Aw, chief,' Tiger interrupted, 'What does the guy want? All girls are that way.'

'But if you picture the girl as per his description she seems to be Cleopatra and Sheba rolled into one with a dash of all that's best in Raquel Welch. Well anyway, Captain glanced at the bottom of the letter. 'Robert E. Samuelson, Jr. wants us to deliver this sealed envelope to her.'
’Has he mentioned why he wants this envelope to reach her? I mean, has he clarified there must be some reason. What I don’t understand is why he did not address the letter to her directly or care of Ashoka Hotel?

You could detect chariness in Tiger’s time. May be he smelt something.

’Tiger,’ Captain said after reading these neatly written pages in the white sealed envelope. Here is something you would tell your grand children with glee. Bob’s fallen in love at first sight with this girl, whoever she is. He wants to marry her and take her to America.’

Are there no girls in America? Captain, I think there’s something fishy.’

’Listen man,’ Captain cut him. ‘This chap’s father took an Indian bride 28 years ago. Chap’s mother on her death had asked him to follow in his father’s footsteps.

’He is the only son and heir to an electronic empire. They have some tea gardens in Darjeeling, too. Satisfied?’

’Yes, Well, then,’ Tiger said his doubts and misgivings cleared. ’We should deliver this letter.

’Yes, you handle this.’

Delivering the letter to the girl was not much of an assignment for Chief Investigating Officer Tiger. Though there were about a hundred girls who came to the Ashoka Hotel pool every evening to relax in the cool waters after the oppressive heat of the day.

Tiger, a resourceful and observant man, found the girl after enquiring from the staff at the pool. He not only delivered the letter but also found out the girl’s name and many other things about her. She was Meera Chopra, the only daughter of a well-to-do small-scale industrialist. Her consort was a German Ludwig Bungert a technical adviser attached to the German Embassy.

GLOBE’s job was over as far as Tiger was concerned.

Tiger was in his cabin, three days later. It was getting on to six in the evening. He was thinking of sticking around the office for another hour or so to finish the paper work connected with a fraud case he was investigating when the telephone rang.

He was surprised when the caller identified herself. It was Meera-the girl whom he had given that letter the other day.

’What? Come to your office tomorrow morning? Well I don’t know. But expect me.’ She said noncommittally.

Tiger went over to Captain. He told him of Meera’s call. Could be, she’s interested in Bob and wants to know more about him Captain hazarded. ’By the way, there is another letter from Bob. He says if she is interested we should let him know. So here’s what we’ll do. Now when you see her tomorrow tell her I’d like to have a word with her. You know, I want to be satisfied before I tell Bob to come to Delhi.’

’When would you like to see her?’

’Oh, fix an appointment for 6 tomorrow evening at Kwality restaurant in Connaught Place,’ Captain said motioning towards the telephone.

Captain was standing at the pavement book-shop near the Kwality restaurant in Connaught Place. He bought an Evening News and glanced at his watch. In another ten minutes or so he will be playing host to Meera. But first how to pass the ten minutes? He started walking down Parliament Street towards Jantar Mantar. His eyes fixed on the oncoming traffic.

A taxi appeared in the distance. Captain’s eyes glinted. Even from a distance of 70 meters he could see that a woman was sitting in the back seat. The taxi whizzed past and drew up near Kwality. She must be the girl. Tiger astride his motorcycle and wearing sunglasses saw Captain and stopped his scooter.

’All clear?’ Captain asked.

’Yes, I gave her taxi a two minute start and made sure nobody was following her,’ Tiger reassured his boss.

’That’s fine, you know,’ he said with a ropy laugh, ’I am a bit apprehensive about the meeting.

The previous evening the two detectives had decided that the girl might create unpleasantness. In order to avoid any hanky-panky Captain had instructed Tiger to follow Meera from her office to make sure nobody followed her or set a trap. A routine precaution.
'Chief, if you don't like the set-up why not let yours truly do it.' Tiger said merrily.

'No,' Captain said with determination, 'I will handle her alright. But you do one thing. After we enter the restaurant you come in and take a seat from where the girl can't see you but you can see us. Okay?'

'Okay,' said Tiger kicking the bike into action.

Captain walked briskly and in minutes was beside the girl. She was waiting outside the restaurant. She was wearing a pink sari and a matching blouse, hardly any make-up on her beautiful elfin face, go-go glasses on her eyes and daintily held a black purse in her hand.

'Excuse me,' Captain said as he drew near…. Must be Miss. Meera. I am Captain Kumar of the GLOBE,'

'Oh, hi,' the monosyllable had about a tenth of cordiality and nine-tenths of surprise. And, no wonder. A girl asked to come at a certain place and time naturally gets piqued if the host is not there to receive her. And on top of it if he appears from nowhere suddenly, it surely takes her breath away.

She said so. 'From where did you materialize? I didn't see you coming. Oh my mistake,' she realized she was talking to a detective. 'You are a sleuth and therefore believe in surprising people.'

As a matter of fact, I was avoiding to get myself a surprise,' and before the girl could ask him what on earth did he mean he escorted her into the restaurant.

'What'll you have?' Captain asked her as they settled at the extreme corner of the restaurant.

'Only a chilled Coke.'

'Then Coke it will be for me. Waiter,' he placed the order. 'Two Cokes.'

Captain waited for the drinks to come and framed his opening remarks. He found himself in rather a delicate position. The radiantly beautiful girl sitting across was not like numerous other persons he had questioned or investigated during his meteoric career as a private detective. He felt cotton in his mouth.

'Tell me Miss Meera....' And he got out of her whatever information he wanted even before the girl could finish her drink.

The morning was pleasant. A tolerable cool breeze was blowing as Tiger parked his mobike and climbed the stairs to the office. He walked straight into Captain's cabin. The super sleuth was scrutinizing some scrambling on a piece of paper. He looked up as his deputy came in.

'Early? Well nothing better than starting the day well ahead of others be cemented. Anything new about Meera? Did you inform her that Bob is coming on Tuesday?'

She's left the town.' The four words uttered by Tiger surprised Captain.

'Relax, Chief, Tiger said. 'Everything is in order. Yesterday I went to her office to tell her that Bob's coming down but was informed that she's taken three days leave. Then I went to her hostel. The matron told me that Meera had gone to Amritsar. But before going to Amritsar to her parents she said she went to visit Mr. Bungert.'

'You think she's gone to ask the parent's permission or something? Captain asked.

'Yes, why not?'

'So there's nothing more we can do but wait. However, as soon as she comes tell her about Bob. Five days passed. But Meera didn't return. Bob would be in Delhi in another two days.

The detective duo were talking about her, worried about her absence. Was it possible that her parents told here absence. Was it possible that her parents told her not to marry Bob and consequently told her to stay put in Amritsar. Not very likely, they argued. The girl was independent enough and had convinced both of them that whatever decisions she makes were final.

'Drop a line to our man in Amritsar to do a routine check-up Tiger,' Captain suggested after a long debate.

GLOBE's operative who happened to be in Amritsar investigating a case sent his report a day later. Meera never came to her parent's home in the last seven months.

This piece of information spurred Captain into launching a
full-scale search for Meera. If she is not in Amritsar then where could she be? Probably in Delhi.

“You said she's very matey with Bungert. Get a line on him, Tiger?

Captain was in conference with Tiger. They had contacted all of Meera’s friends and acquaintances-both in the office and at the hostel. But, nobody had seen her nor heard from her for eight or nine days. They were getting exasperated.

‘Where the hell is she?’ Tiger said more to himself than to Captain. They were discussing the outcome of their investigations in the Captain’s cabin. ‘Most confounding is the fact that she told everybody that she was going to Amritsar but never went there. And she’s not in Delhi either.

Captain lit a fresh cigarette and started pacing the floor. His habit when searching for a loose thread in a mystery. Tiger sat rigidly. Where could the girl have gone? Each wondered.

Hey, I've got it, exclaimed Captain at length. Tiger cooked an attentive ear.

‘See,’ the detective said marshalling the countless solutions that come into his brain. ‘The girl had made it known in the office and the hostel that she was going to marry a foreigner. Okay? And she told me she will marry Bob but only after telling her parents. Mind you the word she used was telling. Now, that day I got the impression that she wouldn’t let Bob get away. She’s one of those girls who love everything that's foreign including her husband. So it stands to reason that she wouldn’t disappear like that. You see. Captain’s voice was confident, ‘she could have told me to boil my head that day is if she didn’t like the idea. Why me? She could have told you to go to hell when you met her at the office.’

‘Yes that’s right,’ Tiger assented.

‘So what I feel is that someone else who was interested in her or wanted to marry her would naturally like to convince that marry an American was out of the question. Now, this chap would most probably like to take her away and reason with her. It’s also possible that she might have liked that man’s idea and had forgotten all about the whole episode by now. What do you think of it, Tiger? Plausible or not?’

‘Well, I am not too sure,’ he said guardedly. ‘But Chief really, I don't understand why we should bother about her.’

‘You are right, but I can't leave this case hanging in mid air just like that. Even if the girl has gone and got married to someone I must find out the fact and I think we owe it to Bob. Atleast the chap should know that an Indian has beaten him.’

The two of them then discussed the modus operandi of their investigations.

Four days later

No news of Meera. The detective had talked to every individual who ever knew her.

Her office friends, her boy friends, her hostel friends, everyone. None had seen her during the last two weeks and more. Nobody had any reason to worry. The office folks were thinking that she might have chucked up the job. Her hostel crowd thought the same.

But only GLOBE was worried. Captain and Tiger were worried. Captain did not like the look of things as he and his deputy discussed it. He was again pacing the floor of his cabin. Deep in thought. Trying to untangle this mysterious web.

He stopped suddenly in his tracks.

‘Tiger, what did the waiter at the swimming pool at Ashoka tell you about that German national and Meera? He knew what Tiger’s answer will be but he just wanted to be sure.

‘Oh that bloke. He said that they came to the pool almost daily.’

‘And this German virtually bit your head off when you went to his office to ask about Meera the other day.

‘Well, he was definitely cross.’ Tiger replied not savoring his interview with Bungert who was very curt and very offensive.

‘And you came to know from Bungert’s friends that he was married and had two kids … Germany?’

‘Yes.’
The pretty girl in light blue told them to wait in the reception hall while she asked fifteen minutes recess from her boss. She returned beaming. Leslie was a Goanese. She had been sharing the hostel with Meera for close on to two years.

‘Miss Leslie,’ Captain began somberly, ‘I believe your friend is in trouble.’ And to the astonished girl he told all.

‘Tell me anything you knew that could help us trace her.’

‘I have told you everything I knew about her. But if you say that she is in trouble why don’t we call in the police?’

‘Trouble is we can’t, at least not at this stage. We are not hundred per cent sure right now. Moreover, we don’t have any tangible proof.’

…mm, I see,’ she muttered and then as if recollecting something started.

‘I don’t know whether you know this, but you chaps should see this German Bungert. He lives in Sunder Nagar. Meera had once or twice stayed overnight at his residence.’

‘Really.’ Captain was interested, ‘go on’.

When the detective duo came out of the office Captain said two words to Tiger. ‘Sunder Nagar’.

‘That’s the place we go now’, Tiger joined.

Tiger steered the car on to the road leading to Sunder Nagar. He was familiar with the locality and swung the car into one of the by lanes that he knew would lead to the number Leslie had given ….

They scrambled out of the car and pressed the bell on the stucco front walled house they were told belonged to Bungert.

A gurkha materialized - Sahab is not at home’, he said giving them a ….. eyed focus.

‘That’s all right we came to see the girl. I am her brother, Captain said nonchalantly.

‘If you her brother, okay. Saab’s orders not to let anybody in’. As they entered the spacious and beautifully decorated drawing room Tiger whispered to he Captain. ‘What’s all this. His wife is German and yet the gurkha seemed to think it all right you were here brother?’

Relax. The girl who’ll be coming down any moment is not his German wife but an Indian girl and if I am not mistaken it is ……’

Meera? You here? Both detectives uttered simultaneously as the young woman came into the room. In their excitement they nearly jumped out of their seats.

‘How did you know I was here?’ she asked.

‘Never mind about that.’ Captain’s voice was hard and authoritative.

‘I want to know why you are here when you should be at your parent’s home or in the office.’

‘I don’t have to tell you anything’, she retorted full of flight, ‘but since you are on the level, I'll tell you something for your files.’

She settled on the big sofa and very composedly began, ‘Before I met you or ever heard of Bob, I had already planned to marry Bungert. We are good friends.’

‘But my dear girl, you can’t marry Bungert. Don’t you know, you poor creature, that he is already married and has two kids.

‘Says you,’ she said cynically. ‘If you don’t believe me just ring the German Embassy and they will let you know. Or better still see his passport. Phone them right now. They are open for another two hours, at least.’

‘I believe you,’ she said as the earnestness of Captain’s words hit her with full force. ‘But what shall I do?’ she asked pityingly.

‘Really, Meera. You are too gullible,’ Captain said ‘You are a trouble maker. You had us worrying sick.’

‘I know what you should do now,’ Tiger said who was till now watching them, ‘you ring up Bungert right now and tell him to come here immediately. Let's have a showdown here.’

‘Yes, nice idea,’ Captain seconded.

Meera dialed and like a woman scorned started giving hell to Bungert on the phone.

Barely thirty minutes ticked away when a car screeched to a halt outside and Bungert came in. He stopped in his tracks as he saw the detectives. A malicious grin of recognition
appeared on his cherry red face. His complexion turned a couple of shades darker as Captain got up and helloed.

‘You are, persistent, Mr. Detective, to be sure,’ Bungert said cleverly opening the conversation. We have to be in our profession otherwise people wouldn’t know the truth,’ Captain said half sarcastically.

‘Definitely so,’ agreed Bungert. He didn’t bother to ask Meera what the detectives had told her. Instead he bared his fangs and attacked the detectives. ‘I was under the impression that private detectives are bound by their professional code not to tell malicious and uncorroborated lies to people. You agree? Now, pray Mr. Sleuth, how can you say I am married,’

Captain left eye narrowed just a shade—a clear indication that he was getting very, very angry. The smooth talker thinks he is a goddamned smart aleck; he angrily thought then said very calmly, emphasizing each words.

‘Mr. Bungert, If you would be kind enough to have a look at this document. This,’ he almost hissed the words, ‘is a communication from a very reliable source, to wit, your friend in the embassy. He was kind enough to oblige us by confirming our suspicions’, Captain handed over the document to Meera and gave a Photostat copy to Bungert, who read it and then handed it back to the Captain.

Bungert’s silence was more than a thousand words of confession. The confident look on his handsome face was gone and Tiger, Who was closely watching this high-tension drama unfold in front of his eyes, was later to say that he never saw blood draining from men’s face so conspicuously.

‘I am not sure,’ Captain continued looking Bungert in the eyes, ‘whether your actions are punishable or not. But it all will depend on Miss Meera.’

He turned towards Meera with a flourish and said would you people mind waiting in the car outside,’ Meera said composedly, ‘I have something to tell Ludwig. Do wait for me if you don’t mind giving me a lift.’

‘Sure,’ Captain said. He was confident that Meera could handle the situation and moreover he didn’t want to see a foreigner getting hell from a woman.

‘Too much, just bloody, too much. Look at the cheek of the man telling us.’ Tiger said as he settled behind the wheel waiting for Meera, ‘that he was not married. That was rich.’

Captain took his pack of cigarette, offered Tiger one and lit.

‘You know something, this chappie Bungert is just like those sailors who want to have a wife in every port they call. They think…….’Here she comes with a suitcas,’ Tiger informed his boss as Meera closed the gates behind her. Closing one chapter of her life, almost.

She hopped into the back seat and Tiger gunned the car into motion. Captain turned his heap back and asked Meera, ‘Please don’t give me an evasive answer, but I am sure your are deliberately trying to keep something from us’.

‘Well,’ Mr. Kumar, I will be frank with you even if you think that I am a despicable woman. You know I am just crazy about foreigners. And actually I wanted to marry one and go abroad. I made an error about Bungert, I confess, I thought him to be a nice and straightforward guy. But he turned out to be regular bigamist. Now to answer your question,’ she said averting Kumar's eyes and looking out of the window, ‘Bungert had a camera, a miniature job that one could mistake for a Bible. One day just for fun he suggested he shoot me……’

‘All right, keep it clean’, Captain cut her short, I knew all along here was something fishy about the whole business. Did you get the negatives?’

‘Yes, luckily he did not send the cartridge for processing. But I’ve got it with me’.

Well I think,’ Tiger said stopping the car at her hosted,’ Bungert won’t be getting in touch with you as long he lives. We will have another talk with him very soon. Won’t we Captain?’

‘Yes, a long one. Just a minute, Meera,’ he said as the girl started thanking them, we received another letter from Bob. He is coming to Delhi next Monday.’

‘I'll let you know,’ she said coquettishly, ‘but first I will have to tell my parents’.

‘This time you must go to them,’ Captain emphasized. She smiled at them and walked briskly into the hostel.

‘OK partner, back to the office,’ Captain said sighing audibly,
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GLOBE DETECTIVE AGENCY (P) LTD.

New Delhi: 601-603, Eros Apartment, 56, Nehru Place, NewDelhi - 110 019. Tel: +91-11 - 26432221 / 26418860 E-mail: sachitkumar@globedetective.com
Mumbai: 39, Jolly Marker Chambers, No.2, 225, Nariman Point, Mumbai. Tel: +91 - 22 - 22023578 / 22028734. E-mail: vivekkumar@globedetective.com
Bangalore: 102-103, Money Centre, 121, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore. Tel: +91 - 80 - 25717905 / 07. E-mail: puneetkumar@globedetective.com
Branches: Ahmedabad, Baroda, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jamshedpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Madurai, Pune, Pondicherry, Truppu, Trichy, Yishkapatnam.

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GLOBE DETECTIVE AGENCY (P) LTD.

Registered Office : 601-603 Eros Apartments, 56, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, INDIA
Tel: 91 11 26414860 / 26432221 Fax: 91 11 26435112 E-mail: delhi@globedetective.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

MUMBAI
39 Jolly Maker Chambers No.2
225 Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021, India
Tel: 91 22 22028751 / 22023578 Fax: 91 22 22029521
E-mail: mumbai@globedetective.com

BENGALURU
102-103 Money Centre
121 7 Block Koramangala
Bangalore - 560 095, India
Tel: 91 80 25717905 / 25717906 Fax: 91 80 25717349
E-mail: bangalore@globedetective.com

BARODA
G-4, Chetan Apartments,
Anand Society, Race Course Road,
Baroda - 390007, India
Tel: 91 265 257963 / 2314482 Fax: 91 265 2325288
E-mail: baroda@globedetective.com

CHENNAI
Agurchand Mansion,
152, Mount Road,
Chennai - 600002, India
Tel: 91 44 42919500 / 42919599 Fax: 91 44 28460524
E-mail: chennai@globedetective.com

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