

# Siblings Share Novel Thoughts

**J**ohn Davis and Heidi Davis Barnes are members of the Class of 1972 and the Class of 1980, respectively. John is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis and works now as an emergency room physician in Houston, Texas. Heidi worked as a realtor in Vancouver, BC before moving to Los Angeles to write full-time.



**This past year John and Heidi each published their first novels: *Crisis: Blue* and *The Bellman*. They talk to one another about their experience:**

**John:** We greatly appreciate this opportunity to speak to our other Kinkaid Falcons. We're both graduates of The Kinkaid School and have the fondest memories of that school—in fact, oddly enough, we actually lived on Kinkaid School Drive. Heidi, can you speak and talk about *The Bellman*?

**Heidi:** Absolutely. My book *The Bellman* takes place in the late '80s on the majestic coast of Maine. The protagonist Stanley has just graduated high school and he's filled with dreams and ambitions when he stumbles into a chaotic environment as a bellman in a luxury inn, working amongst eccentric guests and odd staff as he struggles to figure out his world. I started this book about twenty-five years ago and I'm quite passionate about it. And *Crisis: Blue*?

**John:** *Crisis: Blue* was my commitment to issue a wake up call to the United States of America. My great concern is that terrorism is going to return to our shores, and I'm specifically concerned about nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. The scenario I envision is one in which the east and west



coasts are rendered uninhabitable, driving Americans inward and our great nation into obscurity. This could play out in a matter of weeks. So again, *Crisis: Blue* is a wake up call to the United States.

**Heidi, what influenced you in writing your novel *The Bellman*?**

**Heidi:** I always knew I wanted to write, from a very early age, probably around the age of seven. But I have to attribute quite a great influence to the teachers at Kinkaid, because they were superb. They really stressed the importance of proper English in both writing and speaking. And they taught the art of a good story in creative writing. I can remember teachers as far back as grade four that influenced me.

**And then of course I've lived all over the world, in many countries, and that has influenced my writing. And you?**

**John:** I came at it from a different point. I was mesmerized when I learned as a 12-year-old that our father had written a novel called *Shadow of Peril*. Doubleday published it and it was very successful, it was on the *New York Times Bestseller List* for 12 weeks I believe. So I think that was the primary influence, the challenge, but I also think you're absolutely right, every educational experience and person that you

come across will have an effect upon your writing. I fondly remember **Jim Pitts** and **Barry Moss**, in particular, who were my two English teachers at Kinkaid. They wanted you to learn as much as you could and be as best as you could, yet they were so tolerant. I'm very appreciative of them.

But yes, we have all traveled around the world. Our dad was a submariner, so we principally grew up in the Hawaiian Islands, but with travels in Europe and Asia as well. And it's been a wonderful experience.

**Heidi, you're writing a sequel, yes?**

**Heidi:** I do have a sequel coming and I know you do too! And I'll talk about that, I just wanted to add one more thing: *The Bellman* takes place in our family summer home-turned-grand luxury inn, which after university I ran for seven years. In *The Bellman*, I wanted to remember the types of stories and the exciting environment that I knew so well. The book is written from

the bellman's point of view because in a small hotel, the bellman wears many hats, he sees everyone and everything that's going on.

I'm thrilled about the sequel as well, I love a couple of new characters I've introduced and I have my older characters, so I'm having a lot of fun with it. How is your sequel going? I think you're further along than I am.

**John:** Yes, my sequel is entitled *Crisis: Black* and it really continues with the characters of *Crisis: Blue*. The novel has been written and is being edited now. I couldn't be more excited about Rare Bird publishing and getting that baby launched.

**Heidi:** John and I are greatly appreciative of all the support for both our novels, thank you so much and have a wonderful New Year!

