

SuperPower: The Ability to Fly or to Become Invisible: The Deal of the Art (Book #1) Roger E. Pedersen

Prologue

On the first anniversary of the seventh pandemic's final vaccination day, the world-famous historian and curator FA-King is getting ready to start his lecture based on one of his favorite Leonardo da Vinci paintings, Lisa del Giocondo. Lisa was the wife of a wealthy Florentine silk merchant called Francesco del Giocondo. The masterpiece is globally known as the "Mona Lisa."

In attendance, waiting for the lecture's start, in the Louvre's Denon Wing, sits the famous and wealthy philanthropist Professor Steele, plus one hundred and four museum curators, art critics, historians, and some press members.

The Denon Wing is Louvre's most popular wing. In this place, visitors can appreciate the Winged Victory, Venus de Milo, the Consecration of Emperor Napoleon, and French painting galleries.

In front of the Professor stands FA-King, the world's most famous art expert. Some people believe that the acronym "FA" means "Fine Arts," but his birth certificate proves different. When he was a teenager, FA was able to authenticate an artwork by just looking at it. Later, his correctness would be proved right using proper technology and scientific analysis.

As the lecture was about to begin, the Professor spent some time thinking about his childhood. Remembering the time when he used to eat lunch in his grandmother's kitchen. The same place where his great-grandfather proudly exhibited a reproduction of da Vinci's most famous masterpiece.

Professor Steele was a child prodigy. By now, he owns numerous international patents, including his world-famous "Babble Tongue computer chip." This mechanism has been inserted in every communication device globally. The chipset can translate, in real time, any language into the listener's primary language.

The Professor, who is the oldest child in his family, is proud of his academic accomplishments. He has earned several doctorates in engineering, chemistry, computer science, and mathematics degrees.

According to the most recent "Book of World Records," Professor Steele is the world's highest-earning person. He amounts to over 1.5 trillion dollars a year, based on his last three consecutive tax returns. However, this information is accompanied by an asterisk, stating, "Assuming that he is still alive." The Professor's favorite writer, Arthur Rimbaud, author of "A Season in Hell," has drifted off the face of the Earth. Still, according to his CPA (Certified Public Accountant), there are some "quite strange, expensive purchases, which keep appearing on his balance sheets."

Secretly, FA-King has been instructing the Professor on the highest-valued masterpieces exhibited in museums worldwide.

The Professor looks down at his digital communication device, realizing that his plan will finally be executed in slightly twenty-four hours. The years of researching, strategizing, organizing, and negotiating will come to an apex. Just like a chess grandmaster preparing for the World Chess Championship, the Professor replays all the possible scenarios, moving and counter-moving invisible pieces inside his head.

Removing himself from the grid by FA-King his demise was a significant endeavor. As FA-King's benefactor, the Professor publicly recorded his passing. This happened after FA-King proved the authenticity of precious art pieces. Later that day, he had King's limousine exploding, allowing the curator and the Professor's disappearance. All being part of his master plan.

The Professor refers to his demise using a Mark Twain & Samuel Clemens accent, "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated," accompanied by a sinister laugh.

FA-King began coaching him by using video communication. In this way, the Professor received lessons on art history, art styles, famous artists, and art museums. The Professor realizes the world's most valuable items are gold, silver, diamonds, and artworks, not money, as everyone else may think. FA-King also taught him how to authenticate an art masterpiece, which can be done by examining the paint composition, canvas material, underpainting, artist's signature, and frame.

The Professor spent months selling art pieces to un reputable individuals and groups. At the same time when he began reviewing the dossiers of his acquisition teams in NY City, London, and Paris. Individuals who will fulfill their plans very soon.

Looking down at the dossiers of his worldwide acquisition team, the Professor chuckles as he reads a reprint of an article, which stated the most famous question ever asked: "If you had one SuperPower would you want the ability to fly or to become invisible?"

In his weekly reports, Professor Steele learned that his reprinted article might hold some actual, real-life information thanks to his elite scientists' research. Recently, rumors have appeared about individuals who have acquired the SuperPower to become invisible or fly. Several of them have already been confirmed around the world.

Like Roald Dahl's children's book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Professor Steele has recruited his possible "chocolatiers" through a third party. The Professor offered a substantial monetary reward to those who could locate people with SuperPower abilities. He plans to utilize those extraordinary people in the acquisition of the world's most precious artwork. Art pieces that had been pre-sold and yet to be delivered to wealthy, unscrupulous businesspeople, and organizations such as drug cartels, organized crime leaders, and high-stakes gamblers.

The Professor, once again, carefully examines each dossier of his newly formed acquisition team.

Chapter 1

Dossier on Paul Spence – Invisibility

Paul Spence received his MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business, one of the country's top-ranked universities and its most prestigious business school.

In high school and community college, Paul was a conservative, religiously brought up teen, reaching the top eighty-five percent of his high school class. After transferring to NYU's Stern Undergraduate Business School, he earned his B.S. in Business with a perfect GPA (Grade Point Average) of 4.0.

Greenwich Village became Paul's home for the twenty-two months living in the dormitories of NYU, located blocks away from Wall Street and Silicon Alley. Between classes at NYU Stern, Paul usually had a morning coffee and a Flagel (a flat bagel) as he watched street chess players slide their pieces along the squares of the built-in outdoor chess tables, located on the park's southwest corner.

Paul earned his MBA in Banking from NYU Stern's Finance Department. He studied for a career in commercial and investment banking, corporate treasury, and financial services that supported the banking infrastructure such as capital markets, bankruptcy, and corporate reorganization.

Upon graduating Summa cum Laude with a 4.0 grade point average, Paul Spence was offered a Vice President position at The City Investment Bank. However, the President of the Empty Bank wanted Paul to work for him; thus, he became a senior investment manager at the Empty Bank in Jersey City New Jersey. After six successful and profitable months, Paul was promoted to the branch manager, reporting directly to the Investment Bank's President.

A half-year later, the fastest-rising star in the Investment Banking World was promoted to the Empty Bank's senior regional manager position.

On one occasion, as Paul Spence was giving information to influential venture capitalists at the investment bank's regional office, the FBI and IRS barged into his office, arresting him for bank fraud and embezzlement.

Paul's high school alumnus, Marcus, an African American who recently graduated from NJ's Seton Hall University School of Law, informed him,

"Embezzlement is theft. The iDictionary defines embezzlement as 'theft or misappropriation of funds that one is trusted with or belongs to the company or employer.'"

Paul's high school classmate, who is now working as his attorney, read, "An anonymous caller told the Federal Reserve that the Empty Bank's Senior Regional Manager, Paul Spence, recently fled with \$69 billion U.S. Also, the caller e-mailed a copy of the transactions which ended up in a Cayman Islands bank account opened by Paul Spence."

Upon Paul's arrest, his lawyer prepared him for federal court by repeating every aspect of his testimony with challenging hitting cross-examination. During that time, the U.S. Attorney stated on iBroadcast iNews that, "The defendant, Mr. Spence, used his position to prey upon people who trusted him. His victims were his company and their vulnerable, unaware bank clients, both elderly and young investors."

The U.S. Attorney continued, "Mr. Spence's actions have taken advantage of his position and vulnerable people. Members of the society will understand that people's conduct will always be revealed, and their actions will be met with serious consequences."

The Honorable federal criminal prosecutor explained, "Mr. Paul Spence's sentence will send a clear message to others contemplating about abusing their position of our trust and the power they have upon us."

He continued saying, "I would like to thank the hard work and investigating efforts of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Unit and the FBI."

The evidence against Paul Spence was massive, overwhelming to state the least. Documents with his signature and e-mails were sent to his numerous victims. People were scammed out of their life savings, believing that Paul's investment opportunities would help them live a better, financially secure life.

Someone at the Empty Bank was using their reputation for fraudulent endorsements and kept raking billions of dollars from their unaware clients. The money invested in this scheme grew to the point that an FBI Bank Fraud agent began looking into it. The FBI, an acronym for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, called this banking activity "The King of all Ponzi schemes." The Empty Bank investment opportunity collected over four billion dollars more than Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme in 2008. All

the evidence anonymously received pointed to one person, the Empty Bank's former Senior Regional Manager, Paul Spence.

The IRS joined the investigation against Paul Spence with its Criminal Investigation's (CI) Financial Institution Fraud Program, which addresses criminal violations involving fraud against banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, check cashers, and stockbrokers.

Paul swore, "Someone stole my identity. They hacked my email address and forged my signature. I am completely innocent."

His divorced parents and his sister were embarrassed by the criminal allegations from the federal criminal prosecutions and the litigation of all civil matters in New Jersey. As a result, they refused to acknowledge Paul as a family member.

The court findings disagreed that Paul Spence was being framed and convicted him of serving 150 years imprisonment in Federal prison with a twenty billion dollar fine without parole.

Due to this conviction, Paul Spence lost all his possessions. A government warrant required them to administer "Asset seizure and forfeiture" including his money, house, two cars, and boat. Paul's family, friends, and co-workers shunned him and vowed never to speak his name again.

In total disbelief, his mind spun; Paul tried to make sense of his predicament and began to research his legal options to overturn his conviction.

After two years in federal prison, Paul was still reaching for straws. He got a visit from a Ph.D. candidate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He wrote his Ph.D. thesis in computer forensics and reviewed the "Paul Spence case." He discovered that Alan Turing was the bank employee who alerted the FBI, citing Paul as the Ponzi scheme perpetrator.

The MIT doctoral candidate recognized that it was incredibly suspicious that the computer employee who turned Paul Spence in to the authorities had the same name as the one who invented the computer.

At their second meeting in prison, Paul's trial lawyer Marcus joined them, learning that Alan Turing masterminded the forensic cyber tricks by using classified

government technology. He got to fool the FBI Forensics Lab and testified computer Ph.Ds.

Under the technology patent law, involving closed-door, confidential algorithms, the MIT doctorate student explained to the FBI scientists how Alan Turing was the one who perpetrated the fraudulent scheme. Several Dark Web hackers knew his world-class hacking talent, and later testified against Mr. Turing, giving a reason for reopening Paul's case based on newly found evidence.

A few weeks after appearing in closed court, Paul Spence was vindicated in Federal Court. He was now leaving prison and walking the streets as a free citizen. He was happy to be free; however, he was now hopeless, without any money, family, friends, job, or a place to live.

Paul e-mailed the MIT doctorate student thanking him for his help and insights with a vague promise to repay him someday.

Soon after being released, Paul Spence walked past several prison guards who were smoking. As he got fumes blown into his eyes, he teared up and blinked three times. As Paul gave the guards a well-known finger called "the bird," he got no reaction, which seemed strange to him. He waved at the Uber driver to stop, getting no response either. After a bird crashed against his face, he blinked three times, making the Uber driver stop and unlock the back passenger door. Then, he was driven to a complimentary hotel for a few nights.

At that moment, Paul learned that he had acquired a SuperPower ability, by blinking three times fast, he could become invisible or visible.

An armored truck raced over the hill as the security guard driver pulled up to the First National Bank. Exiting the armored truck's back seat were two security guards responsible for delivering and picking up the bank's cash inside its vault. The two security guards grabbed three empty deposit bags and the transferred documents out of the back of the truck. They signaled the driver, their boss, as they entered the bank.

Paul Spence walked down the street approaching the armored truck. Rapidly, he blinked three times, disappearing. In this way, he investigated the First National Bank's vault seeing the two security guards filling up the three bags. A few feet beyond the bank's entrance, an invisible Paul Spence saw how the guards took their cash-filled deposit bags, placing them on their backs. The bank's branch manager signed the transfer

receipt documents, including information, such as the number of items received, destination, contents of packages, and delivery time.

The security guards carried the three heavy bags toward the armored truck, passing Paul, who stood near them. The security guards put each of their three deposit bags inside the armored truck's back, closing and locking the doors. Moving fast, Paul unlocked the back door of the truck from inside its cargo area. After opening the door, he grabbed all six bags full of cash, exiting unseen with the 120 lbs. of money, which he carried down the sidewalk.

Invisible, he walked down the street, noticing an abandoned motorcycle. He secured each bag to the motorcycle frame, rapidly touching the vehicle, it disappeared. The armored truck with the three guards pulled out of the bank's parking lot, driving down the street toward their next stop.

At the next bank stop, the two delivery security guards exited and opened the armored truck's back. Astonished, the two men were now aware that the entire cargo area was empty. All their cash bags had vanished into thin air. As the driver walked to meet them, he noticed the emptiness, which upset his stomach, vomiting on the street.

Five miles away, Paul continued down the road approaching his recently acquired trailer, hidden in Frank Sinatra Park's far end in Hoboken, New Jersey. His trailer was where he stored his private belongings. Just outside the trailer, in the woods, Paul Spence blinked three times rapidly, having himself and the borrowed motorcycle with the six full cash bags reappear. He placed each of the six bags inside his trailer for safekeeping.

Chapter 2

Dossier on Michele Locke – Flight

Michele's mother used to tell everybody, including her daughter, that her UK- British Women's Football (soccer) team won the FIFA Woman's World Cup Championship as well as the Olympic Woman's Football gold medal.

Her mother's father was a well-known rugby lock player who was around six and a half feet tall. His long limbs helped him perform at lineout and scrum sessions as it was the most demanding and physical position on the field.

Since her early years, Michele was kicking the football all over the grassy fields, along with her 29-year-old, finely tuned, athletic mother, who also was her coach and opposing goalie.

At thirty-five years old, her mother's dream was to have her daughter follow in her footsteps. In her first year playing football, Michele's team won the championship when she was only eleven years old. Each team member received a large championship trophy, and Michele won the MVP (Most Valuable Player) trophy.

Michele's team was undefeated the following year, heading into the championship match, where she scored two goals. Michele was kicking the ball downfield, attempting to achieve her third goal, when a jealous chubby player of the opposing team slid into her with both of his feet, tripping her. This caused her to fall forward, landing twisted as everyone in the place heard a cracking sound. Soon after, several paramedics ran out of an ambulance. They put Michele on a stretcher, driving with flashing lights and a loud siren noise, to the nearest hospital. After the doctor examined her, Michele was diagnosed with two broken legs.

Michele's entire life and relationship with her mother and friends revolved around sports and football. Being injured and unable to play, she felt like a worthless outcast, someone who should be yelling as the Bible's Leviticus states, "Lepers shall cry 'Unclean, unclean.'"

Her mother continued coaching the team; this made Michele feel incredibly sad and sidelined. She knew she'd be unable to continue her MVP football journey.

Unfortunately, Michele's mother knew that there was absolutely nothing she could do to help her daughter.

After an hour, they left the hospital, having x-rays and two leg casts applied. Michele was placed in a wheelchair, which she should use for the following eight long weeks.

When Michele settled at home, her mother showed her that her football team won the championship football trophy for the second year in a row.

The other players of her team came by her house, signing one of her casts. The boy who injured Michele was subsequently removed from his team. Later, he stopped by to apologize to Michele.

Michele was excited to know that soon the doctor would remove her casts. She could hardly take the itchy skin under the plaster casts. Her teammates presented her with the \$225 US Nike Girl's Running Shoe, making her incredibly happy and looking forward to using them.

During Michele's rehabilitation, her legs had some expected discomfort in the bones and joints due to being immobilized for a long time. Michele began exercising, doing obliques by holding weights. She did deep knee bends, jumping, double-arm dumbbell bench presses, jumping jacks, frog jumps, and boxing.

Her doctors encouraged her to cycle and run around the school's track. She needed to build up her endurance and leg muscles.

Watching Michele running around the track was her junior schoolgirl's track coach, who told her, "You have mad running skills,

Michele. Would you like to join the girl's track team?"

"I am not thrilled with running in competition as it isn't something that I enjoy doing," Michele answered, as she thanked her for the thought.

The track coach explained, "There are many other events in track and field that you might like to participate in, such as the high jump, pole vault, or shot put. Also, running and jumping events such as the long jump and the triple jump. Think about it."

With her mother coaching her, she tried each of those field events. Her favorites were the long jump and the triple jump.

One day, as the girl's track coach took several students to a local competition, Michele's mother told her, "Michele, you are my main reason for waking up every day. You've made me the proudest mother in the entire world. I look forward to the day when you can stand up on the Olympic podium as they present to you your gold medal and the world hears our country's national anthem. Just like I experienced before you were born. Every time you enter the stadium, all I ask is that you do your absolute best, and in doing so, you make me the honored mother in the country."

Running around the track is Coach Ashley Curry who notices her long-time associate, Coach Locke. She asks, "Coach Locke who is that student, and what her distance is?"

Coach Locke replies, "This is my daughter, Michele and she just surpassed the boy's record for long jumping."

Coach Locke introduces them saying, "Michele, I'd like to introduce you to the legendary Loughborough University's athletic director who specializes in women's track and field.

Coach Locke shakes Coach Ashley Curry's hand followed by Michele who states, "It was a pleasure to meet an icon and one of my mother's sports associates."

Coach Ashley Curry requested, "Michele, can I see you try the triple jump?"

Michele walks to the end of the runway, takes a deep breath, and sprints towards the takeoff board as the two coaches watch.

Michelle hops, skips, and jumps landing solidly in the sand pit.

Coach Ashley Curry hands Coach Locke the measuring tape which puts it against the takeoff board Coach Curry holding the end of the tape walks around the pit placing the end of the measuring tape where Michele's heel landed in the sand pit.

Coach Ashley Curry states, "According to the measuring tape Michele's jump is equivalent to Lboro's men's distance.

As Coach Ashley Curry, Michele, and her mother walk across the track field, she states, "With the results that I witnessed today, if you keep this up your track-field jumping events, can guarantee a fully paid athletic scholarship to Loughborough University.

Michele strived her best at the horizontal jumps every day, trying to win the long and triple jump events. She dedicates each sprint down the runway to her devoted mother.

Standing at the end of the Olympic jumping pit, ready to test her legs, Michele sprinted down the long runway.

Throughout the competition, she kept looking up at the stands, seeking to find her mother, without any luck.

Even when she was presented with a first-place blue ribbon in both the long jump and the triple jump, her mother was nowhere to be seen.

After a long bus ride from the track and field events, Michele's father gave her the sad news. Her mother was hit by a semi-truck and was rushed to the hospital. She remained in a coma due to head trauma.

Her father drove Michele to the hospital, where she saw her mother lying in a bed with a nasogastric tube coming out of her nose.

From that day forward, Michele remembered her mother's last words.

Like audio, which had been set on repeat mode, Michele heard her mother saying, "I look forward to the day when you can stand up on the Olympic podium as they present to you your gold medal and the world hears our country's national anthem."

Michele responded in her head every time, I promise you that you will wake up and see me getting an Olympic gold medal.

At the Summer Olympics, standing one hundred feet from the long jump's white plastic take-off strip was Michele Locke, the British long and triple jump champion. As she swayed back and forth in anticipation to start her third and final jump attempt. Michele raced down the runway with less than an inch in front of the strip. After getting the judge's signal, she jumped high into the air at an 18-degree angle, landing inside the sandpit. After the jump, the judge marked her landing spot with a spike. The two judges used a laser measuring device to verify the distance from the take-off board to the placed end. They determined that Michele's jump measured 34.75 feet, a New World and Olympic record. The entire Track and Field stadium began cheering as a female long jumper, Hannah from Germany, awaited the judge's signal for her start.

Hannah received the signal to start her final jump. Running down the runway, hitting the white take-off strip perfectly. She flew until gravity had her feet descending,

marking her last location in the sandpit. The judges measured Hannah's jump distance from the take-off board to the spike using the laser measuring device. The electronic monitors inside the Olympic Stadium alerted the audience that Hannah had jumped 35.50 feet. She was now the new Olympic Long Jump Champion with a New World and Olympic record.

Michele Locke studied at a British private high school and was its top athlete in track. She won every year in both the winter and summer World High School Track Championships. Michele still held the British high school female long jump track record. She also got the British high school track record for female triple jump.

Her distinctions and championships earned her a full scholarship to the UK's University of Loughborough. The university has the world's leading sports research, sports education, and sports development undergraduate degree program—the University grants over two hundred scholarships for athletes in the UK every year.

Inside the Paula Radcliffe Athletics Track, Michele Locke won the UK College Indoor and Outdoor Track Championships for four consecutive years, in both the long jump and triple jump at the British University Sports Association Championships (BUSA), the University College Sports Championships (UCS), the British University and College Sports (BUCS) Outdoor Track Championship, the Commonwealth Games, the World University Track Championships as well as four-time winner of the College Sports Woman of the Year.

Her College World Track record for the long jump measures 33.85 feet, and her College World Track record for the triple jump measures 64.25 feet.

In both events, Michele won the SPAR British Athletes Indoor Championship, which is the trial for the IAAF World Championship, the IAAF World Championships, and the European Athletes U20 Championship. She also represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games.

In the Olympic Village, after strategizing with her field coach, Michele received a phone call.

She heard her father's voice, "Michele, I have some great news to tell you. This afternoon, your mother awoke from her coma just in time to see you get a silver medal on the Olympic podium. She is so proud of you that she wanted me to call you to give you her best wishes as she knows you have done your best. Good luck tomorrow, and

both your mother and I are the proudest parents in the world. We love you, and good night!"

Waking up wearing her silver long-jump medal from the day before, Michele Locke was getting ready to leave for her triple jump event. An hour later, she awaited her second jump attempt at the triple jump. Michele Locke stood prepared at the end of the runway. Signaled by the judge, she raced down towards the take-off board. Her foot firmly touched the middle of the strip. Michele hopped, skipped, and jumped high into the air. She landed cleanly and exited the sandpit. A judge placed a spike at her landing spot, which measured her second attempt at 66 feet, a New World and Olympic record.

The German jumper, Hannah, who only yesterday won the gold for the long jump event, awaited her final attempt at the end of the triple jump runway. The judge cleaned the sandpit and signaled to Hannah to start her last effort. She ran down the runway, hitting the take-off board perfectly. She hopped for a long-distance jump, then skipped high up into the air, and finally jumped far down into the sandpit where a judge placed the spike at her final landing spot. A laser measuring device measured her triple jump distance. The electronic monitor revealed to the packed Olympic Stadium that Hannah had jumped 66.50 feet, a New World and Olympic record.

Hannah raised her arms far into the air, claiming victory as the stadium roared. Michele waited at the end of the triple jump runway as the judges raked the sandpit. Michele's tall, lean, athletic body tingles, feeling full of extra energy encompassing her entire body. She took several deep breaths, focusing on the white take-off board. After staring at it extremely hard, she blinked several times.

Confident, and feeling light, Michele got the judge's signal to start her last attempt.

She swiftly races down the runway, stepping firmly on the takeoff board as she hops high into the air, traveling 30 feet. She skipped into the air for another 40 feet further down the triple jump path. Lastly, she jumps higher into the air, flying upward way beyond the sandpit. The judges were stunned. A judge put a spike on the grass way beyond the sandpit's end. The two judges measure with the laser measuring device from the take-off board to the spike. Michele Locke's final triple jump was revealed on the Olympic Stadium's large monitors as 125.5 feet. The stadium, holding more than three

hundred thousand fans, cheered, giving Michele Locke a standing ovation. She won an Olympic Gold Medal in the triple jump, destroying the World and Olympic records.

She even surpassed the Men's World and Olympic Triple Jump record.

That day the Olympic Stadium heard "God save the King" after the triple jump medal winners stood on the three-level podium. On the second tier, Hannah wore her silver medal. On the top tier was Michele, wearing her gold medal. She raised her arms in victory as the entire Olympic Track Stadium heard the British national anthem "God save the King."

God save our gracious King!

Long live our noble King!

God save the King!

Send him victorious.

Happy and glorious

Long to reign over us

God save the King!

Unknowingly, Michele Locke acquired the ability and SuperPower of flight.

That night on iBBC's "The Daily Times" representing the Royal family was Princess Royal Elsa. She awarded Michele Locke with the UK's Olympic prize money for her gold and silver medals. Then, directly from London was her track coach and the university's President via video conference. They announced that the university's track will be named the "Michele Locke Track and Field." To be officially unveiled in a dedication ceremony before their first track competition.

Michele, once she was back in her room, heard her phone ringing. When she answered, she listened to her mom crying and saying, "You did it, baby! Your mom is so incredibly proud. As you stood there, having an Olympic gold medal put around your neck, I cried. You jumped like a bird, and no one in the world can take that away from you!"

Michele began to tear up, listening to her mother, "We will celebrate as a family when you get home. Goodbye, my baby girl, and have a safe trip back to us."

As her mom hung up. Michele grabbed a box of tissues to dry off her teardrop, wet cheeks.

