

Outline

THE BULL AND THE PEACOCK

A TRUE STORY

by Ken Follett

100,000 words approx.

7 December 81

PART 1: IN

One

1. Introducing Paul Chiapparone, 39, business executive, Catholic, very Italian-looking. His wife Ruthie, a small, placid, smiling woman with a shock of fair hair. Their two daughters. Paul's life story until 1977 when he goes to work for Electronic Data Systems in Iran.
2. Introducing Bill Gaylord, 39, business executive, Catholic, double chin and receding hair. His wife Emily, a thin, vivacious blonde from a well-connected Washington family. Their four children. Bill's life story until 1978 when he goes to work for EDS in Iran.
3. Capsule history of Iran to summer 1978.
4. EDS's work in Iran, computerising Social Security and banking. Political unrest in Iran and consequent problems for Paul and Bill during the second half of 1978. On 8 and 9 December EDS evacuates most of its staff and all their dependents.
5. On 28 December Paul and Bill go to a 'routine' meeting with examining magistrate Hosain Dadgar, who is investigating allegations of corruption in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. At the end of the meeting Paul and Bill are arrested, and bail is set at \$12,750,000.

Two

1. News of the arrest reaches EDS corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas. Reaction of Ruthie Chiapparone. Reaction of Emily Gaylord. Reaction of Ross Perot.

2. Life story of Ross Perot, colourful multi-millionaire Texan, founder of EDS, pillar of the community and wicked practical joker.

3. Introducing the Seventh Floor Squad at EDS: Tom Walter from Alabama, with a voice like molasses and a brain like a knife; T.J. Marquez, who smiles a lot because the Lord has been good to him; and plump, bespectacled Merv Stauffer, who does what Perot wants, which is the toughest job in the company. The Squad begins work on getting Paul and Bill out of jail. These well-mannered American businessmen are still cowboys at heart, as we shall see.

4. Paul and Bill spend their first night in jail.

Three

1. The Squad, augmented by Dallas corporate lawyer Tom Luce, calls everyone in Washington who might be able to help, from the White House down. Meanwhile in Tehran Keane Taylor - handsome, 6'2" tall, wisecracking - goes to work on the US Embassy and the Iranian Ministry of Justice. Nobody gets any results.

2. Paul and Bill settle down to life in jail.

3. Ross Perot calls the most powerful man he knows - Henry Kissinger. Kissinger calls back and says: 'Your men will be released at 10 a.m. tomorrow.' Paul and Bill are not released. Perot says: 'Call in Bull Simons.'

Four

1. Life story of Col. Arthur 'Bull' Simons. Born 1918 in New York City, son of a Jewish clothing designer. Normal childhood. Grows into an intelligent and exceptionally strong young man. Marries Lucille, a soft, dependent girl. In World War Two Simons becomes a superb commando, specialising in sabotage behind enemy lines. After the war he tries civilian life, does not like it, and rejoins the military. He becomes a great leader of men. He is tough, aggressive, a perfectionist, a meticulous planner, self-sufficient almost to the point of obsessiveness, and never shows emotion. He is nicknamed 'The Bull'. However, what makes him exceptional is that he is much more than all this. He has an inquiring mind, a sensitive soul, and - when he turns it on - enormous charm. He is loved and admired by everyone he meets - soldiers and civilians, men, women and children.

In 1970 he achieves national fame by leading the Son Tay raid, an expedition to rescue American prisoners of war from a camp 23 miles outside Hanoi. In 1971 he retires and settles down with Lucille on a small farm in Red Bay, Florida. They spend seven idyllically happy years together, then Lucille dies of cancer. Simons is heartbroken. He goes to pieces. Nobody can get him out of his depression. Then, on 1 January 1979, T.J. Marquez calls him from Dallas and says: 'We have two people in jail in Iran -

will you help us rescue them?' Simons says: 'When do we start?'

Five

1. Introducing Pat Sculley, 31, thin, boyish and restless. With the help of Jay Coburn (see below), Sculley lists the EDS employees who could help break into an Iranian jail: Schwebach, Poche, Jackson, Davis and Boulware. All are summoned to see Perot. All volunteer for the mission.

2. On 2 January Simons meets his team. For three days they develop a plan for breaking into the jail. For another three days they rehearse it, using a mock-up they build at Perot's cabin on Lake Grapevine. They also try to get physically fit, and they use 10,000 rounds of ammunition in target practice. Meanwhile Simons is changing them from a group of clean-cut American businessmen into a tightly-knit commando team.

3. Simons tells Perot: 'We're ready.' The team flies to Paris.

Six

1. Simons, Coburn and Poche reach Tehran first. Introducing Coburn: 32 but looks 45, ready smile, shaky marriage and four children, former helicopter gunship pilot in Vietnam, string of medals as long as your arm. Introducing Joe Poche, 32, married with two children, also a Vietnam combat veteran, short, silent, ice-cool in danger, his normal demeanour that of a robot in a sulk. They reconnoitre the jail and find it is different from what they had been led to believe. They work out a modified plan. Then - disaster - Paul

and Bill are moved to a high-security prison like a fortress.

2. Perot comes to Tehran with lawyer John Howell. Like Perot, Howell is a little man with a lot of guts. He zips around the strife-torn city trying to post a letter of credit for \$12,750,000 so that Paul and Bill can get out on bail, but the Iranian banking system is collapsing as the country lurches toward revolution. Perot secretly gives up hope of posting bail and tells Simons: Get them out any way you can.

Perot leaves, and Bill Gayden flies in. Gayden (not to be confused with Bill Gaylord who is in jail) is President of EDS World, poker player and corporate clown.

3. In jail, Bill teaches Paul to play chess. Paul reads *The Thorn Birds* three times. Both men say a rosary daily. At one point they ask for a priest to give them absolution. Back in the States, both Ruthie and Emily wonder whether they will ever see their husbands again. Each of them realises: I couldn't live without him.

Seven

1. Introducing Rashid (pseudonym), a young, exciteable, street-wise Iranian employee of EDS who can talk his way into and out of anything. Simons tells Rashid to infiltrate the revolutionary mob and gain the confidence of the leaders, with a view to having the mob storm the jail.

2. Meanwhile Simons works on ways of getting Paul and Bill and the team out of Iran. He sends Glen Jackson (35, married, three

children, first-class shot, not afraid to die because he is a Christian) to Kuwait to investigate the Persian Gulf exit. He sends Pat Sculley and Jim Schwebach (35, married, two children, two tours in Vietnam, even more medals than Coburn) to London to get better maps. He sends Ralph Boulware (35, married, two daughters, black, 6'0" tall, cynical) to Turkey. Simons and Coburn reconnoitre the roads from Tehran to the Turkish border.

Eight

1. Keane Taylor, 6'2", and John Howell, 5'7" - the long and the short of it - struggle to post bail. On Saturday 10 February they have almost succeeded. They drive through the riots to a last meeting at the bank - but there is yet another delay. They try to reach bank officials at their homes and are turned back by street fighting. Bitterly frustrated, they return to the Hyatt Hotel to plan tomorrow's campaign.

2. In suburban Dallas, Margot Perot (45, blonde, classy, stunning smile) notices that Ross is uncharacteristically grumpy. She asks him: 'How are things with Paul and Bill?' He replies: 'It's supposed to be tomorrow.'

Nine

1. On the morning of Sunday 11 February, Rashid leaves his house and goes out to join the mob. They break into an armoury and get guns and ammunition. Rashid makes a speech: 'The Gasr Prison is our Bastille!' The mob storms the prison. Rashid gets inside and begins to look for Paul and Bill.

2. Inside the prison compound (which covers several acres and contains many buildings) Paul and Bill listen as the rioting and gunfire outside grow louder and heavier during the morning. Around midday the prison guards desert their posts, leaving interior doors and gates unlocked. Eleven thousand prisoners head for the walls. Buildings in the compound are set on fire. Paul and Bill join the crowd. A lone guard in a tower fires into the compound and Paul sees people fall. They climb the prison wall and drop down the other side - free, but not safe.

Ten

1. Keane Taylor and John Howell go to another meeting with examining magistrate Hosain Dadgar. While there, they hear that the prison is under attack by the mob. They ask Dadgar to release Paul and Bill into the custody of the U.S. Embassy. Dadgar refuses.

Back at the Hyatt, Rashid rushes in, breathless and panicky, his pockets bulging with ammunition. He has searched the jail without finding Paul and Bill.

At their hideout, Simons, Coburn and Poche stand on the roof and watch the city burn.

2. Paul and Bill walk away from the prison, heading north toward the Hyatt. They are turned back by gunfire. They head south and east until they seem to be out of range of the fighting, then turn north again. They contemplate seeking refuge in the Catholic Mission, but decide that that may be the first place Dadgar's men search. They hitch a ride, then another one. They reach the Hyatt unscathed.

3. In Gayden's suite, Keane Taylor is telling Rashid to get a

car and go back to the prison to look again for Paul and Bill. Gayden is on the phone to Dallas. Everyone is afraid Paul and Bill have been killed in the riot. Then Paul and Bill walk in. Everybody whoops and hollers like schoolboys at a football game. Paul says to Gayden: 'I just saved you twelve million dollars - you could at least pour me a drink ... '

PART 2: OUT

Eleven

1. Simons arrives at the Hyatt, breaks up the party, and takes Paul and Bill to the hideout.
2. Ruthie and Emily learn that their husbands are out of jail but not out of danger.
3. Perot flies to Washington and asks the Air Force to fly Paul and Bill out of Tehran. At the Pentagon he is told: We can't do it. He organises the Turkish Rescue Team: Schwebach, Sculley, Boulware (who is already in Istanbul) and Ron Davis (30, karate champion, black, divorced, second wife pregnant) - who will meet Simons at the border.
4. The Seventh Floor Squad locate and rent a Boeing 707 with crew to take the Turkish Rescue Team to Istanbul. The jet has been fitted out for an oil sheik, and Perot says it looks like a Persian whorehouse.

Twelve

1. On Monday 12 February all EDS employees remaining in Iran gather at Simons' hideout. There are ten men, a sick woman and a dog. Simons splits them into two groups. The 'Clean Team', consisting of people for whom Dadgar probably is not searching, ^{including the woman} will take ^{the} woman refuge in the U.S. Embassy and try to get on the first scheduled flight out. The 'Dirty Team', including Paul and Bill, will drive to north-west Iran and sneak across the border on horseback, using smugglers' trails.

2. On Tuesday the Clean Team moves into the home of U.S. Consul Lou Goelz.

3. Perot and the Turkish Rescue Team take off from Washington in the Flying Whorehouse and head for Istanbul.

Thirteen

1. Early in the morning on Wednesday the Dirty Team leaves Tehran in two Range Rovers. They are stopped and searched at several roadblocks but allowed to pass. Paul and Bill are using 'borrowed' passports. The picture in Paul's resembles him, but Bill's is not a bit like him. Fortunately nobody looks too closely. They make good time, and Gayden jokes: 'We'd better make up some scary stories to tell the people back home.' He speaks too soon.

2. Perot lands in Istanbul. Boulware meets the plane then heads for the border. His bus breaks down, so, 500 miles from the

border, he hails a cab - a 1964 Chevrolet.

3. The U.S. Embassy in Tehran is over-run by revolutionaries.

4. The phones are cut off and Dallas loses contact with the Dirty Team.

Fourteen

1. The Dirty Team reaches Mahabad where they are arrested by revolutionaries.

2. Boulware drives all night through bandit country.

Fifteen

1. On Thursday Glen Jackson, not knowing where the Dirty Team is, tries to fly a chartered jet from Amman, Jordan, into Iran, and is turned back over Tehran airport by Iranian fighter jets.

2. The Dirty Team is released from Mahabad and arrested again at Rezayeh. They are lined up against a wall that has bullet holes in it.

3. Boulware reaches the border station where the Dirty Team is expected to cross. Nobody is there.

4. Rashid uses his connections with the revolutionaries in Tehran to get the Dirty Team released from Rezayeh.

Sixteen

1. Schwebach, Sculley and Davis leave Istanbul and head for the border. Perot, alone in his hotel room, contemplates the risks that are being taken, and wonders what he will tell people if his men do not all return.

2. The Dirty Team leaves Rezayeh. On the way to the border they are arrested twice by Kurdish tribesmen who live by crime. Both times they talk their way out. At midnight they cross the border into Turkey.

Seventeen

1. They decide not to break any laws once they are out of Iran so, on the Turkish side, they confess that Paul and Bill have no passports. They are detained.

2. Boulware shows up. Then Sculley, Schwebach, Davis and a Turkish fixer called [REDACTED] Mr. Fish arrive with a bus. They negotiate with the guards and Paul and Bill are allowed to leave.

3. They are arrested one more time, but finally get to Van, whence they fly to Ankara, where Paul and Bill get temporary passports from the U.S. Embassy. They fly on to Istanbul. At the airport Simons is arrested for having \$50,000 in cash.

Eighteen

1. Back in Tehran, on Saturday morning the Clean Team gets on

an evacuation flight. The plane sits on the runway all day while the revolutionaries search it for Paul and Bill. Despite the danger, Joe cool-as-ice Poche reclines his seat and goes to sleep....

2. A \$5,000 bribe gets Simons out of jail and the Flying Whorehouse takes off.

3. The Turkish Rescue Team and the Dirty Team meet up with the Clean Team in Frankfurt. There is a panic because Germany has an extradition treaty with Iran. Paul and Bill hide in the cinema at the airport until the Flying Whorehouse is ready to take off for the U.S.

Nineteen

1. One last crisis: the plane develops problems and has to make an emergency landing at Heathrow.

2. They all take a scheduled Braniff flight from Gatwick to Dallas. On the way Keane Taylor takes it into his head to collect up all the cash everyone has been carrying (for bribes). When these dirty, scruffy, bearded men commence to count half a million dollars on the floor of the first-class lounge the other passengers panic. Perot soothes them.

3. The Seventh Floor Squad has arranged a reception in Dallas, and all the wives and children are there to meet the men. When Simons sees Paul and Bill reunited with their families he says: 'I just got paid.'

Twenty

1. A few weeks later Simons has a heart attack. In the meantime he has become friendly with Anita, a blonde, scatty Swedish girl of 30, and they have a May-September relationship (although they do not sleep together). Simons, who has never shown emotion, is now seen holding hands with Anita as he lies in the hospital bed. When he gets out, Anita becomes his live-in nurse/companion. She teaches him to cook chili and he puts her on a keep-fit programme. Simons is learning to relax, and enjoying it. After a lifetime of taking care of other people he at last lets someone take care of him. But it is too late: he has driven himself too hard for too long. He has another heart attack and dies on 21 May 1979. He is buried at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida, in the same grave as his wife Lucille.

The end.