



Literary Management Agency

Dear Literary Agent,

BLUNT FORCE, a contemporary mystery novel set in Hawaii, pits two engaging amateur detectives in a life or death struggle against powerful international art thieves. In a deeper sense, this book is about second-chances: for a worthwhile career, for satisfaction, for friendship and love. The novel also offers readers a glimpse into the world of the *kahuna*, the Hawaiian shaman or spirit healer.

Noah Blunt, veteran crime reporter, is brilliant, belligerent and blunt. Right now he is way beyond a mid-life crisis. He was laid off from the Los Angeles Times as a cost-cutting move, despite his two Pulitzers. Within weeks, his trophy wife, Madeline, left him flat. For the first time in his adult life, Noah feels like a loser - and he hates it. After moving to Hawaii to write a novel, Noah finds himself with a depleted bank account and writer's block. Now what?

Sam Hoku was a successful competition surfer until a rogue 50' wave slammed him into the rocks, breaking his back in three places and nearly drowning him. The accident left Sam crippled and dependent on painkillers and alcohol. After several scrapes with the law, Sam hit bottom. Then an old kahuna arrived and began using lomilomi massage on Sam's bent back. The old kahuna made Sam agree to be his apprentice and while he was fixing Sam's back, he was teaching him the ancient knowledge. Sam is also a gifted photographer and a great foil for Noah Blunt.

Noah takes a freelance job reporting on the baffling murder of Sir Rex Hamilton outside the British Legation in Honolulu and hires Sam as his 'shooter'. Pursuing their phantom killer, Noah and Sam

uncover a larger racket to bank millions from selling ancient Hawaiian artifacts on the international black market. In the process they become targets of the thieves. For Sam and Noah, the payoff is not just finding the murderer, but discovering new lives as private investigators.

I've been writing professionally since 1973, mostly non-fiction. I've written extensively for national magazines and for radio. More recently, I've created training and technical materials for the Detroit car companies. Published nonfiction books include "Lincoln: 1945-1995", "Porsche: The Fine Art of the Sports Car" and "Corvette Racers." Member: Mystery Writers of America. The **BLUNT FORCE** MS is complete and runs about 70,000 words.

BLUNT FORCE (synopsis)

by Gregory Von Dare

Handsome young British diplomat Sir Rex Hamilton evades two armed thugs at the Athens airport and boards a plane for Hawaii. He laughs at the danger – but knows it was real.

Months later, headstrong FBI agent Robin Hernandez arrives at a crime scene in downtown Honolulu. There was a midnight break-in at the British Legation. Inside, the dusty "bones of Lono", an ancient Hawaiian king, were taken from the Legation Museum while Captain Cook's Logbook, a million dollar artifact, was ignored. Outside, Sir Rex Hamilton was found dead in the thick fog, his head bashed in. Grumpy Captain Fong of the HPD has no clues, no witnesses, no evidence and no murder weapon. He blames "street punks". British Legate, Lord Clapham, thinks Hawaiian kahunas did it and he offers a \$100K reward. On impulse, Robin Hernandez decides to conduct her own secret investigation.

Unemployed crime writer Noah Blunt takes a freelance job covering Rex Hamilton's murder for the *Los Angeles Times* and hires Hawaiian photographer Sam Hokua, a former competition surfer with secrets of his own. Noah sets out to discover who Sir Rex Hamilton was and why someone wanted to kill him. When Noah protects Sam from harassment by the police and FBI, Sam reveals that he is a kahuna, a shaman and healer. Sam goes to contact the older kahunas while Noah romances beautiful Carlotta Silverstone, who tells him that Rex Hamilton had gambling debts from horse racing. Big debts.

A freak typhoon descends and makes everyone wet and miserable. Robin's investigation undermines Captain Fong, but she can't stop. The community of traditional Hawaiians embraces Sam and promises to help him, but Noah is firebombed while interviewing artifact forger Maurice al Hajji and barely escapes alive. However, Noah learns that al Hajji made two full copies of the Captain Cook logbook for Lord Clapham. Sir Rex Hamilton was the go-between and bag man.

Sam thinks they should ask George the Jeep Makapena, the Godfather of crime in Hawaii, about Rex Hamilton's gambling debts. Through Sam's connections, they meet the huge criminal in his palatial home and get a clue that leads them to Feyodor Chaliapin, a super-wealthy Russian known for his collection of art objects from around the world. When Sam and Noah question Chaliapin about Rex Hamilton's murder, he throws them out of his penthouse, but not before Sam sees the real Captain Cook logbook in Chaliapin's bedroom.

Noah and Sam agree to meet George the Jeep at a remote location, Barber's Point. There, the Jeep and Lord Clapham have arranged an ambush that will send Sam and Noah to the bottom of the Pacific. Robin Hernandez rescues the guys before the shooting starts and they steal a boat to escape from the gangsters. A giant tsunami rolls in just as they race away from the angry gunmen, and Sam takes a bullet. However, he has just enough strength to surf their powerboat down the 60' tsunami wave and bring them safely aground, over half a mile inland! Noah suddenly knows who killed Rex Hamilton.

Captain Fong brings all the suspects together at the British Legation. There Noah lays out the crimes and guilt of each member of the gang. He finally names the killer of Sir Rex Hamilton, but that triggers a hail of gunfire and in the end several suspects are dead.

The old kahunas complete their mission and bury the bones of Lono in Hawaiian soil. Robin buys a bikini. Noah and Sam split the \$100K reward and get an offer for their next case. It's another beautiful day in paradise.

End.

Thanks for your consideration,

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"Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you..."
Shakespeare - "Hamlet"