

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr. James D. Navratil was educated as an Analytical Chemist at the University of Colorado and is now Professor Emeritus of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences at Clemson University. His other teaching experiences include serving as a Chemical Training Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, teaching general chemistry at the University of Colorado, and teaching chemical engineering and extractive metallurgy subjects at the University of New South Wales, Australia, where he also served as Head of the Department of Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy. In addition, he was an Affiliate Professor at the Colorado School of Mines, University of Idaho, and Clemson University.

Dr. Navratil's industrial experience was acquired primarily at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Rocky Flats Plant and through his assignments with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Chemical Waste Management, DOE's Energy Technology Engineering Center, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, Rust Federal Services, and Hazen Research, Inc.

Dr. Navratil earned numerous honors including a Dow Chemical Scholarship, the annual award of the Colorado Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), Rockwell International Engineer of the Year, two IR-100 Awards, and three society fellowships. He was a member of the IAEA team awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, and in 2006 received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to the Waste-management, Education and Research Consortium (WERC) and to WERC's International Environmental Design Contests.

Dr. Navratil has four patents to his credit and has given more than 450 presentations, including lectures in more than 100 countries. He has co-edited or co-authored 19 books (most recently with Fedor Macasek, *Separations Chemistry*, and with Jiri Hala, *Radioactivity, Ionizing Radiation, and Nuclear Energy*), published more than 250 scientific publications, and has served on the editorial boards of over a dozen journals. He was instrumental in the founding of the journals *Solvent Extraction and Ion Exchange* (serving as co-editor for many years) and *Preparative Chromatography* (serving as editor), as well as the ACS's Subdivision of Separation Science and Technology and its award in Separation Science and Technology, and DOE's Actinide

Separation Conferences and its Glenn Seaborg Award in Actinide Separations. Dr. Navratil has also organized or co-organized many conferences, symposiums, and meetings for the ACS, DOE, and IAEA.

He is a Diamond Member of the Traveler's Century Club (www.travelerscenturyclub.org) having visited 302 countries and territories on the club list of 327. He also conceived the plots and assisted his wife Sylvia in writing *The Bare Essentials* and *The Bear Hug* and edited her book, *Chemistry Trivia*.

Sylvia Tascher died on July 4, 2009 from Pancreatitis. Her husband, James Navratil, used some of her early writings, emails and letters as well as excerpts from his emails and personal diary for writing *The Final Bear Hug*. He also thinks she assisted him via mental telepathy to finish this book. He feels he could not have written such material as he was accustomed to only writing technical papers.

Sylvia was a very prolific writer, producing two other novels, several books for children, a couple of technical books and many musical scores and poems. Her talent for creative writing was inherited from her parents, both of whom were respected authors. More about Sylvia can be found in *The Bear Hug*.

BOOK SUMMARY

The Final Bear Hug is a continuation of the story in *The Bear Hug*. The story begins with John James Czermak and his wife Margrit returning to their home in Arvada, Colorado, after spending almost three years in Vienna, Austria, where John worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency. John is a world renowned scientist and contributor to the development of the neutron bomb and returns to his job as Manager of Plutonium Chemistry Research and Development at the Rocky Flats plant where triggers for nuclear weapons are made. In Vienna Margrit was romantically involved with Andrei Pushkin, thought by the CIA to be a KGB agent. Realizing the futility of their relationship, Andre and Margrit had on several occasions unsuccessfully attempted to terminate it. But Andrei suffered continual, agonizing self-debasement and eventually left Vienna for Canada after faking his suicide.

Following their return to Colorado John and Margrit resumed a close, loving relationship that had been badly damaged in Vienna. About this time John was recruited by Tim Smith of the CIA since John traveled to conferences around the world, and to Vienna and Moscow to have meetings with his Russian coauthors on a series of books they were writing. Following more contacts with his Russian colleagues, John was informed that a background investigation had been conducted by the Department of Energy and the FBI. This investigation resulted in John losing his security clearance.

John was then granted a three-year leave of absence to teach in Australia. Tim kept in contact with John and requested him to visit certain countries and find out if they might be producing nuclear weapons. During his travels there are several attempts on his life. After his return from his leave of absence he starts work in California. There Andre surprisingly contacts Margrit trying to renew their love affair. Margrit rejects him since she has a good relationship with John and tells Andre she might go with him if she was a widow or a divorcée. This statement prompts Andre to try and kill John but instead he accidentally kills Margrit. Upon hearing the news of her death, he commits suicide and tells his son Alex in his dying breath that John had shot him.

John wants to start a new life and leaves California for a teaching job at Clemson University in South Carolina, and even starts using his middle name. Andre's son Alex joins James's research group, and the story concludes during an expedition in Antarctica that Tim supports to see if a group of Argentinian scientists are passing nuclear weapon information to one of the Russian crew members.

On the expedition Alex try's to kill James, but later finds out that James did not kill his father. On the last night of the voyage he meets James at the stern of the ship and he makes amends to James by giving him a bear hug. That causes both of them to fall into the rough and freezing ocean never to be heard of again.