

The Stockholm Syndrome (Prologue)

The Stockholm syndrome: A psychological response where a captive or abuse victim develops an emotional bond, sympathy, or loyalty toward their captor.

Origin:

Stockholm, Sweden where hostages defended their captors after a six-day standoff.

The most famous case was Patty Hearst.

The Kidnapping: In 1974, nineteen-year-old newspaper heiress Patty Hearst was abducted from her apartment by a militant group called the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA).

The Captivity: She was locked in a dark closet, isolated, and subjected to severe physical and psychological abuse.

The Turn: After weeks of trauma, she began adopting the group's radical ideology, took on the alias "Tania," and even helped her captors rob a bank.

The Trial: During her 1976 trial for armed robbery, her defense team argued that she suffered from brainwashing and Stockholm syndrome, meaning she acted out of survival rather than free will.

The Verdict: The jury rejected the defense, and she was convicted, though her prison sentence was later commuted and she was eventually fully pardoned.

Clive was not particular evil. A tumultuous upbringing in Ireland where he was indoctrinated into hateful rhetoric by his abusive parents during the guerrilla war fought by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) against the British forces to secure independence for the UK formed his mental state. So ending up associated with an idealistic group was too not surprising.

Gunther was a fatalistic idealist believing successful people were the cause of his downfall in society. He was reckless, dedicated to his cause, and

extremely smart. His goal was to demand liberation of two of his associates who were currently incarcerated for robbery and other crimes. In order to achieve this goal, he needed a high profile victim to garner wide spread publicity. That is why he chose Karen. Her father was a well know successful resort builder who was extremely rich. Gunther, and two of his associates, including Clive, broke into her apartment, beat up her fiancée and a neighbor who had tried to intervene.

They took Karen to an old farm building that Gunther had previously rented for a year. It was isolated, but close enough to a small town so that provisions were not hard to get. All of his demands were sent via mail from a remote location to the police headquarters in Fairfield. This was distant enough, so that tracking their location was unlikely. Gunther was pleased when the local TV station carried the story of the kidnapping and the demands. Besides the request to release his buddies, he also demanded \$1,000,000 from Karen's father Walter. The FBI advised Walter to not give in. These things often resulted in the kidnappers walking away with the loot, but killing the victim anyway.

For the first two months, Karen was kept in a cellar blindfolded and subjected to physiological abuse. Gunther had tried to sexually abuse her, but Clive had stepped in. We are not animals Gunther. Speak for yourself goat fucker. He often called Clive this name because he was raised on a goat farm in Northern Ireland. Usually he just called him GF. But Clive new what he meant. Clive stood his ground. Gunther was the leader, but not physically as strong as Clive.

The Stockholm Syndrome *(Chapter 1)*

No information of ransom money was forth coming. Gunther used this to further alienate Karen, telling her that her father doesn't love her enough to even try. Gunther needed money though. One of his best methods was bank robberies. He couldn't take the chance of robbing any bank close to their location, so he took a crew and went on a rampage through another state. He gave Clive the task of watching Karen. During the weeks he was gone, Clive

started to try to sway Karen into their gang's philosophical thinking. Gunther had written up some rules and statements to validate his beliefs. Clive fully bought in to that. He removed her blindfold and gave her better food. He still didn't let her out of the cellar. Fortunately for her, there was a small bathroom down there. At least it saved her the indignity of having someone watch her. With nothing else to do, she began reading Gunther's manifesto. Not all of it was hogwash. It was true that the wealthy in the world were truly apart from the common folk. Never realizing that their privileged life style didn't give them the right to look down on those less fortunate. Karen witnessed some of that in her own father. Even though he was filthy rich, he never contributed to any kind of charity. His opinion was that whatever financial state someone was in was a result of their stupidity or laziness. In a lot of cases, he was right. But in cases like Clive, his misfortune was a result of non-parental support and physical abuse. Witnessing his protection of her from Gunther furthered her belief that Clive was not as bad as he seemed. Karen was not stupid either. She knew her chances of survival hinged on Clive's protection. She was a good looking woman. She would use that to her advantage. Clive was also good looking. Not like that lizard looking Gunther. She started to play along with his attempt to brainwash her. Her real plan was what I would call "Reverse Stockholm Syndrome". She needed Clive to reject Gunther's BS radical ideology and start thinking on his own.

Each time Gunther returned from his bank heists, Clive pretended to treat her with contempt. She was a spoiled rich bitch. Just the type Gunther hated. He told Gunther that she was reading his manifesto and that he was making progress into winning her over. Gunther was skeptical, but let Clive continue with his indoctrination. Time passed. Each time Gunther left, Karen resumed her seduction of Clive. Pretending to believe Gunther's ridiculous beliefs, she was really undermining Clive's own belief. Clueless of her real intentions, Clive was more than willing to listen to her alternate argument. Especially after she initiated sexual contact. It's true, my father is a rich bastard, but he wasn't given money. He started from humble beginnings and built an empire from nothing. He earned his money with hard work and intuitive planning. After six month in captivity, Karen declared that she was ready to join the cause. Like I said before, Gunther was extremely smart. He

wanted to put Karen to the test. If you really want to champion our cause, you need to show us true support. We will bring you on our next bank heist.

Even the best well planned operation doesn't always pan out. In this case, it turned into a real disaster. Banks had been put on alert. A gang has been operating in our region. We need additional support. They started hiring more guards. Not anything out in the open. These guards were on call from a back room. Gunther was caught unawares. After entering the bank and demanding the bank president open the vault, all hell broke out. Two of Gunther's accomplices were gunned down as was one guard. Gunther narrowly escaped himself. Karen and Clive were not hurt, but she was prominently displayed on the bank's security cameras.

Her father was both relieved that she was alive and aghast that she was now labeled as a bank robber and murder accomplice. Back at the farm, Gunther was furious. Why didn't you shoot at the guards? Clive had stepped in front of Karen and when he saw what was happening, he did the smart thing. Get out while the get'ten was good. If we hadn't left as soon as we did, we would still be dead on the bank floor. Gunther wasn't really mad at Clive, he just needed to vent his frustration. He immediately wanted to rob another bank. Clive said, the heat is on us. Why not wait a little while and make a better plan? Gunther would not listen. You can stay here with you girlfriend. We need more operating capital. It was obvious to everyone that there was a connection between Karen and Clive.

Gunther left the next morning with the rest of his gang. Clive was adamant to not go so soon.

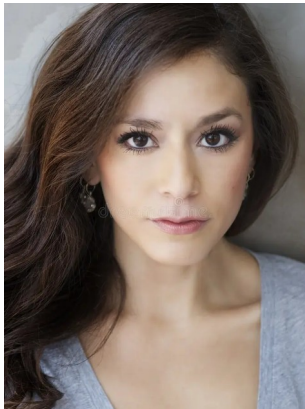
Karen was secretly relieved that they would be left alone. This was her chance to finish her dismantling of Clive's radical ideology. Look Clive, this life style is going to get us both killed. There are other ways to make money. Legitimate ways. It's not too late to walk away from Gunther. Where would we go and what would we do? I know of an isolated spot, rarely used by my family. It is something my father wanted to do years ago. He wanted to build a resort in the Everglades. He ran into all kinds of barriers. Permits were hard to come by. Environmentalists began all kinds of protests. The

only thing that was built was a small fishing shack in an out of the way section of the Everglades swamp. I visited there last year just to get away from the rush of city life. It is very peaceful and relaxing. We can hole up there until a better idea comes along.

The Stockholm Syndrome
(Chapter 2)

At this point, Clive was all in. He would have followed Karen anywhere. He had one word of caution. You know Gunther is going to try to hunt us down. One thing he can't stand is betrayal. I figured that. We should leave ASAP to put as much distance between him and us as possible. Before they left, Karen cut her hair, put on a pair of sunglasses someone had left and a hat. Clive rubbed some charcoal on his face to make him look darker and also wore a hat. She wanted to stop and buy a wig. Being identified by someone who had seen her on TV would have put a big dent into their escape plan. She found a Halloween store that had what she was looking for. No one noticed anything strange about her purchase. They took a bus to Miami.

Karen



Clive



From there, the fishing shack was only about 50 miles away. Another bus dropped them off a couple miles from the shack.



Upon arrival, Karen retrieved a hidden key from one of the flower pots. The outside looked worn, but the inside was nice and well kept. It looks like this place has been maintained. Yes, that is Manuel. He is a childhood friend and was my guardian in the early years. He comes around about once a month to check on things. Clive was not comfortable knowing this. What if he finds me here with you? I am sure he knows that you were kidnapped and participated in a robbery. Don't worry, I will clear everything with him if he does show up. I will tell him the truth. You rescued me from the kidnapper gang. The truth was not quite the truth. Manuel did maintain the shack. In fact, he saw Karen arrive and knew that she had been abducted and was in danger. Also, Karen was not an infrequent visitor here. She had been born in this very shack and was quite familiar with the local residents shown here.



It was also true that her father had come from humble beginnings. What are we going to eat? There are lots of can goods in the cupboards. Fresh fish are

available most any time day or night. We just have to catch them. Let me check if the fishing equipment is still in place. I'll be back shortly. Karen could have just left Clive and be done with it. She would have to face possible prosecution for her part in the bank robbery. She had other plans. While outside, she slipped around the back and met Manuel. She clued him in on what had transpired over the past months. Here is what I need you to do. This Gunther character is the real mastermind behind my kidnapping and physical and mental torment. I left some clues back at the farm giving him a direction to track me. I want him to find me here. I want you and I to plan a reception for him that will give me the revenge I sorely need. Clive is not totally innocent, but he was brainwashed by Gunther and helped me escape. I could have undergone much worse torment without his presence.

Manuel was an ex-Green Beret. He was legendary around these parts among the locals. He put out word that some bad dudes were coming. Make sure you give them my location. A week later, some guys were asking questions about a guy and girl who might have traveled through there. Sure, we saw those two. Didn't look like locals though. One was my cousin and I need to find him. His father is ill and maybe doesn't have much time left. Sure, glad to help. They went down this road. It is a dead end, but there is an abandoned fishing shack at the end. Maybe they holed up there.

Gunther brought three of his cohorts. More than enough to subdue one guy and a girl. They arrived at the shack they were told about. It didn't look like anyone was around. He told his guys to spread out and see if they can locate them. Gunther broke into the shack noticing it looked like it had been lived in. He was tired from his long trip. He sat down in a chair and dozed off. He woke with a start. There was some kind of commotion going on outside and he heard screaming. When he went outside to see, there was one of his guys tied to an overhand dangling over the water. It looked like pieces of raw meat were sticking out of his pockets. Before he could completely comprehend what was happening, a giant crock rocketed out of the water and chopped the guy's body in half.

As fearsome as Gunther thought he was, there were several things that terrified him. Lizards, snakes, and spiders. Shaken to the core, he never

noticed Manuel step out around the corner of the shack. Before he knew it, he was tied to a chair on the veranda. Clive and Karen approached him. You don't look so fearsome at the moment. Visions of the crock was still circling his brain. You aren't going to feed me to the crock are you? No, that would be too quick a death for you. I think a couple weeks spent in that small dark utility shed over there might give you an idea of what you put me through.

Clive asked, where are the two other hoods? Manuel told him, it seems poking around in a swamp it not conducive to good health. A Burmese Python got the first one. The second one stepped on a Coral snake. Later we will retrieve their bodies to use as crock bait. The first night in the dark shack, Karen released a dozen tarantulas. Not wanting Gunther to miss the show, she switched on the shed lights. Gunther's screams could be heard for hours. He had no way of knowing the spiders were harmless. A few days later, she repeated the scene, only this time it was gopher snakes. Again harmless.

Karen was not as cruel as Gunther. She felt she had extracted enough revenge. We have to let him go. Are you sure that's a good idea? I think what he has experience this past week will be enough deterrent so he won't want to have anything to do with us. Manual said, let nature take its course. As rancid as he must smell after that time in the shed, he is prime bait for crocks, snakes, and panthers. Karen unlocked the shack door. OK Gunther, you are free to go. Thinking others were just like him, he didn't believe they would just let him walk away free. He tentatively walked outside looking right and left. It just so happened that right at that moment a rat snake emerged from the foliage. This is not the venomous kind, but it was large. It didn't matter to Gunther, he assumed we planted it there for him. He took off running with more energy than we would have expected and jumped into the lake water. His bad luck followed him. A water moccasin happened to be right there. It bit him on the neck. As he screamed and thrashed trying to pull it off of him, a crock, smelling his rancid body, pulled him under. The water broiled and then quieted down with only a large pool of red shimmering on the surface.

Next, The Trial

The Stockholm Syndrome (Chapter 4)

The Trials:

Manual called Walter and reported that his daughter was now free from danger. He arraigned for her and Clive to turn themselves in to the authorities.

Walter hired the best lawyer money could buy. After Karen told her father that it was Clive who saved her, he even allowed Clive to use the same one.

Karen's boyfriend was allowed to visit her in jail. Instead of a warm welcome, she exhibited a distant persona. He just assumed she was still in shock from her ordeal. That was not the case. Even though she had deceived Clive, they had experienced a stressful period together and had true feelings for each other.

This should have been an open and shut case for Karen. It didn't turn out that way. The prosecution presented her as a willing accomplice. Look at the video of her participation in the bank heist. Does it look like she was an unwilling participant? They also peppered her with questions about where was Gunther. She said she didn't know his whereabouts. They implied that she was lying to protect him. This further clouded the juries minds.

The defense countered with the Stockholm Syndrome argument. She had to go along for her own safety. I think the jury was biased toward her father. Thinking he believed that money could buy anyone. They found her guilty and she was sentenced to 7 years in Federal prison.

After six months, she was pardoned by President Bill Clinton on his last day in office. A common practice for presidents.

Author's note:

This did happen to the real Patty Hearst. But not until she had served 22 months in prison.

Clive was not so fortunate. He was sentenced to 30 years in a Federal penitentiary. After 10 years he was granted parole for good behavior.

Author's note:

A half dozen of the SLA members were killed in a police shootout in Los Angeles in 1974. Others did prison terms. One was sentenced to life. Some served their sentences and reentered mainstream life when they got out carving out successful careers.

Karen was waiting for Clive as he left prison. Normally he would not have been allowed to associate with a convicted felon. Since Karen had been pardoned, her status as a felon had been removed.

Instead of returning to stressful city life, Karen encouraged Clive to return to the Everglades shack. There they established a business supplying local businesses with fresh fish, oysters, and their specialty, alligator bites.

Manuel showed them how to catch gators gut and clean them.

Author's note:

I have had alligator bites. They taste similar to turtle and frog legs.

Karen and Clive were married a few months later and lived out their lives in this peaceful environment.

The End