

## TWELVE



# So You Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star

“HELLO THERE, AND WELCOME TO the Fox News show *American Perspective*. Quite a bit happening on the political front these days, of course. As you undoubtedly have heard, Democratic presidential nominee Maxwell Fish is going to be let out of his cage next week to give one speech in public. After that, it’s on to the Supreme Court, which will decide later this month whether Governor Fish can legally be prosecuted for treasonous activity while running for president—and if so, whether that gives the government the right to curtail his campaign activities prior to going to trial. Who would have thunk it, right? Now, one question we’ve been hearing a lot from our viewers has to do with *why* Governor Fish has gotten into so much trouble for meeting with a member of the Canadian intelligence community. After all, the Canadians are our traditional friends and allies. Here to provide some American perspective on the matter—if you’ll pardon the expression—is our national security correspondent, Sally Wilder. Sally, can you give us some background here?”

“Certainly, Craig. This all traces back, of course, to the Boundary Water Incident of September 11, 2016. On that day—the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as it happens—the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended five men paddling rubber rafts through what’s known as the Boundary Water region, a network of lakes that stretches for hundreds of miles along the border between Minnesota and Canada. The

men apprehended that day were ostensibly on a duck-hunting expedition. However, a subsequent search of their belongings revealed that they were actually attempting to smuggle a working nuclear device into the United States from Canada. The device, concealed inside a hidden waterproof chamber in one of the rafts, was estimated to be fifty times as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.”

“I remember that day well, Sally—one of the most terrifying moments in the history of this great nation.”

“It certainly caused a complete rethinking of our anti-terrorist policy. We’d been focused mainly on threats from overseas at that point in time, but these five terrorists were all born and raised right here in the U.S.A.”

“All-American types, that was the strange thing about it. Except for the fact that they were over-the-top music nuts, right?”

“Correct. All five belonged to a religious cult that went by the name of Musicology. The cult centered on the worship of rock music as a source of spiritual truth. The terrorists’ ringleader, Rick Rogers, was also the cult’s high priest.”

“And boy, was his arrest high impact! As you know, Sally, many people think the Boundary Water Incident cost Hillary Clinton the presidency that year.”

“It’s true that she did have a clear lead in the polls at that point in time. And it’s also true that President Ballinger, who was then the Republican presidential candidate, passed her in the polls the very next week. Of course, the fact that the Ohio Governor had already named former CIA Director Acton as his vice presidential running mate helped immensely, as well. Following the arrests, news reports surfaced almost immediately indicating that the plot had been uncovered thanks to Acton’s aggressive actions in the preceding months, just before he stepped down as President Obama’s CIA chief to accept the GOP vice presidential nomination.”

“That’s right—Obama had chosen Acton to head up the CIA as an olive branch to the Republicans. So much for bipartisanship! Obviously, the Republicans in Congress benefited from the Boundary Water Incident as well.”

“That’s right, Craig. They solidified their control of both houses

in that fall's election, and they haven't looked back since. Everyone understood that this near-catastrophe happened on President Obama's watch, with the Democrats in control of the national security apparatus."

"In short, there was a whole lot of politics around the incident—and a lot of fear, too, plain and simple. If that bomb had gone off in a major U.S. city..."

"I don't even want to think about it, Craig."

"So, where do the Canadians come into all this?"

"The U.S. was never able to prove that Canada knew about the nuclear plot in advance, but there have always been suspicions in that regard. What we do know for a fact, however, is what took place *after* the nuclear terrorists were arrested."

"When Rick Rogers, somehow, inexplicably, escaped—"

"Yes, through the ceiling of a Minnesota jailhouse, in the middle of the night, just two days after his arrest. As I'm sure everyone recalls, he fled across the border to Canada and asked for political asylum."

"Which they gave him."

"Yes, they did."

"Unbelievable. I mean, what could the Canadians have possibly been thinking, protecting this dangerous lunatic?"

"That remains a mystery to this day. Rogers died four years ago from pancreatic cancer, of course, so we'll never know his side of the story. But suffice it to say that our relationship with the Canadians has been strained ever since. For one of our presidential candidates to meet in secret with a Canadian intelligence agent is extremely troubling—particularly since it's a clear violation of the Foreign Contacts Act passed by Congress in 2018."

"Well, leave it to a Democrat to play footsie with a bunch of terrorist-coddlers."

"I'd prefer not to jump to any conclusions, Craig. We'll have to let this play out in a court of law."

"Naturally. That's what we do in a democracy. But, level with me here, which party do you trust more to deal with these threats? It took a Republican Congress to crack down on the Musicologists, for example. Since they passed the Rock Ban back in January of 2017, this has

been a markedly safer, saner country. Don't you agree?"

"They certainly took the music-terrorist link seriously, I'll give you that."

"You know that Musical Aggression and Antisocial Behavior scale they use to figure out which music should be outlawed—MAAB, they call it?"

"I'm aware of it, yes."

"Well, someone I know in the Department of Cultural Hygiene was telling me just the other day that my beloved Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass almost got nixed by that scale. They just snuck through! I would have been in serious trouble if *they* got put on the no-play list."

"Well, I'm happy for your sake they didn't, Craig."

"I appreciate that, Sally. And thanks very much for stopping by the studio today..."



"Tomorrow morning, we head for your hometown," said Blue. They were in the hotel lobby, drinking sodas and listening to a pair of guitarists sing selections from Eels, an L.A. indie band that formed in the mid-nineties and cut a dozen albums over the next two decades.

"*San Francisco*," prompted Serena under her breath, seeing Blake's look of incomprehension. "Stay focused, Karl."

"Meantime," Blue continued in a low voice, "you've got a job this afternoon, running the mixing board for a review at the Palladium. Their sound man came down with a stomach virus, so we thought this would be a good chance to display your skills in case anyone was wondering. We should make an early night of it, though. We're hitching a ride with the Five Fingers tour bus first thing in the morning." The Fingers were Rolling Stones channelers, the same sullen group Blake had seen in the lobby when he first arrived at the Daz. If they were as nasty as they looked, he thought, it was going to be a long bus ride.

"Sorry if our plans are interfering with your social life," Serena added snidely.

Blake started to say something about the previous night, then stopped himself. Why did he owe Serena an explanation? His hookup