

Facing Down Evil

Life as an FBI Profiler and Hostage Negotiator

Clint Van Zandt with Daniel Paisner

Preface to the Updated Edition

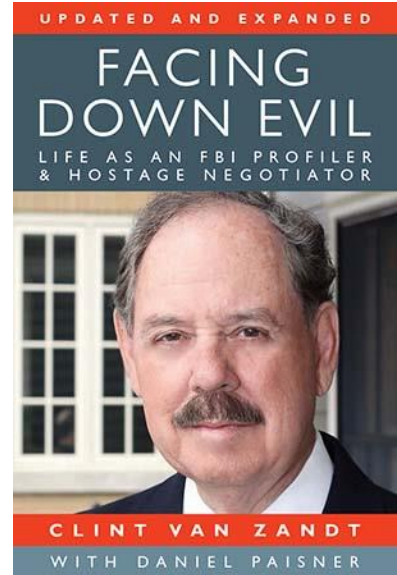
The challenges facing America have grown exponentially in the last quarter century and come at us from many directions. International as well as domestic terrorism is like a cross between an octopus and a chameleon. It has multiple arms and legs, it can assume different colors and shapes to blend into its environment, if you cut off one appendage it can simply regrow it and come back at you, and it can attack and kill without mercy.

America and other nations of the world have been at war against terrorism for decades, centuries some countries might suggest. And while we have witnessed numerous attacks and attempted attacks against the U.S. over the years, it was the September 11, 2001 strikes planned by Saudi Arabian Osama bin Laden, the founder of al-Qaida, that plunged America and some of its staunchest allies into a war against terrorism that continues today. As a country, the U.S. has faced many other significant challenges, to include the increase in copycat-like school-related shootings, terrible crimes that continue to reveal the vulnerability of our children in what was once believed to be a relatively safe environment. We watch suicide bombers, "lone-wolf" terrorists and work-related violence played out on television by individuals motivated by religion, personal revenge, social injustice and/or mental illness, this while a few police officers are filmed abusing the rights of others and in return law enforcement officers are killed from premeditated ambush and while just doing their job of protecting us from ourselves.

We are a nation in an ever-evolving crisis, whether in the international arena dealing with rogue nations headed by alleged madmen in possession of nuclear weapons, to witnessing adults and children slaughtered by the use of horrific weapons like sarin, chlorine and sulfur mustard dropped by their own government. We watch ongoing civil wars that have claimed 200,000 dead and millions more refugees injured, maimed, traumatized, forced into slavery and murdered across the world, and the beat goes on.

Among the chaos, murder and mayhem, there are those working and fighting to find ways to peace and freedom, while others seek only to take what you have and make off with it. There once was a time that child predators would hang out on the street with a bag of candy, attempting to lure a new innocent victim into their emotional and physical web. Now such predators can sit at home and simply troll the Internet, looking for children and adults that appear to advertise themselves as potential victims, this usually because so many of us are unaware of the many different traps set by the tens of thousands of predators lurking in the dark side streets of the World Wide Web on a daily basis.

And while burglars were once content with stealing your TV or stereo when you were away, some have evolved into home invaders who not only want to steal your belongings, but even take your life as part of their twisted response to the life they've been dealt. There was a time when role models were easy to identify and model our lives after. Today you can be a rock star, a movie actor, a teacher, a cop or a coach as well as a sextortionist, someone looking to develop an illegal relationship with our children under



the cover of being one of the good guys. A search of convicted sex offender web sites in most communities will reveal the true underbelly of a town, and the threat that may hang out just down the street or around the corner.

What most want for their children and for themselves is to be true citizens of the world, able to travel in relatively safety across the street, around the Internet and to any place or activity that will help us grow in appreciation for our planet. There are those, however, who watch us from the shadows, waiting for us to make a mistake, waiting for us to be too trusting, to assume that everything is always as first presented and that everyone is honest concerning their identity and their motives concerning us. This is, unfortunately, not the way of the world today, but we can become more mature consumers of life, learning to avoid the traps set by others while we work to better ourselves, our families and our society. It is with this in mind that I have enhanced and expanded my 2006 book, *Facing Down Evil*.

Our challenges are many today, challenges that I discuss concerning terrorism on a national and international level, including the recruiting techniques used by those who would take our very lives by the manipulation of others, this in the form of suicidal terrorists. Many of us would sacrifice our lives for the life of another; for our significant other, for our child, or for our military buddy in the trench next to us, but we don't necessarily believe such a sacrifice is the key to heaven.

As an FBI Agent, hostage negotiator and criminal profiler, I had to set priority of life at times. Usually the priority began with the public or the victim of a crime, followed by innocent civilians and other law enforcement officers, followed last by the subject. And while I won't seize this moment to go into the litany of reasons and motives for those who create a crisis situation involving others, we can all become involved in our own mini or major crisis without any notice. I have served as a television, radio, Internet and print media analyst for high-profile crimes for over two decades, this following my 25 years as an FBI Agent, and every time I think I may have seen the absolute limits of aberrant human behavior, someone a little worse comes along. But I also know there are ways to limit your chances of becoming the next victim.

With the new crimes of the 21st century, I've identified four areas of concern for all of us as parents, caregivers and adults making our way through society: "Home Invasions: Preventing, Surviving and Escaping Them," "Sextortion: A New Way of Committing an Old Crime," "How to Spot a Pedophile" and "How to Recruit a Suicide Bomber." My story began with my own kidnapping as a child, and each new chapter is prefaced with a personal story related to the topic, including the rescue of a kidnapped child from a predator's secret underground bunker and a race against time to stop an unknown chemical/biological terrorist threatening thousands of Americans. The stories are real and the clock is running. And while there are truly bad people out there who would do us all harm, there are also the dedicated men and women of law enforcement who work every day to protect us, police officers and FBI Agents alike, who go after the worst of the worst, who get up in the middle of the night to make our lives a little safer. This is their story and this is mine.