

# Dreams from My Real<sup>✂</sup> Father

*A Story of Reds and Deception*

Directed by **Joel Gilbert**

**Analysis and Authentication of  
Photo of Young Barack Obama and Family**

**July 13, 2012**

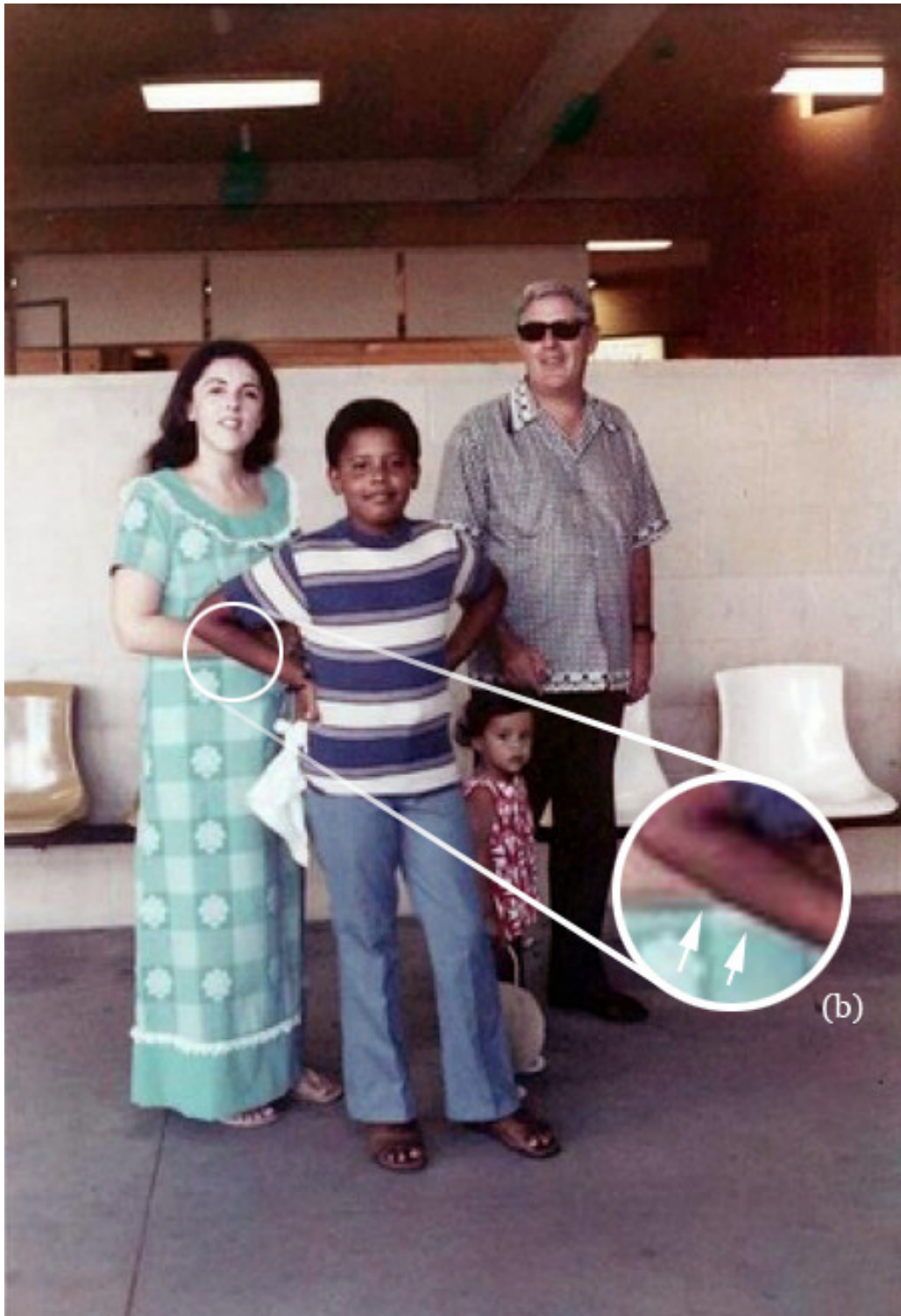
“There seem to be several suspicious anomalies in this family photo depicting President Obama as a child along with his half-sister, mother and grandfather. All suspected alterations to the photo seem to point to the cutting, pasting, and airbrushing of Barack Obama’s mother, Ann Dunham, into the photo to cover up someone of African-American origin.”

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- a) Just above young Barack Obama's right arm (viewer's left), there seems to be an indefinable object that obscures the pattern on his mother's dress. It seems curiously out of place – a likely remnant from the photo prior to it being doctored.



- b) Just below young Obama's right arm (viewer's left), where the bottom outline of his arm overlaps his mother's arm, there is a ghosting effect where a slight glow emanates from around his arm. It's most obvious as you follow the outline of his mother's arm from the outside in towards his arm. The shading that defines the form of her arm from beneath should become darker as it nears Obama's arm but instead it lightens. This would suggest that there may have once been an underlying image that depicted a pale material such as a light-colored shirt behind Obama.





- c) Perhaps the most blatant anomaly in this image is his mother's right hand. It is tucked beneath Obama's armpit, jutting out slightly. Given that the scene is primarily lit from above and slightly to the left, one would expect her hand to be reasonably well lit with a small shadow cast on it from Obama's shoulder but instead it appears to be in complete darkness (a stark contrast to rest of the image). It is my opinion that this hand is a remnant of the image before it was touched up or airbrushed. To me, it looks more like the hand of an African-American individual.

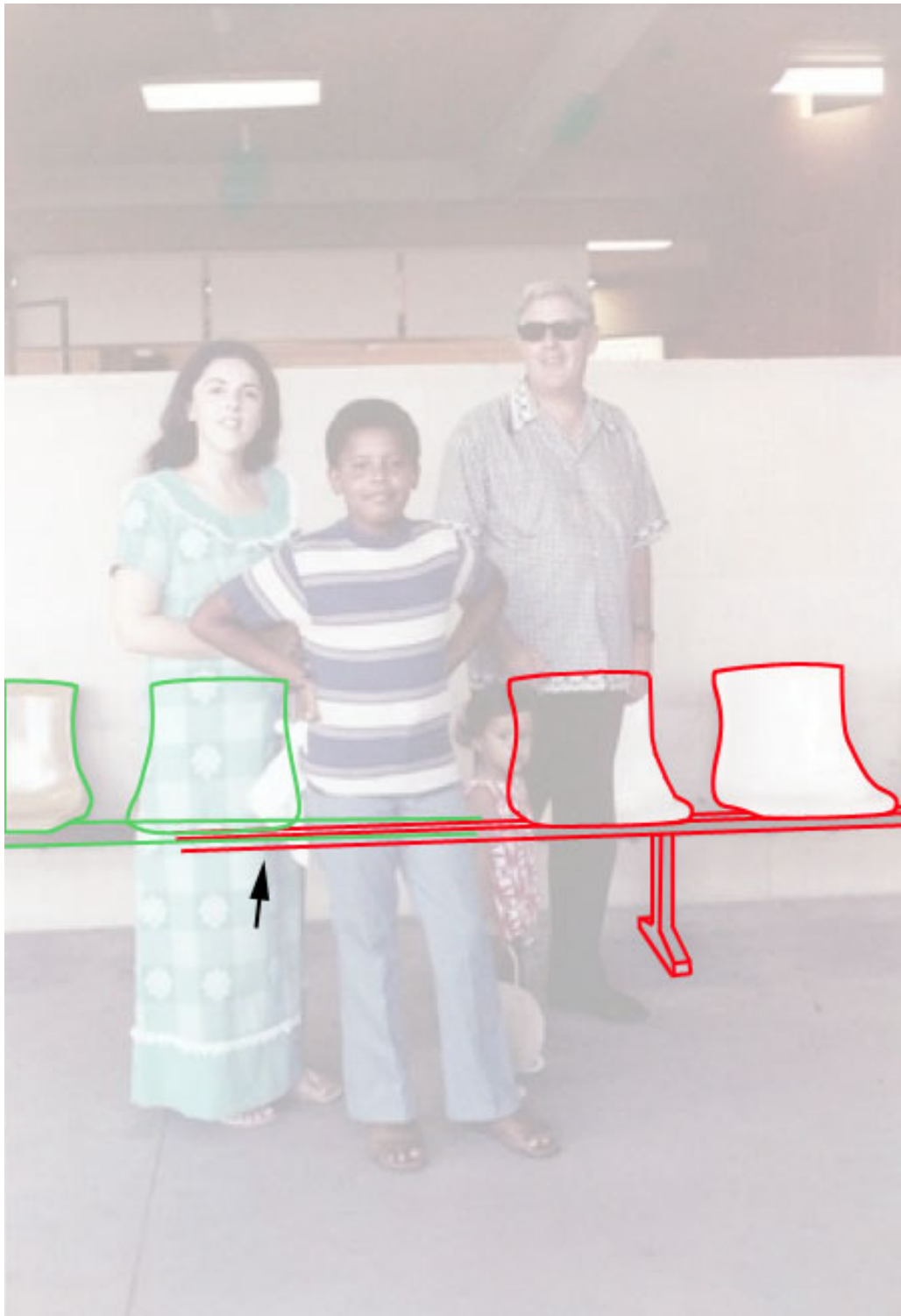


- d) His mother's hair is also suspect. In every other photo that I've seen of Stanley Ann Dunham from that time period, her hair is well defined with slight curls from top to bottom. However in this photo, the ends take on a smudged or blurred look that would suggest frizzy ends. But this is a common effect in old, airbrushed photos – the artist or photographer responsible, not wanting to bother with the painstaking detail of painting in every strand of hair, would just use the airbrush to essentially “fake it.”



- e) The tonal values on Obama's mother appear to be on the paler side in comparison to the rest of the family, although one could argue that she had a fair complexion. However, she is lit from a different angle than the rest of the family. As mentioned earlier (point c), the scene is primarily lit from above and slightly to the left, but Obama's mother is being lit from farther to the left. You could argue that there is a bright external light source and that she is nearest to it, however Obama is relatively close to it also and yet he does not seem to be at all lit from that same external light source. This would suggest that his mother's image was taken from a different photo and airbrushed into this one.





- f) Upon inspection of the seats in the background, it is fairly obvious that the seats on the left are brown or discolored in comparison to the clean, pristine, white seats on the right. One could argue that the seats on the right had been recently replaced with new ones at the time this photo was shot but the biggest anomaly here, for me, is that those on the left do not align with those on the right. It is made evident when lines are drawn following the length of the support bars below them. The lines from the left criss-cross with those of the right. This would suggest that either the two chairs on the left are on a different support bar than those on the right OR that the images in this photo were manipulated.

As this version of the photo is digital and in the form of a JPEG file, I would of course prefer to examine a physical version of the photo OR a high-resolution digital version of it to come to a “without a shadow of a doubt” conclusion.

However, in my professional opinion, there is a very strong possibility that this photograph has been doctored; most likely through the technique of piecing together photos or negatives and the use of an airbrush to seamlessly blend them or through modern digital means. All suspected alterations to the photo seem to point to the cutting, pasting, and airbrushing of Barack Obama’s mother, Ann Dunham, into the photo to cover up someone of African-American origin.

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