

Story Ideas/Problems

Podcast 3

Shortly after we completed Podcast Chapter 3 I had to go out of town on a business trip. To illustrate that ideas come from lots of places, or no places, I decided to document a few ideas that came to mind, and what I was doing at the time.

#1

What was I doing: I was packing for my trip and the thought occurred to me that the last time I used the bag I was packing was on a trip to China earlier in the year.

Idea: On a previous trip someone had slipped something into a man's luggage, but for whatever reason had not retrieved it. The item was in the lining and went undetected when the man unpacked. Now as the man traveled again the item is discovered by security, drawing the man into a plot of intrigue and espionage where he had to prove himself innocent and save not only his life, but the lives of his family as well.

#2

What was I doing: I was walking through the airport.

Idea: A man responds to a personal ad, wanting to impress his coworkers he hires a woman to fly on the same flight next to him, and pick him up. She is an operative in a blackmail ring that uses this

ploy to find businessmen and government workers to blackmail. At the last minute the man's plans are changed and he can't make the flight, or contact the woman to call off the transaction. When the woman takes her seat she is pleased to see a bookish man with a pleasant smile in the seat next to her. The stranger isn't what he appears to be.

#3

What was I doing: One of the keynote speakers at the conference I attended was Mrs. Fields, as in Mrs. Fields Cookies. While her speech was interesting I found my mind wandered and out of the blue the following came.

Idea: As part of a charity fundraiser a famous writer has "sold" to the five highest bidders an appearance in his next novel. In the novel all five would be named, and killed by the villain. The novel is released and now someone is killing the five in real life, just as they were killed in the book.

#4

What was I doing: The conference was in Nashville, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. The place is huge and getting from my room to the conference was a hike. One morning I was walking to breakfast and asked myself "What if?"

Idea: A man is staying at a large resort. He picks up the morning paper from in front of his door as he leaved his room. He reads the

paper as he walks the long halls to his meeting. He realizes that he has been walking too long and looks up to get his bearings. He finds himself in a world that is not his own.