

Navigators *Can*

George Korey



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IN HONOUR OF

My beloved wife Irene,
my life partner,
mate and
true love.

When life seemed more
like a battle
needing an arsenal of arms,
my foremost fortress
was always in her arms.

My dear son Andrew
and precious grand-children
Alexandra, Shasha-Paulina and Adrian.
Without them
I would be
so much poorer.

The hundreds of special human beings
whose lives criss-crossed with mine
to make me
what I am.

I offer the flight-chart of my life
to whoever shall fly
through these pages,
as though soaring
through
a kaleidoscope.

As you weave among the images,
may you recognize yourself
in them,
and be uplifted
to take flight.

Finally and always
my fallen comrades
who gave
their chance to live
to us instead.

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A BOOK THAT TALKS ...

Hello. I suspect you're reading this foreword to find out what's in this book.

Good. Next you'll leaf through the pages.
Then an actual sentence or chapter could fly out at you.
Intrigued? That's better.

Now, how about giving me a closer look?
You could sit down.
Or speed-read all my chapters, but be careful.
If you do, you'll miss the message.
Because the message is all about you.
Which you won't know until the end.
Almost like a mystery, or science fiction, only better.
Because this is really about you and you are not fiction.
You are real.
So you'll just have to take me home to get the whole picture.
And that's best.

If you're wondering who's talking to you, it's me.
Hi – I'm the book you're holding!
Haven't you ever wondered what a book thinks about its author?
Or opinions I might have about all the stuff jammed between my covers?
Mostly everyone gets all excited about a story they're going to write, how they're going to write it, publish it, design the cover, do the artwork and illustrations, bind it, sell it – the whole nine yards.
Then everyone goes ballistic trying to figure out the “right” market – who's it for?
What age group?
Who's buying what these days?

Which bookstores will carry this book?
On it goes.
But nobody stops to ask what I think about it!

Until now.
I finally managed to scale the walls of old-fashioned thinking that goes, you know, like, “well we've always done it this way...”

So I say, all the more reason to go novel!
It's a pioneer's job to break new ground.
Speaking for myself as the precedent I am,
I thank all the people who made me possible – from the writers to
The publishers to the sellers.

I especially thank you who are reading me.
Because what you hold in your hands is someone's life. Yours.
Up front this might not be obvious.
But I sense you secretly already know it.
To be absolutely sure, you might have to take me home.

Do you think life is heavy?
Of course.
That's why I insisted on being published.
Because I can show you how to live it light.
Is life always worry one day to the next?
There's no law saying that must be.
You won't believe it until you read it.
So think about taking me home.

How about an uncertain future? Chaos and fear?
I'm dead serious about this.
Because being dead is not the best way to live.
I want to be happy and fret-free.
And so do you.
You don't know how to do that?
Inside are the ideas that work.
It's a great plan that will last, so don't worry.
You'll remember it long after you've forgotten me.
Looks more likely now you'll want to take me home.

Too stressed out? Never really in control?
Running out of energy and strength?
Do love and caring fit in?
I hear two reactions!
One is "yuk – those words again".
The other says, "yes, tell me more".
You picked me up
Because I am the answer to the answers you need
Today, right now, for there's no time left not to know.

I'm based on a true life story. Easy, funny, but serious.
Because your life is the most important thing
That will ever happen to you.

Many age-groups will understand me.
There's something here for most everyone.
Small, teen, parent, grandparent.
From Planet Earth or someplace else.
No matter.
It's for anywhere *you* are.
And *you* are whoever is reading these words now.
See? You feel at home with me already!

In the beginning, I thought this story
Would be all about me.
Wrong.

September 11 2001 scrambled all my circuits.
So I took a long hard look at everything.
Noticed something I hadn't really seen before.
Everything and everyone was still there.
Only it was different.
My focus wasn't just on me
But on the importance of all of us together
And each and every one
Holding this book closely pressed to you.

Suddenly all my empty pages began filling up.
So fast that I knew this book was meant to be.
Now it is ready for passengers.
It's about boarding the flight of my life
To steer you to a future clear of uncertainty
I have already lived in my past.

Especially now.
So many changes, so sudden, so hard.
In all areas of life bar none.

You want cheer, not fear,
Answers, not aspirin.
Help, not hell.
A way up from down,
A light in the night.
That's why now, you might need to take me home.

Who *really* wrote this book?
You.
By being here.
All living our history at the same address: Earth.
Giving reason to my life to voice it back to you.
I am your desires, hopes and dreams formed into a story for you,
About you.
So you may know the true story of who you already are.

The world is forgetting how to be happy.
But we must not.
Every day the world speaks the language of terror.
There are other languages.
Is your world falling apart at the seams?
Life is full of seamstresses.

As you read, you'll realize I'm not a book at all.
The book is just my cover.
The truth is, I am a messenger with a roadmap. A guide. A gift.
A craft on which to fly through life
By staying in orbit over the ruins below.

Dear Reader:
This navigation chart leads only one way: from how things are
To how things can be.
For if I could do it, so too can you and more!
Because you are alive, here, now.
You can dare now, and win.
From that pivotal point of September 11 2001
May you commandeer the flight-path of your life
On this Earth
Turning desperation to inspiration.
Anger to positive action.
Sorrow to strength.
Pain to purpose.
I honour you for your permanent choice to do this.

Now, I'm sure you've stopped wondering
Whether or not to take me home.
Now you know you must.

*George Korey
Toronto, Canada
October 2002*

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WARM-UP

A crash course in how not to crash in life, but how to cash in on life, is what this is. In ways having nothing to do with money. But worth much more. Written through the life-path of one individual keenly aware we're all staggering along the same road together, trying to do the best we can. Placed in your hands as your compass by that same individual who's saying, "look. Because when you really look, it's amazing what you'll see". Risk, danger, struggle, challenge, spy-games, love, intrigue, fear, terror, things that go bump in the night and daytime too – it's all here and more.

Whatever my words chosen for this page, they will be inadequate. Until the day telepathy takes over, let me share the very best words I have now. When George Korey and I decided to write his story, our major purpose was truly to provide what you really need now at this interesting time of your life. Our collaboration seemed destined. We'd worked together professionally for many years, but it wasn't until the events of September 11 2001 that things rapidly fell into place. When life does that, it's a sign of something. The unusual format of this book is deliberate, to justly reflect this unusual story about this unusual man.

George long ago made only one choice in life and never changed it: to walk as one man capable of many. Teacher-learner, writer-reader, follower-leader. Watcher-doer, fighter-pacifist, thinker-dreamer. Or in a nutshell, life-navigator. And how to artfully live those roles with a compass pointing only one way: the very best way possible. When life flowed smoothly, best was easy. When life got rocky, best was put to the test. Either fall, or rise to a higher level of best. "Fall" being a foreign word he never learned, his life became a whole series of consistent outcomes called best, relative to the circumstance. Because anything best always has a price-tag, George went after the tags: tamper-proof integrity, one-minded focus on the goal, trust of his inner radar. If choppy seas or an unexpected wormhole showed up, he acted immediately to readjust the headings on his compass.

He discovered that everything we want springs from the tools we've already got to successfully get everything we want.

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So while others charged forth to get everything, George set about carving his tools. With careful choice, precision planning, dedication, persistence, and bountiful belief in his blueprint for the future. If he's great, it's because he fosters greatness in others. If he's worth listening to, it's because he's saying something worth hearing. When everyone's walking in a certain direction, he'll be flying the other way, and it will be the right way.

A wise person once said, "be the change you want to see in the world". I think George decided first to be a little bit of everything already in the world. Then he spun it around, reinvented it, and sent it back to see if the world looked any different. Hopefully a little better. Of course it did!

Your life-path is really your flight-path, and you are the Navigator steering toward the coordinates you have chosen on your Navigation Chart. If you're wondering what's propelling your launches and landings of each new day, it's your compass inside leading you. I'm convinced that the coordinates on George's compass are frozen in one mach reading which says, "*I Can*".

Thank you George, for bringing all the compass-readings of your life together for this voyage. I hope that in travelling through these pages with you, no one will ever doubt that Navigators *Can*.

Barbara Tomczyk
Toronto

COUNTDOWN

We live in a world believing everyone has the power but us. Everyone “can” but us. Starts early in life when we compare one another with that bright kid in class; that hero in a movie; that computer whiz who went out and made a million dollars while we struggle to get enough money to pay a phone bill. Ultimately the whole world is filled with Harry Potter, James Bond and Bill Gates.

While we are thrilled by them and intoxicated with their flair, we want what they have but are desolate because we don’t know how to get it. While we want to be like them, living in danger and excitement yet immune to death and destruction, our passion sinks into powerlessness, even despair, as we retreat to our conditioned conviction that such things can never be ours. They are out of reach. Ours only “in our dreams”. So life plods along its weary way. Harry, James and Bill give us a momentary fix. Then the bubble bursts. We shuffle back to reality.

But what is the real reality? The odd thing is, we can’t shake the nagging feeling that something is missing, even wrong. What’s missing? What’s wrong with this picture? Somewhere between the lives of Harry, James, Bill and our own, there has *got* to be another reality ... a Third Reality.

And it’s true. The feeling that something’s missing is proof that something is. Our deepest feelings are always right. Sherlock Holmes would call it “The Sign of Three” – an indisputable clue that a missing link exists, therefore must be found. “Watson”! he’d exclaim. “The game’s afoot! We must find this link at once! A life hangs in the very balance”!

Whose life? Yours. Mine. Ours. It’s time to blow the cover off the belief that we “can’t”, lest we believe ourselves right out of existence. It’s time to know not only that we can, but how we can. It’s the perfect moment in your life, in the world, and in history to show you the Third Reality. The Third Reality is the link, the bridge that connects the extraordinary (everyone else out there) with the ordinary (your present perception of you compared with everyone else out there).

What is the Third Reality? it is very powerful, very magical, and very real. Why? Because the Third Reality is not a person

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like Bond, or a thing like Harry's broomstick. The Third Reality is what you'll find throughout this book. Its power will fill that missing space in you. It is the link, the bridge, the glue. It brings the extraordinary down from its pedestal above, and the ordinary up from the ruins below. Where they meet is where everything is possible.

Does the Third Reality work? Yes. Does it work for everyone? Absolutely. If not, there would be no point to this book. The truth? This is a story about all of us, but mostly about you. Not the you you think you are; the you you really are. This story will not need a black and white cover to be read in a public place because happily there's nothing to hide. There's everything to blow wide open. Somewhere inside us Peter Pan flies, Zorro rides, Captain Morgan sails, and Harry Potter is trying to send us an email.

In this story all the magic wands of suspense, intrigue, magic, power and much more come flying, riding and sailing out of hiding right into your hands from between these covers. You don't have to watch and envy others doing their "incredibles" anymore. Now it's your turn. Things you thought you couldn't be or do are yours to be and do now. Things you thought everyone else could get but you, are now yours for the taking. Things you thought everybody else knew but you, is what this book is about.

Take a look inside. Uncover the secrets that made one ordinary life super-extraordinary. Use those secrets like magic wands in your hand to build your bridge, make your glue, design your blueprint to eliminate forever your missing link. Correct the picture you think is wrong and make it right for you. You can be 5, 55, or 155 years young, yet you can do it. After reading everything, nothing will be ordinary for you again.

More important, you probably need to be pretty super pretty magic pretty fast in this world coming at you like a tank. This book will show you how to handle such things better than Bond. It is all happening in our world, now, really, so it is happening to you too. With things on Earth whirling around in so many directions at once these days, we thought it would be a good idea to stop, look, and listen.

September 11 2001 helped us stop. Big time. It was a powerful motivator. When we did, we were reminded of something awesome: the world is like one big Hogswort School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. September 11 was a deadly explosion in chemistry class, and we are all wizards in

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training. What are we in training for? For whether we react in fear and rage, or love and compassion? For how to fly through all the explosions still rumbling through our lives? For more shocks coming? For how to live by flying safely through anything? For how to have a bright future in a future looking pretty gloomy? *Yes* to all of those.

But to do that, just like Harry you have to get some education on where to find that ignition button for your power, and then how to push it without blowing everything up including yourself. This book is your course material. Your flight-manual. Your navigation chart. You want to fly, not crash. The formulas are tried, tested and true because it's from real life, the biggest flight-training school of all.

How do we know? Because this is a true story. Everything you'll read actually happened. In fact, it still is. That's the most fascinating feature of the Third Reality. It never ends. It only gets bigger and better.

Like Bond we monitored our satellite-linked GPS network for the coordinates of one of the best living examples of the Third Reality on Earth. We found one. But the man of our tale is not your typical wellknown hero of Hollywood or textbook fame. Not Canadian, American, English, or French or ... he's a Pole.

When the spinning wheel of life stopped one moment on that September date, destiny chose a date with him. Looked pretty obscure. But isn't that usually the case? Angels often walk in rags. All it takes to see their real identity is a sprinkle of Third Reality. Why is the training compass pointing this son of Poland in your direction now? You've got to ask "why now"? Maybe he knew Harry, because today he can teach *doctorates* in Wizardry. In our opinion. But he teamed up with other interesting types along the way as you'll see for yourself.

In life there are no coincidences. At this time on our planet, the profound nature of these so-called coincidences is uncanny. Startling. Possibly ominous. We had better pay attention.

If you hold this book in your hands, it is *no* coincidence. A personal message inside meant for you is making it hard for you to put it down. Could be more serious than that. Something in this book could save your life. Or someone else's because of something you'll see that they missed. When you find it, you'll feel the power. We already know it. That's why fate has conspired to deliver this unusual story to you now.

Get ready to fly. It goes in steps. Each step leads to the next. Soon all the steps connect. Perched high atop the final step,

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when you look down, you'll see you've built a complete stairway. It belongs exclusively to you. It is indestructible and yours forever.

When you look up, you'll see beyond and over everything.

From that summit you'll view all directions at once. Eyes bright and mind clear, you can take off in any chosen direction. Afraid of taking a plane? If bedknobs and broomsticks can fly, why not trains and stairways?

Easy now ... ready? Next stop – the Third Reality. All aboard to a Master's in Wizardry: Making the Ominous Awesome!

It's time to blow the cover off the belief that we "can't", lest we believe ourselves right out of existence. It's time to know not only that we can, but how we can. It's the perfect moment in your life, in the world, and in history to show you the Third Reality.

This is a story about all of us, but mostly about you. Not the you you think you are; the you you really are.

Things you thought you couldn't be or do are yours to be and do now. Things you thought everyone else could get but you, are now yours for the taking. Things you thought everybody else knew but you, is what this book is about.

More important, you probably need to be pretty super pretty magic pretty fast in this world coming at you like a tank. This book will show you how to handle such things better than Bond.

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If you hold this book in your hands, it is no coincidence.

IGNITION

September 11 2001 scared everyone.

Even the man whose story this is. But not for long. He got just scared enough to want this story written for you right away because his alarm clock went off. When he looked at the time, the clock said “The Right Time”. Did he lose anyone in the Trade Towers or in the planes or Pentagon? No.

But men have died in his arms, women and children butchered before his eyes. He’s been hated and hunted for the unforgivable crime of being alive. He’s known terror of secret police coming to arrest him by night, fled sniper-fire singeing his heels by day. He’s knelt before princes and kings, and before a child to wipe away a tear. He has steeled every sinew against open obliteration of his homeland, yet wept among the ruins when no one saw, head into the wind in a rainswept field. His was a childhood dreams are made of, blown apart by the burst of bombs and soldiers’ boots. His was the joy of home, mother and father ripped away when leaving them forever was the only way to secure his safety.

He could have been sent to Auschwitz for pursuing his studies at a secret underground school, but did it anyway. He could have been caught sabotaging the enemy, but chose it anyway. He could have died at the hands of the Gestapo, but managed to escape right in the middle of an interrogation. He could have been mercilessly ridiculed for being a “sissy, writing mushy poetry”, but wrote passionately anyway, pouring out his heart. After all, even men are human and humans feel things, don’t they? In the ruins of the lowest moments of his life, he found the highest spot and took flight from there. In the darkest moments, he always looked for a glowing candle. If he couldn’t find one, he’d make one. “You never know what you’ll see”, he’ll grin, “when you actually look. And if you never try, you’ll never fly”.

He’s turned bitter into witty, anger into action, personal slander into inner strength. Doesn’t know the meaning of “I can’t”. If you ask, “how in the world did you ever ...”? he eyes you curiously as if wondering how such a question could even arise.

Having served in various consular and diplomatic positions requiring hefty qualifications and extensive multilingualism,

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this same man today can look you in the eye and say, “a multilingual diplomat is a man who knows how to keep his mouth shut in several languages”. A look of momentary mischief flits over his face, his blue eyes dance with delight.

Even when his ambitions surpassed what society measures as success in any one lifetime, he has remained ordinarily simple, natural and accessible. Like this was his destiny or something. Like it all just fell into place. Like “anyone can do what I did and more, no matter the odds”.

We are all walking biographies. The moment we sit down to write one, things become very serious. We learn early that life is very serious business indeed. It’s an overwhelming challenge of every possible feeling, experience and discovery ranging from the most sacred and beautiful to the most evil and ugly. We’ve all tasted the ecstasy and agony of those two extremes, with lots more in between.

Right now the serious is combined with scary too. Sometimes we just want to run away and hide. We can’t seem to find really good answers to anything. That’s why this serious biographical account is purposely styled like a story, to get you safely through to the last dot on the last page. It offers something for everyone. This world is in a fearful moment which this story handles in a fearless way, sometimes fun way. Travelling light through the dark is a key tool of survival.

That doesn’t mean your fears and questions are being trivialized. Au contraire. They’re being re-told through one person’s life as a message to you.

The message is, “I hear you. I share and know all you feel and are experiencing. I have walked in your shoes. I know your sorrows and joys, your hopes and broken hearts. And you know what? It’s all okay. I know your worries and all about walking on quicksand, and, you know what? There are things you can do with all that which will surprise you”.

September 11 2001 gave us another chance to really look and really see. A new way to be alive. Another invitation to step up to the plate, and start life all over again in a different way. In this you are not alone. We’re all together in the same boat. Except this time our ship is not the Titanic; it’s the Enterprise.

Our tale flows from the era of the first seafaring Vikings who migrated to, founded and ruled old Russia. We thread through the ages of history, princes, ancient Polish nobility and Royal Houses of Hungary to First World War Poland. Three years after it ends, a child is born. He grows up just in

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time for another war. In 1939 he's a vulnerable inexperienced young man of eighteen filled with dreams of hope and glory. But destiny diverts him into battle to live a warrior's story. To survive, he must mature in a hurry. He must educate himself quickly about everything in a very short space of time: who he is, why he is, what the world's about, and how much of it he can conquer in the time allotted him: one lifetime. He faces his most crucial decision: take up swords of Darth Vader and Luc Skywalker and deal with death? Or take up words of strategy and diplomacy and deal with life ... perhaps both?

This is his story. As you read, you will get to know George Korey well. You will marvel at how one person could contribute positively to so many disciplines of human endeavour in business, philosophy, politics, social sciences, poetry, management, education, and all the connecting links in between. Call that life a living contribution to the humanities – our whole human condition.

You'll also marvel at something else: there's no difference between George and you. Simple ways of thinking and living are all you need to go anywhere, do everything, and get anything you want no matter what, where, when, who or why. You can watch what happens, make it happen, or wonder what happened. Sometimes you need to know which of each to do, how much, and when. George knows.

All that and more are written here for you to know too. There's nothing that happened to him that isn't happening in your life right now, in our world right now. When others might have crashed and burned long ago, broken down or committed suicide along the way, he did not. Maybe you're having a hard time too and can't see the way out. George found ways and got out. You'll find those ways too as you soar through these chapters.

George navigated through war, death, despair, tragedy, suffering, fear, worry, doubt, anger, shock and much more – you finish the list – yet remained undefeated and strong. How? The point is we *all* have a built-in formula for staying undefeated and strong. We just need to be shown how to decode it, access it, so that we can put the formula to use.

For no matter how desperate, horrible or hopeless things appear, all human beings have one permanent built-in desire which always dominates all the others: to be happy and healthy and have purpose in life. Something perpetually exciting to give us joyful reason to get up in the morning, every morning.

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We are in a world which keeps crashing and burning, but we ourselves must not. Who'd be left to care for the burn victims? We can seize the sword of Darth Vader, but we could get killed in the process. What good is life if we're dead?

We can fall apart – that too is our free-will choice. But who'd be left to pick up the fallen? We live in a world which allows us over and over to make choices that will harm us and dishonour others. But we also live in a world which allows us to change our choice in less than a nano-second. All it takes is a different decision. A shift in our thoughts. A change of words running around in our head.

But before we can change our choice, we must be motivated. How can we be motivated when fear, doubt, guilt, worry, anxiety, convictions of powerlessness are sitting there blocking the motivation we need? Blocking the way to the access codes of our formula needed to eliminate our stuckness?

George and his life in this book which is really your life too will help you decode the formula you *already carry* to give you a kickstart. Is life hard, dangerous, messy, a drag? “So be a dragon”, concludes George very seriously. “Sure, they breathe fire, but not all fire is bad. What else gets those logs burning hot and bright on a cold winter's night”?

This remarkable story is for the winter, spring, summer and autumn of your life. That's what makes it worth telling, as you shall see.

For it's definitely written specially for you.

Unless otherwise noted, all poetry and other quotations in this book are from the personal works of the author George Korey.