

2015 CATALOG



AMPHORAE PUBLISHING GROUP

WITH IMPRINTS:

 *blank slate press*


Walrus
PUBLISHING™

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BENEATH STILL WATERS

**Sometimes killing is a question of survival. Sometimes it's a crime to be solved.
Sheriff Hick Blackburn must confront his demons to determine which is which.**

Title: Beneath Still Waters
Author: Cynthia A. Graham
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: March 31, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 7
Pages: 224

Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC022060 (FICTION / Mystery & Detective/ Historical)

FIC014000 (FICTION / Historical)

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

Paperback ISBN: 9780991305841 / Price: 14.95

E-Book ISBN: 9780991305858 / Price: 12.95

Similar Titles:

A Painted House by John Grisham, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Synopsis:

The swamps and bayous around Cherokee Crossing, Arkansas have always been dark and mysterious, but when two boys stumble across the remains of a baby girl, headless and badly decomposed, in a swamp in Cherokee Crossing, Arkansas, Hick Blackburn, a reluctant sheriff with a troubled past is called to the scene. With nothing to go on except the baby's race and sex, the task of discovering who she is and how she died challenges all of Hick's investigative skills. But Hick faces a deeper challenge. The vision of the infant has left him shattered, a reminder of a war crime he has tried to lock away, a crime that has begun to eat away at the edges of his life, destroying him one relationship at a time.

Target Market / Positioning:

A lyrical and haunting tale about the loss of innocence, the resilience of love, and the lengths to which people will go to survive. *Beneath Still Waters* will appeal to readers who love Southern fiction, mysteries and crime novels, and stories about good people coming to terms with the fact that they are capable of doing terrible things.

Key Words:

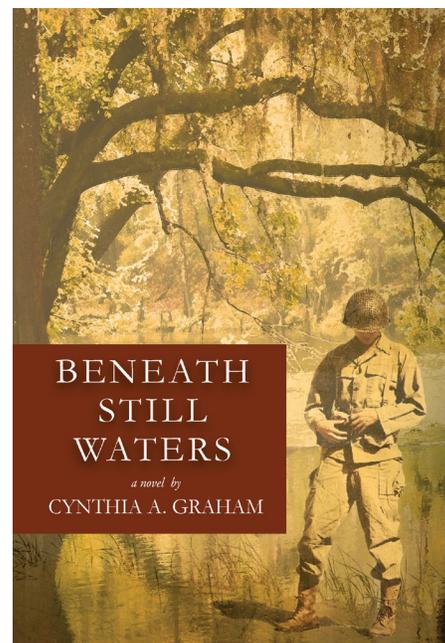
post-World War II, crime, southern, mystery, bayou, post traumatic stress disorder, small town, romance

Author Bio:

Cynthia A. Graham was born in St. Louis, Missouri. As a child she spent every weekend and vacation in the cotton belt of Missouri where she grew to love the mystery and beauty of the stark, Delta Plain. Cynthia graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Missouri – St. Louis with a B.A. in English. She has won several awards for her short stories and has been published in a number of anthologies. *Beneath Still Waters* is her first novel.

Publisher Contact:

Kristina Blank Makansi, Blank Slate Press: kbmakansi@blankslatepress.com / 314.363.4546



BROKEN HOMES & GARDENS

A girl. A guy. A broken-down house. A Portland love story.

Title: Broken Homes & Gardens
Author: Rebecca Kelley
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: April 28, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 260

Agent: Jennifer Chen Tran, Fuse Literary

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC027020 (FICTION / Romance/ Contemporary)

FIC044000 (FICTION / Contemporary Women)

FIC027000 (FICTION / Romance/ General)

Paperback ISBN: 9780991305889 / Price: 14.95

E-Book ISBN: 9780991305896 / Price: 12.99

Similar Title (or movies):

When Harry Met Sally, Serendipity, The Holiday

Synopsis:

Not exactly on-again, off-again, Malcolm and Joanna are in-again, out-again: in love, out of each other's arms, in an awkward co-living arrangement, out of the country. Their unconventional relationship is the only way, Joanna says, to protect herself from the specter of commitment, which inevitably leads to heartbreak.

Target Market / Positioning:

A *When Harry Met Sally* for the Millennial generation, set in the damp and drizzly neighborhoods of Portland, Oregon, *Broken Homes & Gardens* is an ode to friendship, lust, and the unrelenting pull of love, and will appeal to readers who love romance, quirky humor, and stories that offer a deeper and sometimes darker look into the risks we take for love.

Key Words:

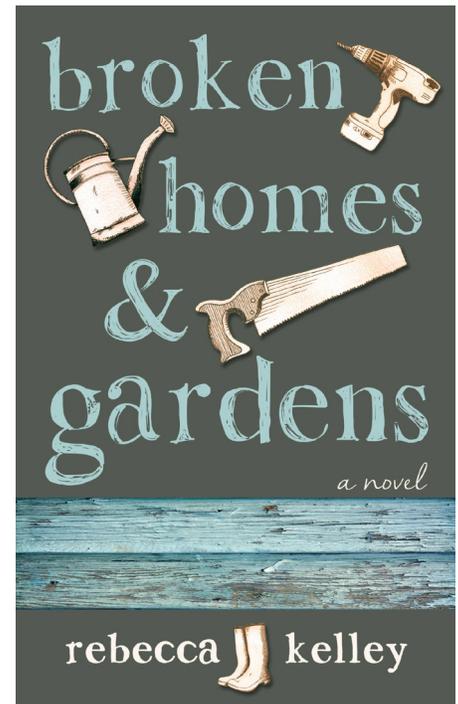
Portlandia, *When Harry Met Sally*, quirky humor, romance, Pacific Northwest, gardening, love, twenty-something, New Adult, commitment

Author Bio:

Rebecca Kelley is a published author and co-editor of *The Eco-nomical Baby Guide* (Stewart, Taboori & Chang) and an adjunct professor of general studies at The Oregon College of Art and Craft. Kelley's writing is infused with the sensibilities of the young creative class that uses the Pacific Northwest as its way station for earnest, well-meaning adventure to the world at large. Her fiction concentrates on the quiet dramas of urban domestic life: growing tomatoes, making pancakes, and examining the nature and validity of love and marriage in the context of the modern world. Kelley received her Master of Arts in Writing from Portland State University and is fluent in German. She lives in Portland, OR with her family.

Publisher Contact:

Kristina Blank Makansi, Blank Slate Press: kbmakansi@blankslatepress.com / 314.363.4546



ODIN'S CHILD: BOOK ONE OF ODD TANGLE-HAIR'S SAGA

Youthful pride coupled with brutal betrayal turns Odd Tangle-Hair's life upside down, and he must flee his beloved Iceland clinging only to the hope that one day he will return to mete out his revenge.

Title: Odin's Child
Author: Bruce Macbain
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: May 26, 2015
Trim Size: 6 x 9
Pages: 406

Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

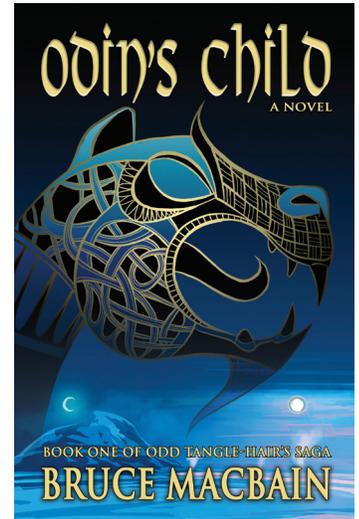
FIC002000 (FICTION / Action & Adventure)

FIC014000 (FICTION / Historical)

FIC008000 (FICTION / Sagas)

Paperback ISBN: 9780991305865 / Price: 18.95

E-Book ISBN: 9780991305872 / Price: 12.95



Similar Titles:

The Last Kingdom by Bernard Cornwell, *Odinn's Child* by Tim Severin, *Blood Eye* by Giles Kristian

Synopsis:

An old grudge erupts into violence as Odd Tangle-Hair refuses to back down from the men he believes shamed his father and betrayed their heritage by turning away from the old gods in favor of the White Christ. But when the violence escalates and Odd's family bears the brunt of it, he must leave his beloved Iceland behind and find his own way in the world. The golden age of Viking conquest is fading when he takes to the seas, but his journey is full of adventures, and he meets priests and politicians as well as many unscrupulous men all too eager to take advantage of a young man abroad for the first time.

Target Market / Positioning:

Beautifully written, impeccably researched, and deeply rooted within the oral tradition of story telling, Bruce Macbain has woven an evocative saga that will sweep readers into the past and plant them firmly in Odd's rapidly changing world. *Odin's Child* will appeal to readers of Norse history, sweeping sagas, and the tale of a young man coming of age in a time of transformative change.

Author Bio:

Bruce Macbain has a master's degree in Classical Studies and a doctorate in Ancient History. As an assistant professor of Classics, he taught courses in Late Antiquity and Roman religion and published a few impenetrable scholarly monographs, which almost no one read. He eventually left academe and turned to teaching English as a second language, a field he was trained in while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Borneo in the 60s. Macbain is the author of historical mysteries set in ancient Rome, (*Roman Games*, 2010, and *The Bull Slayer*, 2013, both from Poisoned Pen Press) featuring Pliny the Younger as his protagonist. *Odin's Child* is the first in his Viking series, The Odd Tangle-Hair Saga.

Key Words: Norse saga, early European History, Iceland, Viking, historical fiction

Publisher Contact: Kristina Blank Makansi, kbmakansi@blankslatepress / 314.363.4546

CODE NAME: INFAMY

Together, the ruthless SS Director of Nazi Germany's nuclear weapons program and an Imperial Japanese pilot who has lost everything commandeer one of Japan's top-secret submarine aircraft carriers and have two American cities in the crosshairs. Can they be stopped in time?

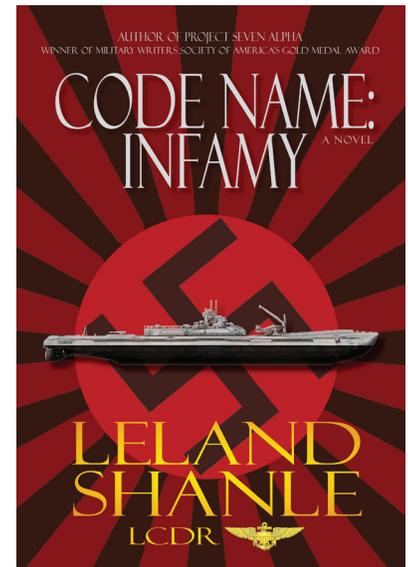
Title: Code Name: Infamy
Author: Leland Shanle
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: July 21, 2015
Trim Size: 6 x 9
Pages: 232

Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FI032000 FICTION / War & Military
FI031050 FICTION / Thrillers / Military
FI031020 FICTION / Thrillers / Historical

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-00-3 / Price: 15.95



Similar Titles:

The Hunt for Red October by Tom Clancy, *Flight of the Intruder* by Stephen Coonts, and *The Aviators* by W.E.B. Griffin

Synopsis:

A Nazi's Nazi, SS Generalleutnant von Bassenheim has no intention of surrendering. And Lieutenant Commander Atsugi, an Imperial pilot with nothing left to live for, wants nothing less than total revenge. With Axis powers facing defeat, the two men set out on a suicide mission in a submarine aircraft carrier with two nuclear weapons on board and two Seiran fighters destined to drop their loads on American cities. In a cat-and-mouse game spanning the globe, one OSS officer and a team of naval aviators and ship commanders race against the clock to find and destroy the rogue submarine.

Target Market / Positioning:

Code Name: Infamy is a fast-paced, historical techno-thriller that will keep fans of World War II fiction on the edge of their seats. Superbly researched and written with the expertise of a naval fighter pilot and the heart of a family man, *Code Name: Infamy* will appeal to readers who love action and adventure—and especially to those who have lived under fire and know too well the high cost of war.

Author Bio:

Leland “Chip” Shanle Jr., Lieutenant Commander, USN (Ret.) closed out his Naval Aviation career in 1998 with 600 carrier landings (200 at night) on eleven different carriers. During his career, he flew 16 different naval aircraft in 10 squadrons including the F-4 Phantom II, EA-6B Prowler, and TA-4J Skyhawk. He cruised on the *USS Midway*, *America* and *Lincoln*, and flew 80 missions over the war-torn skies of Bosnia, Somalia, and Iraq. An Airline Transport Pilot and Certified Flight Instructor, he has flown numerous civilian aircraft from the Cessna 150 to the Boeing 777-300. His first novel in his World War II Aviator Series, *Project 7 Alpha*, won the Military Writers Society of America's (MWSA) Gold Award for Historical Fiction in 2012. He followed that up with *Vengeance at Midway and Guadalcanal*, and *Endgame in the Pacific*. *Code Name: Infamy* is fourth in the series. In addition to writing articles on aviation, he has been an aviation/military technical adviser on five major motion pictures, including *Pearl Harbor*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *xXx*, and *Stealth*. Chip, his wife Laura, and their four kids live in St. Louis, and he now flies for American Airlines.

Key Words: World War II, Nazi Germany, Operation Paperclip, I-400 Sentoku submarine, Seiran aircraft, Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Naval Aviators, fighter pilots

A BULLET APIECE

Sometimes there's a fine line between solving a crime and being an accomplice.

Title: A Bullet Apiece
Author: John Joseph Ryan
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: July 28, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 186 (approx)

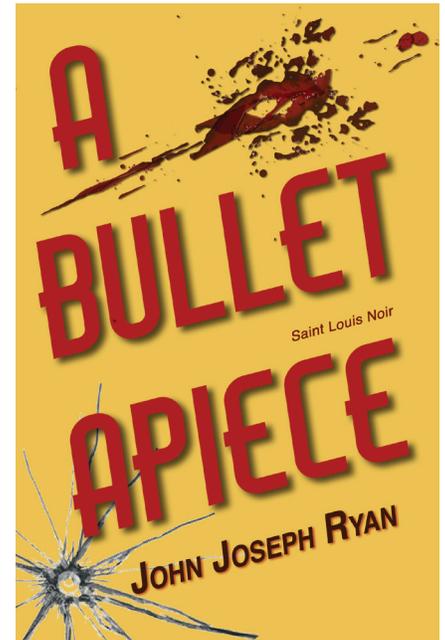
Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC022010 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / Hard-Boiled
FIC022090 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / Private Investigators
FIC062000 FICTION / Noir

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-01-0 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-02-7 / Price: 9.99



Similar Titles:

Live by Night by Dennis Lehane, *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler, *Red Harvest* by Dashiell Hammett

Synopsis:

Ed Darvis, a St. Louis private eye, is pegged as a man who “likes justice too much.” Maybe that’s why business is slow; turns out not everyone in post-World War II St. Louis is looking for justice. Revenge, deceit, and a little profit-taking on the side are all too often the modus operandi of cops and criminals alike. But when a beautiful woman walks into his bland storefront agency on the seedy side of town and asks him to help find her kidnapped daughter, Darvis’s life heats up. From breaking up an international child trafficking ring to hiding bodies, he must use his wits to survive, jabbing and feinting with deadpan directness and cynical ease, and when that doesn’t work, delivering justice with the blunt end of his .38 revolver.

Target Market / Positioning:

A Bullet Apiece will appeal to fans of mysteries, especially classic noir, featuring hard-edged private detectives with plenty of attitude and an unwavering sense of justice navigating the rapidly changing landscape of post-World War II America.

Author Bio:

John Joseph Ryan’s short stories have appeared online in Akashic Books’ “Mondays are Murder” series, *Shotgun Honey*, *Out of the Gutter*, *Suspense Magazine*, and *MARGIN*, *Exploring Modern Magical Realism*. A verse noir poem appears in Gutter Books’ recent anthology *Noir Riot*. His poetry has appeared in various print magazines, including *River Styx* and *Black Buzzard Review*. John’s collaborative story, *Hothouse by the River*, which introduced private detective Ed Darvis, was produced in a limited letter press edition at the University of Iowa School for the Book. He lives in St. Louis with his wife and two children.

Key Words: St. Louis, murder mystery, private eye, detective, international trafficking, revenge, post-World War II

MISSION MARS: BUILDING RED

Title: MISSION MARS: Building Red
Editor: Janet L. Cannon
Imprint: Walrus Publishing
Pub Date: August 25, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages:

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC028040 FICTION / Science Fiction / Collections & Anthologies
FIC028000 FICTION / Science Fiction / General

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-940442-07-5 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 9781940442105 / Price: 9.99

Similar Titles:

Synopsis:

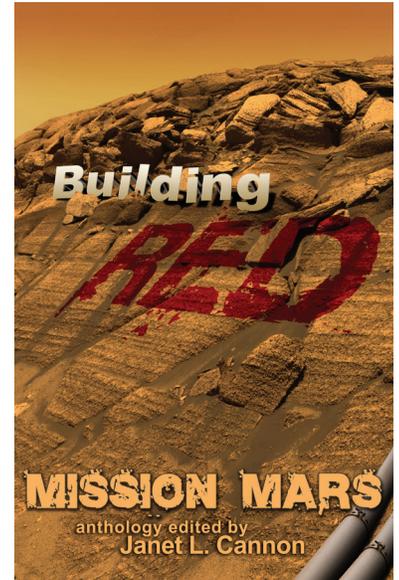
The future is now. Technology has finally progressed to the point humankind can begin the colonization of Mars. Governments, corporations, and rich individuals are all sponsoring groups to tackle the task of surviving and thriving in a harsh and foreign atmosphere. It's a test of creativity, intelligence, and social skills; of genetic engineering, breakthrough inventions, and resource conservation. The winners earn the right to incorporate their own little corner of Mars. It's a fool's adventure. It's an impossible dream. It's a risk that may cost everything, including lives. But adventures and dreams and risks are where these stories begin.

Target Market / Positioning:

Editor Bio:

Janet L. Cannon has been a technology instructor for both children and adults for Cape Girardeau Public Schools for the past eleven years. She enjoys teaching students of all ages various skills from world drumming to origami to crochet to duct tape crafts as well as learning new ones herself. She edits the middle school newsletter, the Missouri Writers' Guild newsletter, and writes for and helps edit the local runners' guild newsletter. She is active in the Southeast chapter of the writers' guild serving as an officer for the past three years. Her publishing credits include a technical manual, short stories, flash fiction stories, and Twitter fiction. Her Master's is in English with an emphasis in technology integration.

Key Words: Mars, colonization, space travel, science fiction, anthology



BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

When FDR is targeted by assassins, J. Edgar Hoover turns to Agent Harry Beirce, the one man he trusts to get to the bottom of the plot on the president. But can Hoover trust that Beirce is who he says he is?

Title: Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?
Author: Jack Martin
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: August 25, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 220 (approx)

Agent: Jeannie Loiacono, Loiacono Literary Agency

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC022060 FICTION/Mystery & Detective/Historical
FIC050000 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / General
FIC050000 FICTION/Crime

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-08-9 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-09-6 / Price: 9.99

Similar Titles:

The Untouchables by Elliot Ness and Oscar Fraley (non-fiction book, television series, and movie starring Kevin Costner and Sean Connery), *My Life with Bonnie and Clyde* by Blanche Caldwell Barrow (non-fiction); *Gangsters and Outlaws of the 1930s: Landmarks of the Public Enemy Era* by Richard Owen and James Owen (non-fiction); *G-Men* (movie starring James Cagney), and many others detailing the era

Synopsis:

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's life is threatened, Bureau of Investigation Director Hoover has no choice but to dispatch Agent Harry Beirce, the one man he can trust to stop an assassination. Problem is, Beirce is no ordinary agent. With no verifiable history, Hoover has no way to control him or his methods. Preferring to work alone and wanting no acknowledgement for his part in solving high-profile crimes, Beirce often single-handedly brings criminals to justice when other agents have failed. But when his search for the assassin leads him into a web of corruption, he comes up against local law enforcement who want to protect their reputations and federal agents who want revenge, no matter what the stakes.

Target Market / Positioning:

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? is a historical crime novel featuring the brilliant Harry Beirce, a mysterious loner with an impeccable record and a non-existent history. Set during the turbulent thirties under FDR's administration when Director J. Edgar Hoover is consolidating his power, *Brother* will appeal to a wide audience—those that relish mystery and crime, historical fiction, a hint of the paranormal, and anyone wanting to read a story well told.

Author Bio:

After receiving his Juris Doctorate from UCLA, Jack Martin worked for The Department of Defense and the aerospace industry, specializing in contracts and regulatory issues. Tracing his Californian ancestry back to the 1830s, Martin developed a passion for American history and the mystery genre. With encouragement and support from his beloved wife Sonia, he began writing. She passed away on Christmas Eve 2009 following a brave battle against ovarian cancer. He promised her he would finish the books and become a published author. He dedicated his first novel, *John Brown's Body* to her, the love of his life.

Martin is the author of the Alphonso Clay Mystery Series set during the Civil War: *John Brown's Body*, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, *Marching Through Georgia*, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *Hail Columbia*.

Key Words: FBI, organized crime, 1930s, FDR, J. Edgar Hoover, Bonnie & Clyde, John Dillinger, Machine Gun Kelley, agent



HALFWAY THERE

Middle age is a surprise to Aubrie Elliot, who can't quite figure out how she got there and why suddenly her hair is turning gray, her breasts are sagging, and everything seems bittersweet.

Title: Halfway There
Author: Aubrie Elliot
Imprint: Walrus Publishing
Pub Date: September 22, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 7
Pages: 108

Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

BIO031000 (BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Gay & Lesbian)
BIO026000 (BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs)
FIC016000 (FICTION / Humorous)

Paperback ISBN: 9781940442082 / Price: 11.95
E-Book ISBN: 9781940442099 / Price: 7.99

Similar Titles:

Synopsis:

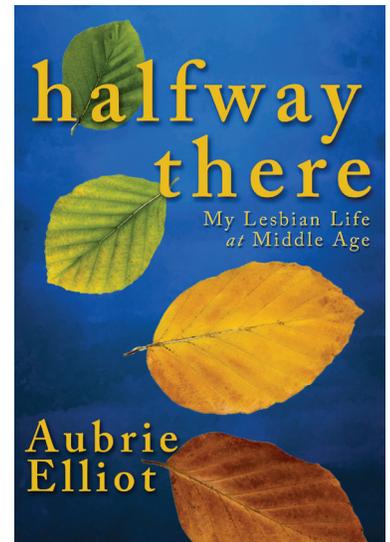
Aubrie Elliot is a middle-aged lesbian who isn't quite sure what that means or how she got there. But everything suddenly seems bittersweet as she grapples with her new body, her old relationship, and her surprise at suddenly being "halfway there." Told in a series of humorous vignettes, Aubrie offers a frank look at the ups and downs that come with looking forward and back. It's like sitting down with an old friend!

Target Market / Positioning:

Author Bio:

Aubrie Elliot is a long-time resident of St. Louis where she lives with her partner of twenty-two years, her two dogs, and the cat. To finish this collection, she finally took to heart "write what you know." While this is a work of fiction, she's definitely put herself into these stories. At this stage in her life, Aubrie knows how important it is to not take yourself too seriously, so she hopes these short stories are enjoyed with a knowing grin by her readers.

Key Words: Lesbian, LGBT, midlife crisis, gay, St. Louis,



DECKER'S DILEMMA

Suspicious of foul play when the *USS Harvey's* supply officer falls overboard moments after confiding suspicions about irregularities in the ship's supply chain, Elliott Decker sets out to find a murderer only to find himself a target of Subic Bay black market thugs.

Title: Decker's Dilemma
Author: Jack Ambraw (pen name of Eric Ward)
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: September 29, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 250 (approx)

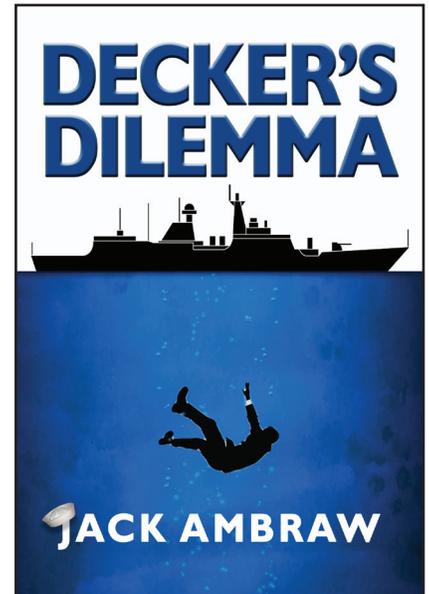
Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC022100 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / Amateur Sleuth
FIC032000 FICTION / War & Military
FIC050000 FICTION / Crime

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-06-5 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-07-2 / Price: 9.99



Similar Titles:

Synopsis:

Underway aboard the *USS Harvey* in the South China Sea, seaman Elliott Decker chalks up a petty supply officer's concerns that high-cost military goods are being ordered but never received, to a logistical error. But when the officer ends up in Davy Jones' Locker shortly after their talk, and his death is ruled a suicide, Decker has second thoughts. Once in port at Subic Bay, Decker learns about the Philippine black market for American navy parts, and his suspicions rise. With the help of wingman, Hack Wilson, and Olongapo City police rookie cop and sometimes girlfriend, Vega Magpantay, Decker delves deeper to find the truth. An attempt on Decker's own life ups the ante, making him even more determined to find the truth. If he can stay alive long enough.

Target Market / Positioning:

Decker's Dilemma will appeal to fans of mysteries featuring amateur sleuths with plenty of attitude and good sense of humor, exotic locales, and a military setting.

Author Bio:

Jack Ambraw is the pen name of Eric Ward, a native of the small town of Newton, Illinois. He served eight years in the U.S. Navy, including a two-year assignment on board the *USS Sterett* at Subic Bay, Philippines, the setting for his debut novel. His day job is Vice President for Public Programs at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology, an independent research library in Kansas City, Missouri. Jack has a B.A. in English from Hawaii Pacific University, an M.L.I.S. from the University of Hawaii, and is a doctoral student in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in history and English literature at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He and his wife Lynn live in the Northland of Kansas City, where he is at work on *Yamashita's Gold*, a second Subic Bay Mystery featuring Decker and friends.

Key Words: Philippines, Subic Bay, US Navy, sailors, murder mystery, black market

VIENNA IN VIOLET

Hours after Franz Schubert and Johann Michael Vogel perform a commissioned song for a notorious countess, she ends up dead, and the two musicians become the prime suspects.

Title: Vienna in Violet
Author: David W. Frank
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: October 20, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 220 (approx)

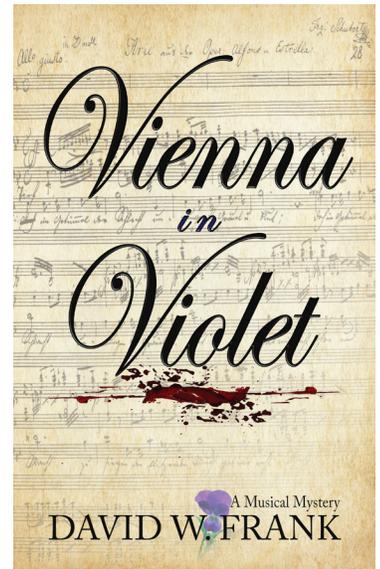
Represented by: Park East Literary Agency

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC022060 FICTION/Mystery & Detective/Historical
FIC022080 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / International Mystery & Crime
FIC022100 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / Amateur Sleuth

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-10-2 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-11-9 / Price: 9.99



Synopsis:

Franz Schubert is convinced by his friend and musical partner, Johann Michael Vogl, to set aside preparations for his new opera *Alfonso Und Estrella* to accept a commission from the notorious Countess Eugénie von Neulinger. Schubert agrees to set an anonymous poem to music and present it with Vogl at one of the countess's famous soirées. Within hours of the performance, Countess Eugénie, the secret author of the poem, is murdered. Both Schubert and Vogl, an old paramour of Eugénie, become suspects.

Authorities assigned to the case care more about providing a quick, politically expedient solution to the crime than catching the right criminal, and begin to delve into Schubert's and Vogl's private lives. When one of the detectives assigned to follow Schubert also ends up dead, Vogl sees a noose tightening around his composer friend. Convinced that the commissioned song must be the key, Vogl acts desperately but decisively to stop the murderer as well as to preserve the source of much immortal music.

Target Market / Positioning: *Vienna in Violet* will appeal to lovers of historical fiction and mystery, and to devotees of late Classical/early Romantic music (ca. 1750-1830, featuring composers from Franz Josef Haydn to Robert Schumann), especially to fans of Franz Schubert (1797-1828), one of the era's greatest representatives.

Author Bio:

After wrapping up a forty-year teaching career teaching English mostly at the high school level and producing plays for thirty-four years at The Roxbury Latin School in Boston, David W. Frank has continued his literary and dramatic pursuits in non-academic settings. His adaptations of Ibsen's *The Pillars of Society* and Henry Fielding's *The Mock Doctor* were published online, and his adaptations of Gozzi's *The Love of Three Oranges* and Aristophanes' *The Clouds* were performed, as well as the revue, *Musical!* for which he wrote the book. His original play, *4'33" in Rehearsal* was also performed onstage. David's life-long hobby, classical piano, introduced him to Schubert at an early age, and his education includes a year at the Eastman School in Rochester, New York. *Vienna in Violet* is his third published novel, the first with a historical setting and the second to feature a musical maguffin.

Key Words: murder mystery, Vienna, classical music, Franz Schubert, Johann Michael Vogel, political intrigue, historical fiction, historical mystery

THE CHRISTOS MOSAIC

When a suspicious death in Istanbul leaves one ancient scroll and clues to finding another in the hands of an American expat and a Turkish dwarf dealing in black market antiquities, they are targeted by forces that will stop at nothing to hide the shocking revelations embodied in the priceless manuscripts.

Title: The Christos Mosaic
Author: Vincent Czyz
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: October 27, 2015
Trim Size: 6 x 9
Pages: 350 (approx)

Agent: Carolyn Jenks, Carolyn Jenks Agency

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC030000 FICTION / Thrillers / Suspense
FIC002000 FICTION / Action & Adventure
FIC031020 FICTION / Thrillers / Historical

Hardback ISBN: 978-1-943075-03-4 / Price: 28.00

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-04-1 / Price: 18.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-05-8 / Price: 12.99

Similar Titles:

The Fifth Gospel by Ian Caldwell, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

Synopsis:

A suspicious death in Istanbul leaves one ancient scroll and clues to finding another in the hands of Drew Korchula, a 32-year-old American expat, and a Turkish dwarf named Kadir. Drew is desperate to turn everything over to the academic community, and in the process redeem himself in the eyes of his estranged wife, but Kadir is only interested in what they can get for their scroll on the black market. Not everyone wants to see the scrolls go public, however, and some will stop at nothing to protect the Catholic Church from the shocking revelations embodied in the priceless manuscripts. An intellectual and theological thriller unraveling a cold case more than 2,000 years old, *The Christos Mosaic* takes the reader through the backstreets of Istanbul and Cairo to clandestine negotiations with antiquities smugglers and soldiers of fortune, on a nautical skirmish off the coast of Alexandria, and finally to the ruins of Constantine's palace buried beneath the streets of present-day Istanbul.

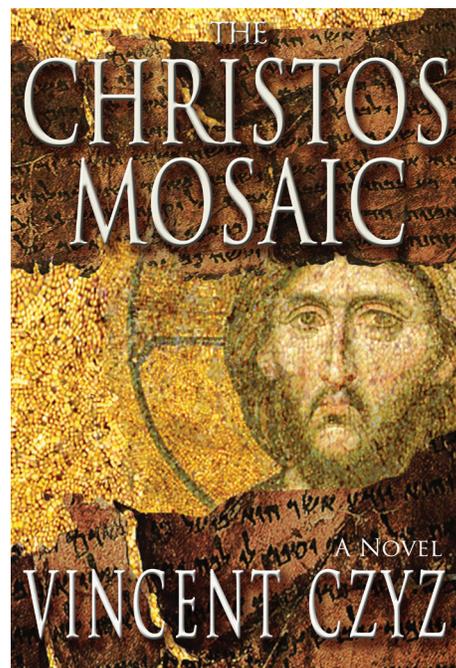
Target Market / Positioning:

Fans of *The Fifth Gospel* by Ian Caldwell and *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown will love *The Christos Mosaic*. Vincent Czyz has crafted a rare story that combines the best of the fast-paced thriller embodied by Brown's work, with the deeper exploration of faith, forgiveness, and personal motivation exemplified by Caldwell.

Author Bio:

Vincent Czyz received an MA in comparative literature from Columbia University, and an MFA in creative writing from Rutgers University. He is the author of the collection *Adrift in a Vanishing City*, and is the recipient of the 1994 Faulkner-Wisdom Prize for Short Fiction and two fellowships from the NJ Council on the Arts. The 2011 Truman Capote Fellow at Rutgers University, his short stories and essays have appeared in *Shenandoah*, *AGNI*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Quiddity*, *Georgetown Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Logos Journal*, *New England Review*, *Boston Review*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Poets & Writers*, and many other publications. Although he has traveled the world and spent some ten years in Istanbul, Turkey, he now lives and works in New Jersey, where he was born.

Key Words: Christian history, Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus Christ, black market antiquities, ancient scrolls, Q document, Dead Sea Scrolls, Essenes, Istanbul, Alexandria, Catholic, Catholicism



ICE QUEEN

As skald to Harald, the young renegade prince of Norway, Odd Tangle-Hair is “caught between two wolves”—the arrogant, bullying Harald and his sworn enemy, Ingigerd, Grand Princess of Novgorod.

Title: Ice Queen
Author: Bruce Macbain
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: November 10, 2015
Trim Size: 6 x 9
Pages: 400

Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

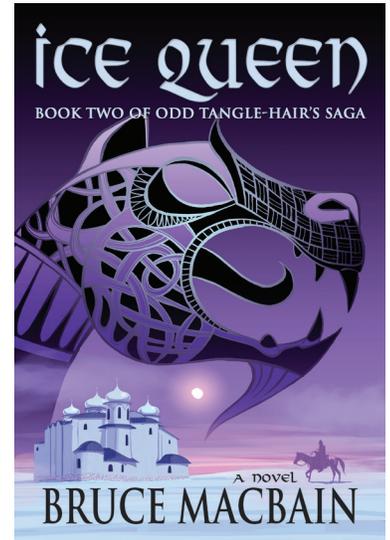
FIC002000 (FICTION / Action & Adventure)

FIC014000 (FICTION / Historical)

FIC008000 (FICTION / Sagas)

Paperback ISBN: 9781943075140 / Price: 18.95

E-Book ISBN: 9781943075157 / Price: 12.95



Similar Titles:

The Last Kingdom by Bernard Cornwell, Odinn's Child by Tim Severin,
Blood Eye by Giles Kristian

Synopsis:

In this second volume of his saga, Odd Tangle-Hair travels to Russia to take up his post as skald to Harald, the young renegade prince of Norway. Intrigue and danger await him when Odd finds himself ‘caught between two wolves’—the arrogant, bullying Harald and his sworn enemy, Ingigerd, Grand Princess of Novgorod, who schemes against Harald by seducing Odd. While political intrigue swirls around him, a Pecheneg horde explodes across the steppe, and Odd must use his wits to rescue the besieged people of Kiev.

Target Market / Positioning:

Beautifully written, impeccably researched, and deeply rooted within the oral tradition of story telling, Bruce Macbain has woven an evocative saga that will sweep readers into the past and plant them firmly in Odd's rapidly changing world. Odinn's Child will appeal to readers of Norse history, sweeping sagas, and the tale of a young man coming of age in a time of transformative change.

Author Bio:

Bruce Macbain has a master's degree in Classical Studies and a doctorate in Ancient History. As an assistant professor of Classics, he taught courses in Late Antiquity and Roman religion and published a few impenetrable scholarly monographs, which almost no one read. He eventually left academe and turned to teaching English as a second language, a field he was trained in while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Borneo in the 60s. Macbain is the author of historical mysteries set in ancient Rome, (Roman Games, 2010, and The Bull Slayer, 2013, both from Poisoned Pen Press) featuring Pliny the Younger as his protagonist. Ice Queen is the second in his Viking series, The Odd Tangle-Hair Saga.

Key Words: Norse saga, early European History, Iceland, Viking, historical fiction

Publisher Contact: Kristina Blank Makansi, kbmakansi@blankslatepress / 314.363.4546

SNOW GLOBES AND HAND GRENADES

Eight long years of grade school and nuns is about to end in freedom. Graduation! But only if Mimi Maloney and her classmates Patrick and Tony can outsmart investigators who suspect, and rightly so, they're guilty of the worst crime ever in parish history.

Title: Snow Globes and Hand Grenades
Editor: Kevin Killeen
Imprint: Blank Slate Press
Pub Date: November 17, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 210

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

FIC016000 FICTION / Humorous
FIC043000 FICTION / Coming of Age
FIC045000 FICTION / Family Life

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943075-12-6 / Price: 15.95

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-943075-13-3 / Price: 9.99

Similar Titles:

Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up? by John R. Powers

Synopsis:

Mimi Maloney, an average student who never gets in trouble, shows her genius in love and crime in this tale of Catholic school kids enduring the last two weeks of eighth grade. Police and church investigators conspire to learn who put the stolen snow globe paperweight in the hand of Mary on the church roof, and suspicion falls on Mimi's classmates, Patrick Cantwell and his best friend Tony. A comic panorama of parish life in the 1970s, when lying to get out of trouble was considered a sacred art form, because, after all, wasn't President Nixon lying too? In this suspenseful, laugh-filled sequel to *Never Hug a Nun* and *Try to Kiss a Girl*, award-winning author Kevin Killeen gives us a caper plot of flawed heroes and lovable villains that packs the comic blast of that old hand grenade dad brought home from the war and that illustrates childish daydreams all too often have adult, real-life consequences.

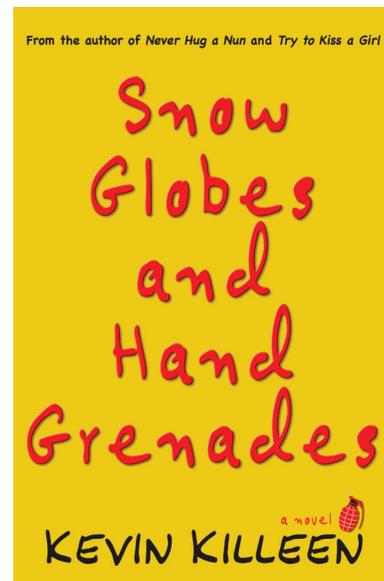
Target Market / Positioning: For adult readers—both Catholic and non-Catholic — who survived the angst-filled days of 8th grade, first love, and the longing for something more in life.

Author Bio:

A comic novelist who writes about family life, growing up and Catholic schools, Kevin Killeen has won awards for humor in his first two books, *Never Hug a Nun* and *Try to Kiss a Girl*. By day Killeen has worked since 1995 as a reporter for CBS Radio in St. Louis, covering crime, politics and human interest features. He has also written and directed some twenty humorous, full-length radio plays for the KMOX Holiday Radio Show. In his third novel, *Snow Globes and Hand Grenades*, Killeen for the first time puts the boys in the background and tells a story whose main character is a girl.

Awards: *Never Hug a Nun* won a Silver IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award in Humor, *Try to Kiss a Girl* won the Gold MIPA (Midwest Independent Publishers Association) Award in Humor.

Key Words: Catholic school, Eighth grade graduation, coming of age, humor, 1970s, teenage pregnancy



IRON ZULU

When a series of murders are blamed on a Zulu delegation visiting Eton College, Alexander Armitage and his friends chase the real assassin from the cobbled streets of London to the great deserts and savannahs of Africa.

Title: Iron Zulu
Series: Book Two of the Iron Chronicles
Author: Brad R. Cook
Imprint: Treehouse Publishing Group
Pub Date: November 24, 2015
Trim Size: 5 x 8
Pages: 200 (approx)

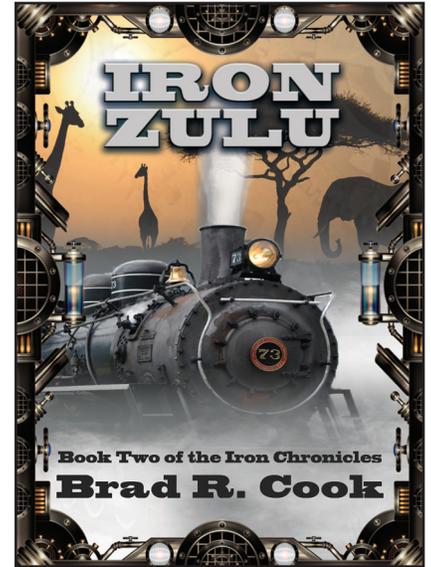
Agent: Not agented

BISAC CLASSIFICATION

JUV062000 JUVENILE FICTION / Steampunk
JUV001020 JUVENILE FICTION / Action & Adventure / Pirates
JUV001000 JUVENILE FICTION / Action & Adventure / General

Paperback ISBN: 978-0-9892079-7-3 / Price: 12.99

Ebook ISBN: 978-0-9892079-8-0 / Price: 6.99



Similar Titles:

King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard, *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld

Synopsis:

Alexander Armitage is back in the thrilling sequel to IRON HORSEMEN. It's been almost a year since he saved London, and life has returned to the structured days at Eton College, a place he still doesn't fit in. When a series of murders strike campus, they are blamed on the visiting Zulu delegation. But Alexander has doubts. In his search for the truth, he finds himself embroiled with the baron's daughter's dark past as they are captured and taken by armored Milli-train to the hidden city of the sky pirates. The chase is on, from the cobbled streets of London, to the great deserts and savannahs of Africa.

In a steam-powered Victorian world where pirates prowl the sky and secret societies determine the future like a game of chess, Alexander learns the difference between what is savage and what is noble, while discovering the power within himself.

Target Market / Positioning:

Iron Zulu will appeal to Middle Grade readers with big imaginations and a thirst for adventure and travel.

Author Bio:

An award winning short story writer, Brad R. Cook began as a playwright, and joined the board of St. Louis Writers Guild in 2008, guiding the organization as President since 2011. He is a founding contributor to 'The Writers' Lens, a resource blog for writers, and Write Pack Radio, a weekly podcast airing every Sunday. He learned to fence at thirteen and never set down his sword, but prefers to curl up with his cat and a centuries' old classic. He writes during the witching hour when his muses are most active, and asks everyone to preserve our historical treasures for future generations.

Key Words: Middle Grade, action & adventure, Steampunk, Victorian England, Africa,