

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The intention was always to continue right on after the series launch. But...life happens...and brings challenging things. So it's been a few years. For the sake of continuity, and hopefully with the understanding of our readers, we have taken the liberty of a time blur. Obviously, much has happened in the years since the publication of *In the Dark of the Sun*, the first book in the Jake Tyler series; people have aged, technology has advanced, places have evolved, and then there was a pandemic. But in many ways a lot has not changed, most notably the good and the evils of the world.

With the interest of those new to our Jake Tyler series in mind, you should know that there are spoilers that reference the first book in the series. For this reason, while each book can be read as a stand-alone novel, you may want to read them in order.

An enormous amount of research and resources go into our thrillers, beginning long before the first word and continuing throughout the creative process. So, as with the first book, we have a great many wonderful people to thank...

Phillip Gonzales once again, for the initial facilitation that brought us together in this great endeavor.

Paul Jimenez and Jack Ewing for enduring friendship, support, and continued feedback. Special thanks, again, to *Hacienda Barú* and to Jack for his assistance and expertise in all things Dominical.

One of the earliest inspirations for this book was Nir Kalron of the Maisha Group. His organization is quite dynamic and diversified, but his work in countering the illegal trade of persons, wildlife, and natural resources is extraordinary, and we were most fortunate for his input.

Also early in gaining a foothold were some stellar organizations doing amazing things: Invisible Children, The Enough Project, The Resolve, The Sentry, The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, and The Eastern Congo Initiative with special thanks to Jason Russell, Sean Poole, Lisa Dougan, John Pendergast and, of course, George Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ben Affleck. It is by your actions and advocacy many are heard and seen and given the means to better lives.

Additional thanks to Peter Eichstaedt and Ledio Cajak for the sharing

of information based on their work.

In Costa Rica: The ever-enchanting Dominical, with special thanks to the owners of the beautiful Casa Serendipia for the use of their home; Alvaro Cedeño and Tara Tiedemann of the *Guardavidas* Costa Ballena who provide an invaluable service in protecting the beaches and those who enjoy them; additional thanks to Beth Sylver.

In Africa: Gaël Brose who shared his time at *Le Caf Conc* and much about his city and culture, as well as his friendship; respects to the memory of Noël Camillieri (RIP); Achille Diodio for his help with Garamba National Park and Alain Lushimba, Lobeke National Park; the ever-inspiring and dedicated personnel of African Parks.

Brother Roger Gumeagiti of Frères de l'Instruction Chrétienne for help with Dungu and insights into the Azande culture; Yegon Ephanitus for going above and beyond with his assistance in Nairobi, also Cyrus Tarei.

Martine Villeneuve, of the Danish Refuge Counsel for sharing the nature of her incredible work and Dr. Lanice Jones, Médecins Sans Frontières, for hers; both for a wealth of knowledge and friendship. Also from MSF, Dr. Alexander Nyman.

Nicholas V. Passalacqua, PhD, D-ABFA, Forensic Anthropology, Western Carolina University for lending his expertise in matters of the deceased; Dr. Sam Wasser, PhD, Endowed Chair In Conservation Biology, Director, Center for Conservation Biology, Research Professor, University of Washington, for the privilege of basing our Nairobi professor on his esteemed work in animal conservation.

For helping to guide us in the skies: esteemed pilots Barend de Klerk, Thomas Vander Velden, Jon Cadd of Mission Aviation Fellowship, Jean Deschênes of Aviation Sans Frontières, Simon Canning, and helicopter pilot Jay Brown. Also instrumental in aviation was the assistance of Darin Voyles of Paramount Business Jets, Nicole Wilke of Private Fly, Mary Beth Butler of Gulfstream; Luis Fernando Hernandez Bolaños for his assistance at Juan Santamaría International Airport.

On the seas: Benjamin Dinsmore for helping us navigate our way in container shipping; also, Jannik Fischer of Africa Container Shipping; Peter Kijzerwaard of Confeeder Shipping & Chartering; Demetrios Liaroutsos.

For the Tech: Eric Evenchick and Dennis Maldonado, black hats; Addie Ventris with Tactical/CORE; Joe Ailinger and Walter Patenaude at FLIR; Jordan Hassin and Iridium, Leslie Landers and Invisio. Special thanks and recognition to FLIR for providing so much of Jake's cool tech and to Lindsay Lyon of Ocean Guardian for the gracious use of their technology for Cyrus Keogh.

Michael Marriott of David Austin Roses for his suggestions on Callie's roses; Peter Wunderlin for help with flora.

Chris Chappel whose kindness and encouragement back in the day may very well have been the difference between continuing to seek the dream or not.

There are quite a few others whose help, information, and knowledge was key but who, for security reasons, wish to remain anonymous—they know who they are, and for their contributions, we are extremely grateful.

A band of brothers who, in one way or another, lent their spirit.

Finally, we thank our friends and families for their love and support.

AUHTORS' NOTE

While there are so many urgent and dire dilemmas ongoing in the world today—everything from wars to contagions to starvation and poverty to environmental disasters and climate change—the atrocities occurring every day in Africa are no less critical, but all too easily underemphasized and over-shadowed. We salute the inspiring and diligent work of those who make it their mission to help the humans and the animals, often at their peril. To the tactical operators, the advocates and aid workers, the pilots and medical staff, the journalists and filmmakers, and the courageous park rangers...we can only hope our book enlightens and does justice to the wonderful souls that you are. THANK YOU.