

RALPH

The Real James Bond

This spy thrives on danger. Meet Shapira. Moti Shapira.

You wouldn't wanna mess with this bloke. A former paratrooper and police detective and current trainer of the Israel Defense Force's counter terrorism unit, Moti Shapira can bust any cloak of secrecy.

Considered an espionage expert by everyone from politicians to Pamela Anderson, the real-deal 007 lets *RALPH* bug him about his stealthy career...



What's the most hardcore situation you've been in?

Years ago, a foreign businessman came to me with a briefcase containing a file with incredibly sensitive information. He wanted me to hold it for him and find a buyer prepared to pay at least \$290,000. But I refused to take the information. There were three people who knew about the meeting – and me. Today, not one of those three men is alive. One found himself dead in a car crash, the second died of an apparent heart attack and the third, suicide.

Coincidence?

I don't think so. I'm the only one of that group who didn't see the information. And I'm still here. If I knew the information, I probably wouldn't be talking to you right now.

Since you are, give us your career rundown.

Born in Israel, I did my mandatory years in the military and paratrooper unit, then I moved to be a detective in the Israeli police, where I was undercover for six years. The day I decided I would not be the chief of police, I quit. I came to the US and, after working for the Israeli consulate, I started my own security businesses. I also train the Israeli Defense Force's undercover counter terrorism unit, which is the one of the best in the word. I've trained them for nine years now.

What cases do you get involved in?

Domestic violence, missing persons, murder, stake-outs on drug deals, business espionage or employee theft. My clients are generally an individual with a need. It may be a businessman, a corporation or it could be entire overseas governments. Sometimes the local police departments draw conclusions on how somebody died, but this may not necessarily be the same conclusion that is acceptable to the victim's family. They often bring me on board to look for different evidence to open the case.

Have criminals asked you to work for them?

I've had a few organizations contact me but I've always turned them away. I was approached by people I suspected of being in the Israeli Mafia but they know I don't have a price. They asked me a few times but I've turned them down.

Do people ever hire you to check on their wives or husbands?

I had a client who suspected their partner of cheating them out of \$4.7 million. I discovered it was true. The person's spouse bought real estate with the stolen money. Real estate is public information so we started at the bank, found the loan, found the money. The spouse had wired it to different banks and then bought property. It started absolute chaos between the two. I saw the animosity, it was very tense. So tense, that my client ended up dying from the stress.

Text: James Swanick

Moti Shapira began his career as a detective for the Central Unit of Investigation in the Israeli Police Force. He continues to serve with a special anti-terror unit on the IDF Reserve Forces. Over the past two decades Moti has conducted criminal investigations and intelligence gatherings for his clients worldwide. Moti is also the author of A Gun for Every Hand and Angel in a Foreign City.

For more information: www.shapirabook.com