

Agent for the CIA

Chapter 20

Thor's back home with Ritchey at the end of February, 1979, but stays indoors. Getting bored after a few days, he takes a ride down Dixie highway to check out his body shop, to see if it's still standing and if all of his tools and cars are in place.

As fate would have it, he was stopped by a highway patrol car because a tail-light was out.

His heart is beating fast as the patrolman approaches from the rear, and says

-License and registration please.

The cop merely confirms the license plate number and tells him to have the tail light fixed, or he'll get a ticket the next time he sees him, and gives Thor his license and registration back.

Had the cop checked his name, he would have found that Thor had recently been deported, and was suspected of having crossed the border into the US from Canada, together with a large group of Outlaws that were headed for Bike Week in Daytona Beach.

Unbeknownst to Thor at the time, this bulletin had been issued by none other than Horace B. Smith, as he had been informed by embassy personnel in Norway that Thor never arrived to Oslo after he was deported, and was afraid Thor had flown from either Germany or Denmark into Canada, and was traveling among the Outlaws heading for Daytona under a phony ID.

Paranoia strikes deep as they say, and Smith had plenty to be afraid of, should Thor decide to take his revenge for having attempted to assassinate Thor in Florida's electric chair on a phony murder charge, based solely on his own political ambitions.

No one runs as fast as he who is chased by his own conscience as Thor used to say, and he'd probably been informed by this time that Thor had spoken with Ross Ewen when he landed at the airport in Frankfurt, and knew the whole story about how he'd granted Ewen immunity, then instructed him to lie in his deposition, plus paid him to disappear during the trial, either of which could get him disbarred.

Thor is later told of how the border patrol had thoroughly checked each and every Outlaws identification, even to checking with local police where they came from when they were uncertain about anyone.

Apparently, Smith had manufactured some elaborate story about Thor being on his way to kill Horace or something along those lines, because the club members said they had never in their lives been subjected to such an in-depth scrutiny before being allowed to proceed, and being Outlaws, they had been subjected to plenty of police scrutiny during their biker careers.

There's even a certain amount of anger at Thor over how the Daytona Beach police keep them under constant surveillance the entire Bike Week, with constant stops to check their

ID's, something Thor neither knew, or could have done anything about, whether he'd returned to the US or not.

But Thor certainly had no intention of heading to Daytona; He had already contacted another INS attorney named James Bartch to reopen his deportation proceedings, who felt confident that he could have Thor's residency permit restored, pending overturning the plea agreement in Volusia County, which he meant would be a sinch, given the circumstances.

Instead Thor concentrates on fixing the Lucky Lady which had sunk at the dock when the battery went flat and the bilge pumps stopped working, since he had drilled holes in the stern just above the waterline to install new planning devices.

He had a crane come by and lift the boat on land where he could finish the repairs he'd started before he left. Of course he's a little concerned that neighbors across the canal can observe him, but since they've moved in just recently, he figures that no one knows who he is, and just keeps on working.

But of course, they've had his house under surveillance ever since Smith had pushed the panic button, and was arrested at his home just a couple of weeks after his return, bringing Thor to the Federal Detention Center, which at that time was located inside FCI Miami.

This time though, the INS can't throw him out of the country without due process in court, and merely place a hold on him pending resolution on the charge of Illegal Re-entry.

His attorney submits affidavits on Thor's behalf, outlining the entire scenario from Volusia County, including the improper and unprecedented deportation proceedings, which results in Thor being granted a reasonable bail, and is released from custody.

Two months, later Thor pleads guilty to illegal re-entry, and is sentenced to six months in prison, less time already served, but the judge permits him to remain out on bond until his daughter Nancy is born on October 15, setting December 5th as his date to surrender to the US Marshal and commence serving the sentence.

This gives Thor's attorney the necessary time to start working on having his deportation reversed, which entails first having the plea agreement in Volusia County overturned.

But for some reason or another, Bartch's every motion with the court of appeals in Daytona Beach to restore Thor's appeal fails, even though the facts are lying on the table for all to see, along with affidavits from both of the homicide investigators lying side by side, declaring Thor's innocence.

Of course, today everyone is fully aware of Smith and his family's close ties to the legal community in that region, who are all members of the "Good Old Boys" and will use every trick in the book to cover each other's back.

Thor no longer has any other Old Lady's, only his wife Ritchey, who focuses on fixing a bedroom for when their baby is born. She still receives quarterly checks of \$12,000 per

month as interest from her portion of the family legacy, while Thor is making good money buying and selling cars that he has rebuilt, so their economy is good, and are saving for when the baby is born.

Fall arrives with the worst of the summer heat in South Florida giving way, and they prepare for the big event of childbirth, which is the first time for both of them, and are very excited.

-I'm not exactly the sentimental type, but you can't help but be excited about becoming a father and bringing a child into the world. I really looked forward to meeting my daughter for the first time, Thor says.

When her water breaks, Thor drives Ritchey to Broward County General Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, but the hours go by without anything happening, and Thor is driving the nurses crazy with his relentless pacing back and forth in the hallway, and constant inquiries of "is anything happening yet?"

Finally the attending doctor suggest Thor go to his favorite bar and wait there until he's called in order to give everyone else a breather.

Thor agrees, and drives to the Cowboys Lounge where he has a little investment, and lies only a couple of blocks from where they live.

After a while the phone rings, informing Thor that he is a father, and that all is well with both mother and child.

Thor comes prepared with cigars for everyone, and takes a couple of stiff drinks, before heading back to the hospital where he meets little Nancy Ann, and is proud as a rooster as he holds her for the first time.

After a couple days, Ritchey comes home with the baby, while Thor's mother comes to stay with them to help out around the house for a couple of months, since Thor must shortly surrender to the US Marshal to serve the remainder of his six month sentence at the Federal Prison in Tallahassee, Florida, which today is a facility for women.

Thor has never been one to look back and wonder how things might have been, "if", or spend much time reflecting over the choices he's made in life. He feels that's a waste of time, which is better spent to make productive plans for the future. What has been, has been, so let's just move on, is his philosophy.

Therefore he hasn't spent much time reflecting about how he will handle this new challenge as a father, as opposed to his own childhood experiences, other than being firm that he will never beat his child, or send her away for others to raise, as his father had done to him.

-As my father before me, I may not have passed the test on fatherhood had there been one, considering my restless nature, Thor muses.

-But during this period, my priorities was my family, and getting back my legal residency. But

the legal problems in getting my green card back was a source of great concern and worry for us at the time, and we were spending a disproportionate amount of time and money trying to combat the entrenched authorities in Volusia County

Thor surrenders to the US Marshal on December 5th as ordered, and is released in March, 1980, since the judge had continued his bond on the INS hold, pending resolution of Thor's application to restore his legal US residency.

That spring he attends a boat auction at the marina where the Lucky Lady is docked for mechanical repairs. He's got his eyes on a 40' sail boat that's due to go under the hammer.

But as the bidding proceeds, there's one man who constantly outbids him, where Thor tries to stare him into submission, when the man suddenly comes over to him and says...

-How about buying the boat together, and be partners? I've got a lucrative project in the works, and we could share in the profits?

The man is a blue-eyed blond who introduces himself as Tom, and Thor takes a shine to him right from the start.

-Okay. How do we do this? Thor asks

-We just let the boat go to whoever of us has the last bid, and split the cost, Tom responds, and the boat is hammered home to Thor for the sum of \$6,000.

As they go to pay the auctioneer, Tom forks over half the money, and the boat is theirs.

They then go to a nearby lounge to discuss this "project" Tom has in the works, which became another fateful event in Thor's long string of improbable life experiences.

Tom starts by stating that he is fully aware of who Thor is, and his current problems in having his US residency restored, which immediately puts Thor on guard.

-I can save you tons of money and time getting your residency back, if you'll just assist me on a couple of assignments I've taken with the CIA, he says, which puts Thor even more on guard.

-So meeting you at the auction wasn't by chance, is that what you're saying, Thor asks.

-Not entirely. I already knew you were interested in the sail boat since you had registered as a bidder with the auctioneer last week, and since I had already decided to also bid on the boat, I had you checked out, and my sources have exceptional resources you might say.

That is also why I can offer you your residency in return for assisting me on these assignments, since the CIA is permitted to offer 100 exceptions to the US immigration regulations by federal statute, for assistance in matters of National Interest. Check it out for yourself, or have your lawyer look it up if you want.

-Of course, if we fail or are exposed, they'll deny having anything to do with either of us. That's the catch, but we'll still be making a lot of money along the way.

Thor is intrigued by all of this, and naturally wants to know more about these assignments before he commits to anything, and says so.

That's when Tom starts telling him about the new laws imposed by Prime Minister Manley in Jamaica regarding personal items of value, which by law has now been deemed a part of the "Base National Wealth", meaning people of means, such as all of the Americans owning property in Montego Bay, must now apply for permission before they can carry expensive jewelry and other items of value out of the country, or risk it being confiscated upon departure if they are caught.

After becoming a close personal friend and ally of Fidel Castro, Manley has developed a similar distaste for the US and Americans in general, which has been fermented into a general loathing by the public in Jamaica, viewing them almost as colonial masters, praying on their poverty, thereby forcing most Americans to flee the country, leaving most of their valuables behind.

Which is where "The Other Boat" as they christen their new acquisition, comes into the picture, since both already own other boats, such as Thor's Lucky Lady lying at the same harbor.

Tom points out the most valuable feature of their new purchase, which is that the keel can be dismantled by simply unscrewing the bolts attaching it to the vessel, which is rather unusual for a sail boat.

Secondly, the keel is filled with cement as ballast, which can be removed and replaced with an equal weight in lead, using cement roof tiles to cover the top, thereby leaving a concealed cargo hold some 2 feet by 25 feet and nearly 4 feet high.

-The initial assignment therefore is to make the vessel sea-worthy, then make regular journeys to collect valuables from all of the American owned villas which cover the hillsides in Montego Bay, at considerable compensation since we are speaking of paintings and jewelry worth millions that they are desperate to get out of Jamaica before Manley and his thugs have a chance to confiscate it all under his new laws.

-We just have the boat hauled "for repairs" when we land in Jamaica, unbolt the keel and fill it with valuables, then bolt the keel back on and sail back to Florida. And we can make this trip 2-3 times per month, with very grateful owners willing to pay considerable rewards for saving all of their valuables.

Thor is sold, until he is told there is a second assignment attached to this venture. They also have to provide security for the US owned properties in and around Montego Bay during the upcoming elections between Manley and his challenger, Edward Seaga, who is supported by the US government, who has assured them that all of these laws will be rescinded if he is elected.

But for now, they merely focus on getting the boat into shuttle traffic between the US and Jamaica, since the elections there are still some months away, so he puts this second element at the back of his mind, while concentrating on his daily routines with his family and his business, and leaves the running of the Other Boat up to Tom, who is financing the refurbishing and hiring of the crew, where one of his former Old Lady's becomes the cook on board so he has some idea of what's being transported in order that he's given his fair share on each trip.

The only condition imposed was that Thor keep his distance from the club as the agency did not want to have to explain what a notorious Outlaws member was doing working on assignments for them, which was no problem since he'd already formally retired from the club.

In addition, his closest friend and mentor, Big Jim Nolan, was sitting in jail in Arizona, charged with murder after a shoot-out where the other man died.

After serving a five year sentence at the state prison in Florida, Big Jim was practically deported to Arizona since it was the only state which would accept him on parole. Here he quickly established a new chapter, with many of the Florida Outlaws he'd brought into the club rushing out to support him in his exile.

But disaster struck when a drunken asshole pulled a gun and started firing at Big Jim outside a bar they were visiting, where Jim was forced to rip a gun out of the holster on a man standing next to him and fire back, killing the man in the process.

As chance would have it, a cop witnessed the whole thing and arrested Big Jim claiming it was Second Degree Murder, but luckily the jury found otherwise, and acquitted him on his plea of self-defense.

In early 1980, Big Jim returns to Florida and visit Thor, where he has a chance to take a ride on Thor's new Twin Belt Sturgis, which was a brand new model launched that year by Harley-Davidson.

That turns out to be the last time Big Jim sat on a bike for the next 30 some years, as the fed's charged him with unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, based upon his self-defense arrest in Arizona.

It didn't matter that the gun didn't belong to him, or that he grabbed it merely to save his own life; Possession is possession in their view, and he is sentenced once again to five years in federal prison.

Just before his release in 1985, he is indicted along with a dozen other Outlaws under the unconstitutional RICO law, and sentenced to 50 years in prison without parole, and will finally be released sometime in 2016 at the age of 72, barring they don't take away any of his hard-earned good time in the meantime.

He could have gotten out at any time, had he accepted any of the multitude of offers to roll

over on his brothers over the years, but just like Thor, that simply isn't the way he is built.

The most remarkable thing is that his wife, Helen, has stuck with him every step of the way, moving from town to town, or state to state, each time he was transferred to another prison.

But back to Thor; Between working at his shop and taking care of his family, Thor frequents a large discothèque lying just a couple of blocks from their new home in Fort Lauderdale.

He can't figure how the place can make money as he watches flocks of young teenagers sitting around the tables with one coke bottle and four straws they suck from to save money.

-Why don't you do something with this place to generate more paying customers, Thor asks the owner one day.

-Well, you know this is a pretty good laundry, the owner responds smiling.

Thor gets the message. There's plenty of Mafioso in south Florida, so he just sits back and leaves it at that.

-But if you've got any ideas I'm willing to listen, he continues, which opens the door for Thor to present his concept for a country western club, bringing in well-known artists like his friend David Allan Coe, plus Willie and Waylon and others, being a large facility to hold a big crowd, with a huge stage for the artists, and the owner is all ears, and gives him the go-ahead to give it a try.

Thor hires the band Creekside to open the place, renaming it the Cowboys Lounge, which is an immediate success with money rolling in, and the owner is more than satisfied since he now has a considerable bigger "laundry" based upon the increased revenues he can hide behind.

Thor gets a small share of the profits since he came up with the idea, and lets him pick out bands that are engaged to play there, including his friend Bobby Bare who is a huge success and has played there a number of times over the years.

It's getting close to an appearance with the rising new star, Johnny Paycheck, when Thor gets a call from his brother, David Allan Coe.

Johnny's real name is Donald Lytle, but assumed the name of the boxer Johnny Paycheck in 1964. Johnny's a regular honky-tonk musician until he suddenly has a number one hit with a song David Allan Coe wrote, called "Take this job and shove it."

-Did you see Johnny Paycheck on the Merv Griffith show recently, David asks.

-No I didn't. What happened there? Thor asks.

-That f+++king asshole forgot my name when he was asked who wrote the song that brought him into the big time, and simply said "I've got lots of song writers, and even write a lot of my

songs myself'. I want his head on a platter! David exclaims.

-What a jerk, So what do you want me to do? Thor asks.

-I want you to make sure he never forgets my name again. When he shows up at your place, you hang him up on the wall and tell him that if he ever forgets my name again, I'll personally tattoo DAC backwards across his forehead so he'll be reminded every time he looks in the mirror, David shouts.

-You got it, brother, Thor replies.

When Paycheck arrives for the gig a few days later, Thor goes back stage to greet him, where Johnny rushes to grab Thor's hand with a smile, having been informed that Thor and David Allan Coe, the man who made him famous, are very close friends, and wants to be on Thor's good side from the start.

Instead of shaking his hand, Thor invites Paycheck to follow him into a side room for a private conversation, where Thor does exactly as David had asked, and shoves him up against the wall and gives him the exact message as David had told him to say, especially the part about the reversed tattoo on his forehead.

-Listen please, Johnny cries, I was so stoned during that interview I barely knew my own name. Everything was in a cloud for me, and barely even made off the stage without falling down. Just ask my crew out there who practically had to carry me back to the hotel afterwards. Tell David I'm sorry, and I can promise I'll never forget his name again.

Thor eases him off the wall, and says he'll relay the message. But lets him know they'll be watching to see if he keeps his word, which he assures Thor he will.

So they go out to the others as the best of friends, where his manager and baby-sitter, The Kid, is anxiously wondering what the conversation was all about, and Johnny tells him he got some good dope, and everybody's happy with that.

But there's another celebrity sitting out in the audience, who approaches Thor and asks if he can meet Johnny Paycheck after the show, to which Thor says, No Problem.

The man is Jan Michael Vincent, who is known for his movies like White Line Fever, and The Mechanic together with Charles Bronson, plus a number of others. He and Thor hit it off right from the start, and agree to meet at the marina where Thor has the Lucky Lady, as it turns out Jan is staying aboard a sailboat belonging to the famous movie star and comedian John Byner, and the young girl with Jan is in fact Byner's daughter, Roe Byner.

They have a few drinks after the show as Thor introduces him to Paycheck, but Jan is in a hurry to get back to the boat for some reason, so Thor invites Paycheck over to his house, where there's more coke for Paycheck and his band to party with.

Later they move the party to a studio Thor has an interest in, where Paycheck immediately hooks up with the studio “house-mouse” and balls her right on the couch in the sound booth, neither of them caring who’s watching.

When he in addition is given an ounce of coke for the road, Paycheck is sold, and becomes a constant visitor at the studio, even when he’s playing clear across the country.

In fact, he once turned his leased Lear Jet around over Kansas, on his way to a concert in San Francisco, just to pick up another once before the show.

But he also recorded an acoustic version of his Merl Haggard Songs album at the studio, and “gave” all rights to Thor, on tape, in spite of being under contract with CBS records who had sole rights to this album.

Coke makes people do funny things, so Thor called the CBS Vice President Shel Silverstein who had produced the album to ask him what he should do with the recordings, who said to do whatever Thor wanted with it since it was a solo acoustic recording which had no comparison to the original full band version they had recorded.

But since Shel was also David Allan Coe’s producer, Thor let that recording lie in the closet, and has no idea where it may be today.

When Thor arrives to the marina the day after the concert, he finds Byner’s sailboat with the hatches closed and shutters drawn.

He manages to peek between the curtains, and is shocked when he sees the two of them lying passed out completely naked on the floor, with Jan Michael still holding a little torch burning in one hand, and a base pipe in the other.

It’s 90 degrees in the sun, which must be over a 110 inside, but he gets no reaction when he’s banging on the door leading down to the cabin, so he has to break the door open and get them into some clothes so they at least can get some fresh air outside in the shade.

They are in a state of shock from the heat, so he gets them into his car and brings them to his house, where he gets both of them into the shower to cool them down.

Yet a funny thing happen when he first brought them into the bedroom next to the bathroom, when Ritchey woke up and looked up at Jan Michael and said, “You’ve cut your hair” as if she’d known him all her life.

Turns out she’d confused him with somebody else, but it still got a big laugh out of everyone.

Jan Michael Vincent was born a little over a month after Thor in 1944, and after practically saving their lives, they became close friends, where Thor would often travel out to Jan’s ranch in the hills overlooking the famous Malibu Beach.

When Thor tells him about the incident with Johnny Paycheck, Jan immediately wants to

meet David Allan Coe, so they get in the car and head for Big Pine Key where David was living at the time.

They are received with open arms, as David is having trouble getting his newly acquired cabin cruiser out of the canal where he lives, since he's loaded the boat down with tons of studio equipment and other goodies, and it draws too much water to get over the reef lying at the opening of the canal.

They struggle for a couple of hours, with David getting more and more frustrated since he'd promised to pick up Dickey Betts, the lead guitar player with the Allman Brothers, down in Key West, and had no way to get in touch with him to let him know what was happening.

With both Thor and Jan Michael in bathing suits, stand in water up to their waist, shoving the boat from the rear, while two of David's neighbors are pulling him with their boats at the front with no success, David finally follows Thor's suggestion that since the propellers were protected by steel skids, he should just back the damn thing as far back as he can go, then give full throttle and simply leap over the offending reef, being less than a foot difference.

This worked marvelously, and everyone, including David's father and two of his Old Lady's and couple of other female guests, pile into the boat for the trip down to meet Dickey Betts in Key West.

Jan Michael brings the cooler with all of the beverages with him onto the roof of the wheel house, along with the girls, where he's having a good time entertaining them with exploits from all of the movies he's been in, especially his part as a stunt man in the movie "Hooper" together with Burt Reynolds.

Thor is simply chilling in the cabin behind the wheel house, when he notices that the exhaust sound is getting deeper and deeper, as if it's coming from under water, so he enters the wheel house and asks David who's standing at the wheel if there was anything wrong?

-The damn thing is going slower and slower the more throttle I give it, he says, where suddenly Dougherty, who has retired from the club and was working as road manager for David at the time, dives for the hatch down to the engine room, getting it open just in time to observe the water being sucked into the intake and killing the engine.

Turns out that the hose to the engine cooling line had jumped lose when they jumped the reef, and instead of cooling the engine had been pumping water into the boat.

So there they were, slowly sinking into the ocean, without any means of pumping all of that water out again.

Then David gets the bright idea to call the coast guard on his VHF radio, who says their helicopter is busy at the moment, but will get there as soon as they are free.

Almost a half hour later, with the boat lying in the water up to the gunwales, the coast guard helicopter flies right over them, heading out to sea.

David grabs the microphone and yells for them to come back, where they respond that they had observed people partying on the wheel house roof on his boat, and were looking for a boat that was sinking.

They finally turn around and lower a large motorized bilge pump with a fire engine hose attached, and told them to just stick the hose into the hatch at the bow, and start pumping, which they did.

After about 20 minutes of this without any visible results, Thor finally looks over the side and observes that most of the portholes are open, letting in as much water as they're pumping out. But when David asks for volunteers to dive into the cabin and shut the portholes, nobody steps up, thinking the boat might sink at any moment, taking whoever's in the cabin with it to the bottom.

Hearing the situation on the radio, the coast guard finally sends a cutter out to pick them up, but David stubbornly refuses to leave the boat alone, fearing someone might steal some of the expensive new radars and radios hanging under the wheelhouse ceiling, since the boat appears to have sunk as far as it will go, being an old wooden coast guard cutter.

So everybody leaves the boat except David and Thor, who agrees to keep him company until they can get ahold of someone who can tow them to shore.

Of course, Jan Michael takes the cooler with him, leaving them without even a drink of water, until Roadie finally shows up at two in the morning, with a boat owner who refuses to tow the half sunk boat behind him, where David finally says to hell with it, and jumps onto the rescue vessel who brings them to shore, where Jan Michel and David's Old Lady's are waiting with a car that brings them back to David's house at Big Pine Key.

The next morning, Thor gets ahold of Surfer who's now living in Key West owning an aircraft rental service, who agrees to fly Jan Michael and his girlfriend up to Miami so they can catch a flight back to California, while Thor drives his car back to his home in Fort Lauderdale..

But while they were sitting around at David's house the evening before the boat excursion, Jan Michael had asked David if there was any chance he'd let Jan appear at one of his concerts as a guest artist, as Jan exhibits that he can play the guitar and sings fairly well, and has wanted to try his hand at singing in front of a live audience for a long time.

Having observed Jan Michael and his girlfriend constantly heading out to Thor's car to take a hit from the base pipe, David has his doubts, but puts it on Thor to make sure Jan shows up, and agrees to let him appear together with him at Mickey Gilly's place in Pasadena, Texas in about a month or so, with Thor being responsible for him showing up..

Mickey Gilly's place is famous from the movie Urban Cowboy, and is the largest country & western joint in the nation, with several stages operating simultaneously under a roof covering several acres, so this will be a big deal for both David and Jan Michael.

Three weeks later, David calls Thor to ask him if he's heard from Jan Michael lately, as he

hasn't been able to get him on the phone since he left Florida, and with the concert coming up in a few days, he needs to be sure Jan Michael is coming, because Jan Michael's name has been on the billboard as a special guest appearance at Gilly's place for a couple of weeks already.

Thor responds that he hasn't heard from him, but will try to call to see what's happening.

After a couple of days with no luck, David finally orders Thor to get on a plane and find the sucker, or there's going to be hell to pay.

So Thor gets on a plane to LA and goes to Jan Michael's ranch in a rental car, finding the place deserted.

After making a few phone calls, he's finally able to get ahold of Jan Michael's agent at Universal Studios, who can inform him that he'll most likely find Jan Michael at Dan Haggerty's beach house in Malibu Beach, telling Thor to look for a yellow pickup truck parked in front of a garage along highway 101 going north.

Sure enough, Thor spots the truck and pulls into the driveway, and when he knocks on the door, the woman who answers simply points up the stairs and says, "They're up in the attic".

As Thor opens the door at the top of the stairs, he walks into a pitch black room, with only a little torch burning in somebody's hand.

He pulls back a curtain and sees Jan Michael sitting in a familiar position, with a base pipe in one hand, and a little blow torch in the other, with a large bearded weirdo sitting next to him.

They both yell at the sudden light, so Thor lets go of the curtain and sits down to let his eyes adjust to the poor lighting.

When Jan Michael is finished taking his hit on the pipe and passes it over to the other man, Jan says

-Hi Thor. Long time no see. Why don't you join us and take a hit so you can relax.

-No thanks. I'll pass. I'm only here to make sure you appear at the concert in Texas in two days, because David swears he'll kill both of us if you don't show. The billboard at Gilly's place has carried your name as a special guest artist for several weeks already, and David will lose all credibility if you don't show up.

-Aw hell, look at me. I can't go anywhere looking like this. Besides, I'm not even sure I can perform in front of a live audience.

Thor feels he's getting hot under the collar, but keeps his temper in check long enough to suggest they call David with the news, and see what he has to say about the matter, reminding Jan Michael that it was he who had insisted on appearing together with David to begin with.

Thor gets David on the telephone and informs him of the situation, when David asks to put the asshole on the phone so he can talk with him in person.

What followed could be heard all the way downstairs, proving that David's voice really carries when he wants to, leaving Jan Michael just sitting there with big eyes and his mouth hanging open, before he desperately tries to hand the phone back to Thor.

He then gets David to stop the tirade by yelling "I'm back on the line", where David simply states that Jan Michael better have a doctor that will immediately issue an affidavit swearing Jan Michael is too ill to make the appearance, and wants it in his hand by that evening, which Jan Michael assures Thor that he can arrange.

He's gotten nearly sober after David's verbal abuse, and is desperately sucking on the pipe to get his high back, while at the same time, asking Thor to call his agent who can arrange the doctor's written affidavit attesting to his illness.

This was actually easier than Thor had imagined, and David has the document in his hand by telefax within a couple of hours, which lets everyone off the hook, including Thor, and for the first time in his life, he takes a hit on a base pipe in pure reflex to the stressful situation..

At this point Thor is introduced to the bearded character sitting next to Jan as Dan Haggerty, famous from the TV series Grizzly Adams, a popular family show that has been running for years.

The woman downstairs was his wife, Julie Haggerty, who is also a well-known Hollywood producer, who takes no part in her husbands "party favors".

Having once started, Thor joins their pipe-smoking circle

Thor eventually convinced them to get out of the house and get some air, where Jan Michael suggest they move the party to his ranch, so they drove Jan Michael's pickup truck and Thor followed in his rental car up the hillside, and finally came to a huge gate which opened as they arrived.

There was a large beautiful mansion lying on the sloping hill on their right, and a smaller log cabin that could have been taken right out of the Grizzly Adams series lying down to their left as they pulled into the circular driveway.

Above the mansion was a two-story barn attached to a fenced-in corral where several horses were grazing.

It was quite a spread, covering at least 40 acres in the most exclusive district adjacent to Malibu Beach, where most of the movie stars either lived, or had their beach homes.

One of the horses belonged to Gary Busy, who lived on the beach, but came by regularly to go riding.

It was clear that Jan Michael had made a considerable investment, which had even doubled in value in the few years he'd owned the property, so he was very pleased with himself as he showed Thor around the premises, inviting Thor to come stay at the log cabin any time he felt like it.

But of course, they couldn't be long away from the base-pipe, so the tour was cut short so they could do their thing and make some "rocks".

Thor stayed at the ranch for a few days, before heading back home to Fort Lauderdale.

They all get together again a couple of months later, but more about that in a later chapter.

Smoking base keeps both of them off the screen for a number of years after that, with Jan Michael making a come-back with the popular TV series "Airwolf", in which he's the star until the series is cancelled in 1986.

During this period, he openly admits to his considerable narcotics and alcohol abuse, and is in rehab long enough to get his life and career back on track, while as far as Thor knows, Dan Haggerty never did.

According to one journalist's account, Jan Michael is living in Eagle Lake outside Redwood, Virginia today, together with a woman named Anna.

He's apparently survived two serious auto accidents, where one cut one of his vocal cords, and he speaks with a gravelly voice today, and he broke his hip in another one in 2008, and is never seen behind the wheel of a car these days.

Thor recently became "friends" with Jan Michael Vincent on Facebook, but there has been no other communication between them beyond that, thus far.
