

Free My Assterisk — Luke Sommer Glenn, continued

next available technician. I have no idea what he did but her new phone finally accepted the right ID to set up her phone.

The next step was installing the latest version of the operating software. It wanted a new password, but first, it required me to remember which old password was the current password. Then they had me looking up long streams of numbers and repeating them over and over in the best, non-regional diction I can muster... Electronic SIM card numbers, IUD... all kinds of numbers... just to ensure that we are assigned to the correct device for proper tracking purposes with the NSA, CIA, FBI, Amazon and China.

In the middle of this process, the mother-in-law calls my phone because she can't contact her daughter's phone. If I don't answer, she will think something's wrong. She's an octogenarian, can't have her worrying over nothing of consequence. At least I didn't have to poop in the middle of it, although I was feeling defecated upon at this point...

This was the second phone call, actually, because the wife was involved with the first phone call and offended the customer service person when we were told we were

going to have to pay an additional activation fee. They deemed my wife as abusive and her language offensive to their lord and saviour, so they declined to continue the call in an abrupt manner. Shouldn't have had it on speakerphone... But my arms go numb holding the phone to my ears for any length of time... Anyhow...

The only real plus side to this whole experience was being able to avoid dealing with either a kid that thinks grandma and grandpa are too stupid to have a smart phone or a 20-something hustler type salesman, that may or may not be the source of the strange charges on my card at various locations in Homestead. At least I was sitting in the comfort of my own home while being preyed upon and casually toking as the situation dictated.

The downside was paying sales tax on a promotional item, based on the MSRP and the \$150 worth of fees and other hidden taxes that they don't mention upfront. They could've given me 20% off and saved me some money but I guess that's illegal. Now they have informed me that my current plan is outdated and I must select a new plan that is ultimately going to cost more money and to that I say, "Kiss my assterisk!"

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Bloody Waters...Immigrants, Mariners and Misfits Clash in the Florida Keys.

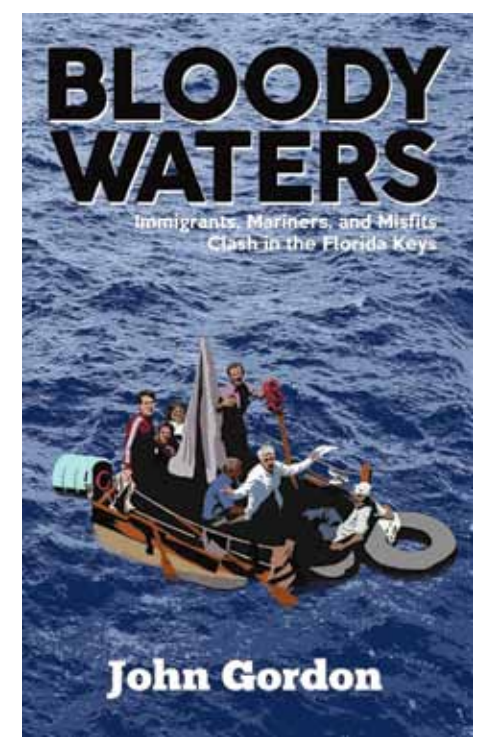
A new novel from John Gordon, who winters in Key Largo and spends summers in Northern California.

Art and Jackson, two highly decorated Coast Guard search and rescue volunteers, expect to enjoy a relaxing holiday boating in the Florida Keys. But after hostile encounters with a belligerent, gun-toting Keys transplant, our heroes' holiday turns into an ordeal punctuated by stalking and sabotage.

When a makeshift boat carrying desperate and suffering Cuban refugees, including a passenger in possession of sensitive government documents, tries to finally land in the Keys, the stage is set for a deadly showdown on the pristine waters of the Straits of Florida.


AN EXCERPT:
Back at the house in Pirate's Cove, they reflected on the week. Art said, "Jackson, this has been a fun but stressful week. This ongoing stalking nonsense with Crazy Ed is very troubling. I've never experienced anything like it here. You've seen how well we've been treated in restaurants and by others like Roger? The locals are really, really, good people...rock solid. This Ed-dude is the exception; he has serious issues. I guess there are a few loonies everywhere."
Art glanced at his watch. "We have ninety minutes before going to Roger's place for the smackdown with Ed," he said. "Meanwhile, why don't you relax on the balcony and enjoy this break."

"Sounds good," replied Jackson. His stomach was in earthquake mode. He ate too much at lunch, and he was stressing about the upcoming confrontation. He gulped some Pepto' and stretched out on the balcony. After fifteen minutes, Art opened the slider to confirm that the plans remained firm. He closed the slider and stayed inside to finish some paperwork.
When it was approaching 2:00 PM, they locked up and drove to Roger's place. Art reminded himself to get a replacement tire for the one Ed had slashed.



BLOODY WATERS is the second book in the Jackson Boyd series from author John Gordon. It is available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle format.

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