

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
CASE NO. HC04C042565

Claimant Witness
Christine Agnew
First
CA1
23 November 2004

BETWEEN:

CHARLES SEVEN

CLAIMANT

-and-

CHRISTOPHER GOSSAGE (1)

RUSSELLS (2)

RICHARD HANNAH (3)

CLARION, NTL (4)

HELEN ALEXANDER (5)

JIM MANSON (6)

SMG SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUPS (7)

TAMSIN ALLEN BINDMAN AND PARTNERS (8)

DEREK ROSENBLATT RONALD FLETCHER AND CO (9)

CHRISTOPHER VAUGHAN SYCRIS FILMS (10)

DEFENDANTS

- FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF -
CHRISTINE AGNEW

SUMMARY

1. I, Christine Agnew am Charles Seven's witness regarding the theft of our book manuscript and movie entitled "**The Walk**" (based on my life) Our book manuscript was on the floppy disk left with the media lawyer Ms. Tamsin Allen on the 19 February 2004. Instead of returning this disk appropriately, Ms Allen stole it and sold our manuscript to be converted for exploitation throughout the international media for money illegally. Apart from this being an infringement of copyright, this was a total breach of her position as practitioner of the law and an infringement of our human rights. This has caused much pain suffering and embarrassment. I have included several exhibits to prove that "The Walk" was stolen and plagiarized from my true story, which actually took place in 1985. The movie adaptation of "The Walk" was sold without any of our consent to ITV, after Charlie was deceived, betrayed by a man named Christopher Vaughan in May 04.

2. Charlie would never have gone to court if these people hadn't stole the material. Charlie went to see the solicitor Tamsin Allen for legal assistance after already being the victim of theft of her copyright documents. Then we found out the script on the disk had been sold illegally to all the networks all over the world. When I found out I was really shocked and devastated. Especially that someone in a professional position could ever do that to anyone. This is the worst possible thing that could ever have happened.
3. My husband and I have been in the film industry for many years. We are well aware that some people in the industry steal and abuse writers when they think the work is commercial and going to make them money. Entertainment is a cut-throat business, but some people take it too far and become very ruthless and will stop at nothing to get movie rights without paying for it. Authors have the right to be paid, and should not be treated with such disgraceful disrespect.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHARLIE

4. I have known Charlie for well over 30 years now, we have a very special bond and I can testify that Charlie is an honest, caring honourable, responsible respectful person. We treasure our relationship, and consider each other as sisters. Over the years, Charlie and I have built our careers and lives in accordance with our spiritual beliefs. It means a lot to both of us. We take our beliefs extremely seriously. That's why professionally we have both gravitated towards the creative professional healing arts.

ABOUT MYSELF

5. I am a qualified practicing yoga teacher, which I have been doing for the last fifteen years. I also dance professionally, and choreograph, perform and teach children and adults. I take great pride in my work and my professional achievements. I was responsible for introducing Charlie to yoga many years ago. As a disciplined teacher of the principles of yoga, it's important to understand that it is not just for looking good; it is an ancient and sacred practice, which *must* be respected. As a yoga teacher I am against, lying, stealing, greed, lust for power or money and the manipulation of others.

6. Both Charlie and I take these principles extremely seriously. My husband and I are also Hari Krishna devotees. We are devoted to practicing these spiritual teachings. Which is why we feel so very strongly about this situation. We are very much against anyone misusing their professions illegally to exploit others.
7. Charlie is someone who has also spent her life and her work caring for others; she lives and breathes being creative, she is prolific and diverse creatively. We have both studied the benefits of the healing arts over the last 20 years, (since our early teens) and have both always been appreciated and respected in our professions. We find it thoroughly low to see that these people sit in media positions without anything creative of their own to offer, and blatantly steal people's scripts for quick profits. They have done everything the principles of "**The Walk**" are totally against.

THE TRUE ORIGINS OF "THE WALK"

8. Over 23 years ago, when I was in my teens, between 1982 –1985, I worked as a shop assistant in the shoe shop called Pippins on the Edgware Rd W2. (Since the theft of the manuscript, in April 2004 I understand this shop has now been closed down after 30 years or more of trading)
9. Even though working at Pippins shoe shop gave me responsibility at a young age; I always leaned towards creative expression and the spiritual healing arts. In 1985 fate or destiny, (call it what you like) led me to leave my job at Pippins. I spontaneously purchased a ticket, and left everything I knew behind to fly to Australia. It was a major life changing transition for me, I was young and had a thirst for knowledge and life. I gave up everything on a leap of faith and flew alone for the first time to Australia leaving all my friends, family and boyfriend at the time behind. This part of my life is all dramatized in the stolen manuscript '**The Walk**' from chapters one to thirteen.

HOW "THE WALK" STARTED

10. The very first day I arrived in Australia, I met a man named "Mark" (he never liked to be identified with any surname) He had also given up everything, and I mean "*everything*" in the true sense of the word. He choose to own no clothes, shoes or any material things.

11. He had made a vow never to return to the rat race or his former existence. He was totally against motor powered transportation and everything he considered to be life's unnecessary baggage. He was greatly inspired by a man known as 'Johnny Appleseed' who lived around the 1800's. Johnny Appleseed had devoted his life to planting apple seeds because he believed there should be always be enough food for everybody in this world. After listening to Mark speak publicly the day I arrived in Australia, I very much identified and related to everything he expressed, at the time he had a unique philosophy on life. Back then I also threw away everything I owned materially and from that day and onwards and Mark and I went on what we called "**The Walk**". This was back in 1985, now 20 years ago. All this is detailed in the stolen manuscript (Chapter fourteen explains how I met Mark headed as Walking the Walk the journey began)
12. "The Walk" was our way of life. We gave up things most people take for granted. It was a very strict philosophy to which, we were both committed. We had many important principles on "The Walk," one of the main principles was that we never ever entered into motor powered transportation, cars or vehicles and never even accepted lifts from anyone either. We walked everywhere on foot. Everyday we walked for miles and it usually took us weeks to get from one place to another. We planted various trees along the routes we traveled, and usually slept in tents outdoors wherever we could find a safe place. It was a nomadic existence and everything we owned between us at the time was contained in one small trolley.
13. I use to stop off at local post offices and local people's homes to pick up letters from my family and friends in England, because walking from place to place meant it was difficult to keep in contact with anyone back home. We never knew how many days or weeks our journey would take.
14. We went on the walk to raise awareness on modern life. Mark was totally against media corruption. We wanted to live purely with integrity. Having respect for life and the earth was the message we were promoting.

15. Mark usually led the walk, and often people would stop to talk to us along the way. It was a rewarding experience for me and a very sacred special time in my life, which has sadly now become very tainted by the theft and illegal converting of our manuscript and my experience.
16. Fortunately I kept many things from my journey and experiences with Mark so I can prove that "The walk" was definitely plagiarized and stolen from our manuscript and was really about my life. I can prove that *my* experiences have most disturbingly now been stolen and traded in the worst possible way. It is foul that our documented personal experiences and human rights have been breached to illegally supply corrupt people, networks and corporate companies.
17. I would never of dreamt that my very personal experiences that happened some 20 years ago, would ever result in treachery and fraud or would be soured like this now by mindless greed and despicable actions! Or that I would find myself now being faced with having to be involved in a law suit to stop these cruel malicious practices. I would never have dreamed Charlie would become so victimized for the free exploitation of our scripted material. There is no excuse to exploit anyone in this way. They have caused pain and suffering which have left scars on what were previously great memories.
18. For proof to show that "**The Walk**" was really written about Mark and I, I refer to **Exhibit CA1** picture of me in Sydney Australia newspaper 1985, **Exhibit CA1** various Letters I received from friends and family while I was on the walk with Mark, walking from city to city. **Exhibit CA1** several newspaper articles and clippings about Mark and "The Walk" in 1987. **Exhibit CA1** letters to me from Mark when I returned to London to care for my mother in 1988 and 1989 while he remained on The Walk during this period. **EXHIBITS CA1** are the pages I have copied from my old diary in 1985 and 86 while I was on "The Walk". This diary will be brought into court as evidence. I also traveled through Singapore, Bangkok, and India where I continued my studies under the guidance of many great people.

19. Being on “**The Walk**” was not a gimmick to keep fit. “**The Walk**” was very serious. It was about having respect for humanity and the world as a whole. Sadly, something the people who stole it obviously don’t respect or understand. You will see from my exhibits, this experience was very unique to Mark and myself. In fact we were considered to be something of a freak show. It was a very unconventional thing to do (and still is) that’s why we did it. We went on “The Walk” because people have become more concerned about money and power and have forgotten how to care for others.

20. By stealing and selling this manuscript in such a cruel way, they have exploited our lives, abused our beliefs and experience’s and exposed it to the public against our wishes. We’ve all been exploited. Ms. Allen has caused senseless amounts of pain just to satisfy selfish indulgences, which is unforgivable.

THE REASON CHARLIE WROTE THE WALK’S BOOK AND MOVIE.

21. Charlie and I have always had a passion for creative writing. Over the years between us we have written about many of our experiences. We shared many amazing times and adventures together since our youth. In the 1980’s Charlie was making a name for herself as an innovative individual. She had done stuff for Vogues first health and beauty book, and was doing musical direction in the theater and composing music. It was an important creative time and space for both of us.

22. I had not long returned home to London after being on ‘The Walk’. Everything that happened to me was still very vivid. Charlie loved all my stories. She said The Walk would make a fascinating book and movie. She had a strong instinct that other people would also find our story entertaining, that’s how and why she began writing the manuscript.

23. She wanted to dramatize my life and relationships at the shoe shop on Edgware Rd. How I left the job, split up from my boyfriend at the time, and flew abroad. Charlie wanted to blend this with personal experiences from her own life. Between us we know many colourful, eccentric characters anyway so there was no lack in inspiration. Mark for one is a exceptional larger than life character, you really only

meet a person like him once in a lifetime, and I was fortunate to be his companion on The Walk we took.

24. Charlie worked tirelessly without sleep with a passion on this book because it meant something special. It encapsulated a point in time she believed should never be forgotten. After writing the book version of "The Walk" she also converted it into a movie screenplay. It all took time skill and a lot of labour. There was a lot of research involved, so she gave up many things to dedicate herself to doing this.
25. The manuscript elaborated on the real life events. Charlie made me the central lead female character in both the book and the film (although the lead female also had many of her characteristic traits) it also features other real people connected to us. Charlie has a close relative Roni Nicholas who's late Grand Parents was also featured in the story. These people don't seem to have any concern where this work comes from or how many years it took to achieve or for the trail of destruction and hurt they leave behind when they steal peoples work. It should never have happened. People spend years to research and write books and literature. When you quantify the amount of investment in time and labour that goes into writing, and the sacrifice's it takes to accomplish a novel or a screen play. It's a great deal of hard work.
26. For your hard work to end up stolen and traded in your face and your credits and profits to be handed to another fraudulently, it's just not on! This is like having your insides torn out! Its extremely painful having personal private information' splashed all Television channels. We know the script has been plagiarized to get money for all sort of media campaigns, from cancer and others, and it's really disgusting that these campaigns are being financed on the back of this fraud. They are making money out of peoples suffering. This was years of time investment and labour, which was priceless! The damage is enormous, both in emotional and financial terms. Since these thefts, we can't ever have a private conversation. We've been living with people listening to our private telephone calls and invading of privacy. It's difficult to communicate at all. Charlie has tried to send me emails, which never arrive. She's had so much abuse from these people because of taking this to court and it's just not right.

27. Neither Charlie nor others are lying about this matter, nor is there any mistake about what has happened to our manuscript. We are shocked and horrified to know that a lawyer was responsible for doing this to us but it's the truth. My husband is an American and we have both been in the film and entertainment industry for many years along with many other friends. We spend a lot of time in the US involved in the industry. I know these plagiarized productions and campaigns came about only after our manuscript was stolen and sold on by the lawyer in February 2004. Whatever else has been stated about these facts is totally untrue and has been deliberately invented just to cover up this sordid situation. None of these campaigns started in America in 2003 as has been stated. This was an important part of my life so I would've been the first to know having roots in America. "The Walk" was a direct protest "against" media particularly corrupt media. Neither Mark nor myself would have ever allowed anyone in mainstream media consent to exploit The Walk in this way. Charlie wrote the book as a personal gift to me because I trust her and we are very close anyway. This was our private property which, was stolen and blatantly sold under the most cruel, and traitorous circumstances. We had the right to choose how and when or if ever this manuscript was ever sold. The plagiarism and exploitation of our 20 year old story has solely come about as a result of theft, treachery, fraud and copyright infringement alongside a great deal of abuse and persecution to the author. We are not money or court orientated people nor are we liars and frauds. These facts are the truth.

28. This is an incredible abuse of the law and our property rights. It was out and out theft and totally criminal. Those responsible have secured riches "illegally" as a result of exploiting us. We all want this exploitation put to an immediate end, along with the invasion of our privacy and phone calls. For this we seek that the rules of British law be honoured served and enforced by the courts. Justice must be done. We have a human right not to have to tolerate blatant exploitation by these defendants. The law must take action so that we can return to our lives peacefully without these people causing any further disturbance, distress or alarm.

Witness statement of Truth of Christine Agnew
I know and believe the facts in this witness statement are 100% true.

Christine Agnew

Signed:

Date:


23/11/04