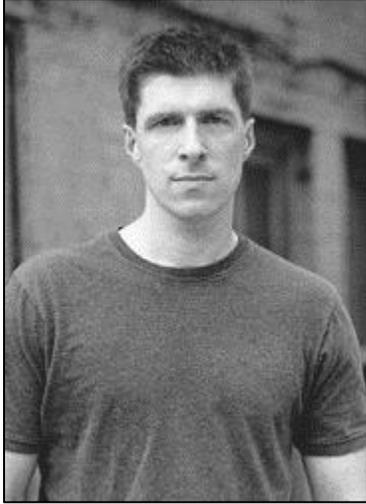


Spotlight on: Chuck Hogan

October 2016

Biography



Chuck Hogan is the *New York Times* bestselling author of five novels, as well as a screenwriter and television producer. His best-known novel *THE TOWN* was awarded the Hammett Prize for “literary excellence in the field of crime writing,” and was adapted into the hit feature film directed by Ben Affleck. His feature adaptation of *13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI* was directed by Michael Bay. He is the co-creator and executive producer, with Oscar-winning filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, of *THE STRAIN*, now in its third broadcast season on FX Networks. His non-fiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, and *ESPN The Magazine*, and his short fiction has twice been anthologized in *THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES*. He lives in Sharon, MA with his family.

[Find Chuck’s work at the Sharon Public Library!](#)

Interview

1. Obviously you are a local author in the truest sense of the word, living here in Sharon. What first brought you to the area?

I was born in Hyde Park, but my family moved to Canton when I was 5. My wife and I grew up there, but frankly never intended to stay close by. After we got married, we lived in the Back Bay, and later Chestnut Hill, but with four kids, it made sense to live near grandparents in a community with great schools.

2. The city of Boston has featured in at least some of your work. Are there any local spots or experiences from your past that particularly inspired you while considering your settings and stories?

*Lots of them, sure. *THE TOWN* is jammed with them. Fenway Park, obviously. It was a fun challenge figuring out how someone might rob it.*

3. Can you tell us a little bit about your writing process? Do you have a routine, or do you improvise as you go?

I have a routine, but it’s always evolving. I generally get up as early as I can, work out, then get to writing as soon as possible. Writing takes a lot of time, and often doesn’t look like writing. Eighty percent of my job is thinking, which is often mistaken for “Dad’s staring out the window again” or “Dad’s muttering to himself again.”

4. So there's obviously a lot of creative processing going on while you're writing. Do you ever conduct research when you're working on a project, or does most of your material spring wholly from your imagination?

It starts with imagination. Research is essential, but you can get bogged down, or, frankly, fall in to a deep researching hole because it's easier than writing. The trick about research is to use it creatively so it never sounds or feels like research.

5. Several of your works have been adapted, or were written for television or the screen. Did you find that it was challenging to adapt your work? What are the major differences between writing a book versus writing for television or film?

It is challenging, but if you have the right attitude about it – chiefly the realization that novels and movies are two entirely different things – it can be very rewarding to work both alone (novels) and in collaboration with others (film/TV). With THE STRAIN, it's been great to return to the world I helped create, while at the same time exploring completely new directions in the television adaptation of the novels. With THE TOWN, I was happy that the characters essentially made the leap from page to screen with very little compromise. There aren't many novelists who make the leap to dramatic writing, so I take a lot of pride in being able to do both.

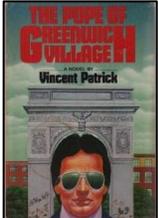
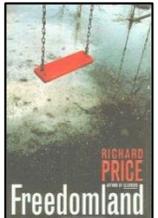
6. Both your novels and your other writing have been reviewed quite frequently. Do you generally read your reviews? Have you ever responded to them? Can you offer any words of advice to other writers about the experience of being reviewed?

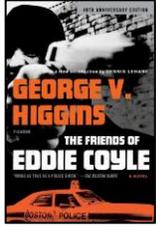
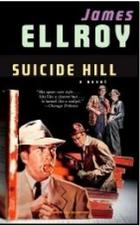
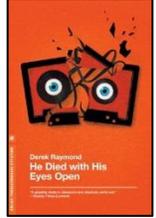
I rarely read reviews, and certainly never respond. Reviews are meant for potential readers, not authors. There is almost nothing constructive in them for me—whether a rave or the opposite.

7. Last question—what inspired you to write horror?

I've always been a fan, especially of Stephen King, who is a source of inspiration both to myself and my STRAIN co-author, Guillermo del Toro.

7 Excellent Crime Stories that Inspired THE TOWN

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|  | <p>The Pope of Greenwich Village by Vincent Patrick</p> |  | <p>Freedomland by Richard Price</p> |
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|  | <p><u>The Friends of Eddie Coyle</u> by <i>George V. Higgins</i></p> |  | <p><u>Mystic River</u> by <i>Dennis Lehane</i></p> |
|  | <p><u>The Killing</u> from the novel by <i>Lionel White</i></p> |  | <p><u>Suicide Hill</u> by <i>James Ellroy</i></p> |
|  | <p><u>He Died with His Eyes Open</u> by <i>Derek Raymond</i></p> | | |