

News

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Attorney publishes adventure story with backdrop of school integration

Enumclaw, WA—Growing up in the South in the 1970s inspired Stephen Van Zant to write his recently released young-adult novel, *Far from Good*. The question “What if the way that prejudiced adults responded to school integration ended up putting young teens in danger?” helped the Kentucky attorney craft a riveting plot.

He drew on his own childhood memories of teachers, friends, and family members and made the novel’s antagonist a junior-high coach. “I think Coach Bedford is a composite of the worst characteristics of all the football coaches I ever had,” he says. The coach’s actions begin a chain of events that send a black student to a juvenile detention facility and puts the main character, thirteen-year-old Sam Cray, in extreme danger.

The author also used his sports experience when writing scenes. During his high school years Van Zant was an all-state (honorable mention) defensive back in football. He played the role of sixth man when his basketball team won a regional tournament and went to Kentucky’s Sweet Sixteen playoffs. As an adult, he has provided color commentary during radio broadcasts for high-school basketball games.

In addition to writing a fast-paced story, Van Zant has also given the novel’s main character the task of working through his parents’ divorce and dealing with the resulting financial pressure it puts on him and his mother. Van Zant explains: “I hope readers will gain added insight about how divorce requires resolution and healing of deep issues.” He also believes that slavery has been this country’s national sin. “Even though we have made huge strides to remedy the mistake, success comes in small increments,” he says.

Stephen Van Zant is a partner in the law firm of Bell, Hess, & Van Zant, PLC. He and his wife, Kelli also co-own a 60,000-square-foot sports facility. The Van Zants have four children and live in Oldham County, Kentucky.

For more information, to request a review copy of *Far from Good*, or to schedule an interview, please contact Josiah Williams by phone at 360-802-9758, by email at josiah@winepresspublishing.com, or by fax at 360-802-9992. To purchase a copy of this book visit www.winepressbooks.com or call 877-421-7323.

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