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Floridian Fascination

Debut novel takes readers on a fun, taut ride through Florida Keys

LAGRANGE, GA – If you're planning on reading ***The Conch Killers*** (published by Trafford Publishing) by Chip Giles, get ready for a walk on the wild side. This no-holds-barred novel forgoes conventional plots with over-the-top characters and a bawdy tone to present an adventure second-to-none and a read that's all about entertainment.

With the seductive Florida Keys as a backdrop for the majority of the pages, the story begins with an intriguing situation in Virginia. Elizabeth Forbish, the daughter of wealthy oil tycoon Bradford Wallington Forbish IV, is on a stroll with her boyfriend and bodyguard, Johnny. Suddenly, the couple is ambushed. Johnny is shot and seriously injured. Elizabeth is kidnapped.

As Johnny is recovering, he reveals he was a former special operations soldier and has ties to a secret government agent known as "Murph." The kidnappers have released their ransom demands and it requires a swap of a CD for the girl in Key West. The kidnappers turn out to be former IRA supporters who are trying to resurrect terrorism in Europe.

Murph uses his connections to bring other former special ops personnel in the Keys -- Tad and Ramon – into the situation. The former army buddies run the fledgling Conch Island Yacht Service in Key Largo, Florida. The enchanting duo agrees to help Murph, but things don't go exactly as planned.

Larger-than-life characters emerge as the plot thickens and the situation continues to heat up in the Keys. With Elizabeth still nowhere to be found and much at stake, the characters find that no good deed goes unpunished.

The real magic of the book is that it stays true to the genre of a thriller while not taking itself too seriously. It simply is there to entertain, to illustrate the beautiful, untouched tropical paradise of the Keys and to give the reader a fascinating escape. It scores on all fronts and leaves the impression the author knew exactly what a reader was looking for in a book.

Having spent part of his life in Florida, the author uses his love of the land and water to give the story a feel that's not accomplished with any ordinary setting. If the reader has not been to the Keys before beginning *The Conch Killers*, they will feel as though their toes have been in the sand and their thirst has been quenched once the final page is turned.

About the Author

Even though an avid world traveler, Mr. Giles is a child of the South and spends as much time in Key West as he can. *The Conch Killers* is his debut novel.

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