

Stolen Boy News

August 22, 2007



What else they're saying...

- "Writing the story as fiction gave (Mehas) a chance to get closer to the truth."
- Scott Hadly
Ventura County Star
- "This book is destined to become a classic."
-Richard Evans
International Journalist,
and Editor

Editor's Note

Hello everyone. I want to thank all of you very much for the incredible outpour of interest, love, and support you have given me since Stolen Boy's release last month. The response I've received has been nothing short of phenomenal. The feedback thus far has been 100% positive about the book itself, and I am convinced this sort of positive press will continue to build into something very special for all of us.

I've been told "the story rocks" (which is why it was made into a

movie and book). Others have described Stolen Boy as a "gut-churning page-turner." In the Ventura County Star, longtime newsman Bill Locey described my book as: "A tale of boys gone bad to the level of 'The Last Detail' meets 'Lord of the Flies,' Santa Barbara Style." In his thorough news piece on me last year, VCReporter Arts Editor Matt Singer noted, "If there was ever a true-life drama tailor-made for a celluloid adaptation, it's this one." And I think he's right.

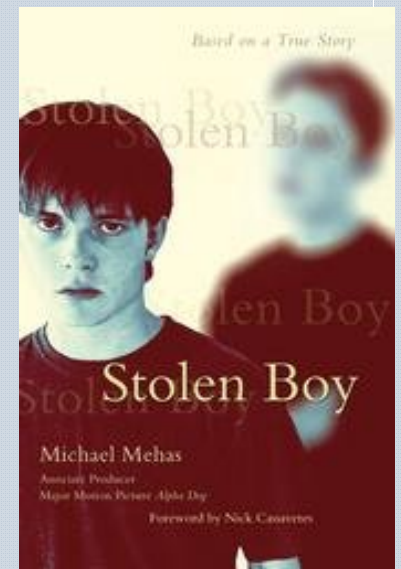
THE PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN

Those who appear hardest hit by the delicate issues presented by the book have been parents with children who've told me they could totally relate to the difficulties the parents in the story had in trying to communicate with their troubled offspring. They've talked about the different directions the story-characters' lives could have taken had the parents just taken the time to follow through on the numerous clues yielded by their stressed-out kids regarding the impending tragedy

shadows of their lives.

The most poignant comment thus far, however, comes from a local writer and mother of four who identified greatly with many aspects of the story's telling. Gwen Lauterbach recently wrote to me in part:

"...after reading Stolen Boy, I wanted you to know how impressed I was. I thought you captured the incredible random unintentionality of so much real



"...you captured the incredible unintentionality of so much real crime..."

Gwen Lauterbach
Writer and mother of four

crime – the one dumb ass step after another, the pride – can't disrespect, can't threaten me or mine, so fuck you – the I never meant it to happen but I had to do it kind of event beautifully. Though I suppose 'beautifully' may seem like the wrong word in light of the sadness and drugged-out lostness of the children you write about.

And the scene where Bobby realizes what's going to happen – is heartbreakingly well done.

The POV is well done too – as you move from person to person without leaving the reader wondering who the hell is thinking now – and your characters are not interchangeable. (I've read way too many books where the POV may change but the people – their thoughts, their speech – they're all the same.)

My characters sometimes show up in my dreams and let me know what's going on and should be happening – did your guys show up in yours? (Your characters showed up in mine one night). Anyway, I admire your work, thought you created real people and a world I didn't know, but was glad to have been taken along, as sad and lonely and real a trip as it was (my experience is far more with the little gangbangers off the Avenue in Ventura).

You have guts and cojones to see this through, Michael. For most of us, the writing is hard enough – but you had to add in judges, courts, and all the rest of the craziness.

Good luck and thanks again."

No, Gwen, thank you for your inspiring words.

NEXT APPEARANCE BY STOLEN BOY

I am very excited to announce that this Saturday, August 25th, I will be speaking and signing books at the Ventura Book Festival – sponsored by the Literary Arts Society of Ventura County – from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 5654 Ralston Street, in Ventura. Not only will signed first edition copies of Stolen Boy be available, but we'll have several Stolen Boy freebies to offer all you collectible freaks. And if you're into reaching a little deeper into your pocketbook, for the first time ever you will be able to purchase Stolen Boy folders to carry your homework in. We will also be selling the premiere items in the Stolen Boy clothing line, including Stolen Boy drawstring backpacks, sexy T-shirts for gals, and study white on black T-shirts for the guys.

Throughout the day, terrific speakers will be giving half-hour seminars, including: A young authors and artists panel discussion at 10:30 a.m., At 11:00 a.m. local authors Cherie Brant and Glenda Jackson will be speaking about local history; Patricia Fry will talk about self-publishing at 11:30 a.m., followed by Bill Frank's 12:00 p.m. discussion regarding Book Marketing and Distribution. At 12:30 p.m. Irwin Zucker tells us how to Avoid P.R. 'Mistakes'. At 1:00 p.m., Gerald Schiller will discuss California History for kids.



Michael Mehas at the West Coast Author Premiere in July, signing his first books for Dave Duckwitz and Brooke Buttgen.

Margie Jenkins talks about marketing strategies at 1:30 p.m.; Barbara Jean Hicks will tell us how she learned everything she knows about writing from her cat at 2:00 p.m.; and Marilyn Meredith will help bring your characters to life at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m., I will discuss from Alpha Dog to Stolen Boy: the differences between writing a screenplay and book based on the high-profile crime. And at 3:30 p.m., B.J. Robbins will tell us what it takes to attract a book publisher. This day promises to be fun and informative for everyone involved.

STOLEN BOY AND OTHER LEGAL TRAVAILS

It's been very interesting how quiet everything has been lately regarding the Jesse James Hollywood legal front. It's like the calm before the storm, and I'm enjoying every moment of the time off. It has allowed me to go full-bore into the marketing and promotion aspects of the book. As most of you might remember, Jesse James Hollywood's capture in March of 2005 led his attorney to launch a campaign to haul me into the case in an effort to try to save his client's life (to read more about this, grab my Downloadable Discussion Page from www.stolenboy.com). Things were not looking good for his client who, over the previous five

years of being on the run, had basically been tried and convicted in absentia by Santa Barbara County law enforcement agencies through the media. Hollywood's chances at a fair trial seemed to be minimal at best. So I got involved in a big way, and as a result, the prosecutor got thrown off the case for the work he did with me. Both sides then appealed. And the case – and Jesse Hollywood's life – went up to, and now rest with the California Supreme Court. Word has it that the state's highest court will hand down their precedent setting decision sometime this November. But as far as my own participation was concerned, things had only just begun.

JUNE 2007

This past June, rumors again began to swirl – this time about how the new prosecutor on the case wanted to subpoena me back into court in an effort to obtain information that I might have gotten during my research for Alpha Dog and Stolen Boy. What's strange about this – and I wonder if anyone has told the prosecutor – is that I had already been subpoenaed twice on the case, and had been ordered by the judge back in November of 2005 to turn over all notes and tapes from my exclusive interviews with key participants to one of the most sensational crimes in California history. My attorney and others have expressed grave concern that by attempting to subpoena me again, the Santa Barbara County prosecutor's office might be seeking some kind of revenge against me for having brought to light the exchange of confidential information with the original DA on the case. Nobody has said as much publicly – but the threat of abuse remains very real – and that's why I sent my lawyer to court to find out what this was all about.

In court on June 21st – in his great wisdom – Judge Brian Hill decided not to decide the issue of subpoena service legality until the California

Supreme Court hands down its decision. He figures the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's effort to get more information from me will become mute if the California Supreme Court decides to throw out the entire DA's office, rather than just the lone offending prosecutor. In such an instance, the California Attorney General would take over prosecution of the case, and there wouldn't seem to be any emotional motivation for them to again come after me for more information. After all – and some people seem to forget this – I didn't commit any crimes. I'm just a witness. There really is no reason I should be facing the prospect of going to jail in Jesse James Hollywood's death penalty case.

As the court began to wind down, Hollywood's own attorney – an old friend and foe of mine – stood and notified the court that he intended to subpoena my book. The judge told James Blatt that he ought to just buy it, and Hollywood's attorney confirmed that "Mr. Mehas would probably like that." And he's right. I would like that since my business is to sell books. One big question that remains, however, is when and if Mr. Blatt will try to take me and my book to federal court in an effort to silence us via injunction, based on the potential damage



"Within each of us lies the power of our consent to health and sickness, to riches and poverty, to freedom and to slavery. It is he who controls these, and not another."

~ Richard Bach

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"...How far do you go when there's no turning back..."

Stolen Boy might cause his client in trying to get a fair trial. But the strange irony of the matter is that a reading of the book might not only shed light on his client's potential wrongful actions during the commission of the infamous crime, but it will probably go a long way into ultimately helping to save Jesse James Hollywood's life. Which is why I became involved in the matter in the first place. My job in life has always been to try to save lives, not to end them. The killing must stop! And if I can, in any way, help to raise awareness and consciousness toward the prospect of preserving life – every life – and not death, then I believe we will all be better off as a race.

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LASTLY, A CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER FORMAT

We're hoping that by this time next month we'll be in our new newsletter format. Please be patient with us, for I believe that you will very much enjoy what we will be bringing to you in the future. The Stolen Boy Newsletter is designed to promote higher thought and consciousness awareness. It – and everything I do – is based on the concept that we truly are what we think. And if we are somehow able to align our consciousnesses into a loving, joyful, life-enhancing state – sort of like birds of a flock or a school of fish – then we will have begun to change the reality that surrounds us. To me, that is a goal worth striving for.

Again thank you for your time and consideration, and feel free to tell me how we're doing. If any of you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please just notify me, and it shall be done immediately.

In the meantime, I send heartfelt joy, peace, and blessings to all!!!



Michael Mehas