

Date: For immediate release

Media Release

War criminals and Nordic Noir connect in exciting debut thriller

Author Jon Stenhugg, a fresh voice in Nordic Noir, has combined post-war Nazi hunting and modern-day Scandinavian detective work for his debut novel ***The Second Child***, which will be launched in the UK in June.

The author draws on the real-life experience of his own father (an American airman who helped bring war criminals to justice at Nuremberg) as inspiration for the book, which is set in post-war Germany and modern-day Sweden.

The Second Child is the debut novel from Stenhugg (pen name of writer John Clewett) who has lived in Sweden for many years, though he was born and raised in California and has traced family roots back to London's East End.

Jon will be travelling to the UK for launch events in Bristol and London (where he also hopes to make an appearance at Nordicana Festival 2015). And he believes fans of both Scandinavian crime fiction and historical novels will be attracted by the book's unique back-story.

"The book was partly inspired by my father's experiences. He was stationed at the famous Burtonwood airfield (code-named BAD1) during WW2, as part of the United States Eighth Air Force. He was a flight mechanic and flew on several missions.

"At the end of the war, he became part of a special team chasing Nazis who had fled across Europe and North Africa, bringing them back to face justice at Nuremberg. He was also on the plane used to ferry many of these war criminals back to their own countries for execution. It's quite a story."

But that was not the only family member involved in the book's production. Jon's wife, a criminal analyst for the Swedish National Security service, helped give the passages in the book about police procedure a real ring of authenticity.

As a reader himself of both Scandinavian crime and historical fiction, Jon describes his work as a cross between Swedish author Henning Mankell and Welsh author Ken Follett: "I write entertainment and my work is, hopefully, exciting for readers, but with some background themes about Swedish society and justice."

And readers who enjoy Jon's debut can expect more – a second novel is finished and a third being written, which features characters drawn from ***The Second Child***.

Published by Bristol-based Silverwood Books, the book will be available from Foyles, Amazon and Barnes & Noble online. For more information on the author and UK appearances, and to sign up for special extras from the book, visit Jon's website at www.jonstehugg.com.

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Notes For Editors

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Review copies - Available direct from John, on request.

Interviews – Available for print or broadcast interviews

Launch Event Media: John will be launching the book in Bristol June 4/5th and in London on June 6/8th. Exact dates and venues will be confirmed nearer the time.

Images: Images of the author and book cover are available. Please request via email.

Synopsis: The Second Child

World War II has been over for more than a year. In Nuremberg, the day before he is to be executed, a Nazi war criminal calls US Army Lt. John Hurtree to his prison cell and tries to negotiate with information about the identity of a child in a photograph. Hurtree refuses the bargain, but the question of the child plagues his life even after retirement.

Stockholm, Sweden, 1996. A police investigation into the mysterious death of a doctor and his nurse brings Hurtree to Sweden. Police Commissioner Sara Markham and Hurtree work together to solve the puzzle of the murders. At the same time, they uncover the astonishing secret identity of an elderly woman living in southern Stockholm, and race to save her life.

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