

Zendo Babe

By Sheila Hayes

Chapter 1: Electronic Harassment

Although Gunila Zinn had cybered up with Brad Yayger in the years preceding the COVID Crisis, she had interacted with him at an undisclosed L.A. café in the early months of 1999. She was at a table in the back of the café when Brad sauntered in to greet Elvira Wilshire and her overly-cute daughter. She was deep in thought over her publicity tour, but not deep enough to ignore the action in the café. Like other ladies, she assumed that Brad was the child's dad until she picked up on the fact that Elvira and Betsy, Brad's first partner, worked together on Broadway.

It was not long after Elvira and Brad sat down together before Karen Dorchester joined them for a relatively short tête-à-tête. Gunila was captivated by the dynamic between the three adults and the way the sweet little girl grasped for Elvira's flip-phone. She thought it might serve as the basis for a fictional short story about the world of motherhood and business. It was clear that Elvira was a bit overwhelmed by her daughter's persistent behavior. She had mentioned her ambitions to make it in the movie industry, a world that could be grueling to a young mother.

When Carry Grant came in like a tornado with his youthful exuberance and gaudy wristwatch, Gunila quickly assessed him as a guy who could use a good make-over. His attire was poorly kempt, something that did not suit his role as a sales support dude. Although she did not know anything about his role at the time, she was not surprised to hear his geek-speak after the ladies fled the building. She was well aware of technological jargon from her time researching the San Francisco tech scene. Greta Garbo's arrival charmed the pants off of Gunila. She was clearly a woman of power who was well respected by both Carry and Brad. The way Brad joked around with her over his status as an alcoholic incel loser showed how well the two got along. She knew it was a joke because she had heard Brad explain the way his current partnership was doomed. Incels do not have domestic partners. Losers do not show up early for business meetings. They usually flake out altogether.

She had no idea what the hell Stow Rage was, but it was clearly the destination of the Dynamic Trio as they headed out for their date with destiny. She was familiar with Industrially-Lighted Maggots (I.L.M.), but not with Musk-Koggi. The world of computer-generated imaging (C.G.I.) was both impressive and disconcerting to her. She had some friends in the business who were concerned about the future of automated movie production. Their concerns in '99 were allayed later when independent production outpaced the big players, and became a force for reform in the industry.

Once the Dynamic Trio were gone, her attention shifted to the nearer table where Aaron Alexis was being cared for in a remarkable way. His plight concerned Gunila because it could happen to anyone, even herself. He had been harassed by a team of Naval Misfits armed with a microwave area denial weapon. It was denying him the sleep he needed and pushing him to the brink of insanity.

When Gunila was cybered up years later, she learned of the way that the Misfits had harassed Aaron. She looked his case up on the Internet to find that there was such a thing as a microwave auditory effect. It was the basis for the Mooderola machine employed by the Misfits for vicious and brutal purposes. Not only against Aaron, but against State Department personnel overseas. It was the machine that manifested Havana Syndrome cases in places like Havana and Hong Kong. It was even used in Germany in an effort to tar Russians by targeting U.S. diplomats concerned with the Nordstream Pipeline.

When the connection between Naval Intel personnel and the Nordstream bombing was revealed in a Federal court case, Misfit Bitches at Giggle made the mistake of attempting to suppress publication of the information. This resulted in a whole new case against them. Gunila was happy to learn that such totalitarian practices were finally being prosecuted by the “authorities.”

She had been the victim of such suppression herself back in '99 when her publicity tour was targeted by the Misfits as a threat to “state secrecy.” It seemed like a stupid idea at the time. It was not until the full stupidity of Naval misfitism was revealed by the efforts of the Get-Fresh Crew that she felt vindicate.

Gunila learned more about Itsee (I.T.C., the International Telecommunications Consortium) much later than her experience with its early development. As a member of Brad’s “Tech Talk Around the Clock” audience, she was an unwitting participant in brain-computer interface (B.C.I.) technological development. She was an unwitting beta babe who gladly took on the hooker identities of Gunila Zinn, Zendo Babe Extraordinary. She knew that some sorry-ass 4chan misfits would credit her with coining the term “geeksplaining” even though she had nothing to do with it. Her experience with Computer Geek went back to the sixties when she overheard her father’s technical discussions at home.