

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to After Hours, Queer Radio With Attitude, right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered people and their friends. Here at After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets.

That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

Hello Houston and College Station, and the world, and welcome to After Hours, Queer Radio With Attitude. This is the June 2nd edition, and I'm Jimmy Harper. We've got a packed show for you tonight. Gigi is here with BiNet. And we've got an interview with a real live author. Hey. Hey. Hey. But before we get to that, I want to mention a couple of things.

Euphonia is coming up that is an evening of acoustic music to benefit the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston, and that's going to be hosted by KPFT own DJs Pat and Rosie from Night Sounds. The featured singer songwriters are Chelsea Bouchon, Joel Stein, and Christy Rae. That's Friday, June the 15th 8:30 at Bocado's Restaurant and Bar 1312 West Alabama. And oops. That's something else. That's something else. That's something else. That's something else. And here it is. Yes.

Big Roy is going to talk about this too. But I want you to know that Wednesday, June the 7th, the Stonelaw-- Ouch! Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston is having a reception honoring the grand pride Marshal's, Dahlia Stokes, Mitchell Katine, Blake and Gordon Weiser, and honorary grand marshals, who are the honorary grand marshals, and PFLAG as the honorary organization for this year's pride parade. The reception will be held at the Sonoma restaurant on the patio, that's 1416 California, from 6:30 to 9:00. And a little donation would help. All proceeds go to PFLAG and the Stonewall lawyers.

I forgot that my grip here on the teeth. Anyway, let's open it up here. And let's open up-- what the hell? Hey, Gigi. What's going on?

GIGI: Oh, we have been having too much fun.

JIMMY CARPER: Oops!

GIGI: I tell you.

JIMMY CARPER: Before-- we get to that--

GIGI: Oh, got one more?

JIMMY CARPER: See, I forgot something already, yeah.

GIGI: Oh, boy.

JIMMY CARPER: The music that you heard at the beginning of the show, new music for After Hours. That first one was Boy George's favorite songstress here lately, Amanda Ghost, doing "Idol." And the second one was new music by Marshall Zorn. It's called "If I strayed." A song that will-- if you feel that way, you should definitely see a psychologist. But it's good music, anyway.

So Gigi BiNet, what's been going on?

GIGI: Oh, man, it has been incredible.

[LAUGHS]

We just had BiCamp.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

GIGI: And oh, what can I say?

JIMMY CARPER: Over at the Rainbow ranch.

GIGI: I'm floating.

JIMMY CARPER: How was it?

GIGI: Oh, spectacular. We had--

JAY: Beautiful weather.

GIGI: --wonderful weather. We had all kinds of activities, recreational and otherwise.

[LAUGHTER]

I guess that is recreational.

JIMMY CARPER: I guess.

[LAUGHS]

Anything, yes, where you were, it's going to be lots of stuff going on.

GIGI: Oh, yes. And we even set up a special screening section.

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: For those more private--

JIMMY CARPER: I see.

JAY: --moments.

GIGI: Uh-huh. So everybody had a really good time.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. Good.

GIGI: And then I went to Burning Man last weekend.

JIMMY CARPER: Which is?

GIGI: It's an eclectic gathering where everything's on barter system. And you can't buy anything. You have to barter.
And--

JAY: It's kind of a Pagan--

GIGI: Pagan knish.

JAY: --Esq thing, yeah.

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: It's a Pagan Renaissance Festival?

GIGI: Yeah, basically.

JAY: There we go.

JIMMY CARPER: There we go.

GIGI: All kinds of fun stuff.

[LAUGHS]

And that was incredible. I set myself on fire.

[LAUGHTER]

And everybody loved it.

[LAUGHS]

JAY: You're always doing that, Gigi.

GIGI: I know. So--

JIMMY CARPER: Gives a whole new meaning to the phrase flaming.

GIGI: Uh-huh. Oh, I was flaming, baby, in places you wouldn't want to know.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: You're so right.

[LAUGHTER]

GIGI: But anyway, we have a special guest.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we do, as a matter of fact.

GIGI: I want to turn the show over to Jay, who's going to do a book review and then an interview.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, come on. You're going to jump in there.

GIGI: Oh, I'll jump in. But she's going to run the show tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: Jay being the official book reviewer for After Hours.

JAY: Mn-hmm. So I've got--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, for a couple of reasons. One, she likes books. And second, she can read faster than anybody I know.

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: Yeah, as a matter of fact, I read both of these books kind of simultaneously. And it took me all of about one week to do it. But then again, I'm not in school. So I had nothing to do but read. I enjoyed it.

So first I thought I'd talk about a book that actually came out last month. It's called *Hercules in Love*. And it's this new press, another time and place books. And the guy, his name is David Drolet, D-R-O-L-E-T. However, you pronounce that.

Anyway, he started this press and he also started this thing called thealternativehistoryclub.com, something like that online, go fig. And it's basically a place for fiction and non-fiction works, historical that have gay themes. OK, so far there's one book at thealternativehistoryclub.com. This is *Hercules in Love*.

There's another one going to be coming out in August. It's a work of fiction set in the Civil War. Civil War, you know romance-love-story-gay thing, whatever, also by the same author. Hopefully, there will be others coming soon. But so far we've only got one with the potential of two.

So *Hercules in Love* is a non-fiction book. And, uh, let me tell you what it's about. Well, the thing is--

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute, how can Hercules in-- we're not talking about Hercules.

JAY: No.

JIMMY CARPER: We're not talking about the greater glory here.

JAY: Yeah, kind of like a-- well see, that's the interesting thing. OK, it's called *Hercules in Love*. OK, so it sounds like-- I mean, it sounds like a romance novel, doesn't it?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, or something about mythology.

JAY: Or something about Hercules.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: OK. Hercules doesn't come in until chapter 9 of this 10 chapter book. Go fig. So what is this thing about-- I'm not entirely sure I can really tell you. He kind of talks in the press release and the back of the book on the blurb and everything like that about how the Spartans, the Dorians, who came down from the North conquered Sparta all that other good stuff influenced Athens. Because they're very homosexual, homosocial, and all that-- influenced Athens.

And so Athens said, oh, well, we're not sure about this homosexual thing. But brought it into their society and allowed gay men to have a place in society and blah blah blah. So that's kind of what he's talking about here is, at least that's kind of how it sounded to me, how Sparta influenced Athens. And then how Athens took these sort of rough, rugged you know Spartan ideals and kind of civilize them in a sense.

Well, if that's what the book's about. He doesn't really do a good job of getting that across. I mean, it's not written chronologically. It's kind of more divided topic. So chapter 1 is about this topic. Chapter 2 is about another.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

JAY: Some of which don't really have anything to do with anything. The chapter on Hercules, well, it's all very well and good but Hercules lived like thousands of years before the Sparta and Athens. I mean, they're talking the Trojans here.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm.

JAY: So what is Hercules have to do with Spartans influencing Athens? And what exactly is the Thirty Years' War? He's talking about this but he never really explained it. I think that's when Sparta conquered Athens but I'm not entirely sure. So I'm not sure.

And then chapter 10 is all about Dionysus. What does that have to do with anything?

[LAUGHS]

I mean, he's a Greek god. But so what? So I mean--

JIMMY CARPER: So is this more like a bunch of essays put together or into a book?

JAY: No, I think it's supposed to have a theme.

[LAUGHS]

But I'm not entirely sure. Well, I guess one could say it's well-written. The problem with this book is-- I mean, there were some interesting stuff in it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: There were some really interesting things about this mentor-student relationship.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: OK, I mean, we all know about the Greeks. And we all know about this little mentor-student thingy they had.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

GIGI: Oh, we know about that.

JAY: Oh, we sure do now.

[LAUGHS]

Well, the interesting thing is that I found out about this is actually that was not intended to be a sexual relationship. The boy was supposed to discourage the man from having his way with him. Now if there were some bonding taking place. Maybe he's like, oh, I'm so drunk. Golly gee, I can't fend you off.

[LAUGHS]

And then that would happen.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh gee, do you think that ever happens?

JAY: Oh, heavens no.

[LAUGHTER]

GIGI: You know that happens with Miss Gigi a lot.

JAY: Well, that's something else too. Man, this guy. He's got this fixation with young, hot, round butts. And that's a quote from the book. OK, that's not a paraphrase. I'm not kidding. He talks about these guys. The older men is called--

JIMMY CARPER: And the problem with this is?

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: Well, generally speaking in the history book, you don't want to talk about hot, round butts. You might talk about-- his tone was a little off every so often. So every so often, he'd portrayed the older man as being like this horny, lustful, all I want is little boys, ha, ha, ha. And then the young man is supposed to be, oh no, don't touch me. I protect my innocence. And then he turns around and says, of course, these relationships were not about sex.

[LAUGHS]

But wait, wait, wait, wait, excuse me. Hello? What was that butt thing you were just talking about?

[LAUGHTER]

As I said, there were some interesting information. And he really does go into the Erastus Eromenos. Minus. The Erastus was the older man. The Eromenos was the younger man. really goes into that relationship, What was that about, why did they do this, who were the people who were these Erastis were they all just hot, horny, older men? And he says no, some of them--

[LAUGHS]

Some of them were--

JIMMY CARPER: I resemble that remark.

JAY: Interestingly enough actually, if a younger man did get a reputation for allowing the older man to have his own way. He could no longer like speak in the assembly.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

JAY: If he spoke in the assembly-- even like years and years later. There was this young man who got this reputation for being kind of loose. And like--

JIMMY CARPER: So to speak.

JAY: Yeah. 30, 40 years later, so he gets up in the assembly. He's now rich man and everything. Gets up in the assembly and starts talking on something something. And his opponents say, oh, you know but when you were young you had sex with your older man, with your mentor. We shouldn't listen to you. And he was exiled for 10 years.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm.

JAY: So this whole image we have of the older man, the younger man kind of massive sexual relationship didn't actually happen. It was not supposed to, let's put it that way. If it did, it was kind of kept quiet. But anyway, so it was not ostensibly a sexual relationship. It was more of just sort of this mentor-student relationship. So that was interesting. I didn't know that. I thought that was very interesting. But I just had issues with this guy. I mean--

GIGI: Of course. I think you have to look at time errors. Because I know Socrates and his pupils were very active.

JAY: Well, they were but it wasn't supposed to be that. It was sort of like not really talked about. It happened. You just didn't talk about it.

GIGI: Well, Socrates was a different character. I mean, he did it in public.

[LAUGHS]

JAY: Yeah. That's probably why he got in trouble, you know. But anyway, so as I say, there's some interesting stuff in here. Well, for one thing, I mean, the way this guy goes on and on. He acts like we're all going to be terribly shocked by this. He starts off chapter 1-- chapter 1 is basically almost like an apology for the book.

And he says-- I mean, maybe I just misread it, who knows? And he says OK this is a book about Athens and how gay men could have a place in society, and be a part of the community, and raise a family, and have a wife and kids, and everything like that. Now this is going to repulse many people. And they'll want to throw the book across the room and trample on it. Excuse you, Hello?

[LAUGHS]

Straight people won't like it because the thought of two men having sexual and deep friendship relationships is going to make them throw up, and puke, and all that stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Not all straight guys.

JAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Trust me on this.

JAY: And then gay people, gay men, aren't going to like it because the thought of having a wife and kids, and having a family, and being part of the community is so ghastly, and repugnant, and nausea invoking. They'll want to throw the book across the room.

[LAUGHS]

Now, not being a gay man, I don't know, maybe. But I just kind of sit down, methinks the lady doth protests are a little too much here. And he's acting like, oh my gosh, people are going to be so shocked to find out the Greeks were gay.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm like, oh my, isn't that like a synonym?

GIGI: Go, Greek.

JAY: I think--

GIGI: We dunked it, actually.

JAY: Yeah. I mean, is there anybody here who's surprised at this? A surprise that, A, they were gay or B, that they had wives and families?

GIGI: Yeah.

JAY: I mean, we all know that that's what they did. So I don't-- it's just--

JIMMY CARPER: We could be kind and say their sexuality was fluid.

JAY: Mm.

GIGI: Mm-hmm.

JAY: Mm.

HOST: A guy who's fluent in Greek.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. That was fluent in Greek.

HOST: Oh, yes.

[LAUGHTER]

Never mind.

JAY: Fluency--

JIMMY CARPER: Not fluid.

JAY: --or something like that.

GIGI: Well, I'm fluid in Greek. But not fluent.

JIMMY CARPER: It sounds like this guy had problems tying his ideas together.

JAY: Yeah, and so there were some interesting stuff. But it's all like in this big mush in my head.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: And then he has this whole chapter. And again, it's all interesting but what does it have to do with homosexual relationships in Greece? A whole chapter on women in politics or women in the lack of politics, as it were.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: And I mean again, some interesting little tidbits like the fact that it was literally illegal for a man to be influenced by a woman in the sphere of politics.

GIGI: Brother, like that never happened, hello?

JAY: Now how they proved that, I don't know? But if it were, quote unquote, "proved" that a man was influenced by women. So that's all interesting. But what does that have to do with-- and what does it have to do with Hercules? What does that have to do with the Spartans? I just was so confused.

So it probably would have been a much better book maybe if I didn't read this press release, I don't know. God, it confused me. And it just--

JIMMY CARPER: And you're not easily confused. This has been the most negative actually book review that I've ever heard you do. And--

JAY: I was reading an essay about that. It said most book reviewers find it very difficult to give negative reviews.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: Because we love to read and we hate to discourage people from reading. And this guy, his heart's in the right place, bless him.

JIMMY CARPER: But it ain't working.

JAY: He's starting out this new business and it's all well and good. Maybe he's better at fiction, I don't know. But just-- mm.

JIMMY CARPER: Better luck next time.

JAY: Yeah. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: So the name of the book--

JAY: *Hercules in Love.*

JIMMY CARPER: By whom?

JAY: By David Drolet, D-R-O-L-E-T.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JAY: s I don't know if it's--

JIMMY CARPER: Or Drolet.

JAY: Drolet.

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE].

JAY: The French pronunciation.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes,

JAY: So it's at alternativehistoryclub.com. You can read an excerpt from it there. And that's also where you're going to find his next book, which is coming out in August. And I forgot the name of it.

JIMMY CARPER: Oops.

JAY: Something about-- I don't know, Summer 2001. Something about the Civil War.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

JAY: *The reenactment*, a post-civil war novel. Again, by David Drolet. And he's got a couple of chapters in the back of the book, which seem, at least a little more closely tied together than this *Hercules in Love*, I don't know. Maybe he's better at fiction than nonfiction. But he just kind of does seem to go all over the board. So who knows. Nice cover.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch. Ouch.

JAY: Anyway. So there you go.

GIGI: Well, moving on.

JAY: Yeah, let's move on.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you've got a guest over there that's about ready to burst.

GIGI: I know it.

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: So from the ridiculous to the sublime here, Tristan MacAvery's *Divine Intervention*. A new book just out. You want to tell us what it's about? Give you a chance to say something?

TRISTAN Well, the--

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Hi! Welcome back!

[LAUGHTER]

TRISTAN Well, having not been introduced. I thought it was a little rude to try to say too much in the middle of all that. I

MACAVERY: thought, OK.

JAY: Terribly sorry.

TRISTAN Instead I was making all these gestures that they were giggling at and--

MACAVERY:

GIGI: It was wonderful.

TRISTAN I thought she'd appreciate it.

MACAVERY:

GIGI: Yes.

TRISTAN Essentially, we have Caralee Maitland who is a female Episcopal priest. And she finds herself having to do battle

MACAVERY: with a demon that is killing people by perverting or reversing miracles. And this bizarre idea came to me one day when I was sitting around trying to come up with basically a formula horror novel for a first publication. This is what you're supposed to get your foot in the door.

I had written three other novels by that time. But I hadn't broken through the door yet. So I was chatting with my friend who was Patrick Williams. And I'll tell you stories about him later except I might get sued.

[LAUGHTER]

So wait we're off the air talk about Patrick. But--

JAY: Sounds interesting.

JIMMY CARPER: Juicy details after the show.

[LAUGHTER]

TRISTAN But he said, all right, look, if you write a horror novel, you need to find something that really scares you. What

MACAVERY: really terrifies you? And I said, what scares you? And I said, scares me, Jesus Christ?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TRISTAN And I thought, wait a minute, that's it. That's it.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

TRISTAN That was it. Because what it was is it's not just that. Before I offend all the Christians out there. Because there

MACAVERY: are gay Christians, I know.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

TRISTAN The whole religious concept, I'm not about that. What I wanted to get at, was what is more scary than someone

MACAVERY: who is supposed to help you but is in the disguise? What if it's what if he only looks like a good guy.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm.

TRISTAN OK. And comes up and does-- and all of a sudden I just thought, wouldn't it be intriguing to find out what

MACAVERY: happens. And so we start finding these strange deaths. We have a street bum who has all the water in his body turned to wine.

We find a young man on an AIDS Ward who has checked at 7 o'clock by the nurses everything's fine. At 8 o'clock, they come back and discover not only is he dead but his body appears to have been lying in the sun for three days. We have a lady who accepts a gift from a stranger of a sliver of fish in a slice of bread, which she eats. And then it begins to multiply inside her until she explodes.

GIGI: Oh. Oh.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

GIGI: You're wicked.

TRISTAN And I've got a few others that are in there. So I haven't gotten rid of the whole book yet

MACAVERY:

GIGI: Oh, you're wicked.

TRISTAN Oh, there's lots in here. It's a lot of fun.

MACAVERY:

JAY: I got to say, when I first read this, I just read off your website from aslansmuse. You have the first three chapters. So I didn't know anything about it, hadn't read any back of the book blurbs or anything like that, not even the prologue, which is in the actual physical book.

So I start off reading chapter 1. Homeless guy walking around, oh yeah, getting some food, here's this Jesus guy comes up. I'm here to save you, Jesus saves. And I'm going, OK, what's this all about? Great, why did I agree to interview this guy? It's going to be something awful.

[LAUGHTER]

And then he says, I can turn water into wine. Here, let me do this miracle for you. And then he turns, as Tristan said, all the water in the man's body into wine. And I'm like, whoa, I was not expecting that. OK, this looks good. So it's definitely intriguing. I was kind of wondering what was going on with that Jesus guy, going, OK. But it was-- definitely caught my attention.

TRISTAN That's what it's designed to do. Just to bring up the idea the reason I did not include the prologue is because the purpose of the prologue is not made clear until the middle of the book. The prologue begins actually in the sixth century in Ireland.

And we have a monk who was the sole survivor-- we find out later-- of his monastery. Because of a demon that has attacked the monastery. And has been conquered by some, as he puts it, strange companions that he has made, essentially the Dorota, who by their magics have captured the demon. We don't know this at first. We just know that they're carting something off to the seas based on the legends of Saint Brendan.

So if you are familiar with the legends of Saint Brendan. The idea that in the 6th century, presumably Brendan left the shores of Ireland and found this country or something like it. He found land off to the west. We're not exactly sure whether he found--

But the idea is that they're carting something away. And we're not we have no clue what that's about yet. And in fact, it probably confused you. And I've had that complaint. And it's a little confusing, what's this about?

JAY: Actually having read the first three chapters. Then I went back and read the prologue, I could kind of guess. I mean, well, I knew it was something.

TRISTAN OK.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Some evil and they're carting something away, OK. And so I said something's coming up later. And then, of course later on when there were little bits and pieces-- oh, we found some petrified Hazelwood in the middle of the New Mexican desert. Gee, I wonder where that came from? Oh, duh.

[LAUGHTER]

And so not duh, actually. It's more like, ooh, click.

[LAUGHTER]

I know where it came from, so.

TRISTAN Yes, the Pagan among us realized that Hazelwood is not native to this country, which is that's exactly the point.

MACAVERY: So yeah, it was kind of fun. And ironically enough, did you notice it was by accident, not by artifice that the discovery of all the stuff that goes on happens in chapter 13?

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: No, I didn't notice that, actually. That's pretty cool.

TRISTAN That was by accident. But it's kind of amusing.

MACAVERY:

JAY: That works well. Well, one thing I really liked about it. I told you earlier, my sister's a minister.

TRISTAN Yes.

MACAVERY:

JAY: She's a really cool minister, though, as I said. I think she would really enjoy this book. So it's a fun book but there's also stuff in there. It's like a true evil, and what is evil, and things like that, which is very interesting. And of course, we even get a little bit of etymology in there. I thought that was great. Talisman from this word from Islam meaning submission. Ooh, really? So of course, I had to go to the OED and look that one up. It's very interesting.

TRISTAN That's where I went.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Yeah. Yeah, I noticed.

TRISTAN You start there.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Our hero is this Episcopal priest, as you said. But then she gets help from this Wiccan guy, this Wiccan Rahm. And they work together and in the end they hitch up together. So that's awfully sweet. And I thought that was really cool. I mean, because usually you don't see-- and then two, whether by design or accident probably not by accident, but the Jewish police officers. So you got Christians, Jews-- well, Baptist is Christian, I guess-- Episcopal Baptist Jew.

TRISTAN The Romani.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Rom. OK, so you've got all these different religious backgrounds coming together and working together. And I was kind of hoping that Lewison would do a little bit more with the demon at the end and get something from the Kabbalah or something like that. But--

TRISTAN That would have been interesting except I didn't quite need him for that weirdly enough.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Yeah. Yeah.

TRISTAN But he was the first one to believe something was amiss.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Mm-hmm.

TRISTAN That was the whole point that I wanted to get with Lewison as a character. Also to throw a little Yiddish in. I know

MACAVERY: a little Yiddish. So that my study shouldn't go [YIDDISH] and I wanted to put a little in here.

JAY: Yeah.

TRISTAN So [YIDDISH] and I couldn't use a little Yiddish, OK? People in Katz's Deli are going, I know this boy.

MACAVERY:

[LAUGHTER]

But it's--

HOST: What's with that accent?

TRISTAN It's kind of amusing every time I happen to go back over there. I tell everybody as I leave, [YIDDISH]. And I don't

MACAVERY: think one person in 18 who are worked there know what I'm saying. It's basically good luck--

JAY: Oh, bless you. Oh.

TRISTAN Yeah, bless you. Yeah, it's like good health, having something you say. But--

MACAVERY:

JAY: But it was a fun book. And it really was a quick read. I mean, I just sat there and as I said, I got it on the computer. You sent it to me through the computer. So I sat there on that stupid hard chair that has an absolutely nonexistent cushion.

TRISTAN Sorry.

MACAVERY:

JAY: And-- Oh. No, I mean, I just could stop reading it. I just kept reading it. It's like, OK, dinnertime, 15 minutes later, yeah, I'll be there.

[LAUGHTER]

TRISTAN That's real gratifying, thank you.

MACAVERY:

JAY: Well, yeah--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: She loves you more than food itself.

TRISTAN Oh my, the responsibility. I'm just not ready.

MACAVERY:

JAY: And believe me, Jay loves my cooking.

[LAUGHS]

TRISTAN Oh my, that's--

MACAVERY:

JAY: The temptation, the temptation, which one?

[LAUGHTER]

So anyway, it really was. I mean, it was fun. But then as I said, it also had this history to it and the discussion of evil. And my sister and I always talk about things like this, she being the minister and all. And it had that. And I like that the perversion of the miracles. I mean, I thought that was the so cool. And, of course, it's got the televangelist bad guy, which was-- I liked him. I'm kind of irritated though that you killed one of my favorite characters, you meanie.

[LAUGHTER]

TRISTAN I could guess which one--

MACAVERY:

JAY: Yeah.

TRISTAN As a matter of fact. And that's true.

MACAVERY:

JAY: But it wouldn't have been realistic if you hadn't, so.

TRISTAN No, I did not want to. But it was sort of necessary. But yeah, that's an interesting character. But so as not to give any clues, we won't throw that one out just in case.

JAY: Yeah, we're trying not to say anything.

TRISTAN Try not to say anything. But you'd be surprised who actually-- I like to throw little things into books for people to catch that are references to other bits and pieces. You notice to Nicholas his assistant was?

JAY: Mm-hmm.

TRISTAN Nicodemus, as I should say. The Romani fellow, he's basically half Greek and half Gypsy. And it's Nicodemus

MACAVERY: Pretorius. You got to love it.

JAY: Oh, yeah.

TRISTAN And Nick Pretorius, that's a lot of fun. But his assistant, in case anybody notices, he's wandering off to the shop.

MACAVERY: And he turns it over and he says, Mr. Sulu, you have the con. And he walks off. And the thing that makes that funny is that as she's walking by Carrie Lee notices that someone addresses him as Hikaru, which is Sulu's first name. For the Trekkies, it's Ricardo Sulu.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I didn't know this.

TRISTAN So there you go. This a little in-joke back then.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I can imagine that you'd like to throw things like that in. Because you are kind of the man of trivia.

TRISTAN I am a wealth of useless information, yes.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

GIGI: That's like Jay.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: But when you write novels like this, do you find that they're writing themselves? I mean--

TRISTAN Yes and no. By that, I'll tell you a story I was telling Jay earlier about the book. Because I actually finished the first

MACAVERY: draft of this about '91.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TRISTAN And so a while back. And I had various difficulties, including an agent who shall remain nameless. Because if I

MACAVERY: name her, she might try to sue me even now-- who basically treated me like garbage. And I said, excuse me, I really don't think this is what a business relationship is about.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

TRISTAN So she sat on everything for two years for the contract and did nothing, literally did nothing. I tried threatening

MACAVERY: her with lawyers and she started threatening me with lawsuits back. The best thing I could do is just sit tight for a while. This scares people. So those are looking for an agent, be careful.

[LAUGHTER]

But in any event, I had never quite liked the ending. Like most novels of this type, there is a showdown. Now I'm not going to give you any details about it.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

TRISTAN I will tell you only that as I'm reading the galley proof, mind you. I'm looking at a PDF File on my computer. And

MACAVERY: I'm looking at this and thinking, what in the world is going on? I'm reading, and I'm reading, I'm checking for errors. And I'm looking at this. I'm looking at this. I'm looking this. And all of a sudden, it's like somewhere-- I don't know if it was Calliope, Menesmone, one of the muses came up with a clue by four. Hit me in the head and said you missed something. Whack.

And it's like my eyes lit up. And it's like, oh my God, that has to be in there. And I called up the place I said, how much is it going to cost me to put stick in six paragraphs? I've got to stick in this explanation. There's something missing. And I finally realized what the problem was. I said, oh, we can work that out. We can take care of it, that's no problem.

And I saved the book, thank goodness, before it went to print. Otherwise, it would have been like-- people would have said, why did you do this, didn't you mean? I would have gone, guh, mental head slap. Oh. Hurt, pain. And I would never have lived it down. So finally, I was rescued by some muse or other too.

JAY: So obviously it doesn't write itself too well.

TRISTAN There are times when either that or it's don't blame the muse. It's probably human error.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: I guess what I mean is, you create characters and they have to react in certain ways, I guess.

TRISTAN In a lot of writing, this is true for me. In fact, one of the reasons that this is the first one that got published rather

MACAVERY: than the first book I wrote was because I have a book I'm hoping to release sometime next year that is called *Tea For 20*. It's part of a series of books regarding an institution known as the Ten Research Network or TRN, which researches paranormal phenomena.

And this book is about-- OK, to give you a clue, *Divine Intervention* is about 72,000 words. TRN, *Tea for 20* is about 113,000 words. Now, this is extra long. It's actually 40,000 words. And I have had at least one review-- a person who was reviewing it to possibly to represent me, say, OK, look, the investigation of the haunted house and why the guy died in it is the important part. Ditch the first third of the book.

And I said, excuse me, read from this point and try to understand the book. And what you realize is that in that first third of the book, I'm setting up characters in such a way that when the stuff unfolds it has to go that way.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JAY: Mm-hmm.

TRISTAN This is something that I discovered. A few writers will do it. Thomas Tryon did it in *Harvest Home*. The paperback was about 400 pages. The first 100 pages are boring. And you're slogging through it. Like will you please do something interesting. But after the first 100 pages it begins to pick up slowly and it snowballs. And you suddenly discover those first 100 pages have laid clues. That when it unfolds, there is no other course. You are on a beeline for disaster. It is the only way that book can go.

And I realized that was what I was doing with *Tea For 20*. And because it is so long, most modern publishers do not want to spend ink. And that's very dangerous. And that is why the concept of print on demand has come up. You have companies like the company that publish my book, is xlibris. It's a division of *Random House*. And they literally will not print a copy of the book until it's ordered.

They have the technology to print one or 1,000, it doesn't matter. So you pick up a copy, order one copy, and they run off one copy. For one thing, it means that there will never be an out of print book again, which is very nice.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, but what happens the first editions?

TRISTAN You have to kind of create them.

MACAVERY:

[LAUGHTER]

You do.

JIMMY CARPER: Because it sounds like it's all first edition.

TRISTAN It's way, yes. And so I've even got something I can tell you about that. I see I'm sort of monopolizing the

MACAVERY: conversation here.

GIGI: Of course you could have--

JIMMY CARPER: You are the guest.

GIGI: I feel so special. Of course you could have first edition first printing.

JIMMY CARPER: That's because it's all about you.

TRISTAN That's true. Well, actually the very first book-- I'm the one who has the very first book. And I can prove it.

MACAVERY: Because the day I got it in my hot little hands I took it down to the Post office, bought a \$0.34 stamp, put on the inside of it, and the hand canceled it. So I have an official government date of that book. And the first order is the next day.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

TRISTAN Yes.

MACAVERY:

GIGI: Oh, wow.

TRISTAN The first book when it was released on-- I got that on-- I beg your pardon, it was two days. Because on May the 10, which was a Thursday. I had my book canceled. On Friday, the 11, the site went live at Xlibris for people to order. And my first order came in less than 24 Hours.

JAY: Cool.

JIMMY CARPER: There are people that just kind of--

TRISTAN There are people that I told. They said, let me know when this thing is available.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TRISTAN And I and I emailed them. And it went phew. There you go.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

TRISTAN So my first order went in. I'm like, oh, cool.

MACAVERY:

[LAUGHTER]

JAY: Yeah, we were all loitering in cyberspace waiting for it.

JIMMY CARPER: I was going to say, are there people that just kind of hang out there and read first chapters and then order the book, and?

TRISTAN There are people that will do that. It's also interesting because I have a paperback edition available. There's also

MACAVERY: an e-book available for about half price, I think. And so you can order the electronic book, in fact someone has.

So there's a place I can go on the Xlibris site which is update it in real time. It will not tell me if somebody ordered it through a bookstore because they report monthly. But if someone's ordered from the web, or send in a check, or whatever the heck, it updates automatically.

JIMMY CARPER: And is that the only place I can get this book?

TRISTAN Absolutely not, you can go to a bookstore and order it. If you go to the bookstore, tell them to back order it, because that triggers the print on demand system. And if you simply order it, what will happen is it will go to the warehouse. We don't have it. We don't have it. We don't have it. And you finally get back to the store, where is it? Oh, we don't have it. We'll have to back order it and then it triggers. So tell them that it is from Xlibris, which is a print on demand publisher. And that in order to trigger that process you use a back order.

JIMMY CARPER: So this is kind of new stuff.

TRISTAN It's a new technology on top of everything else. They're about three, I think, companies that are doing this now.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TRISTAN Ouruniverse.com, which may have changed its name, I'm not sure. Because ouruniverse.com published a book
MACAVERY: by Lawrence Block called *Random Walk*. And Block has since reissued *Random Walk* but it's through another
imprint. So it may be that one. And then naturally, Time Warner jumped on the bandwagon. I forgot and I think
it's-- Oh, I forgotten what the name of it is. My apologies.

JIMMY CARPER: That's OK. We're only interested in Xlibris.

TRISTAN Absolutely. Absolutely.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: And that's xlibris.com.

TRISTAN Yes, X-L-I-B-R-I-S dot com. And if you'd like to read the first chapter, you can there @xlibris. They have the first
MACAVERY: chapter up there. If you want to read the first three chapters like Jay did, you can go to my personal website,
which is aslansmuse.com. I'm sorry. I should have started off as that place before I got here.

JAY: We're probably in trouble with English today, aren't we?

TRISTAN [INAUDIBLE]. I'm sorry. No, it's aslansmuse.com. It's A-S-L-A-N-S-M-U-S-E. dot com.

MACAVERY:

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute, try that one more time slowly.

TRISTAN Aslans, A-S-L-A-N-S, like the great lion of Narnia. Muse, M-U-S-E, as in the people who will give you inspiration
MACAVERY: according to the ancient Greeks, dot com.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TRISTAN And failing that-- if I'm not mistaken, you can even get there if you put Tristan MacAvery in your search engine.
MACAVERY: They call it ego surfing, I'm guilty.

[LAUGHTER]

Last time I got about 68 hits, I think.