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A Truth Stranger Than Fiction
by Chris Orcutt

**NEW MYSTERY NOVEL HINTS AT POWERFUL GROUPS CONSPIRING TO STOP
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE**

**Tackles issues including global energy, U.S. government-corporate collusion, and the
public-private sector “revolving door”**

Manhattan PI Dakota Stevens hasn't even settled into his new office when a young woman brings him a case. The woman's brother, a famous science-fiction author, has been missing for a week. Before Dakota even begins his investigation, he and the woman are accosted by government agents, thugs, mobsters and two mysterious Chinese men. What Dakota doesn't realize is that this case will quickly escalate from a straightforward missing persons case into a chance to expose a secret that has the power to change the world.

At the heart of *A Truth Stranger Than Fiction*, the third title in the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series by author Chris Orcutt, is collusion between the fossil fuels industry and the U.S. government to suppress a viable global energy alternative: helium-3.

“Years ago I saw a documentary about helium-3, an isotope present in the moon's soil that could be used for nuclear fusion,” says Orcutt. “I kept asking myself, ‘Why are we not going up and getting it?’ Of course, soon after this, the huge Bakken Formation was discovered in North Dakota, and hydraulic fracturing became a major enterprise. At that point I knew why the government was not pursuing lunar mining of helium-3.”

“Nabokov likened writing a novel to a bird building a nest—you collect bits of string. That is what I did in writing *A Truth Stranger Than Fiction*,” adds Orcutt. “Lunar helium-3 as an energy source is one piece of string. Oil companies quashing alternative energy is another. Add in some collusion from revolving door politicians and you start to build that nest. But my ultimate goal was to make sure the reader has more than just a great plot. I wanted the reader to have deep characters, great dialogue, vivid imagery and gorgeous sentences. I believe that the greatest writers are, at their core, masters of the sentence. That is what I strive for as well.”

Throughout this riveting mystery, Orcutt explores themes including

- The revolving door between governments and corporations that too often leads to corruption and collusion
- Helium-3 and its potential to meet the world's energy needs for thousands of years
- How Big Oil and fracking companies might be undermining alternative energy
- How people can lead secret lives that are nothing like what they seem

Chris Orcutt is a professional writer based in Millbrook, NY. He has worked as an adjunct professor of literature and communications, a corporate communications consultant and as a journalist.

Orcutt started publishing his book-length fiction in November 2011 on Kindle, beginning with his first PI/mystery novel, *A Real Piece of Work* (2011), featuring Manhattan–Millbrook detective Dakota Stevens. The second Dakota novel, *The Rich Are Different*, came out in June 2012. He has also written a collection of short stories, *The Man, The Myth, The Legend*, which was awarded by IndieReader as “One of the Best Books of 2013.” In 2014 he published a modern pastoral novel, *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*, which was recognized by IndieReader as a “Best Book of 2014,” and in its review of the novel *Kirkus Reviews* favorably compared Orcutt to Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Cheever.

For more information about Chris Orcutt, please visit www.orcutt.net.

You can connect with Orcutt on social media at

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/orcuttwriter>

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A Truth Stranger Than Fiction, along with the rest of the *Dakota Stevens Mystery Series*, is available on Amazon and at CreateSpace.com.

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