

# Straight Up

The Official Newsletter of Author Joe Konrath

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## First Issue

### *Joe Signs 3 Book Deal!*

Welcome to the premiere issue of the Joe Konrath newsletter. You're on this mailing list for one of these reasons:

- a) You know me.
- b) You signed up for this.
- c) One of your friends knows me, and gave me your email address in exchange for beer.

There's a lot going on in my life right now, but here's the biggest news: my incredible agent, Jane Dystel, landed me a three book, six-figure deal with Hyperion Books. My novel, WHISKEY SOUR, will be released in hardcover, Spring of 2004.

WHISKEY SOUR is the first book in the Lt. Jacqueline Daniels series. Jack is a forty-something cop with a train wreck of a personal life and a mean case of insomnia. When a nutcase who calls himself The Gingerbread Man begins dumping mutilated bodies in her precinct, Jack finds herself in charge of the biggest, and most dangerous, case of her career.

My editor at Hyperion, Leslie Wells, calls the book "an amazing combination of humor and fear... I was laughing out loud through much of it, and the Gingerbread Man material is SO chilling, really terrifying."

Leslie has the distinction of having edited two of my very favorite authors, Robert Crais (creator of the Elvis Cole series)

and Ridley Pearson (creator of the Lou Boldt series).

Working with Leslie has been a HUGE honor, and if I ever become really rich I'm buying her a sports car.

As the publication date nears, I'll keep everyone informed about when and where to pick up WHISKEY SOUR.

Until then, I'd highly recommend checking out some of the Crais and Pearson books--they're the best in the field.

## ***New Website Complete***

With the help of Opus Graphics, my new homepage, [www.joekonrath.com](http://www.joekonrath.com), is now up and running.

On the site you'll find free stories, novel excerpts, background info, writing tips, character bios, a message board, and lots of other really cool stuff.

Check it out. All the hip people are doing it.

If you're an author with a website, drop me a line. My links page is crammed full of writers that I know and admire, and you might very well be the next scribe on my reading list.

## ***Ellery Queen Buys Jack Daniels Story***

The most famous genre fiction zine on the planet is Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, produced ten times a year by the wonderful folks at Dell. Besides having a huge circulation of 50,000+, Ellery Queen has published most, if not all, of the greatest mystery writers in history.

I just received my first acceptance letter from Ellery Queen.

My locked room mystery, ON THE ROCKS-- a short story

featuring Lt. Jacqueline Daniels-  
- will appear in an upcoming  
issue of EQMM. I'll know more  
soon, and will keep everyone  
posted.

I've been reading Ellery Queen  
since I was ten years old, and  
this is a huge thrill for me. It's  
also a thrill for Jack, who cites  
this as one of her most puzzling  
and unusual cases.

### ***First Story Published***

Though not as well known as  
Ellery Queen, the dark fiction  
magazine HORROR GARAGE  
has the distinction of buying my  
very first story.

My nasty little tale, FINICKY  
EATER, will appear in their  
upcoming issue #7, sometime in  
June.

HORROR GARAGE is cutting  
edge, slick, and ultra-cool. You  
can pick up your very own copy  
at [www.horrorgarage.com](http://www.horrorgarage.com), or at  
Tower Records, Border's Books,

and many other fine indie  
bookstores and music shops.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Short Story Contest***

One of the things I promised to  
do, if I ever attained any degree  
of success, is to help other  
writers. This is a tough,  
discouraging business, and it  
can flatten even the hardest  
egos.

Besides posting writing tips and  
tricks on my website,  
[www.joekonrath.com](http://www.joekonrath.com), I'm also  
teaching fiction writing and  
marketing at the College of  
Dupage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois  
this Fall. If you live in the area,  
check it out. More info at  
[www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu).

I've also decided to run a bi-  
monthly short fiction contest.  
Here are the rules for Contest  
Number 1:

1) Stories must be unpublished  
and less than 3500 words.

2) Stories must be in the mystery, suspense, or horror genre.

3) Stories must be typed, double-spaced, and sent to me either in the body of an email (no attachments), or snail mail to:

Joe Konrath

836 Carnaby Ct.

Schaumburg, IL 60194

4) All entries must be received by June 30, 2003, only one submission per person.

I'll personally read all the entries, and try to offer editing advice when I can.

The winner will receive:

***A signed copy of something I wrote (galley, chapbook, magazine story, etc.)***

***Their name as a character in my next book.***

***Special mention on my website.***

***And... my help in submitting their story to a paying market. I'll assist the winner in writing a query letter, and lend my name and endorsement to their cause.***

The results will be published in Issue #2.

What are you waiting for? Get writing!

***Thanks!***

After many years of writing, editing, rewriting, submitting, rewriting, and rewriting, I'm finally reaching some of the goals I set for myself as a teenager.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to my family, my friends, and all of the writers, editors, and industry pros who have offered their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the various stages of my career.

My success is yours, too.

Joe

The Joe Konrath Newsletter never ever sells, gives away, or otherwise compromises the email addresses of its subscribers, nor does it intentionally spam anyone.

If you've gotten this newsletter by accident, simply drop me an email and I'll remove you from the mailing list.

Conversely, if you know any mystery fans, horror fans, or writers who might enjoy this newsletter, feel free to send it their way.

WHISKEY SOUR by Joe Konrath  
Coming in hardcover, Spring 2004, from Hyperion  
[www.joekonrath.com](http://www.joekonrath.com)