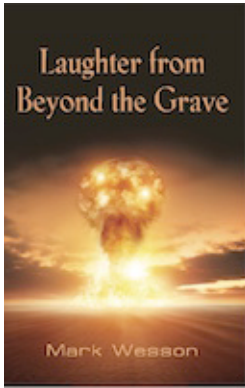


Laughter from Beyond the Grave



Mark Wesson



1980. Soviet Union. Young university graduate Victor Uranski releases to the public his idea of an unmanned nuclear submarine. He is immediately offered work on a government clandestine project at a top secret laboratory. While this story is fiction, these events could actually happen. Perhaps they already have...

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Chapter 1:

Day X

Russia was destroyed within an hour. All the missiles were launched into the air simultaneously. Like a swarm of wasps, they attacked the country that dared to protest, that wanted to be heard, that didn't sell out for cheap handouts, the country that was thought to have been tamed by the few decades of "Perestroika" and sprouting capitalism. Something went wrong. The perfect plan invented right after World War II didn't work out like everyone hoped.

In the beginning, everything was great; the plan was working perfectly. Young people of Russia were really into the Hollywood standard of living: they didn't want to have families, didn't want to have children. Freedom from any kind of responsibility became the main goal in life. Drug abuse was the new way of life. The adult population, on the other hand, was busy making money, diving head-first into the sea of newly opened business opportunities. And the way they did business showed how little they actually believed in the communist ideals they were so proud of before. The concept of personal gain suppressed in every person since childhood, tabooed and shamed by the Communist Party for decades, was now spreading like fire. Corruption had become so commonplace that bribes were part of the business plans. Russia was supposed to fall apart on its own, no missiles required. The plan was working perfectly; all there was left to do was to wait. There was even a joke: How do you become the 51st American state? Easy! Declare war on the U.S. and surrender right away.

But somewhere somebody said: "Why wait? Let's just blow Russia up! The country is 100 percent unpredictable.

What if they develop national morale and unite to actually work together for the good of their own country? If there is no Russia, there is no problem.”

Of course, the decision wasn't unanimous. The old, experienced General McGregor kept saying that the Russians will retaliate, that the National Missile Defense's best result was only eight out of ten missiles shot down. And those were NATO missiles. Nobody knew how many Russian missiles they would be able to stop, he said. But nobody listened to him. Other generals, blinded by the grandeur of the situation and their own importance, threw caution to the winds and voted “For.”

The decision was made! “Attack!” Now, the higher authority had to be informed. Who? The president, of course. You can't start a war without his approval. And the president can't make that decision before consulting the biased party. Who will that be? People who have much more than a few million in their pockets. But, as they say, “The more you have, the more you want.” And they want it all. That is why these people were so interested in conquering Russia. Oil tycoons would get oil. Gas tycoons would get gas. Metal tycoons would get metal. Forestry tycoons would get wood. And so on. And the spoils were going to be abundant.

Somebody once said that when God was handing out natural resources across planet Earth, he must have spilled the bag over Russia. The American tycoons had divided the territory of Russia among each other in advance, and just couldn't wait to get their hands on it. They were looking at the map of Russia the same way their ancestors peered over maps of Native American territory before destroying its people. What was the difference? Now it was nuclear warheads instead of bullets.

When the tycoons got the news that the generals were ready to attack, they all crossed themselves (since Americans are such religious people) and set the date and time. On that day and hour, all Russian submarines in all the seas and oceans were blocked from the surface by a fleet of ships with anti-missile systems. Thousands of sonars, spread out across every sea and ocean, were a big help, too. Thanks to them, the location of every Russian submarine was known down to 100 feet in distance and to 20 feet in depth. And when the time came, the subs would be literally showered with depth charges. That old bitch could still do the trick. It wouldn't work solo, but it would with high water density. Together they would make such a mess of anything moving in deep water that nothing would be left behind.

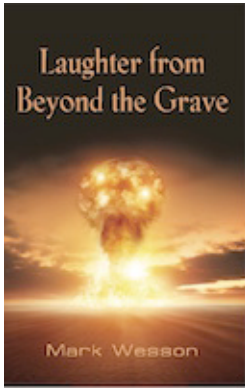
Despite the depth bomb attack, some of the subs managed to launch ballistic missiles, but they were immediately shut down. The speed of such missiles is minimal when surfacing, which makes them such an easy target a blind man wouldn't miss, especially when everybody is expecting them.

And of course, the main attack was on the territory of Russia. The country's missile defense could only stop 10 percent of the missiles; the other 90 percent hit the target, burning everything to hell. Everything that didn't burn got blown away by the atomic blast, a perfect example of nuclear explosion at work. There was some doubt in the beginning about destroying the infrastructure or historic landmarks, but it was decided that infrastructure was so bad it would be easier to build a new one. And historic landmarks are very dangerous. What if someone starts questioning the decision to destroy such an ancient civilization? No civilization—no questions! As there were never any questions about the death of 157 million people.

First of all, more rubble, less trouble. Secondly, they had been given a chance at democracy and freedom. But they kept talking about some ancient moral values: honor, decency. Such bullshit! They completely forgot about the times they were living in. It is the twenty-first century! Money is the only thing people live for now. Everything else is nonsense! And don't forget: might makes right! The first to shoot is the smartest! The winner gets it all! These are very simple—one could even say instinctual—fundamental rules.

And don't forget about the Gradual Decrease of World Population Program. These 157 million will be a great one-off contribution to a good cause.

To put it in a nutshell, citizens of a country called Russia had been born in the wrong place, at the wrong time.



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