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Trade Secrets

by Chris Kingham

Murder makes the world go round.

It is a form of control. Some people are scared of shame and disgrace. Others less so. Some fear change and loss of power. But everyone is afraid to die. The ones who tell you that they are not simply do not understand it.

The first stage of control is to kill with kindness.

“Do not worry madam, I know you didn’t mean to cause any offence, but the Minister really would prefer you to vote with the party on this one.”

“It really is not a problem, sir. Next time simply make sure more care is taken. You will understand something like this could not happen a second time.”

The pleasant tone of voice, the shit eating grin. The veiled threat - almost as if it is someone else being admonished and not you.

There are those that do not appreciate the subtleties. Those where everything is a minor struggle. For these people it is vital that they realise they are straying from the correct path, but normally only so far as to open their eyes to their own investment.

“Look John, everyone knows you didn’t mean to cause her offence. But you must be aware now that we have had sight of your recent internet activity? And seen transcripts from your more recent telephone conversations? Let’s get things back on track, eh?”

“Lucy, we get that you think it is only a minor problem. He understands that. But presumably your husband doesn’t know why you stayed an extra two nights in Brussels? Our view is that it's your business. But our view unfortunately is subject to change when pushed.”

The art of killing with kindness is in the subtlety. The victim should never know they are a victim at all. The decision to bend to your will should almost be subconscious, subliminal even. When an individual is more difficult it is important that they are aware that they have been threatened - and be aware that the threat is actionable.

For those unable to comprehend verbal persuasion then the boundary into the physical must be breached. The key here really is for the individual to always think the pain is incrementally increasing, and that it is increasing at a rate faster than their pain threshold or perceived mental resolve. People use the word torture, but it is an ugly word.

We then progress on to those where mere physicality is not enough. In this category we can also include the fly in the ointment that no longer has a place in the plan - regardless of any desire they may have to ‘fix things’. For these the objective is generally to remove them as swiftly and discreetly as possible. If a line has been crossed which cannot be undone there is little point in delay or drama.

The final category is reserved for those that have angered the decision maker on a personal level. Or those where an example needs to be made. Cromwell did not adorn London Bridge with spikes skewering the heads of his enemies to feed the crows. He did so to feed the imagination of any others intent on defying his word.

In the current climate fear is a messy concept. People are afraid of online ridicule, career failure and social judgment. However the primeval and innate fear of death remains absolute. I have been doing this for a long time and I will tell you this for free - no matter how defiant you may feel when acting contrary to the wishes of someone powerful, you will regret those actions when I knock at your door.