

## Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...*

### Will Bereswill



**Novelist, Environmental Engineer**

**SLWG Member Since 2005**

**WILL BERESWILL:** In my very early years, books were my escape from the long rows of brick houses in south St. Louis City. A book I still remember reading over and over was Eleanor Cameron's *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet*. I gobbled up science fiction, got hooked on the original Star Trek series novels, and then I read *The Stand* by Stephen King. That book hooked me on horrors for quite some time. Tom Clancy converted me to the thriller genre in the early '90s. I still remember reading *Clear and Present Danger*, enthralled by Clancy's descriptions of the weaponry, only to see the very same high tech devices used in the Gulf War just weeks after reading about them. I marveled at Crichton's *Jurassic Park*, *Congo* and *Airframe* and enjoyed Robin Cook's medical thrillers and Grisham's legal thrillers.

I took a job right out of high school. After a summer of running a punch press, I knew factory life wasn't for me and enrolled in Meramec Community College to study civil drafting. Having to work my way through college, I snagged a part-time job with the Corps of Engineers, where a man named J. D. Lytle saw some potential in a struggling kid and steered him into the Co-op program, and to the civil engineering curriculum at the University of Missouri - Rolla. Although I thanked him on many occasions, he touched my life in a way that I could never repay. I graduated in 1980 as a Civil/Environmental Engineer and worked in the natural gas industry until 1991, which experience plays a large part in my completed manuscript. Presently I am an Environmental Engineer for Anheuser Busch.

Many people stereotype engineers as anything but creative. I beg to differ. Just look around you. Engineers had to push the limits of creativity to bring Eero Saarinen's dream of the St. Louis Arch to fruition among other things. I am a believer in research and have spent more hours researching my novel, *A Reason For Dying*, than I spent writing it.

Since 2001, I have traveled extensively through China, a wonderful and fulfilling chapter in my life. I chronicled some of the things I experienced and sent them to my 85-year-old Aunt Mildred and my Uncle Bob, an ex-nun and ex-priest, respectively. After leaving the church, they taught at various colleges and my Uncle Bob taught English Literature and Creative Writing. They encouraged me to try my hand at writing. My uncle's advice was, "Write what you know." That was when the plot behind *A Reason For Dying* was born. Here's a brief synopsis:

Outcast FBI Agent Laura Daniels had no idea that a routine assignment to investigate the theft of low-level radiation devices would turn into a race to save the United States. *A Reason For Dying* explores what could happen if a paranoid U.S. government mistakes a deadly viral outbreak from a natural gas well for an act of terrorism.

I have a beautiful wife of 28 years, Linda, and three wonderful daughters, Kelly, Kristen and Kaitlin. In order to bring balance to the estrogen/testosterone levels in our household, I purchased a male Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier named Frasier. It wasn't long after he arrived that the imbalance was restored with a quick and painless (*Ha!*) neutering.

I placed third in the 2005 James Nash Memorial Short Story Contest with a historical short fiction piece about the Spanish flu pandemic called "In Flew Enza." Currently I am actively seeking representation or a publisher for *A Reason For Dying* and am hard at work on a second Laura Daniel novel with a working title, *A Reason For Terror*. It's a difficult task balancing more than a full-time job, a family, Mandarin Chinese lessons, and a writing career—and oh, I forgot to mention golf, my pastime.

**Read an excerpt from *A Reason for Dying*: [click here](#)**

## **Some writing credits (thus far!):**

My list of writing credits thus far is short and not very prestigious, but here it is:

- Business writing;
- Finished novel - *A Reason For Dying*
- Short Story – “In Flew Enza” - Third Place winner, 2005 James Nash Memorial Short Story Contest, hosted by St. Louis Writers Guild.
- Article – “Walk Your Way to A Better Novel” – appearing soon in the SLWG newsletter, under consideration by *Writer’s Journal* magazine, and accepted for publication recently in a local e-zine.

**Check out Will’s website: <http://webpages.charter.net/bereswill/>**

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