

THE WYLIE AGENCY

INCORPORATED

250 WEST 57TH STREET, SUITE 2114, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10107
TELEPHONE: 212-246-0069 TELEFAX: 212-586-8953 INTERNET: mail@wylieagency.com

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: February 14, 2006
To: Norman Mailer
From: Jeffrey Posternak
Re: *Letters* volume – Mike Lennon compensation
Hitler's Phantom/Czech publication

Number of Pages, Including This One: 1

Dear Norman:

1. I've discussed Lennon's compensation at length with David Ebershoff, who in turn has consulted with Gina. Their position is that the 1994 contract Andrew negotiated with Harry was so outrageously advantageous for you – and the advance so unearned – that they can't afford to go out-of-pocket one cent further for Mike. They're willing to permit you to assign your royalties for the book to Mike, but those royalties would have to earn against your entire (unearned) Random House position. In practice, Mike would not begin to earn royalties until you die, at which point the unearned balance is wiped clean. Please let me know your thoughts.

2. We have an offer for Czech-language rights for your review:

HITLER'S PHANTOM

Publisher: Jota

Format: Hardcover ONLY

Language: Czech

Territory: World

Advance: USD 5,000

Payable: On signature of the contract

Royalties: 8 per cent to 3,000; 9 per cent to 6,000; 10 per cent thereafter.

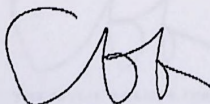
Publication: Within 24 months of the contract

Accounting: annually, delivered within 3 months after 31st Dec.

Term of licence: 6 years from the date of receipt of the final edited English language typescript

Jota has just published HARLOT'S GHOST. They're a prominent Czech publisher, with a list that ranges across biography titles, mysteries, and literary fiction. Most novels sell in the \$1-2,000 range, which makes this a very strong offer. Please confirm you'd like us to accept, thanks.

Best,



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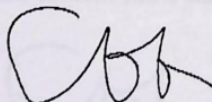
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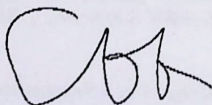
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James Brady On Media

Norman Mailer's 'Castle'

James Brady, 10.26.06, 6:00 AM ET

Great news on the lit'y front.

The last (with Vonnegut) of our great World War II novelists, Norman Mailer, has not yet left the building.

He is in fact alive and well (if on two canes) and is about to deliver to an anxiously waiting literary world a large new novel ("Norman doesn't write short," a pal reminds us), which Random House will publish in January under the title *The Castle in the Forest*. It is finished, edited and already, I understand, in bound galleys.

I know all this because about ten days ago The Norman Mailer Society convened for its annual conference at Provincetown on Cape Cod, where Mailer and his tall, gorgeous southern belle of a wife (his sixth, if I'm counting correctly) now live and write pretty much all year round (his wife, Norris, has a book as well). Members of the Society have been chattering ever since about the great man and his latest work.

I was going to hold off writing this column in order to vent briefly about Mr. Bush's startling decision to abandon "staying the course in Iraq," but since Liz Smith reported on Sunday that Norman and Norris had come down from the Cape to New York and were dining at Elaine's with important folk and chatting about his book, I thought I'd better tell you what I know and everything my Provincetown sources report before it all becomes common knowledge.

To start with, the new book is about Hitler. I know, I know, not another one. But this being Norman Mailer, there's a hell of a twist. Quite literally. The Provincetown Arts Theatre was the setting where about 100 members of the Mailer Society, plus as many members of the Cape Cod public who chose to pay their way in, heard Norman read several excerpts from the novel, which is written in the third person (one attendee estimated he read about forty pages).

There's apparently a good deal in there about the Austria into which Hitler was born and about the backgrounds of his mother and father, both of whom had tremendous influence on the kid. "Mailer has or is concocting a great deal of material on the parents and their village," one Society member said. But Mailer's most original and creative character isn't an Austrian at all. "He's a deputy devil."

Not Satan or Lucifer but only a "deputy," though there is "some dialog between Satan and the deputy." What has them concerned is, will Hitler (once he's born and raised) be "up to the job" of doing what they called "the good work" of screwing up the world and causing the maximum amount of trouble? Or must Satan and his deputies come up with "better material" to carry out their devilish plans and conceits?

Who but Norman could possibly have conceived of a novel based on the roots of Adolf Hitler as a literally hellish character backed by the devil?

But how was the reading? "Norman was very vigorous as usual, sprightly, combative and in fine fettle."

Liz Smith seconded that assessment in her piece and reported among the Mailers' dinner companions were Mario and Matilda Cuomo and the Howard Rubenstein, who with the Mailers, Barry Diller and wife Diane von und zu Furstenberg and Tom and Meredith Brokaw are to be tabbed "living landmarks" by the Nature Conservancy next week at Cipriani's. Sorry I

missed that particular Elaine's evening.

Some years ago I dined with Norris and Norman in their extraordinary house on Columbia Heights in Brooklyn where Norman cooked dinner--a dozen guinea hens ("Didn't you know I was a cook in the army?" demanded Harvard graduate Mailer). And on that occasion, once the dishes were cleared, Norman read to us (critic John Simon among others) from his not quite yet published *Executioner's Song*, a dramatically mesmerizing performance I will never forget.

Now we'll all have this new Mailer novel to look forward to in January and, just as entertaining, the major critics honing their scalpels, the lit'ry debates, Amazon.com issuing its ratings scorecard, the Ph.D. candidates plotting their treatises, the best seller lists compiling their retail book store reports and best of all, the prospect of Norman out on the talk show circuit talking about Hitler and conjuring up Hell and its infernal cast of devils for the delectation of *60 Minutes*, *Oprah*, *Today* and *GMA*, Letterman and Leno and the cover of *Time*.

Can't wait to see him on the set with Jon Stewart.

From: Margaret Carroll-Bergman <mbergman@inkym.com>
Subject: **Thank God, you are not the Devil**
Date: October 26, 2006 2:17:19 PM EDT
To: nmncm@comcast.net

Dear Norris and Norman,

Not since I my girlhood have I ever been so jealous of those ten people who got the signed, advanced copies of "The Castle in the Forest" at the Mailer Society reading. When Chris Busa won a copy, I actually plotted how I would break into his house and steal it.

You cannot know how thrilled Keith and I are to have not only a signed copy, but a beautifully inscribed copy. Plus, I can't wait to read the book, which lays at the bottom of my insane jealousy, or maybe it is not so insane.

Thank you for thinking of us.

I am toiling away on Nantucket, working at the local paper. We have our own murder trial coming up, but nowhere nearly as interesting as the Worthington one.

Say a prayer for me. I understand that God listens to Saints and Sinners, and it appears the Mailers have those bases covered.

With love,

Margaret Carroll-Bergman

From: claghorn@comcast.net
Subject: **The Castle in the Forest**
Date: October 26, 2006 12:16:56 PM EDT
To: nmncm@comcast.net

Dear Norris and Norman-

Just received the signed advance copy-- via Dwayne-- of *The Castle in the Forest*. Margaret and I feel so honored! Thanks very much!! We loved the reading at the Provincetown Theater, and can't wait to get started on the book.

Came across this enthusiastic column by James Brady, which perhaps you've seen already.
http://www.forbes.com/2006/10/25/norman-mailer-opus-oped-cx_ib_1026brady_print.html
Looks like he can't wait to see it, either.

Thanks again for your hospitality earlier this month, and always. I had mentioned to Norman that-- after three days of training with Al Gore in Tennessee last month-- I was out there as one of the first 50 trainees presenting Al's global warming slide show. Norman suggested I bring the slide show to do for you folks over dinner-- perhaps sometime next month. I'd look forward to that.

I've given a public presentation once thus far-- as reported in last week's Cape Codder.
<http://www2.townonline.com/brewster/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=600271>
I'm busy editing the presentation down to a condensed length-- dinner-length, we'll call it.

With thanks and best wishes!
kb
global warming messenger

--
Keith A. Bergman
claghorn@comcast.net

understand, in bound galleys.

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