

Attraction and Extraction©

Alan J. Rosenthal, 2010

A while back, I handled a case for a 65-year-old professional woman in Northern New Jersey. She was a lonely widow who got involved with a man she met in a chat room. It was not long after that he moved into her house.

Once a month, at a local Jersey diner, my client and I would discuss business over breakfast. I was on retainer for her on other matters. As we ate, she would give me updates on the new guy. The story was always the same as was my meal: eggs over, sausage split, hash browns, white toast buttered and way too much black coffee.

Red flags popped up with each story but she refused my suggestions to check this guy out. I did anyway, keeping the file to myself. She was so afraid of being alone that this intelligent woman didn't want to entertain the possibility that he might be a grifter.

I watched this guy take advantage of her. She let him abuse and steal from her. An alcoholic, he drank a liter of vodka each day. He showed a complete lack of regard for her. His "in" was that, come the spring, he would build a deck on the back of her house. This promise brought him in and bought him time.

I advised her to get rid of him. She couldn't do it. Since she asked me not to look into his background, I could only hint at what I knew. This went on for many months. After a while, I stopped asking and kept to the matters she hired me to consult on.

One morning at the diner as I was sopping my eggs, she broke down in tears and told me that she needed him out of her house. I already had a thick file on him that included domestic violence, DWI's, jail a few times and he was still married in Florida. His five-state arrest and conviction record was lengthy. There were active warrants for his arrest in Florida and Texas. I also had video of him drinking on the job and using a company truck for personal use and driving it while drunk. We left the diner. She went home to get his things together.

I drove over to his employer and showed him the video and the outstanding warrants. If this sprinkler system and fire suppression company kept him on the job, they risked liability for drunken, faulty work as well as the potential of losing their truck and thousands of dollars of equipment. He handed me the former employee's last paycheck. I then went to the police department and arranged for a few squad cars to back me up.

The Alan J. Rosenthal Group, Inc.



850-510-6469 RosenthalConsultants@gmail.com AlanRosenthal.org

Attraction and Extraction© continued

Alan J. Rosenthal, 2010

There is a common misconception about arrest warrants. Most people believe that any police department will arrest someone with an outstanding warrant. This is not so. Unless the offender is being arrested for a local crime, the police will often ignore the warrant. It is a large expense to process and hold a fugitive. The jurisdiction that issued the warrant will rarely pay for the transportation to return the fugitive. As long as he is out of their area, he is of no threat to anyone within their responsibility. Out of sight, out of mind.

That afternoon, I had a locksmith re-key all of her locks. Credit card accounts were switched over. We changed her checking account when I found missing checks. Previously, I had asked her to look for missing checks and she reported none. Check theft such as this occurs when the thief removes a check in the middle or the bottom of the stack. With people using online payments more often, one might not notice a missing check for many months.

When the squatter came back to her house, he encountered something he didn't expect. It was a cold, fall day and I walked out of the front door in my trench coat. I met him at the curb and introduced myself. He recognized my name as his victim had mentioned me simply as a business associate. I told him that he had to leave. He took a step to his left. I took a step to my right. I nodded to the three police cars on each corner. He took his first 360 view. My video was running with one of my operatives in my vehicle. He started to get agitated. I nodded back to the house. Out of the front door walked a 400-pound op of mine carrying the drifter's suitcases. 400 walked up to the curb and set the suitcases at the guy's feet. 400 then took a position one step to my right and behind my shoulder, between me and the house.

I had earlier instructed my client to go in the basement and not look out the windows, lest emotions take over and a scene ensue on the front lawn. My client's heart was so confused. She dutifully washed and folded his clothes, neatly packing them in his bags. She even gave him a suitcase.

The fugitive was informed that he no longer had a job and I traded his paycheck for the company keys and ID. I then drove him to the bus station and put him on a bus to Texas, where the drifter came from. Mission accomplished. My client got her life back.

Though I instructed him not to make contact, a few weeks later, they spoke on the phone. That was okay. I didn't like it but I verified that he was in Texas and could do no harm. My client was safe and learned from the experience. In my business, you never know what the day is going to bring. It just started with eggs over, sausage split, hash browns, white toast buttered and way too much black coffee.

The Alan J. Rosenthal Group, Inc.



850-510-6469 RosenthalConsultants@gmail.com AlanRosenthal.org