

**From:** kmortimer@mortimerliterary.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 11:30 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Weekly Update



May 20, 2008

Hellooooo!

Well, gang, started the week with a bang. Literally. Spent Sunday in church, then saw *Prince Caspian*, then came home to do some gardening. Some of you already know when I say gardening, I'm referring to chopping wood, detailing trees, making stairways with 40-pound paving stones, constructing planters, and weed-whacking. Got to whack something else too. See the photo page at [www.mortimerliterary.com](http://www.mortimerliterary.com) for my run-in with a 4-foot long, Mojave Green Rattlesnake. They're a more dangerous snake than your run-of-the-mill rattler, as they have more than one venom up their fangs. Glad I saw him before he saw me! Those things are whack. They coil and rattle over an hour after they're dead, even with their heads blown off. Reminds me of all the movies where the antagonist *has* to be dead, but rises yet again, just as we've expelled our breath in relief....

### **THREE UNIQUE MID-MONTH eBay AUCTIONS!**

All proceeds benefit the Robin Miller Mortgage Fund. My client has a husband who can't work this year. Each month, I've been trying to raise enough money through pledges and auctions to pay her \$2,000-a-month house payment thru December, 2008.

Not ready for an editor or agent to peek at your work? How about a sweet, unselfish, multi-pubbed author, recently hurt in a car accident, yet still willing to help ACFW president, Robin Miller.

Go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) and bid on a first chapter edit by Cheryl Wyatt. She's gentle, but honest and thorough. I hope y'all will bop over to eBay and bid! Type: ***First Chapter Critique by Author Cheryl Wyatt*** in the search box.

**Also:**

Another unselfish writer, Tracy Ruckman offers a three-chapter edit (10,000 words or less). What a gal! Type: ***Three Chapter Critique by Author Tracy Ruckman*** in the search box.

**Also:**

6/26/2008

Fellow client and great friend Dineen Miller, who has a degree in Graphic Arts, will auction a design project, meaning if the winner is pre-pubbed, they'd get a one-sheet designed for their next conference, or if the winner is published, a bookmark design. Time-wise, these fabulous prizes usually run \$120 to \$200, depending upon the complexity.

Type: *Professional One-Sheet of Bookmark Design by Dineen Miller* in the search box.  
Thanks!

I'm gettin' tired of reporting these "I had no idea" errors (or as some of us call 'em, lies). I'm even tired of reporting about the authors/editors who admit they either fabricated everything, or made a mistake. Sheesh!

### **A Hick Named Hicks Doesn't Know What Else to Tell Us** (the truth would be refreshing)

He wrote *The Widow of the South*, but Robert Hicks screwed up on *A GUITAR AND A PEN*, a collection of essays/stories from country music songwriters he co-edited and contributed to as a ghostwriter. He presented his non-fiction offering about journalist Hazel Smith as a "real-life, first-person narrative, describing Smith accompanying bluegrass legend Bill Monroe on a trip to Washington, D.C." ([Tennessean](#))

Hick's take? "I regret it and I take full responsibility for it. It turns out that the story's point of view isn't correct. It's a story I have told personally for many years, and I was wrong. The biggest problem, it seems, is a huge communication gap that occurred between Hazel and me. I thought she was aware which story I was ghostwriting. Clearly, in hindsight, I find she wasn't. I have conceded to her and to Tony Conway [who was the only person with Monroe on the trip, and has said the story itself is erroneous] and to my publisher that I was misinformed. I don't know what else to tell you other than that."

(Am I the only one who finds it hard to believe he and Hazel thought they were collaborating on two different trips with Bill Monroe to Washington D.C.? Yeah, I'd say that's a "big problem," dude.

### **Shack Attack ... Continued**

Last week I reported on the book, *The Shack*, by William P. Young. As a quick reminder...  
*Gotta admire the gumption. If the traditional houses won't give ya a shot, take it to the people, and then the houses may listen. Windblown Media's THE SHACK, is labeled "a wrenching parable about God's grace." The author, William Young, co-published the title with Brad Cummings, assisted by author and former pastor Wayne Jacobsen.*

*To USA Today, they claimed, "880,000 copies in print, 750,000 in distribution, and we're talking to New York publishers." USAT says: "Published a year ago and promoted by snowballing attention on Christian radio, websites, and blogs, The Shack (\$14.99) is now in mainstream bookstores and Wal-Marts nationwide, and the trio behind it are talking to Hollywood about a possible film deal."*

Well whaddaya know. FaithWords, the inspirational arm of Hachette Book Group (formerly Warner) took the bait. They'll be co-pubbing with Windblown, but Windblown retains the rights (good for you!). Actually, Windblown is getting' an imprint under FaithWords. (Glad I wasn't an agent who turned the author down. I'm high on the self-published author. Takes guts and marketing savvy to do it on your own.)

The details: By word-of-mouth, this book took the path of a juggernaut. First selling out of a garage,

*The Shack* sales now total over one million copies in the last year. At present, it's topped the charts as the bestselling Christian novel and pushed to #8 on the *USA Today* bestseller list.

(Sigh. I offered FaithWords my client's self-pubbed book, which he sold over 125k copies of, but they passed. I guess God portrayed as a sarcastic black woman is more interesting than teaching people they can be anything they wanna be. For the record, I ain't knockin' *The Shack*; I haven't read it.)

### **Harper's Goin' Online**

Interactive book catalogs. Wouldn't it be nice for booksellers to have 'em in real-time? Think of it. An online tool booksellers can use to order online with all the bells and whistles at their fingertips including:

- Links to author interviews
- Reviews
- Alerts from the media
- Quotes
- Book covers
- Prices
- Sale dates
- Links for promo videos
- Audio samples
- Author backlists

Wow! Sounds like a lot of bang for no bucks. Of course, the paper catalog didn't cost 'em anything. With everyone trying to help the environment by going green, some of these guys are sayin' "the general consensus among booksellers is that they are very wedded to a paper catalog. Booksellers like to sit around the table with the catalogs. We thumb through them and make notes. It's a real interactive kind of experience, so there is an emotional attachment to the current kind of catalog." (PW)

*Wedded? Emotional attachment? We're talkin' paper, guys! (I think they just want something to look at when they're in the bathroom.)*

Harper will still send out some print catalogs, but feel they print more catalogs than there are booksellers. They'll be cutting back. Other major houses will probably follow suit. Wonder if all the money the houses will save on paper costs and postage will cover bigger advances for non-mega-authors. (I know, but I can dream, can't I?)

### **More Online Stuff Goin' Live at BEA**

NetGalley by Rosetta Solutions wants to "streamline the galley distribution process" (PW) and connect readers and publishers.

The pilot program already boasts participants Hachette Book Group (is there anyone in this business who doesn't know they're "formerly Warner"?), St. Martin's Press, Sourcebooks, and Bloomsbury USA.

What an awesome idea. Enabling a slew of people including bloggers, booksellers, educators, librarians, media, publishers, reviewers, and others, easier access and ability to share info on new titles is phly! Who wouldn't wanna join?

For the pilot period, houses will submit their advance titles to *Publisher's Weekly* through

NetGalley. They also have the option of submitting galleys electronically. Houses can then ask bloggers, media, and reviewers to get online and spy their galleys, plus join communities. For their part, *PW* provides visibility on review acceptance and status through NetGalley.com. (PW)

Hop onboard this train, guys. Choo, choo!

### **Vintage Anchor Hits Bottom for Asher; Rises for Walther**

Vintage Anchor's (VA) captain, Marty Asher, decided twenty-plus years at the helm was enough. Knopf Publishing Group's paperback division will look to former second-in-command, LuAnn Walther to steer 'em through the reefs and shoals as editor-in-chief.

Asher isn't gonna be a land-lubber. Just returning from leave, he's decided he wants to concentrate on acquiring books. (Isn't spending someone else's money fun!)

There's more, but it's boring, so why include it? Okay, so the announcement isn't earth-shaking either, but I thought it noteworthy, and at Mortimer Lit I'm the captain and the crew, and the cabin boy. (Excuse me; I gotta go swab the deck....)

### **From the Sea to the Ground: NavPress Wants Their "Roots&#xu201D; Back**

(Which reminds me, haveta do a touch-up. I cut and color my hair, and not with that icky store-bought stuff. I learned how the pros do it. Sorry-back to the story.)

With a new executive publisher leading NavPress, changes are a comin'. Mike Miller wants to "bring the publishing company back to its roots as a 'mission-based,' servant publisher." (PL) (So, I'm a smart gal, but, huh? The words "publisher" and "servant" don't correlate for me. You?)

Miller's on the warpath, thinkin' of ways to make mammoth changes in the company, now thirty years old. (What a coincidence! I decided to make huge changes when I was thirty-like not admitting I was forty.) For sure, he'll get up-close and personal with Mom and Pop, The Navigators.

Miller says, "Many of the largest and most well-known faith-based organizations throughout the world have been seeded by the ministry of The Navigators." (Overlook the passive sentence structure. My fingers itched to fix it, but it's a quote, darn it!) "Other publishers are stand-alone and not connected to anything. At NavPress we are first and foremost Navigators." (CR)

Okay. Kewl.

## **MARKET MOVES**

### **Editors:**

Pat Walsh couldn't stay away from MacAdam/Cage. Helped that they created a new position ... editor-in-chief.

New associate editors for NAL are: Brent Howard and Kerry Donovan.

Kevin Doughten gets the nod at Viking as an associate editor.

At Grand Central, Ben Greenberg moved to editor.

Kathy Huch changes-up (hockey term) from Collins to St. Martin's as an executive editor. She's lookin' to grab Health, How-To, Lifestyle, Memoirs (gal has guts), Narrative Non-fiction, Politics, and Practical Books.

About time Keith Kahla stepped up the ladder to executive editor after 20 years of faithful service. (He should get the gold watch now for his patience.)

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers shifts editorial director Liza Baker to editor-in-chief. She'll now manage the editorial staff and acquisitions for the Little, Brown and LB Kids imprints. She'll have some help from...

Fatimah Khan who, as associate editor, will take on more responsibility in managing the LB Kids list.

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### **NEW IMPRINTS**

#### **YA's Gettin' Hot!**

Warner Press taps into the teen fiction market. Boo-Yah! When I recently spoke to several YA Lines, they said they were "biding their time until the market got hot." As Switchfoot would sing: "Dare you to move."

Faith-based YA might now have a home, as Warner puts out a teen fantasy adventure to promote their expansion into the realm of fantasy. Coming August 8<sup>th</sup>, the first title in "The Codebearers Series," *Hunter Brown and the Secret of the Shadow* by Christopher and Allan Miller.

#### **Teamin' Up**

Hyperion Children's books former executive editor Alessandra Balzer, and former editorial director at Hyperion, Donna Bray, mesh at Harper Children's to form, what else: Balzer and Bray. (Has a nice ring to it.)

Not ones to limit themselves, they'll acquire picture books through YA. First titles scheduled to release in fall, 2009.

#### **No Scum in This Pond!**

HarperCollin's Brenda Bowen and Walden Media's Deborah Kovacs will venture into the fray on a new imprint for children, Walden Pond Press.

The arrangement leaves both offices intact: one in New York (Harper); one in Boston (Walden).

Sue Katz, head honcho at Harper Children's said, "This joint venture solidifies our already successful relationship. Having a single imprint will enable Walden Media to focus their book publishing program and Harper to market and sell the books most effectively." (PW)

### **NEW AGENCIES**

#### **Got Publicity?**

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover. Cute name for a publicity firm, and the vision of former associate publisher at IIL Publishing, Michelle Blackley. Hope it works out. No matter the name, we *do* judge books by their covers....

### Paradise?

Mayhap if you're Asian. Luc Kwanten is opening Paradise Literary Agency. Don't bother to query if you're white, or black, or brown. The director of Big Apple Tuttle-Mori Agency is devoted to representing Chinese and Southeast Asian fiction authors to publishers in the West.

Wendy King, Kwanten's step-daughter, will be in charge of the Honolulu, Hawaii-based firm. She has the credentials: She's an MBA grad straight outta New York. (If she can make it there....)

Paradise has already signed 20 clients, but it seems the color of your skin ain't the only requirement. They want authors born after 1975. Kwanten says, "We don't want them (the Asian authors) to have grown up during the upheavals in China. We want them to write about contemporary China." (Oh, the *good* China.)

Editing in blue pen instead of red is as PC as I get. Sorry, but if I tried to limit my literary agency to whites born after 1975, I'd have to get my firearms ready. I don't like affirmative action/reverse discrimination any more than I like the regular kind. We're all equal in my eyes, no matter what their shape.

### CONTESTS

I'd love it if everyone would send me their contest info. Just type it out so I can cut and paste it. Thanks!

(Mortimer Literary isn't involved in the following contests, nor have we checked on their viability. Please evaluate on your own.)

### Writers on the Storm 3

Batten down the hatches--the STORM is about to hit! Writers on the Storm Screenplay Competition is back for its third year and is bigger and badder than ever. WOTS is run by #1 independent screenplay analysis service Coverage, Ink and Writers' Boot Camp -- by writers, for writers. And this year we're pulling out ALL the stops to make WOTS one of the top 5 screenwriting contests.

**\*\*\* \$10,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE \*\*\***

- Over \$20,000 value cash and prizes for our top ten
- Top ten screenplays developed by Coverage, Ink
- Top Ten loglines submitted to 140+ companies
- Every submission receives feedback

\$40 entry fee OR...

FREE entry with any Coverage, Ink screenplay analysis.

But that's not all. Entries are \$40, or submit TWO copies of the same script--which will be evaluated

by two different readers--for \$75 (only the higher score will count.) Plus **WOTS** is the ONLY screenplay competition that gives you a second -- or third or fourth -- chance!

Here's how it works: any script submitted to CI for analysis during the contest period is automatically entered into the contest. Scripts that receive a "consider with reservations or better" for script (roughly top 10%) advance to the quarterfinals. Writer has the option of polishing the script and resubmitting the new draft--theoretically upping your chances--either to CI (as many times as you want) or to WOTS before the end of the contest.

And our prize package has to be seen to be believed, with sponsors including: Writers Boot Camp, Starbucks, trackingB.com, inkTip, David S. Freeman Seminars, Jim Mercurio's Killer Screenwriting, Blake Snyder's Save the Cat!, The Writers Store, Screenwriters Initial Draft Pad, Scriptblaster, Coverage, Ink, Creative Screenwriting, Great American Pitchfest, Alameda Writers Group and more.

ENTER ONLINE at [www.coverageink.com](http://www.coverageink.com) or [www.writerstorm.com](http://www.writerstorm.com)

Deadline: 7/11/08 Questions: [writerstorm@gmail.com](mailto:writerstorm@gmail.com)

### Repped Screenplay Competition - Call for Entries

The Repped Screenplay Competition has already become one of the most talked about screenplay competitions in Hollywood. What distinguishes The Repped Screenplay Competition from the already over-populated arena of script contests is what it provides the winner ... **GUARANTEED REPRESENTATION!**

The winner of The Repped Screenplay Competition will be signed by a literary manager at Repped Management. Repped managers have represented clients whose work includes: *I, Robot*, *The Notebook*, *The Ring*, *Lost in Translation*, *Down With Love*, *Panic Room*, *Adaptation*, *Bullet Proof Monk*, *Pieces of April*, *K9: The Widowmaker*, *Shattered Glass*, *Matrix II*, *Matrix III*, *Fraternity Life*, *Sorority Life*, *Nip/Tuck*, *The West Wing*, *Popular*, *Sex and the City*, *Carnivale*, etc. Writers signed to Repped managers have optioned and/or sold projects to Warner Brothers, Fox, Dreamworks, Lions Gate, Alcon, Universal, New Line, Original Films, Mandalay, Screen Gems, Icon, Comedy Central, Pierce/Williams, Carsey/Werner, Miramax, etc.

ONE TALENTED WRITER WILL RECEIVE...

- \* Representation by Repped Management;
- \* A "Signing" party at a Hollywood hot spot with VIP industry attendees; including filmmakers, talent, and senior executives from the major studios, agencies, production companies, and entertainment law firms.
- \* Referrals to Hollywood literary agencies; and be provided the opportunity to sign with a motion picture literary agent (at writer's discretion) who will work in conjunction with the Repped manager to provide overall strategic planning and guidance;
- \* Meetings with executives or producers from the Major and Mini-Major studios including; Warner Brothers, Universal, Twentieth Century Fox, Sony Entertainment, Paramount Pictures, Disney, Miramax, MGM, Picturehouse, Summit Entertainment, and The Weinstein Company
- \* A press release announcing the Competition winner's name, screenplay title and script logline in the Industry trade papers; including The Hollywood Reporter, Daily Variety and Screen International;

\* The opportunity to accept offers for the option/sale of writer's material.

Deadline: Postmarked by July 1, 2008

To enter the competition, go to: [www.reppedscreenplay.com](http://www.reppedscreenplay.com)

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## **HAPPENINGS**

I'd love it if everyone would send me their "happenings" info. Just type it out so I can cut and paste it. Thanks!

### **Master Screenwriting: The Art of Visual Storytelling with SYD FIELD**

This interactive course focuses on the elements of cinematic story telling.

In addition to in-depth lectures and discussions from Syd Field, clips from films like: *Juno, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, The Departed, Little Miss Sunshine, The Bucket List* and more, will be used to demonstrate the principles of visual story telling.

Friday, June 20th, 2008

1pm - 6pm at the Burbank Marriott Hotel & Convention Center

2500 N Hollywood Way

Burbank, CA 91505

(directly across from the Burbank Airport)

Seating is limited to 100 people,  
so make your reservations soon for this outstanding session!

Topics covered include:

- \* The necessity for dramatic structure
- \* The importance of the inciting incident
- \* The nature of conflict
- \* Different ways to set up your story and character
- \* An in-depth exploration on preparing your screenplay for the "pitch experience"
- \* Clips from top films will be used for demonstration purposes

#### **ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:**

SYD FIELD is acclaimed as "the guru of all screenwriters" (CNN) and "the most sought-after screenwriting teacher in the world" by the Hollywood Reporter. His internationally celebrated best-selling books have established themselves as the "bibles" of the film industry. He was inducted into the prestigious Final Draft Hall of Fame in 2006.

TO REGISTER visit: [www.pitchfest.com/gapf/registration.shtml](http://www.pitchfest.com/gapf/registration.shtml)

### **The Great American PitchFest**

A two-day screenwriting conference, and one-day pitchfest that takes place at the Burbank Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, June 20-22, 2008. It was started by a group of writers to help other writers meet the people they need to know for their careers to move forward. More than 30 free classes on screenwriting will be presented by legends such as:

- \* Michael Hauge
- \* Syd Field
- \* Blake Snyder
- \* Karl Iglesias
- \* Pilar Alessandra
- \* Chris Soth
- \* Julie Gray
- \* Bill True
- \* Dr. Linda Seger
- \* Viki King
- \* Ellen Sandler
- \* Mark Litwak
- \* Stephanie Palmer
- \* Steve Kaire
- \* Kathie Fong Yoneda
- \* Monika Skerbelis & Rona Edwards
- \* And many more!

You can also pitch your screenplay to approximately 100 film/television executives and agents. More than 50 writers have had their projects optioned, been hired for writing assignments, or have signed with agents or managers. Visit [www.pitchfest.com](http://www.pitchfest.com) for more details!

### **Award-winning Hollywood Networking Breakfast**

with TWO special guest speakers:

JASON NADLER, HEAD OF UTA-ONLINE  
(INTERNET DIVISION OF UTA TALENT AGENCY)  
&  
BARRETT GARESE, AGENT AT UTA-ONLINE  
(INTERNET DIVISION OF UTA TALENT AGENCY)

With the recent writers strike, cyberspace has become a viable market, with top producers, the networks and studios eagerly surfing to find new show and film concepts, webisodes and undiscovered creative talent. This is a great opportunity to find out how you can make the Internet work for you as a writer, producer, director, actor, creator.

Our guest speakers will take a private meeting with one lucky attendee!

**THIS IS A MUST-ATTEND EVENT!**  
THURSDAY, MAY 29TH, 2008  
8:00am - 10:30am (Check-in starts at 7:20am)  
*Postmark Deadline* - Thursday, May 22nd, 2008  
(You *must* list your full legal name as it appears on valid ID for Studio Security)  
at  
THE BEVERLY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB  
3084 Motor Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(South of Twentieth Century Fox Studios)

FREE PARKING is available in the back lot, located on Patricia Avenue/Street, behind the tennis courts. Please note there is NO PARKING PERMITTED ON THE RESIDENTIAL SIDE OF THE

STREET AT ANY TIME --VALET PARKING -- \$4.00

Produced in Los Angeles to benefit CHANGING IMAGES IN AMERICA

A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in American culture

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE REQUIRED

No Jeans, ([Oops! Guess they didn't see our loop discussion. Sorry, couldn't help it.](#)) T-Shirts, Sweats or Inappropriate Provocative Clothes

DOWNLOAD OUR RESERVATIONS FORM:

[www.changingimagesinamerica.org/res-form.pdf](http://www.changingimagesinamerica.org/res-form.pdf)

Pre-paid reservations (postmarked by THURSDAY, May 22nd, 2008): \$40 (full breakfast). Check or money-order must be accompanied by our [reservation form](#) and made payable to: Changing Images In America, P.O. Box 2688, Hollywood, CA 90078. Your *cash* check is your confirmation. We do not accept credit card, email or phone reservations. Reservations *cannot* be rolled over to another month, but can be transferred to someone else for the date paid for only.

Pre-confirmed Late Reservation: \$45, cash only. Walk-ins: \$50, cash only, if space is available. As usual, for our attendance list, emergency contact, and for security purposes, you must include a business card and/or list your profession, phone number and other contact info, also the LEGAL NAME (as it appears on state issued I.D.), FOR YOU AND ALL GUESTS who are paid for on your check. Dress code and other policies apply, including RESERVATION INFO & CANCELLATION POLICY, and are contained in this email (SEE BELOW). IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ OR BE AWARE OF OUR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES.

For more information, visit:

[www.changingimagesinamerica.org/hnindex.htm](http://www.changingimagesinamerica.org/hnindex.htm)

For questions and other information:

(323) 465-9800

To find out how to be considered to meet privately with a guest speaker, go to:

<http://hgenonline.com/BkfstPrivateMeeting.htm>

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## **WRITING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Christmas Scripts Wanted**

Daniel L. Paulson Productions - Christmas

Looking for completed feature-length Christmas scripts for a family audience. They're only interested in Christmas scripts that convey the spirit of the holidays, are contemporary, target a family audience (no profanity or other elements that would garner anything other than a PG or G-rating), and do not contain any supernatural or fantasy elements.

Budget will not exceed \$2 million.

WGA and non-WGA writers may submit. They prefer submissions from repped writers, although anyone with a Christmas script may submit, as long as it meets the above criteria.

Their credits include: *Mr. Music, Full-Court Miracle, By Dawns Early Light, Gift of Love: The Daniel Huffman Story, Jack, Saving Jessica Lynch, and Passenger 57* ([My favorite Wesley Snipes](#))

family film.)

TO SUBMIT:

1. Go to [www.InkTippro.com/leads](http://www.InkTippro.com/leads)
2. Enter your email address (you will be signing up for InkTip's newsletter - FREE!)
3. Copy/Paste this code: qnt6ujhuda
4. You will be submitting a logline and synopsis only, and they'll contact you to submit the full script if there's interest from the production company.

IMPORTANT: Please ONLY submit your work if it fits what the lead is looking for EXACTLY.

If you aren't sure if your submission fits, please ask InkTip first.

Please email any questions to: [jerrol@inktip.com](mailto:jerrol@inktip.com)

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That's all the news until Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Have a hip holiday weekend!

Smiles,  
Kelly

[To those who never want a career in the publishing industry unsubscribe by clicking this link.](#)

