



**Author:** Geoffrey Gluckman      **Date:** August 27, 2008

**Title:** *Deadly Exchange*

**Moderator** Good Afternoon. Welcome to Authors@Abunga. I am pleased to introduce Geoffrey M. Gluckman - author of the gripping spy novel “Deadly Exchange,” exercise physiologist and international lecturer. Welcome Geoffrey.

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman** Thank you for having me to Abunga

**Moderator** So tell us about why you decided to write Deadly Exchange.

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman** It became apparent to me after a few years that I had this story to tell. I believe it was writing itself unconsciously for about five years, then it struck me and I became aware of it consciously.

**KristinC(Q)** How did you go from federal agent and CIA recruit to writer?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Actually, as young as eight years old I wanted to be a writer of fiction. But then things got derailed a little and I was distracted by the usual life stuff, like schooling, career choices, and work. So that led me into the world of being an agent, which I wanted to do, but had different expectations with that field. Finally, years later I returned to writing. Funny enough, Deadly Exchange starts out in San Francisco just like a story I began writing at fifteen.

**Alicia P(Q)** What kind of feedback have you gotten from your readers?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** The feedback from readers and reviewers has been fantastic, even though I'm an unknown in the world of fiction, especially in this genre which can be hard to break into. I'm amazed at how readers are grasping some of the more subtle aspects of the story and characters.

**JulieS(Q)** Does travel play a role in your writing? Have you been to a specific location and then somehow written your favorite part of it into your stories?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Over my lifetime I have been fortunate to travel quite a bit, especially in the last 20 years. When I got to places I'm always observing and trying to become absorbed into the atmosphere of the place. I try to go to places where locals go, rather than touristy things. I don't think I'm a very good tourist at all. Almost every location in *Deadly Exchange* I have been to at least once. Somehow they fit into the story as it weaved together.

**MelanyE(Q)** How do the fictional scenarios you create differ from or compare with the life of a real-life agent?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Much of what I've written would be or could be true in the life of an agent. However, I remember being interviewed by a former CIA counterintelligence operative and he told me to think of James Bond and then realize that none of that was ever going to happen if I chose to become an operative with them. The critical thing that happens and changes for an agent is your mind set. Especially in the arena I was in, undercover work, there is a tendency for caution that appears in the form of suspicion and distrust, sometimes even paranoia.

**JodiC(Q)** Where do you draw from for your characters? Are they based on real people?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Many times people think the characters in *Deadly Exchange* are real life, such as Frank Revere is me. Nothing could be farther from the truth. These are fictional characters, of course observing people has always been a hobby, so I drew from those around me to craft characters that are (hopefully) complex. Sometimes the characters may seem all good or all bad, but if one looks a little closer that is not true.

**JeanV(Q)** When did you start writing books?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Well, technically, this is my first novel, thus first book. However, I was writing stories about all sorts of things when I was a young boy. I remember at the age of 10 writing a story about a skeleton that lived in a closet (I'm sure psychologists would have fun with that). Of course, it was terrible, but it's the creative flow that is so thrilling, and of course getting to share the stories with others. This novel I began in 1998 and since it was my first the learning curve was tremendous. In other words, a lot

of over writing.

**JodiC(Q)** How have you used your experience as an exercise physiologist to write your books?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** I've incorporated a little bit of the body wisdom into this story as it fit with plot and the technology in use by the "bad guys". Otherwise, I've authored an entire education system, Muscle Balance and Function Development®, for healthcare professionals. That was over 15 years ago.

**JeanV(Q)** Who are your favorite authors? What kinds of books do you like to read?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Hmm. When someone asks this, my mind always seems to go blank, like when you go into a video store to rent a movie and you completely forget all the movies you've ever wanted to see. I love any author who can tell a great story, of course with believable characters. Such as Graham Greene, Charles McCarry, E.A. Poe, Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Albert Camus, Franz Kafka, Jack London. That's some. The stories can range from espionage, adventure to classic lit. It's really a very broad spectrum.

**JodiC(Q)** Did you write an "espionage" thriller primarily because of your time as a federal agent or was it partly because you just enjoy reading suspense?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Actually, I wrote the story as an espionage tale because it was the perfect vehicle to express the deeper themes of the novel, which are about identity, freedom, and the mind. For identity, it is both a story about an individual's identity, particularly Jennifer Chance's, since that is not who she really is. It is also a story about the identity of a nation and the citizens that populate it. If we look at the 232 year history of America, which began by breaking away from British tyranny, we see that our country has sunk (perhaps) to a level less than our forefathers would have wanted. In the story, Jennifer goes to the Jefferson Memorial in Wash DC to seek inspiration to emancipate herself from a restrictive corporate environment. Who she feels she is inside is becoming at odds with who she is told she is and even believes she is. On freedom, it is a story of freeing oneself from the beliefs of the conditioned mind or mental slavery.

**KristinC(Q)** Do you have plans to do a follow up to "Deadly Exchange" or write

an entirely new story?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** At present, I'm currently penning the sequel to *Deadly Exchange*, which readers had been harassing me about. I have finished a second novel, but it is unrelated. That one is more a literary mystery. It should be out before the sequel. Many readers have told me that they want to see more stories and adventures of Frank, Jennifer, and the other characters, so we'll see. For sure there'll be at least one more.

**JodiC(Q)** How did you come up with the idea of the high-tech product decoy detailed in *Deadly Exchange*?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** This is an excellent question because in the back of the book is the "Author Note", which tells that the technology in the story is real. The CIA and military perfected this back in the 1980's. It was used in the Gulf War and other confrontations, many which are kept classified. At the time I began the novel, I was extrapolating the capabilities of the technology. However, now (and for the last few years) that is not the case. This stuff is real.

**AliciaP(Q)** What is your favorite part about writing?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** It's probably easier to say what I don't like, as I like most of it. Nevertheless, I probably enjoy the times when the story is just flowing and I can't write fast enough to get it down. There is a creativity switch that I turn on (though sometimes it doesn't work and then other times it works when it's not the best time), then the flow comes through me. It's like I can't even say that I'm writing the story, I'm more the expressing entity. I know crazy!

**MelanyE(Q)** Do you try to impart underlying truths or morals in your stories, or are you just out to create a good time and an escape for your readers (nothing wrong with that!)?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** To me, first and foremost is great characters and great storytelling. I would say that every great story has underlying themes imbedded into them. Look at Shakespeare for example, his stories have enthralled people for over 400 years because it weaves deep human aspects into everyday occurrences. So for me I just share the story and what the reader gets from it is their business. Some will get it at deeper levels, others will read it as just plain action/adventure. It's all good with me.

**KristinC(Q)** Do you set aside certain times of the day to write or do you just

go with the creative flow?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** I always dedicate time in the morning to write. I make it the priority in my life. I like to get up early and enjoy the energy of the early hours, which lead into that creative flow.

**JodiC(Q)** In *Deadly Exchange*, who does Jennifer Chance represent?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** I wrote the story with a lead female character because I feel that it is the women of earth that are to help right the problems we are facing presently. For 2000 years or more we have lived under a patriarchal system, prior to that it was matriarchal. Now it is time for the balance between the two, hence the union of Jennifer and Frank after five years of separation, where he thought she was dead. But it is women that have the true power to bring us back to our sensibilities of warmth, kindness, the heart, rather than fighting. But for that to happen they must find it within first, then use their voice to share it with the world and bring inspiration for all to breathe.

**JodiC(Q)** In your "spare" time, what do you like to do for fun?

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman(A)** Mostly, just to be with nature, so that can be in many ways. One of my favorites is surfing, which is a lot like writing--riding the wave. Surfing is too amazing for words. I like other activities like exploring new cultures, sharing with people, cycling, rollerblading, aikido. Most of all just the nature.

**Moderator** That's all the time we have today. We again like to thank Geoffrey and all of our guests for joining us. Geoffrey's book, "*Deadly Exchange*," can be purchased here on Abunga.com.  
<http://abunga.com/?d=product&productid=9780595420469>

**Author\_Geoffrey\_M\_Gluckman** Thank you very much the opportunity to share with all of you. Thank you Abunga, Carrie, and Jodi.

**Moderator** Please join us next week as we chat with Bayard Taylor author of "*The Late Great Ape Debate*" which will be releasing in September.

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