

# Stranger than Truth

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In several articles I've written about things that happened to me in the past. Well, this week I'm writing about some things few people know about.

First of all, in grade school, I led my PeeWee baseball team to the Little League World Series championship. In high school I led a secret double-life as a wildly famous pop singer named Bucky Kentucky.

When I was in college at Eau Claire, I was asked by the FBI to uncover a terrorist plot to blow up the Minnesota Vikings' Metrodome. I actually ended up joining the terrorists but we were eventually thwarted.

After college, I declined to declare for the NBA draft, and decided to forego the multi-million dollar signing bonus that accompanies a lottery pick to go to law school. After graduating from law school, I married a school teacher that looks like a super model.

Well, to be honest, other than the part about my wife, the rest of that stuff I made up. Even though it's not true, it makes me seem much more interesting. Sadly, making stuff up for an autobiography is becoming a popular trend.

The trend started with James Frey's 'A Million Little Pieces,' his autobiography about drug use that was briefly on Oprah's book list. Oprah took his book off the list and apologized to her book club members after it was discovered that Frey made the whole thing up.

Apparently, not every author learned from Frey's career-ending humiliation. Two other recent autobiographies were discovered to be fabricated as well.

First, 'Misha: A Mémoire of the Holocaust,' is an autobiography by Misha Defonseca that is a best seller in Europe but has yet to be released in the U.S. The book is so popular, the French even made a movie based on the book about a young Jewish girl who was adopted by a pack of wolves who protected her from the Nazis. Astonishingly, the book is pure fiction. After being exposed, Defonseca explained that her book "is not actually reality, but my reality."

Secondly, in 'Love and Consequences,' Margaret B. Jones wrote about growing up as a half-white, half-Native American girl in South-Central Los Angeles. She was raised in poverty, sold drugs for the Bloods gang, and watched Crips gang bangers gun down one of her foster brothers outside of the home of her black foster mother, a woman named Big Mom.

The book was published by Penguin Group USA imprint Riverhead Books. Riverhead discovered Jones' book was fake after Cyndi Hoffman read a review in the New York Times and contacted the publisher. See, Hoffman is Jones' older sister, and she also shared that Margaret B. Jones is a pseudonym for Margaret Seltzer, who is white and grew up in a well-off area of San Fernando Valley, California, where she attended a private Episcopal day school and lived with her biological family.

Riverhead not only canceled Jones' book tour, it also took the drastic step of recalling all copies of the book. Usually books are only recalled when they pose a threat to their readers. For example, if a hiking book mistakenly identified a poisonous mushroom as being safe, the publisher would likely recall the book to prevent any injuries.

To avoid this article being recalled, I won't talk about the time I turned down Brad Pitt's role in the hit movie 'Thelma and Louise.'

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