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## Fraud

by Lawrence Howard

The facts, as far as they could be ascertained, were as follows. Jim Carlton was a successful 58-year-old businessman having made his money from his rivet manufacturing business. He was a colourful and forthright character from Barnsley, with a noticeable Yorkshire accent and a directness that could sometimes be abrasive.

At the annual Rivet Manufacturers Awards, Jim's company scooped first prize for innovation in the 'Riveting Ideas' category as well as first prize for 'Most Riveting Company' for volumes sold that year.

Agnieska Rublenska was a 31 year old Russian model who presented Jim with the awards. After the presentation they got talking and agreed that they should meet up again, somewhere quieter where they could get to know each other better. Jim wanted to keep this secret because, after all, he was a married man.

Over the next few weeks they met many times. Eventually Agnieska admitted that she had a secret. Due to a long running legal case in Russia, her parent's money had run out. They would win the case if they had more money to pay their legal bills, but she needed £50,000. She said that if he didn't pay she'd tell his wife of their affair.

Jim, desperate not to be linked to her, opened up a new bank account using the ID of an ex employee, David Grimshaw, who had left his company several years ago on health grounds and recently died. Jim paid £200 cash into this account and then transferred the money to Agnieska. The next day Agnieska confronted Jim. "Only £200 has been paid in" she said "Where is the rest?" "OK. Leave it with me pet", he replied. "I'll look into it" knowing full well what had really happened.

"You must pay me the £50,000 by tomorrow or else" demanded Agnieska. Jim looked really worried. "OK, OK, I'll sort it" he said rather anxiously. He knew he couldn't find that sort of money quickly because, despite outside appearances, his business was nearly bankrupt with huge debts.

However, Jim had realised early on that Agnieska had made a small fortune extorting money from men like him. His wife was aware of their financial predicament and, having an unusually open relationship, Jim told her about Agnieska at outset.

Knowing Agnieskas date of birth, address and all of her other ID, he then arranged for everything in her bank account, approximately £1.1m, to be transferred to David Grimshaws account. From here it was transferred to a Swiss bank account and then to another one in the Cayman Islands.

Jim and his wife jumped on a plane on the same day to Grand Cayman and withdrew all of the cash. On the same day Agnieskas body was found dead in an apparent suicide due to her lover stealing all of her money. Seeing that it had been paid to a David Halliwell, police investigations hit a brick wall when they found that he had died weeks before the transaction took place. And as for Jim, he disappeared and is now living a carefree life in the sunshine, with his wife.