

# AUTHORS GUILD

Summer 2010

**BULLETIN**



## SYMPOSIUM

Writing Real Lives: Coming in Close

Termination Primer: How to Recapture Rights to Your Work

Andrew Wylie's E-Book Odyssey

Scott Turow Takes Office

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# ALONG PUBLISHERS ROW

BY CAMPBELL GEESLIN

**HISTORY: P. D. James**, with more than a dozen best-selling detective novels to her credit, has written a book entitled *Talking About Detective Fiction*. It is a chatty history of the genre in which much of the credit for its popularity goes to **Arthur Conan Doyle** and **Agatha Christie**, who continue to be read.

James writes, "What is surprising is not that the detective story has altered but that it has survived, and that what we have seen since the interwar years has been a development, not a rejection, followed by renewal. Crime fiction today is more realistic in its treatment of murder, more aware of scientific advances in the detection of crime, more sensitive of the environment in which it is set, more sexually explicit and closer than it has ever been to mainstream fiction. The difference between the crime novel in all its variety and detective fiction has become increasingly fudged."

**DUPED: Charles Pellegrino**, author of *The Last Train from Hiroshima*, told *The New York Times*, "I'm stunned." The book, published in January, was called "sober and authoritative" by the *Times*, and *PW* gave it a starred review and said it was wise, informed and heart-stopping.

The problem is that part of the book was based on the recollections of **Joseph Fuoco**, who is described as a last-minute substitute on one of the two observation planes that escorted the *Enola Gay*. Fuoco, who died in 2008, never flew on the bombing run. Scientists, historians and veterans are denouncing the book and calling Fuoco an imposter.

Pellegrino admitted that he was probably duped and told the *Times* that he would rewrite sections of the book for paperback and foreign editions. Holt discontinued printing and selling the book.

**THE GRAPHIC WAY: Sarah Stewart Taylor**, 38, is the author of two mystery novels: *Mansions of the Dead* and *O'Artful Death*. She lives in Vermont with her husband and two sons.

She was commissioned to write the text for a graphic novel, *Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean*. The book is the fourth in a series of biographies for chil-

dren ages nine to 14, a collaboration with The Center for Cartoon studies in White River Junction, Vt.

Stewart told the *Valley News*, "It was the first time I'd written a script for a graphic novel. The story focuses on a flight during which Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an airplane, a venture that turned her into a celebrity."

The illustrations were done by cartoonist **Ben Towle**, who lives in Winston-Salem, N.C. The writer and artist worked together for nine months via e-mail. Taylor said, "It

was amazing to see how he was able to transform what was in my head."

**NEXT: John Grisham** has written 24 best-selling legal thrillers. Now he's written a book for children, *Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer*, that promises to be the first in a series. Penguin Young Readers Group said the book was for eight to 12-year-olds.

Doubleday will continue to publish Grisham's adult thrillers.

**E-BOOK RIGHTS:** The market for e-books is growing faster than any other segment of the book industry, and *The New York Times* says that "traditional publishers are scrambling to secure their digital futures not only by publishing current titles in e-book form but also by digitizing older titles."

In one closely watched case, Random House has returned digital rights to the family of **William Styron**, who died in 2006. A new venture, Open Road Integrated Media, will release e-book versions of *Sophie's Choice*, *Confessions of Nat Turner*, and Styron's memoir, *Darkness Visible*. This is seen, the *Times* said, as "potentially opening the way for other authors to take their e-books away from traditional publishers."

**BOOK MEN:** In an article in *The Washington Post* about presidents who liked books, **Tevi Troy** wrote that during the health care battle, President **Barack Obama** told a university audience, "We've been talking about health care for nearly a century. I'm reading a biogra-

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The Guild encourages members to write to the *Bulletin*. Letters should be sent to "Letters to the Editor," The Authors Guild, 31 East 32nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10016. They can also be faxed to (212) 564-5363, or sent via e-mail to staff@authorsguild.org (type "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line). Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity.