

2002 05 17 Friday Gabriel the Mercenary Mercenary/Foreign Jailbreaks

GABRIEL THE MERCENARY

AB: "Is Gabriel really your name or just what we're gonna call you tonight?"

G: "It's what you will receive tonight."

AB: "That's what I thought – I had a feeling ..."

G: Claims he was recently accosted by about 27 masked U.S. government men at an undisclosed location in the USA, and beaten (!)

"There were literally two dozen men – at least – and little ol' me."

AB: "What – did – they – want?"

G: "They wanted to keep me detained." Claims they planted guns on him.

AB: "They claim to be some police authority?"

G: "Yeah, some sorta United States law enforcement."

AB: "And they didn't identify themselves?"

G: "When you have automatic weapons pointed at your head, you don't hear those sorts of things."

AB: "That's true."

G: "They abducted me, and I ended up in what I think is a federal prison."

"It's funny, I had no 'armor' on me – not even a pocketknife ... !"

AB: "Why ... aren't you armed like all the time?"

G: "I'm only armed when I go to sleep – I know that sounds odd ... When I walk around America, there's very few people – or groups of people – that I don't have the ability to handle ..."

AB: "Look, they had to have some motive ... unless it was to punish you for an act you have committed – short of killing you ..."

G: "Well they didn't kill me, obviously ..."

AB: "Unless it was something that you did that really pissed somebody off ..."

G: "I have a feeling that they were ... after me to keep me detained for a long period of time. It just so happened that they weren't quick enough, and I was able to get a call off to my team of lawyers (!) ..."

After being picked up, "I still don't know where my car is ..."

AB: "You don't have your car?"

G: "No, no, it's gone ... it's completely gone."

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AB: "How old are you?"

G: "... Just below the age of 25."

AB: "How long have you been doing the kind of work you do?"

G: "Since I was about 18 or 19."

AB: "How frequently in the kind of work that you do, does it require that you kill?"

G: "Umm ... all the time – when I'm out of the country."
(pause)

"You're going to have to excuse me, but I'm going to have to think before I speak. Obviously."

AB: "Thinking before speaking is good."

G: "Umm ... I can't just let the answer roll off my tongue, which I would normally enjoy doing."

Part of the reason I wanted to come on [the program] ... It's a fantastic way to prove to the world that there are people out there that can help them when the chips are down."

AB: "How do you get clients? How do people know to come to you?"

G: [Word of mouth].

AB: "What do you think the average longevity for someone in your business is? How long ... before you get yourself killed?"

G: "Well, there's more than a 50% chance that you won't come back from your first mission."

AB: You think the [U.S.] embassy would come to your aid ...

G: "They don't. They wash their hands of you."

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G: "There are certain things that I don't involve myself in."

Jobs run \$50,000 to \$100,000 per man in the Americas for two 6-man teams plus a team leader, with the pay more than \$100,000 per man outside the Americas. "\$1.3 million for starters" for the men – all other costs are extra. "We use 'bonded warehouses' all across the world."

AB: "How do you get into a business like this?"

G: "It's all my mother's fault."

AB: That you're a hitman?

G: "I'm not a hitman ..."

AB: "Then you're a mercenary."

G: "I prefer the term 'professional soldier.'"

I don't do *pro bono* work ... or at least I don't do it with a clear conscience.

My mother said: 'You will not be a victim. You will not allow other people to be victims if you can help it.'

AB: "A defense attorney, for example, they are kinda like mercenaries in a way – they accept usually a rather large amount of money to get their clients off whether the client is guilty or not. And basically *you* do that, right?"

G: "There are certain things I don't deal with ..."

AB: "Like what?"

G: "Drugs, for one. ... Drugs are a dirty business." Marijuana excepted.

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AB: Now if you go into a foreign country to get someone out of jail, "and you have to kill in the process of doing that, ... to the people that got hit with the bullets that you threw – to these people, you're a hitman."

G: "I am an expert in less lethal tactics. I don't kill unless I have to."

AB: But there are times when you have to kill ... ?

G: And then I have to kill ...

AB: "Okay, so from their point of view, you're a hitman ..."

G: "A hitman gets paid money to kill for that particular reason – I'm being paid to break somebody out of jail."

AB: "But in the process of that," you kill people.

G: "Whoops! ... I don't feel bad about that."

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AB: "What is it like [to kill people]? I mean, you've got to reflect on what you just did."

G: "I do it as purely a mechanical process."

AB: "So you take no thrill in killing – you take no perverse pleasure in killing?"

G: "Maybe with a sniper scope at a thousand yards, because of the competition involved."

AB: "Boy, you're in some kind of dangerous game!"

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AB: "How many lethal-type missions have you been on?"

G: "Less than 21."

AB: "That's a lot of missions still ... where your life is at risk."

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AB: "You say you form teams ... ?"

G: "Yes, they're usually six-man teams or thirteen-man teams."

AB: "How do you find these men? How do you know they're loyal to you? How do you test them?"

G: "Well first, you don't know in the beginning – these guys are taking money to go overseas to kill people."

There are ways to background check these people.

AB: “And so, what kind of backgrounds do you want? You want [unintelligible] guys, you want marines – what do you want?”

G: “I want independent thinkers.”

AB: “Seal Team guys ...?”

G: “No, those aren’t independent thinkers. Independent thinkers were at one time in the military, then discharged – it’s a disability to be a current military serviceman.”

AB: “Oh, sure, sure ... no, I was referring to backgrounds ...”

G: “Usually you want somebody who’s a little rough around the edges – more than a little – but is smart enough to know when to keep his mouth shut and his head down” You also want people with private backgrounds – private lifestyles – not social types ... “You want the quiet ones.”

AB: “These kind of people hard to find?”

G: “No. There’s plenty of ’em.”

AB: “How do you test them?”

G: “Usually we send them into a swimming op ... with shark-infested waters ... in the middle of the night.” And they have to cross it – “half a mile long – and if they can get through it, they’re tough enough to go with me.”

AB: “Without being eaten ...”

G: “Well, I’m not going to say they’re going to be eaten, but I’ve been nibbled on a little bit when I tested it out. There’s barracuda ... Last time I went in it, there were two (2) bull sharks ... it was nasty. Terrible rip current too. You have to go in full BDUs [Battle Dress Uniform], ruck sack, seventy-five (75) pounds (lbs.) of rope, armament if you have it with you – it’s tough ...”

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AB: “How many organizations or groups are there like yours?”

G: “In this particular country?”

AB: “Yeah.”

G: “There are two (2) sorts of organizations – you’re dealing with a corporate sort of entity, and then you’re dealing with a clandestine entity – I’m more on the clandestine side. I don’t like to publicize myself.”

The corporate entities are government-funded, private organizations.

AB: “How do you manage to live with ... the CIA, the NSA ... who know damn well what you’re doing?”

G: “I try to stay out of their way.”

AB: “And do they stay out of your way?”

G: “Up until a couple nights ago ... yes. I never really had this sort of brush ... I mean, I don’t get arrested in this country.”

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G: “We do more than just break people out – we do asset recovery ...”

AB: “People’s money, in other words ...”

G: “People’s money, property ... taking back people’s land for them in foreign countries ...”

AB: “How the hell do you do that? If you forcefully take back land, and you’re in the middle of a dictatorship, you’re going to have to have a virtual army there to keep that land.”

G: “Well, timing is everything. ... The cultural and political climate in a lot of these countries is a daily changing event.”

AB: “That’s true.”

G: “There’s opportune times to do everything.

The U.S. government ... has a history of failed black ops.” [E.g., Bay of Pigs, Iran hostage rescue, etc. – JS].

What offended them [the government] “is a cross between ‘Murphy’s Law’ and the law of unintended consequences ...”

AB: “Yeah, I know about those ...

Couldn’t you consider this perhaps a message that if you keep doing whatever it is that just got you in trouble, you’re gonna die (!) ?”

- G: "Umm ... the only way to actually do this work successfully is to consider yourself dead already."
- AB: "Oh, there's an interesting line!"
- G: "I don't have a death wish!"
- AB: "You kind of mentally write yourself off?"
- G: "Yeah – you'll find that it works a heluva lot better than trying to get back to your nice safe at home wife, kids, and white picket fence ... and all that crap!"
- AB: "Do you ... do you have all that crap?"
- G: "No."
- AB: "No picket fence, no wife, no family to speak of ...?"
- G: "My parents are dead."
- AB: "Parents are dead ... Girlfriends, what about girlfriends?"
- G: "There aren't too many of 'em that want to be with a guy who would rather clean out his AR-15 than go out to dinner with them."
- AB: (smirks).
- G: "I spend a very, very good portion of my time indoors – I train consistently, I read – I don't spend a whole lot of time socializing."
- AB: "You gotta figure at any moment and/or all the time, your life is in danger ..."
- G: "It's funny that you mention that ... I just had the unwary feeling that somebody was gonna come through the door in the next couple of moments while I was on hold and you'll have dead air getting' back at ya"
- AB: "In view of what just happened to you, it's something you can't rule out ..."
- G: "You'd be surprised how easily you can protect yourself with the lights off and a small knife."
- AB: "Yeah, but I never take a knife to a gunfight."

G: "You just said the grandest words of all time!"

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G: "They ransacked where I live ... they ransacked it."

AB: "They were looking for some ... thing ... Do you know what they were looking for?"

G: "You got me. ... Cause they obviously didn't find it. They took armament, but [that wasn't it] ..."

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G: It's an old samurai trick from Japan where if *mentally* you consider yourself already dead beforehand, when you enter a fight, you will fight as fiercely as you can.

AB: In the years you have been doing this, "how many men have you lost?"

G: "More than I can count on two hands."

AB: "Oh-My-God!"

G: "You have to be prepared not to have those people come back with you – you can't take your buddy ... it doesn't work like that – you don't want to make connections with these sorts of people."

AB: "You run the operation, is that correct?"

G: "I do – I have or two other people who do logistical ..."

AB: So you're putting people in a situation where there's less than a 50-50 chance of survival?

G: "Yes."

AB: "Why are these people willing to do these things?" I mean, the ultimate price is life, right?

G: "Money is the all-encompassing common denominator that drives everything in the world."

AB: "It absolutely is. People can say whatever the hell they want, but you're right, money drives everything ... !"

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AB: "Do you ever have to use a Blackhawk [helicopter] ...?"

- G: "Yes. You can pick those things up pretty cheap actually."
- AB: "Do you fly?"
- G: "No, no, I do not ... [but] I'm great with a boat! I'm fantastic with a boat, ... but my area of emphasis is aggressive driving, offensive driving ..."
- AB: "Then you've got to have access to pilots who understand the tenuous situation they're putting themselves in, right?"
- G: "Yes. Or you insert in a point that is not applicable to them."
- AB: "I've had good friends, who as pilots run drugs and run guns – there's a lot of that that goes on."
- G: "It's an easy way to get it across – they just drop it."
- AB: "So I would assume for the right price, there are plenty of pilots out there who would do the work that you need done?"
- G: "Brother, if the roast beef is right, you can do anything."
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- G: "The question is getting' the money. ... Yeah, you'd be surprised – a lot of times it's half now, half upon completion ... with all proper armament and equipment paid for in advance. You always get something up front – I mean ... it's part of the 'bartering system.'"
- AB: "So you push it how far? You push it to expenses, equipment, and some percentage up front ...?"
- G: "It's at least half. It's at least half of the profit taken in ..."
- AB: "How many more years do you think you can do this before your number comes up?"
- G: "You want to know the honest answer?"
- AB: "I do ... yes."
- G: "I'm gonna be real lucky if I come out of *this* year"
- AB: "Out of this year ...?"

G: "Yeah, it's getting' pretty warm – especially with the way things are going in the world today ... I mean it's just ... *awful*."

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AB: "Suppose someone offered you a million dollars to kill bin Laden ..."

G: "Oh, I would do it for free."

AB: "You'd do it?"

G: "Oh yeah ..."

AB: "And you think you could do it?"

G: "Absolutely."

AB: We got marines over there lookin' in all the caves ...

G: "He's nowhere in the caves – he's nowhere where they think he is ... The guy's a snake hidin' underneath a rock only they're not lookin' under the right rocks."

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G: "It's your ability to assimilate into other cultures, and Americans don't like to assimilate into other cultures – we like to have other cultures assimilate into ours."

AB: "Yeah, that's our ego, all right."

G: "This job involves ego and it involves the void of ego – you have to know when to shut it off."

AB: "Isn't it time for you to shut off everything ...?"

G: "I would be very out-of-line if I said I could do this for another couple of years, or until I'm thirty (30) or forty (40) ..."

AB: "Is this mostly a young's man game?"

G: "No."

AB: "Really?"

G: "It's a poor man's game."

AB: "What do you mean?"

G: “Me – I’m a weird bird. I don’t get the rush out of killing people – I get the rush out of the complexity and the logistical ridiculousness of such an operation” There are a myriad of things that I do: “I do exceedingly high-risk personal security work ... I do asset recovery and hostage rescue ... I also do what you would call rapid deployment and threat elimination”

AB: “‘Threat elimination’ – let’s define ‘threat elimination’ ...”

G: Threat elimination – when a businessman or person of prominence is threatened, G comes in and does an assessment as to how to eliminate that threat.

AB: “You try to intercept the execution of a threat – is that what you’re saying?”

G: “Yes.”

AB: “So ... liquidation?”

G: “You could say that ...”

AB: “I do.”

G: One time I was in a South American country and I was hired to “pick off rebels at a distance. I got paid by the rebel.”

AB: “What do you mean ‘by the rebel’?”

G: “Well, you know, you have a herd of cattle and you get paid by the head. ... I was paid by the businessman who was under the threat of attack from those rebels.” The businessman – in this case, a rancher – was an easy target for the rebels. The rebels don’t want to steal the rancher’s cattle – rather, they want to kill off his cattle to instill fear. “If he doesn’t have any more cattle, he doesn’t have any more land.”

AB: “That’s true. ... It’s an absolutely very strong message – killing ... men.”

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AB: “So how do you justify this killing in your own head?”

G: “These people are murderers. Cold murderers.”

AB: “You don’t kill animals do you?”

G: “No, never – I don’t hunt. ... It’s wrong.”

AB: Art tells the story of shooting and killing a squirrel for no reason at age twelve (12). How he's felt guilty about it for all his life – "What a stupid thing I did!"

G: "There's a purity in animals and children"

AB: "It's an odd thing to consider ... but you'll kill a human being with no problem at all."

G: "Not even the blink of an eye. But I'm governed by reason and logic – I don't kill for no reason."

AB: "I don't know if reason and logic covers that ... But maybe it does?"

G: "My reason and logic might be convoluted when compared to the rest of the world, but I sleep well at night."

[However]: "You always have to be at a high awareness level."

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AB: "Boy, I've been down some strange paths in doing this program – this is definitely one of them."

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AB: "Have you ever had to torture anybody?"

G: "You'd be surprised what kind of persuasion sometimes is necessary ..."

AB: "Surprise me."

G: "Intelligence gathering is the single most important thing you can do during an operation.

You'd be surprised how quickly people given to give you the proper answers when there's a threat of a bolt cutter taking off body parts."

AB: "A bolt cutter ... yeah, that would do it."

G: "Or something to that effect."

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AB: "You seem to lean toward the cutting tools, huh?"

G: "I enjoy getting my hands dirty."

AB: "Any idea why?"

G: "Oh absolutely, just because something may be cleaner or more humane, doesn't mean that it's better or serves the proper end."

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G: "Combat isn't a sheltered situation. It's ball out – one hundred percent (100%)."

AB: "What about failed operations? Have you had any failed operations?"

G: "Oh yeah."

AB: "What do you think is the biggest cause of a failed operation?"

G: "Bad intelligence gathering – very much so."

AB: "You really lay into the intelligence part of this, don't you?"

G: "You have to properly ... *prepare!* ... The more organized you are ... the better opportunity you have to come out."

AB: "Intelligence. You keep stressing how important intelligence is ..."

G: "The Be-All and End-All."

AB: "That costs money too, right?"

G: "Absolutely ... it's a situation where you have to pay. And if you don't pay a lot, you don't get a lot. You get what you pay for."

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AB: "How do you get through" customs in foreign countries, being that they could be onto you?"

G: "With cover concealment and camouflage. You go in under different pretenses – called a pretext ... an 'American businessman.'"

AB: "Do you have to use subterfuge to get in? ... I mean, after all you must be known to them – at least some of them ...?"

G: "I would think so."

AB: "So what are you saying? ... That they're not very good ...?"

G: "No, some of them are very good [just] not as good as me."

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- AB: "Do you believe in God?"
- G: "Oh yeah."
- AB: "Do you believe in the Devil?"
- G: "Yes. Absolutely. He tries to work through me all the time."
- AB: "Then you believe in 'life after death,' right?"
- G: "I believe in life after death. I also believe in reincarnation."
- AB: "In reincarnation, really ...?"
- G: "I've had 'many lifetimes to build upon.'"
- AB: "There's gotta be a deeper-seated reason in your psyche why you do this stuff."
- G: "I 'get off' on it."
- AB: "How do you handle contact with your clients? 'By telephone?'"
- G: "No, not by telephone." That's not safe.
- AB: "What is safe?"
- G: "Face-to-face contact."
- AB: "You ever been double-crossed?"
- G: "Oh yeah. Absolutely."
- AB: "How so?"
- G: "The people that aren't genuine are the ones who don't want to give the money up front."
- AB: "Huh?"
- G: "If someone is in dire need of your help, they don't have a problem with putting money down on the table"
- AB: "Yep. If they've got it [the money], that's right!"

- G: "Even if they don't – they get it."
- AB: "They find it somehow, huh?"
- G: "That's the biggest deciding factor – if they can get the money"
- * * *
- G: "I don't do *pro bono* unless extreme circumstances are in play."
- AB: "Have you got enough money to retire for the rest of your life right now, if you want to?"
- G: "No."
- AB: "Nooo?"
- G: "No."
- AB: "That's kind of surprising for the number of operations that you've been on ..."
- G: "It takes a lot to retire these days."
- AB: "Well, it takes a lot, but ... what have you done with your money?"
- G: "I squander it religiously."
- AB: "You do ...?"
- G: "Sadly enough you'll find that when you can make money at such a ridiculous clip as I can sometimes ..."
- AB: "Easy come, easy go ..."
- G: "You got it."
- AB: "So what do you do – tend to gamble ... women ...?"
- G: "No, no, no, no. I do not gamble, I don't drink alcohol, I don't smoke – nothing like that – no drugs ... I give it away."
- AB: "You give away money?"
- G: "I help people that need it. ... I took care of my family"

AB: “So now on top of everything else, you’re Robin Hood?”

G: “Yeah, Robin Hood, Prince of Stupid.”

AB: “Prince of Stupid ... all right”

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AB: “I’m Art Bell – you’re in the place where you can expect anything.

I’ve always wished for diversity on this program, and this is no disappointment.”

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G: Re: skeptics – “You have to be stable enough within yourself to be able to accept people coming at you because of what they don’t understand. But in my line of work you have that shield of anonymity and cloak of obscurity around you [for protection].”

Aud: Does Gabriel trust the telephone he’s using to talk on right now?

G: “Not for a second, no.”

Aud: “My God! This has got to be the most interesting guest ever on talk radio!”

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G: “Sadly, you’re always going to leave somebody behind ...” [when you go to extricate someone being held prisoner].

AB: How would you extricate someone?

G: “You strike hard, you strike fast, and you strike at night.”

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Aud: “Do you plan on having a family when you retire?”

G: “No.”

AB: “Why not?”

G: “It’s not in my projection.”

AB: “Never to have a family.”

G: “I’m going to drift off into obscurity. ... It just doesn’t seem to be in the cards for me.”

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AB: "Do you think that evil in the world, Gabriel, is increasing?"

G: "Yes, exponentially."

AB: "Why do you think that is?"

G: References the 'Quickening' ... "I think it's gonna come to a cataclysmic end, honestly."

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G: "Why should I be afraid?"

AB: "Death ... dismemberment ..."

G: "I've already dealt with dismemberment – I've been shot, I've been stabbed, I've been drug along the ground, I've been beaten up by multiple people – I'm no invincible human being that can take out the world ..."

AB: "So you've got a lot of scars?"

G: "Yeah."

AB: "Boy, do we live different lives! Holy mackerel! ... This is really something"

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G: "There are plenty of people in the world that will kill you at a moment's notice. Plenty." Maybe I can get the word out: "You shouldn't be a victim. It's ingrained in my head that 'victim status' shouldn't be tolerated."

AB: "The unarmed man is a subject."

G: "The unarmed man *is* a subject."

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AB: "I don't know, you all can make up your own minds, but that was really interesting, wasn't it?"

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