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## **A Tale of Two Sons**

### **BookFour: Hope Deferred**

By John A. Jacobsen

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The Appendix contains Scriptural references as noted numerically within the text. Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred New King James version of the Bible. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred Nelson, Inc.

**Dedication**

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The *Two Sons* series is dedicated to Kristin, my biggest fan, best editor and wonderful wife.

### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to my readers for their encouragement, feedback and editing, especially to my brother Bill (Jake), proof reader extraordinaire, as well as Sue and Tracy Villone and Barb Trost.

Cover artwork by Dean Ruffel Flandez.

### **Introduction**

This fourth book in the *Two Sons* series picks up right after the mysterious, simultaneous disappearance of the twin boys on the same day from *A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred* two different states. Each of them, in their own way, was becoming known for their special and unique talents because the two adopted sons are destined for greatness. However, the forces of good and evil struggle to gain control of them, leading to an eventual clash of these two titans with worldwide *A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred* implications. Nefarious criminals, serial killers, eco-terrorists, the FBI, Homeland Security and the NSA all become embroiled in the sweeping tale that moves through London and New York City into the fracking controversies in North Dakota, as well as into the Badlands of South Dakota and the Pine Ridge Reservation of the Oglala Sioux tribe.

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## Prologue

After Elisha and David had been missing for over two weeks, the frenzied furor in the media began to dial down, A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred enabling the two families to escape from their self-imposed incarceration. Anandi, Aspen and Kimmy had been holed up in Barry's A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred doublewide mobile with shades drawn and drapes closed, ignoring all the knocking on the doors and shouts outside the windows. They hadn't gone outdoors since the initial days of searching for Elisha. Thanksgiving had come and gone A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred with only cursory notice.

Anandi went through the motions of preparing meals for the grief-stricken occupants, but most of it went uneaten. Barry brought down treats to cheer everyone up but instead it had the reverse effect as everyone thought about how much Elisha enjoyed such delights. Kimmy could be heard sobbing in the night hours while Anandi paced the floor in worried agitation. Aspen remained stoic and kept reminding everyone to pray.

Only Sam and Sally had been allowed inside, although grudgingly. But contracts were A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred contracts and Anandi always lived up to her word even if she regretted having given it. However, after the initial Reality TV episodes featured a lot of angst but no action, Sam and Sally waited outside until something more interesting happened. The FBI finally cordoned off the area immediately around the trailer, but Sam and Sally were granted unrestricted access inside the yellow tape.

Barry stayed in his apartment behind Park Service barricades, but brought supplies down to the mobile every evening, struggling to push his way through the media hordes with Agent Ryan O'Halloran parting the seas ahead of him. Special-Agent-in-Charge, Kendall K. Kemp, had been A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred assigned to head A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred up the investigations of both missing boys. He in turn placed agents O'Halloran and Lisa Peters with Elisha's 'family' while Agent Miguel Machado was up in North Dakota at the Grosvenor's who'd also been forced into seclusion by the media siege.

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Kemp, however, remained ensconced in a spare FBI office in Bismarck which was strategically located about half-way between the two families in Williston, North Dakota and Interior, South Dakota. Kemp had no desire to be outside in the cold, windy weather that had launched an early winter in the Dakotas when a so-called 'polar vortex' swept down from the Arctic. Temperatures had dropped into single-digit territory and covered the land with almost half a foot of snow. Kemp had argued vehemently that the missing boys could be anywhere in the world by now, so he ought to be back in D.C. headquarters, not out here in the boondocks.

He assumed that the rejection of his pleas was a form of punishment over not having called for backup when first approaching Hector Gomez and his drug gang on the Pine Ridge Reservation, resulting in both him and Agent Lisa Peters getting shot. Fortunately, Lisa was on the mend and would soon join Kemp's investigative team that had grown in number as the media and Kemp's bosses demanded results. If he didn't find those twins soon, or at least determine what happened to them, he could kiss his career good-bye.

Meanwhile, Kemp had a conference room full of agents and support staff taking phone calls and following up on all the alleged leads and sightings of the twin boys that flooded in by the hundreds daily. Kemp cursed the media attention for drumming up all the bogus sources of misinformation, but then again he and his team hadn't uncovered any useful evidence either. It was as if the WonderTwins had vanished into thin air.

Back in D.C., Alex was literally beside himself with worry and dismay. Even as he physically went through the motions at NSA headquarters, his mind was in North Dakota with Mary. Without access to the various NSA snooping tools, he could only imagine what she was going through. Suspecting that his own agency and boss might be involved with the twins' disappearance, he desperately wanted to quit his job and dash out to Williston. But that might result in his being re-arrested for his prior hacking felonies under the alias of Slobodan Bogdana.

Mary, however, was not as bereft as Alex believed. Although she would never say it aloud, she felt relieved that David was gone. Relieved, but guilty. How could a mother not love her son? Her own flesh and blood? Sure, she was concerned about his well-being, but she was also glad to be out from under the responsibility for his homeschooling. Just the memory of David's black eyes boring into her brought about a return of the physical distress she'd suffered in their last session together. Was David's hatred

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of her that strong?

It was David's adoptive parents, Jerry and Sarah Grosvenor, who lamented his absence and mourned over his possible demise. They were aware of the statistics that gave their precious and precocious son little chance of survival after being missing this long. Was it at the hands of a pedophile? It couldn't be a kidnapping because they'd received no ransom demands, and the Grosvenors were wealthy. And why did David's fraternal twin Elisha disappear on the very same day?

Leroy was perhaps the most upset of all, feeling deeply guilty. He believed that his security team had let the family down by not preventing David's disappearance. With two guards on duty, there should have been no possible way for David to slip away on his own or for someone to take him away against his will. But it had happened and Leroy took full responsibility even though he wasn't one of the ones actually standing guard.

Nancie did her best to keep everyone's spirits up, but her own spirit was deeply troubled. She sensed that something manifestly supernatural had occurred, but what it was she couldn't imagine. She was closer to the truth than anyone else, especially SAC Kemp. But the full truth was far beyond anything she ever could have imagined.

## **Fresh Beginnings**

It was an overcast, chilly January morning when the two households finally ventured out to breathe in some fresh air and alleviate A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred the mounting cabin fever. Down in Interior, South Dakota, Sam and Sally duly recorded Barry's arrival and immediately knew something was up when Agent O'Halloran opened one section of the yellow tape and redeployed it to corral the media off to the side. Agent Lisa Peters, finally recovered from the shooting injuries, then waved for the Land Rover to pull up to the small front porch, its tires crunching the fresh two-inch snow cover.

Numerous cameras rapidly focused on the front door. When Anandi cautiously made her way out onto the porch she was immediately assaulted with a barrage of shouted questions.

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“Have you heard anything new about Elisha? ... “How are you holding up?” ... “Where are you going?” ... “Has something happened? ... Why are you leaving? ...”

Anandi frowned, shook her head no and headed straight for the Land Rover followed close behind by Aspen and Kimmy. As soon as they were inside, Barry gunned the motor and spun the tires as he turned out onto the small dirt road, leaving behind a cloud of snow and a few pebbles.

Several of the reporters rushed for their own vehicles which lined the narrow street, but before they could A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred try to catch up to the Land Rover, Agent Lisa Peters pulled her FBI sedan out and blocked their path. While she was not physically fit yet for full-time duty, she was determined to find a way to be of some use. She smiled as the reporters honked their horns and hurled epithets in her direction.

Barry sped down Route 44 away from Interior, away from the Badlands National Park A Tale of Two Sons: Book Four - Hope Deferred and headed west toward Rapid City,

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