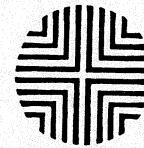


CHAPTER 4



DEFENDING AGAINST A NINJA ATTACK

To this day I can't believe I survived! I was fat and obnoxious. I was addicted to cigarettes, alcohol and adultery. I had lived a hard, fast life and left a trail of enemies. While I was divorcing my third wife, I became a chronic gambler and began picking fights with strangers. I knew there was a good chance that one of the people I had pissed off would hire someone to take revenge, so I started preparing for the inevitable. I assassin-proofed my house and body in every possible way. I trained myself to sleep lightly and took intense self-defense classes. When the attack came, I thought it would be a hit man. I was prepared. I didn't think it would possibly be a ninja, but it was. The assault was horrific. It left me with a broken back, four deep stab wounds and a cracked skull, to name the worst of it. But I survived. I managed to fend off one of the planet's best killers. Am I still paranoid? Of course I am. But I've turned my life around. And I'll always be prepared. It was paranoia alone that saved my life.

—“Jeremy,” *ninja attack survivor*

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Most people, hearing Jeremy's story, conclude that his preparation was fueled by extreme paranoia. In reality, the only thing abnormal about Jeremy's experience is the fact that he survived. In the last decade, fewer than two percent of all ninja targets have lived to tell about the attack. In almost all these cases, the survivors were highly

trained individuals such as elite military Special Forces, or else they died from their injuries shortly after being attacked.

EXERCISES IN FUTILITY

Posing the question "Why is a ninja attacking me?" is, paradoxically, a fantastic thing to ask yourself before the ninja attack begins. Chances are you've done something to deserve this ninja attack. The ninja has been hired by someone who knows you, perhaps even loves you. Do not, however, dwell on why the ninja is attacking you. It won't help.

In addition, prayer almost never helps in defending against a ninja attack. In fact, prayers can facilitate the attack. Besides immobilizing the victim, here are three reasons that prayer is futile against a ninja:

- God (assuming He/She/It exists) is busy. Even if God does decide to intervene, it'll take time for God to turn His/Her/Its attention to your predicament. Ninjas are swift and will attack before you've received divine intervention.
- If you do not believe in God, He/She/It will have no reason to save you.
- A ninja's breath is considered a blessing and a prayer.

Therefore, your ninja assassin is outraging you by about 10,000 to 1. Which one of you, do you think, has that divine ear?

If you want to survive an attack, you must start by believing that survival is possible. Although two percent is a very small number, it's significant. Too many people lose hope early on, when a few simple precautions can save their lives. The information presented in this section is compiled from the accounts of actual ninja attack survivors and advice from commando forces, including the Navy SEALS, the Green Berets and the Royal Marines, as well as a few suggestions from retired ninjas.

The following information is not designed to teach you how to defeat a ninja, only how to deter and survive an assault. Unless you're fully prepared and armed and have advanced combat training, do not attempt to engage the ninja directly. Prepare your home, prepare your body, and defend yourself the best you can. The following defensive principles, strategies and tactics offer the best chance of surviving a ninja attack.

PREPARING FOR THE ATTACK

If you suspect a ninja has been hired to take your life, do not panic. According to experts, ninja clans take an average of nine months to develop and plan their attack, allowing you plenty of time to prepare your house, your body and your mind for the assault.

The amount of time you can spend on preparations depends on your lifestyle, knowledge, ability and finances, but under no circumstances should your work be rushed. Prepare quickly but not sloppily. Every precaution should be taken thoroughly and completely. Double-check all your work. The tiniest mistake may cost you your life. Unfortunately, you'll need to work alone. Although it'll be tempting to share with friends and family the fact that your life is in imminent danger, you must never let on that a ninja is after you. Ninjas rarely commit superfluous murders, but to keep ninjas out of the public spotlight, they'll murder anyone who learns of their existence. Furthermore, since ninjas are experts at disguise, your best friend or even your spouse may very well be one of them.

IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE AREAS

The ninja will often choose the location of the attack based on the target's lifestyle. If you can predict where the attack will happen, you stand a much better chance of thwarting your assailant. The ninja will follow you secretly for weeks or even months before picking the ideal location for the assault—preferably where you're alone and unprotected. If you live in a densely populated urban center like New York City, for example, and are always surrounded by witnesses, the attack will most likely occur in the privacy of your own home. If you live in a sparsely populated rural area, the location of the attack may

be "open air" and less predictable. Examine your lifestyle—when are you at your most vulnerable?

NINJA-PROOFING YOUR HOUSE

Over 75 percent of all ninja attacks occur in the target's primary residence, so fortifying and protecting your home is vital. Ninja-proofing your domicile requires extreme diligence and thorough planning. If you leave a weakness, the ninja will exploit it. Examine every square foot of your property for defects and fix them. Although no house can ever be completely ninja-proof, taking every precaution will give you significant advantages over your assailant.

Securing the Perimeter

If a ninja cannot enter your property, he or she can't attack you in your home. A well-secured perimeter is the first step toward thwarting a home invasion. You must fortify the entire perimeter. If you only reinforce the front of your house, for example, the ninja will go around the back. Your perimeter fortification will depend on the size, shape and location of your property, as well as any local zoning laws and building codes that limit the height, design and materials of your desired modification.

Erections: Most ninja teams carry *kaginawa* (hemp climbing ropes) up to 30 feet long, so any erected barrier should be at least 40 feet high. The aesthetics of your erection will not matter—just make it big and intimidating.

Non-Electric Fences: Chain-link, wooden, picket and wrought-iron fences, no matter how high, are futile against a ninja. Ninjas are superior climbers and will simply scale the fence like a ladder. Reinforcing the top of a fence with barbed wire, pigeon wire or broken bottles will only slightly hinder a ninja's approach. Ninjas are naturally impervious to such hazards.

Electric Fences: The only fences known to hinder a ninja attack are electrified fences. Erected around your entire border, these high-voltage metal barriers may stop a home invasion. Make sure the fence is set to its highest voltage; if the shock is less than lethal, it'll simply annoy the ninja. But be aware that, with a little planning, ninjas can get past

an electric fence by digging a hole underneath the fence or by simply wearing non-conductive clothing. (*Important Note:* Electric fences are at least as dangerous to you and your loved ones as they are to ninjas. If you have children or pets, an electric fence is a poor option.)

Walls: Because of the limitations of non-electric fences and the dangers of electric ones, well-constructed walls are the best option. Perimeter walls can be made from brick, stone, stucco, wood or concrete. A ninja can easily ascend brick and stone walls and break through stucco and wood with a forceful *shikan-ken* (extended knuckle punch) or any other host of strikes. A concrete wall at least 40 feet high is your best option for blocking a ninja attack.

Doors and Entry Gates: When erecting your ninja barriers, you'll need to include at least one entrance. The best type of door is made of reinforced metal. Your entrance should be protected by a thumb- or voice-activated personal identification system, or, better yet, a retina-scan biometric system, not just a key or combination lock system, which ninjas can easily pick.

Trees and Telephone Poles: A wall is futile against ninjas if there is a tree or telephone pole nearby. If possible, cut down all nearby trees and insist that the city install underground telephone cables without delay. Otherwise, you'll have to erect your barrier at least 20 feet from the nearest telephone pole or tree.

Moats: While moats, used in medieval castles and chateaux, may seem like an antiquated form of security, a properly constructed moat with a retractable bridge is the best fortification against ninjas. Make sure your moat is no less than 10 feet deep and 40 feet long. With their skill at digging, jumping and catapaulting, ninjas have no trouble circumventing a moat with smaller dimensions.

Corrosive Moats: Since ninjas are expert swimmers and boaters, a moat filled with water is not particularly effective. Instead, fill your moat with any corrosive liquid. Strong acids and alkaline bases will corrode most substances and severely burn any human that touches them, including ninjas. (*Important Note:* Any substance that can injure a ninja can also injure you or your family. Take precautions to avoid accidental full-body exposure to moats.)

Animal-Filled Dry Moats: Buying a large quantity of any corrosive liquid may prove legally difficult or, at the very least, expensive. As an alternative, fill your moat with deadly animals such as unfed lions, tigers or gorillas to deter any ninja. The following animals make the best dry-moat fillers:

Cape Buffalo—This massive creature has a pair of dagger-sharp horns and an anger-management problem. A cape buffalo who believes the moat is his home will attack a ninja intruder.

Polar Bear—This gigantic beast is the most dangerous of all bears. An underfed polar bear will make bear food out of a foolish ninja. Obtaining a live polar bear can be difficult, though, as they're considered an endangered species.

African Lion (Male)—This aptly named "King of the Jungle/Savannah" is so powerful that he doesn't even bother hunting for himself. A few of these underfed jungle bad boys will make any moat nearly unsurpassable. The disadvantage is that neighbors may complain about nocturnal roaring.

Tiger—The tiger is even larger than the African lion and finds bathing enjoyable. Tigers are also an option if you plan to fill your moat with water.

Asian Cobra—This large, venomous reptile is among the deadliest of all snakes. Any sane ninja will think twice before crossing a moat full of cobras, just as anybody would.

Animal-Filled Wet Moats: The thoughtful ninja may be able to navigate an animal-filled dry moat by using animal tranquilizers or by simply bringing enough food to keep the beasts preoccupied. A murky wet moat filled with underwater killers may therefore be a better option. These four water dwellers can make minced meat (figuratively speaking) out of any ninja:

Poison Dart Frog—The back of this colorful creature secretes enough neurotoxins to kill ten ninjas. A moat filled end to end with poison dart frogs is similar to a corrosive moat.

Crocodile—If this primordial "mother of all reptiles" wants to make a ninja its dinner, it will.

Great White Shark—If the dimensions of your wet moat allow, keeping a few hungry great whites may be the best option.

Box Jellyfish—Every animal-filled saltwater moat should be supplemented with a few of these toxin-producing denizens of the deep.

Home Security Systems: While home security may not prevent a ninja attack, the advanced warning will give you vital seconds to make your final preparations. Consider the types of anti-ninja security that make sense for your budget and lifestyle.

Alarm Systems: Every home should be equipped with a modern, state-of-the-art alarm system that will alert the authorities when triggered. Your alarm system should work in conjunction with your perimeter security system. Mount motion detectors along your perimeter fortification and your garden, and install infrared and glass-break detectors throughout the house. Keep in mind, however, that most basic alarm systems can be disengaged easily with a few well-aimed

