

PUBLISHER AUTHOR QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: 1/21/2005

TITLE OF NEW BOOK:

Bloody Mary: A Lt. Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels Mystery.

NAME:

Mr. JA Konrath

Marital Status:

Let me ask my wife Maria... she was angry at me earlier.

Number of Children:

Three, that I know of.

Email Address:

haknort@comcast.net

Do you have a website?

www.JAKonrath.com

Colleges attended/Degrees earned (please include dates):

Graduated Columbia College in Chicago in 1992 with a Bachelor's in English. I also did a lot of TV and Film work, and wrote, directed, and starred in many local cable access productions.

Are you a full time writer? If not, please state your occupation.

Full time! I also teach fiction writing at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, IL (www.cod.edu).

Please list any other books you have written:

Whiskey Sour: A Lt. Jack Daniels Thriller---1st book in the Jacqueline Daniels series, Hyperion 2004 in hardcover, Hyperion 2005 in mass market paperback

Are you a regular contributor to any magazines or newspapers?

I've been published in Writer's Digest Magazine, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, and in two dozen other magazines and anthologies since 2004.

Please write a brief biographical sketch:

Bio attached

How long have you been at work on this book?

I write a book a year.

What are your hometown newspapers?

Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune, The Dailey Herald.

Please briefly describe your new book.

BLOODY MARY combines the laughs of Janet Evanovich or Dave Barry with the scares of James Patterson or Thomas Harris. It's the second in the highly-acclaimed thriller series featuring Chicago Violent Crimes Lieutenant Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels.

Join Jack as she struggles to repair her train wreck of a personal life, while tracking down and convicting one of the scariest serial killers in recent memory---a killer for whom getting caught is only the beginning...

What is your favorite bookstore?

I love indie bookstores, and have also had success selling hundreds of copies of Whiskey Sour through the Waldenbooks chain.

How did the idea for this book originate?

I write books that make people laugh, then scare them so badly they turn on all the lights and lock their doors.

Did the book involve any special research?

Besides the normal cop and crime scene research, BLOODY MARY is part legal thriller, and I had to really learn a lot about murder trials to make the courtroom scenes ring true.

If fiction, please list any school of writing that has influenced you:

I'm the world's biggest mystery fan, with a collection of over 5000 books.

What points do you think should be emphasized in the promotion of your book?

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR BLOODY MARY:

"As sharp and tangy as its title cocktail. Snappy dialogue. Powerful action. A fabulous character to spend time with. What a recipe for a page-turner." - David Morrell, bestselling author of The Brotherhood of the Rose.

"Characters you care about and a breath-stealing plot. Reading BLOODY MARY is a ride on a rocket-propelled roller coaster. Strap in and hold on tight." - Jack Kerley, author of The Hundredth Man.

"Raise a glass to Joe Konrath. BLOODY MARY is bloody good. Jack Daniels has heart, smarts, and all of Chicago to detect in." - Barbara D'Amato, author of Death of a Thousand Cuts.

"Take one large psychopath, mix with an unusually violent cat, add a fast pace, a lean plot, and Jack Daniels and what do you get? Believe it or not, a Bloody Mary." - Bill Fitzhugh, author of Radio Activity.

"A healthy shot of colorful characters, dizzying dialogue and a potent plot, BLOODY MARY is laugh-out-loud funny... even when read sober." - PJ Parrish, bestselling author of A Killing Rain.

"I haven't actually read this book, but I can say that J.A. Konrath is an entertaining writer, based on the 53 emails he sent hounding me to write this blurb." – bestselling author Dave Barry

PROMOTION FOR WHISKEY SOUR:

- **Since May 2004, I've signed books at 144 bookstores in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New York, and New Jersey.**
- **I've handsold approximately 1200 copies of Whiskey Sour by meeting people in bookstores who have never heard of me and approaching them--the number would be higher if the stores I visited had more copies.**
- **I've appeared on panels at over a dozen writing conferences, including Bouchercon, Love is Murder, Dark and Stormy, Printer's Row, BEA, World Horror Con, Horrorfind, Men of Mystery, Magna Cum Murder, Sleuthfest, Left Coast Crime, and the Midwest Literary Festival.**

- I've done readings at eighteen libraries since May.
- My website, www.JAKonrath.com, has received over 25,000 hits since July 2004.
- My email newsletter goes out three times a year to 11,000 recipients.
- I've sold short stories and articles to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Writer's Digest, and sixteen other magazines and anthologies in the past 12 months. Queen and Hitchcock each have a circulation of 250,000.
- I've handed out and mailed over 1200 free short story chapbooks featuring characters from the Jack Daniels series, which include links to my website and info about Whiskey Sour. Unlike bookmarks, postcards, business cards, and flyers, chapbooks aren't thrown away by fans, who love to collect them.
- I've mailed signed bookplates to 350 bookstores.
- I'm up for two Edgar Awards and the Robert L. Fish Award.
- I've been a Booksense Pick, and an Independent Mystery Bookseller Association bestseller twice.
- I'm an active member in more than a dozen online newsgroups and listservs.
- I've gotten 25 reviews through my contacts in the mystery community, including the following:

"I found myself laughing out loud many times. The second book in the series can't come soon enough!" - Murder Express

"I couldn't put it down! It's great!" - The Best Reviews

"Lightening fast action, chilling suspense, and biting humor." - Book Reporter

"So well written, it is hard to believe this is a first novel." - BookBitch

"Pithy banter... it's like a Monty Python rendition of a crime novel." - The Courier

"A gripping, fast-paced, and funny read." - Books'n'Bytes

"What a fabulous book!" - Mystery Morgue

"Whiskey Sour is a real page-turner... (Jack Daniels) had me laughing out loud."- BookLoons

"Fast action, involving characters, twists galore. Easily one of the best debut suspense novels in recent years. Bring on the sequel!" - BookPage

"A first class, totally absorbing crime thriller." - Midwest Book Review

"Highly recommended... a great first outing." - New Mystery Reader

"Four stars... tough, funny, and smart." - Deadly Pleasures

"Sharp dialog and dry wit... it has all the polish of any suspense thriller bestseller." - Murder and Mayhem Bookclub

"Whiskey Sour is very good indeed." - January Magazine

"If you want a wonderful, funny, believable, well-researched murder mystery/thriller, look no further." - Rendezvous Magazine

**"Suspense skillfully balanced with brilliant humor... powerful and exciting."
- MyShelf**

"This book lives up to its hype." - Reviewing the Evidence

"A brilliant debut..." - Chizine

"Extremely rich in both character and tension." - MostlyFiction

"Add this one to your reading list... you will not be sorry!" – Bestsellers World

"Whiskey Sour is an amazing book." - I Love A Mystery Newsletter

"A wonderful novel mixing the best elements of what the genre has to offer" - Readers Room

"An exciting book, with a teasing sort of style that draws you in." - Pahrump Valley Times

"An easy, breezy read, well written and very funny." - Kingston Observer

"Readers who are familiar with Stephanie Plum will feel right at home" - Mystery Reader

"Konrath displays genuine talent." - Mystery Scene

“Whiskey Sour is a combination of Jilliane Hoffman’s RETRIBUTION edginess with an Evanovich sense of humor. You gotta love it.” – Tulsa World

“An original, humorous character study of a woman on the edge of her career and personal life. Whiskey Sour moves at a brisk pace to a surprising and tense finale that has quite a kick.” – South Florida Sun-Sentinel

"Everything about Whiskey Sour is smart - smart characters, smart writing, and a smart pace that keeps you reading long after you'd meant to turn out the lights. J.A. Konrath makes you care about his quirky, frazzled heroine, Lt. Jack Daniels, both on and off the job. This superb debut goes down smooth and will leave readers demanding a refill!"–Michael Prescott, bestselling author of Comes the Dark and Stealing Faces

"A dash of sardonic wit, two jiggers of the colorful Jack Daniels (the novel's main character), and the icy, sharpened prose of J.A. Konrath, all combine to make Whiskey Sour a literary cocktail that'll knock you off your chair."–Ridley Pearson, bestselling author of the Lou Boldt series

Even us non-drinkers will enjoy Joe Konrath's detective story, with its witty dialogue and enjoyable characters. With an intriguing female as his protagonist, Joe gives us our first glimpse of a promising series. --Steve Alten, bestselling author of the Meg series

"Whiskey Sour introduces J.A. Konrath, a fresh, fierce and frightening new voice, and a delightful heroine in Jack Daniels, who is as funny and resilient as she is feisty and determined."–David Wiltse , author of the John Becker series

"Whiskey Sour is a stunning debut novel. Konrath has brewed up a compulsive page- turner populated by real people, a heroine to empathize with and root for, and a monstrous villain serving up enough red meat to satisfy the hungriest Hannibal Lecter fan."–George C. Chesbro, author of the Mongo series

"Aged in the oak barrel of a ferocious imagination, this amazing debut is a bracing splash of hard-core sour mash suspense! I gulped Whiskey Sour down in one scalding binge–so entertaining I couldn't stop, yet so brutal and visceral I felt like cringing at the aftertaste. Put Donald Westlake in a blender with a jigger of James Ellroy, mix in a dollop of Dorothy Parker, and you've got the hilarious, horrific world of Lieutenant Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels. I can't wait until the next fix!"–Jay Bonansigna, author of Sleep Police and Oblivion

"Whiskey Sour is one potent cocktail: a police procedural dashed with romance, mixed with a shot of sharp-tongued commentary, and garnished with a acidic sprinkling of spoof. Put me down for another round of Lieutenant Jack Daniels." –Andrew Vachss, bestselling author of the Burke series

"Finally – a heroine for the rest of us! Funny, feisty, and gutsy, Jack Daniels is a delightful addition to the pantheon of female detectives. By turns hilarious and horrific, Whiskey Sour is a compulsively readable mystery. I couldn't put it down! J.A. Konrath is a writer to watch!"–Libby Fischer Hellmann, author of the Ellie Foreman series

"Whiskey Sour: take the grim doings of a vicious psychopath, stir in quirky characters and crisp dialogue, then shake with dollops of laugh-aloud humor. A fast, fun read. I'm looking forward to the next Jack Daniels outing." -- F. Paul Wilson, bestselling author of the Repairman Jack series

"Whiskey Sour is one hell of a ride! J.A. Konrath expertly pits a tough, smart, and highly likeable homicide detective against an almost unimaginably evil serial killer, moving story along briskly as one part cat-and-mouse game, one part chess match. As the story hurtles along, you'll be shaken and stirred, with no choice but to keep turning pages to see how it all plays out. You'll never think of razor blades and 7-11's the same way again—but the gritty streets of Chicago are a better and safer (and more fun) place with J.A. Konrath and his Lt. Jacqueline Daniels on the job. I look forward to reading more stories about her."–Rob Kantner, author of the Ben Perkins series

"Whiskey Sour is detective fiction at its finest. It's filled with jackknife plot turns, edge of the blade suspense, and razor-sharp, laugh-out-loud wit. J. A. Konrath has created something special here—a new series character I'll follow with the same devotion I read Spenser and Dave Robicheaux." –Rick Hautala, bestselling author of Bedbugs and The Mountain King

"J.A. Konrath's Whiskey Sour is the best mystery series debut I've read in years. From electric excitement to laugh-out-loud humor, this book has it all—and to boot it has Chicago Lt. Jacqueline (Jack) Daniels, who's one of the most delightful, beautifully-drawn characters to happen on the detective scene in a very long time. This may be J.A. Konrath's first mystery, but no one who reads it will ever believe that; his touch is sure and expert. What a crackling tale this is. I can't wait for the next installment."–Warren B. Murphy, author of the Trace series

"Without question, you have to meet Konrath's characters and the dynamo of his narrative to believe anyone can call out and sink every shot with such verve and confidence—but Whiskey Sour is on game from page one to

the last. I can honestly say that I have seen the future of suspense thrillers, and it is J.A. Konrath..."--Robert W. Walker, author of the Instinct and Edge series

"Thriller lovers rejoice. Whiskey Sour marks a stunning debut for J.A. Konrath. Smooth as aged bourbon, with plenty of sting, the novel races into your bloodstream and takes your head and heart on a wild ride. A monstrous villain tangles with a determined cop--what more could any reader ask? You'll admire Lieutenant Jack Daniels' sharp mind and sly wit, but her warmth and humanity are what make Whiskey Sour such a pleasure to read. The prose is so polished, so assured, you'll feel you are reading the tenth novel by a master pro at the peak of his powers. I can't wait for the next one."-- Steven Spruill, author of Sleeper and My Soul to Take

"Being a police officer and an occasionally drinker of whiskey myself, Whiskey Sour immediately caught my eye--especially with a main character with the name "Lt. Jack Daniels". I am a big fan of Ed McBain (87th Precinct) and Roberts B. Parker (Spenser novels)--so finding a book that combines both their styles was a real treat. Whiskey Sour is fast, fun, and witty, with humor and just the right amount of gore to keep me turning the page. From what I understand this is Konrath's first novel, but hopefully not the last!" -- Colin Sullivan, Texas-based police officer

"J.A. Konrath's touch is so deft that it's amazing to think that Whiskey Sour is only his first novel. This is a fast, funny, furiously entertaining debut, and I hope J.A. plans on keeping his smart, sardonic, and, at 45, sexy-as-hell heroine around for a long, long time. Damn it, I want Jack! There, I said it." -- Barry Eisler, author of the John Rain series

"Whiskey Sour captures the feel and flavor of what it's really like on the streets chasing violent offenders. Konrath's characters are tough, gritty and flawed just enough to make them real. I can't wait for the next sip of Jack Daniels."--Sergeant Dave Putnam, San Bernadino County Sheriff's Department.

"Suspense thrillers are often compared to rollercoasters and this one's the Big Kahuna. There's that first wild, breathtaking drop and then the excitement never lets up until you roll into the last page."--Raymond Benson, bestselling author of the James Bond series

"Jack Daniels is the best new face on the cop scene in years! Whiskey Sour is an intoxicating blend of pulse-pounding thrills, side-splitting humor and a serial killer who will haunt your dreams." -- David Ellis, author of In the Company of Liars

"Upon finishing Whiskey Sour, I immediately wanted more; I guess I'm just hooked on Lt. Jack Daniels, the freshest new cop on the beat. Konrath is Hiaasen with teeth, Elmore Leonard by way of a dark alley. By turns horrifying and hilarious, Whiskey Sour is one sweet read."—Eric Garcia, bestselling author of Matchstick Men and Hot and Sweaty Rex

"If you like your mystery fresh and your heroine even fresher, don't miss Whiskey Sour. A detective for the new millennium: sharply witty, deftly wry, and unabashedly clever." – James Rollins, bestselling author of Sandstorm

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

JA Konrath

author of

WHISKEY SOUR and BLOODY MARY

I was recently mistaken for being a woman.

I took it as a compliment.

Many people who read my novel *Whiskey Sour* assume the author must be female. After all, the hero is a cop named Jacqueline Daniels, and it's written in first-person perspective, i.e.: "I tugged out my .38 and adjusted my underwire, which was digging into my ribs."

The name on the cover says "JA," and everyone knows that when two initials are used, the author is really a woman. Right?

Wrong.

I'm a card carrying member of the Y-chromosome. I brew my own beer, I like to watch boxing, and I don't own anything Fendi.

So what am I doing writing chick-lit mysteries? Do I have some deep, Freudian issues that I'm working out? Was I forced to mainline estrogen to appease an unscrupulous publisher? Do I have a fetish for Minolo Blahniks?

The answers are no, no, and no--though if Minolo ever made a loafer in a Men's Size 9.5 W, I'd give it a shot.

To understand why I write for a woman, we first need to look at the woman.

Jack Daniels is a Lieutenant in Chicago's Violent Crimes Division. She's forty-six, divorced, dyes her hair when the roots start to show, and hates wearing nylons on humid days. Jack is tough, honest, and an over-achiever; she has to be to succeed in a male dominated profession in the Murder Capitol of America. She has trouble in her relationships, because the Job always comes first, and she suffers from insomnia, which causes her to blow a lot of money on infomercial products at 3AM.

As for me, I'm thirty-four, married, and I embrace the gray in my hair—I'm happy to even *have* hair. While Jack studied Poly Sci in college, I opted for Television. Both majors left us totally unprepared for the job market, though Jack's desire to right wrongs is more altruistic than my desire to write novels. I'm also tough, honest, and an over-achiever; I have to be to succeed in the female dominated profession of Big City Publishing.

I wrote my first novel in 1992. You might remember it, if you're my mother. It wasn't published. Neither were my second, third, or fourth through ninth books. I racked up over 480 rejections, wrote over a million words, and didn't sell a single verb. If there were an award for the World's Biggest Loser, I wouldn't even win that.

So when it came time for the tenth book, I took a long, hard look at myself, the publishing world, and where I fit in, and I discovered a wonderful irony. When I was

growing up, publishing was, for the most part, a man's profession. Men were the editors. Men were the agents. Men wrote the novels.

The opposite is true today. My agent, and her partner, are women. My editor, her boss, her assistant, my copy editor, my marketing director, my publicist—all women. And why not? Mystery fiction is dominated by women authors, and mystery books are bought primarily by women (as much as 80%, I've read).

Creating Jack for my tenth novel was no brainer. It disturbs my wife somewhat; she gets weirded-out reading love scenes that her husband has written from a female POV.

My mom, who always wanted a daughter, thinks it's hilarious.

And me? I love it. Jack is both challenging, and liberating, to write for. She's got an emotional range that is so much wider than all of the male protagonists I'd created in the past. She pushes me to my creative limits and forces me to think outside the box.

I chose to go by my initials "JA" rather than my masculine first name, because I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of wonderful writers like PD James, JD Robb, JA Jance—women one and all.

And if an occasional reader mistakes me for a woman, I couldn't ask for higher praise.

It's about time things came full circle, don't you think?



J.A. Konrath recently signed a three book deal with Hyperion Books. His first novel, **WHISKEY SOUR**, introduces series heroine Lt. Jacqueline Daniels of the Chicago Police Department.

Joe graduated from Columbia College in Chicago in 1992. He's written for corporate and cable television, assisted the brewmeister at a local micro brewery, performed improv comedy on stage, and regularly speaks at mystery and horror conventions.

Recent short story sales include *"Suffer"* and *"With a Twist"* to *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *"The Agreement"* to *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *"The Screaming"* to *The Many Faces of Van Helsing* anthology, *"Forgiveness"* to *Cemetery Dance Magazine*, *"Redux"* to the *Spooks* anthology, and dozens of others. He's also written articles for *Writer's Digest* and *Novel Writing Magazine*.

Joe has one wife, three kids (that he knows of), a dog, and a house in the suburbs, where he's recently finished **RUSTY NAIL**, the third book in the Lt. Jacqueline Daniels thriller series. Visit him at www.JAKonrath.com.