

# Straight Up

The Official Newsletter of Author JA Konrath

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## *Booklaunch Party!*

**M**y second Lt. Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels thriller novel, **BLOODY MARY**, is being released in hardcover and on audio this June. The first novel in the series, **WHISKEY SOUR**, just came out in paperback. To celebrate, I'm going to buy beer for everyone I know.

The fun lasts from noon until 2pm at Damon's Grill on 1140 East Higgins Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

There will be liquor, food, raffles, giveaways, and plenty of books to buy. Then, afterwards, party at my house with even more beer.

If you're reading this, you're invited. Hope to see you there.

## *Contests*

Winning stuff is cool. Especially if you don't have to do a lot. Here are my current contests:

**CONTEST #1** - Send me a picture of you holding a new, recently released paperback copy of **WHISKEY SOUR**,

and I'll send you a free autographed hardcover of **Bloody Mary**, which you can keep or sell for big bucks on Ebay.

Am I insane? Nope... I just want to reward new readers. I have five copies to give away. The five most creative pics will win. So put fresh batteries in the digital camera, pick up **WHISKEY SOUR** at a store near you, and send me a snapshot at [haknort@comcast.net](mailto:haknort@comcast.net).

**CONTEST #2** - Calling all writers! Can you write a crime story in 500 words or less? If so, send it my way. The best story wins a cash prize of \$50, plus their name as a character in my next book and a signed copy of **BLOODY MARY**.

**Rules:** Stories must involve a crime, and be less than 500 words (not including title and author name). They must be sent in the body of an email, with the header "500 Word Story Contest". One entry per person, the last day to submit is Oct 31, 2005, contest open to everyone except me, because that just wouldn't be very fair, would it?

Get writing!

CONTEST #3 - I spent most of my youth in the library, and it was time well spent (am I the only one who misses the old card catalog?) So this contest is for Librarians Only. Here's how you play:

Step 1: Order a copy of *Whiskey Sour* for your library (ISBN 1-4013-0087-1 in hardcover or 0-7868-9072-X in paperback)

Step 2: Email me at [haknort@comcast.net](mailto:haknort@comcast.net), and let me know what you (or your patrons) think of the book, in three sentences or less.

Step 3: I'll post these critiques on a special page of my website, citing the librarian and the library.

Step 4: August 2005, my wife will pick the quote she likes best, and the library will receive \$200 worth of free books, including copies of *BLOODY MARY*.

I've already received many entries for this contest, and they'll be posted soon.

CONTEST #4 - For Booksellers Only. This one is easy. In the acknowledgements of *BLOODY MARY*, I thanked many booksellers by name, because they sold twenty or more copies of my books.

If you sell twenty or more copies of my books, I'll happily thank you in the acknowledgements of *RUSTY NAIL*, which is coming out June of 2006. Just send me an email and let me know how many you've sold. And thanks for carrying my books!

## *Website Relaunch*

I've completely redone my website. Besides the new look, there's also a lot of new content, including:

- \* Free Excerpts from *Whiskey Sour* and *Bloody Mary*
- \* More Writing Tips
- \* Marketing Tips for New Authors
- \* More Free Short Stories
- \* New Pictures and Interviews
- \* New Articles, including an uncut version of my *Writer's Digest* piece "After the Big Sale"
- \* New blog, called *A Newbie's Guide to Publishing*
- \* 2005 Tour Information (yes, I'm touring!)
- \* A Free Publicity Video (rated R for gratuitous violence and bad puppetry)
- \* And even more, probably.

Check out [www.JAKonrath.com](http://www.JAKonrath.com) and let me know what you think.

## *Recent News*

– *Whiskey Sour* won the Love is Murder People's Choice Award for Best First Novel ([www.loveismurder.com](http://www.loveismurder.com)). It was also nominated for a Gumshoe Award ([www.mysteryinkonline.com](http://www.mysteryinkonline.com)) and an

Anthony Award. The Anthony Award Banquet will be held at Bouchercon in Chicago this September. Check out [www.bouchercon.net](http://www.bouchercon.net) for details.

– I'm Toastmaster at the upcoming Backspace Writer's Conference ([www.backspacewritersconference.com](http://www.backspacewritersconference.com)) being held June 2 in NYC. If you'd like to meet some famous authors, agents, and editors, this is the event to attend. It's almost full, so act fast.

– I'll be touring this summer, and will be signing at stores in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and a few other places. Times and dates on my website.

– I'll be conducting two panels at the 23rd annual Dark and Stormy Nights convention in Schaumburg, IL on June 11 ([www.ofdarkandstormynights.com](http://www.ofdarkandstormynights.com)). I'll also be at the Arlington Heights Library on June 16, the Schaumburg Library on June 25, and the Glenside Library on June 28.

– Recent sales to Ellery Queen (WITH A TWIST, a Jack Daniels story and SUFFER, a Phineas Troutt story), The Strand Magazine (TAKEN TO THE CLEANERS, a Harry McGlade story), and Writer's Digest (AFTER THE BOOK COMES OUT), all seeing print sometime this year.

– Available now or very soon are the Requiem for the Radioactive Monkeys anthology which features my story

APPALACHIAN LULLABY, Surreal Magazine #1 which features my story THE SHED, the Cold Flesh anthology which features my story THE BAG, the Spooks anthology which features my story REDUX, and Horror Express #3 which features my story BASKETCASE. I also won a Derringer Award for my flash fiction story THE BIG GUYS, which appeared in the Small Bites anthology. Details and links on [JAKonrath.com](http://JAKonrath.com).

– Once again I visited Brilliance, my audio publisher, and was able to record a few tracks. The talented duo of Dick Hill and Susie Breck, who did such a great job reading WHISKEY SOUR, do an even better job with BLOODY MARY, which is available on cassette, CD, and MP3. I had a chance to play a character, and also read the Harry McGlade short story WHELP WANTED at the end of the book as a bonus.

– My friend Rob Kantner's new book, TROUBLE IS WHAT I DO: COLLECTED BEN PERKINS STORIES is being released in September ([www.RobKantner.com](http://www.RobKantner.com)). I was fortunate enough to write the foreword.

– I was equally fortunate to write a forward for the graphic novel SOMETHING TO BUILD UPON by Tim Broderick ([oddjobs.keenspace.com/](http://oddjobs.keenspace.com/)). Both books are wonderful, and should be read by everyone.

## *Freebies*

Free stuff is cool. Many times a year I have a random drawing for free J.A. Konrath merchandise, and everyone on my mailing list is eligible. Two newsletter subscribers have been randomly picked to receive some cool gifts.

The lucky winners this time are: Joan Noble Pinkham and Tracey Hotham.

Congrats! Email me at [haknort@comcast.net](mailto:haknort@comcast.net) so I can mail out your prizes; signed copies of Bloody Mary and Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine featuring my story THE AGREEMENT. You'll also have characters named after you in DIRTY MARTINI, the fourth Jack Daniels book.

## *Origin*

While the Jack Daniels series are mystery thrillers, I've also written several science thrillers. One of them is called ORIGIN, which is a cross between Jurassic Park and The Exorcist.

***1906-Something is discovered by workers digging the Panama Canal. Something dormant. Sinister. Very much alive.***

***2005-Project Samhain. A secret underground government installation begun 99 years ago in New Mexico. The best minds in the world have been recruited to study***

***the most amazing discovery in the history of mankind. But the century of peaceful research is about to end.***

## **BECAUSE THE THING JUST WOKE UP.**

The thing in question is nine feet tall, dark red, has bat wings and huge teeth, eats live sheep, and calls itself Beelzebub.

I've made ORIGIN available on my website as an E-book download. It comes in a variety of formats for desktop, laptop, and tablet PCs, e-book readers, and PDAs. Or, if you prefer, you can print a copy. Best of all, it's absolutely 100% FREE. Go to <http://www.jakonrath.com/record.html> to get your copy. Please spread the word.

And so ends another newsletter. Number 6 will be emailed end of August. Feel free to drop me a line before then; I'm chained to my computer, and not going anywhere.