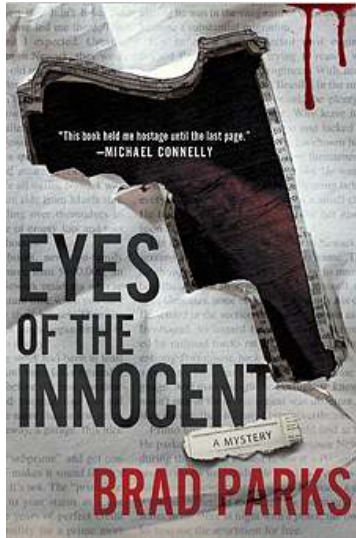


The 7 Question Interview with Brad Parks



Brad Parks' debut, *Faces of the Gone*, won the Nero Award for Best American Mystery and the Shamus Award for Best First Mystery. In doing so, Parks became the first author in the combined 60-year history of the Nero and the Shamus to win both awards for the same book. Library Journal called *Faces of the Gone* "the most hilariously funny and deadly serious mystery debut since Janet Evanovich's *One for the Money*." Yahoo.com called Brad "the literary love child of (Janet) Evanovich and (Harlan) Coben." Brad's second book featuring investigative reporter Carter Ross, *Eyes of the Innocent*, releases February 1, 2011. Michael Connelly cheered, "Eyes of the Innocent is the complete package. With wonderful prose, witty observations and a relentless drive, this book held me hostage until the last page." The third and fourth books in the series are also written and awaiting publication. Parks is a Dartmouth College graduate who spent a dozen years as a reporter for *The Washington Post* and *The Newark Star-Ledger* and is now a full-time novelist. He lives with his wife and two small children in Virginia.

Some of his novels are:

- Eyes Of The Innocent
- Faces Of The Gone

His official website can be accessed here: <http://www.bradparksbooks.com>

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

I'm a crime fiction author who – sorry, my agent makes me say this next part – is the first writer ever to win the Shamus Award and the Nero Award in the same year. Yeah, I did that in 2010. Haven't done diddly in 2011, though, so don't get too impressed.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

Glad you asked. My next book, *EYES OF THE INNOCENT*, releases on February 1. It's a heartwarming tale about arson, house-flipping, political corruption, and a bad man who likes to kill people with a nail gun. It's told by a dashing – or at least sometimes-dashing – investigative reporter named Carter Ross. Some readers have noted there are small similarities between myself and my protagonist, inasmuch as we're both 6-1, 185 pounds, and as naturally stiff and WASPY as an Episcopalian wedding. But, really, there are significant differences between us. For example, Carter is not left-handed.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

I'm actually quite bullish on the book, whether in analog or digital form. There seems to be this belief that people don't read anymore, but that's rubbish. It's true dumb, boring people don't read. But that's been the case throughout history. The only thing that's different now is that, thanks to inventions like "Jersey Shore," the dumb, boring people are afforded a greater platform than they once did. Among the more literate – and quieter and less obnoxious – portions of the populace, I think the book is absolutely flourishing. As an author publishing in the 21st Century, I'm fortunate that people have more ways to access my work more quickly than there have ever been in all the millennia of written language. I can't tell you the number of people who, upon learning I'm an author, gush about how much they love their Kindles or iPads – and about how they read more because of those devices. Yet an equal number of people also rush to extol the virtue of the printed page and promise they'll never give it up. As long as the publishing industry continues to serve both types of folks, writers are going to be in great shape.

Who is/are your favorite author/s and why?

This reminds me of the question my Great Aunt Katie used to ask my brother and I when we were kids. You'll have to imagine this being asked in a two-pack-a-day rasp, but it went something like: "Who do you like better, your mother or your father?" It's a completely unanswerable question. There are just too many. And if I start listing them, I'll leave some out. And, yes, I'm aware this answer is a total cop out.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

I wrote a seven-part series about a boy with magical powers who is sent off to wizard school, but it never went anywhere. Still not sure why.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

To my readers: I'm sorry for any typos and grammatical errors. I didn't pay much attention in eighth grade English – sorry to you too, Mrs. Meyer – so I assure you all the mistakes are entirely mine. I don't mind when you write me to point them out. It helps me clean up the paperback editions. Really, I like hearing from you any time, even when I haven't screwed up something obvious. The one exception is if you've been drinking. Then it's probably best to put the computer away.



How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

This is a loaded question, isn't it? But since it's a much nicer loaded question than some – certainly nicer than, "When did you stop beating your wife?" – I'll answer it: I think they're great. We human beings were given the wonderful gift of storytelling. It's what makes us different from the apes, the dolphins, the sea slugs, and everything in between: We're the only species capable of telling stories. So why not celebrate the gift in as many ways – with as many people – as possible?

* Bonus Question – Required reading:

Aw, hell. Now I feel like I ought to be all profound, because otherwise your readers will realize what a dolt I am. Aww, screw it: Lincoln Lawyer by Michael Connelly. Here in this golden age for crime fiction, Connelly is as fine a practitioner of it as you'll ever find – and this just might be his best work, worthy of study by anyone who wants to understand what great fiction is about.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Brad Parks
for taking the time out of his busy schedule for this interview.