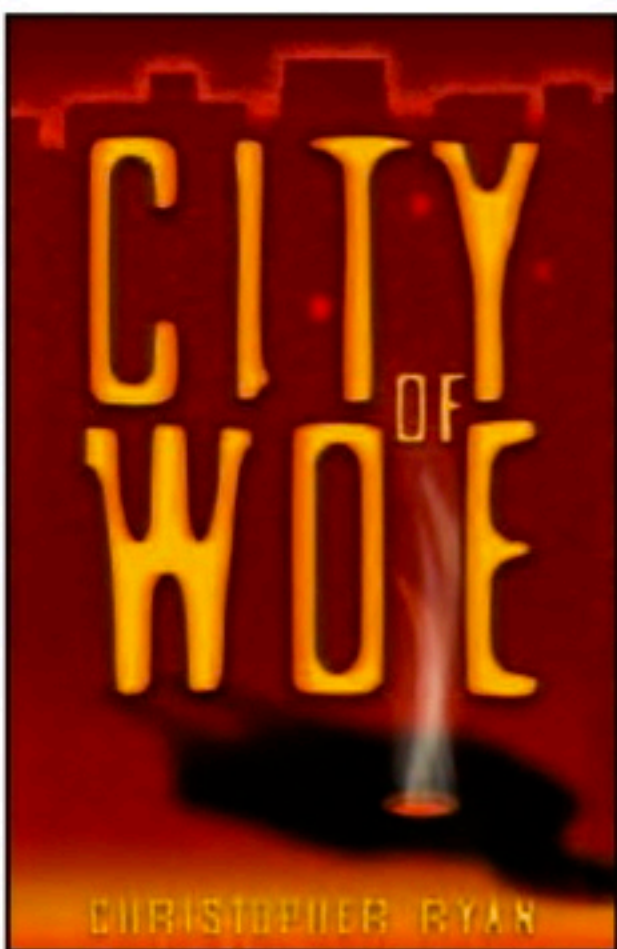


Hackensack Teacher Publishes Thriller



Christopher Ryan spent eight years as an award-winning Bronx crime and politics reporter in the 1980s and has spent the past 16 years working as a teacher at Hackensack High School. Ryan says his new book, *City of Woe*, was greatly inspired by his days as a reporter as well as his time teaching creative writing, journalism, drama and English – and especially the discussions of *The Inferno* with his students.

“Taking our annual ‘Field Trip to Hell’ with my beloved seniors honed my knowledge of Dante’s masterpiece. The debates on moral priorities always thrilled me, and their struggle to embrace the older cadences of the work inspired me to want to see a modern teaser that might interest people in this classic piece of literature,” Ryan

says. “I owe my students at least a fun read for all those years of inspiring me.”

Ryan’s debut novel concerns Paul Farrington – a veteran fixer for a shady corporation – who is targeted for murder just as he’s trying to finance his daughter’s Ivy League education. How far will he go to provide for his family and keep them safe?

Meanwhile, Detectives Frank Mallory and Alberto “Gunner” Gennaro are forced to play catch up with a killer – possibly a demon – who leaves evidence at each meticulously detailed murder scene that pay homage to Dante’s classic *The Inferno*.

A harrowing journey unfolds throughout the 327-page novel that reveals connections between the detectives and Farrington, dripping with inspiration from the author’s first-hand knowledge of the NYPD, literary classics, and rock and roll.

“The goal is to thrill first and then challenge readers to consider what they believe,” says Ryan.

Ryan comes from a family of NYPD alum. His father spent 28 years as an officer and sergeant in the South Bronx, his brother - a 20-year veteran - worked as a detective, and his cousin retired

as a captain, garnering him with an intimate knowledge of the NYPD and the world of crime.

“It is sort of the family business,” Ryan says.

City of Woe is truly a page turner, a classic detective novel with a twist.

The detectives are written in such a way that the reader expects to run into them on the streets. Ryan not only writes about his characters but also brings them to life. The banter between the detectives is sharp and witty. The reader is immediately endeared to the two detectives, although many of their qualities are unappealing. The book begins with a seemingly normal day for the detectives, a strange case, but a murder nonetheless. Ryan manages to draw the reader in as the characters and the case unfolds, giving just enough information to keep the reader engaged in the story.

While on the hunt for the killer, Ryan throws in a twist. The detectives must question their own religious faith as well as try to expand their horizons to believe in the unbelievable. *City of Woe* is thrilling. It keeps the reader engaged throughout. The unlikely twist should have been out of place, but Ryan is able to merge the everyday of a murder with the supernatural.

Ryan is the founder of Seamus and Nunzio Productions, along with his wife, Tina. The New Jersey-based production company is the hub for the family’s creative pursuits, including “Zombies of New Milford,” an independent comedy currently in post-production. He earned his MA in English/Creative Writing at Rutgers University and received the university’s English Award for Highest Distinction in Literary Studies for his master’s thesis – an earlier draft of *City of Woe*.

City of Woe (Mallory and Gunner Series) is currently available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com in digital form (\$2.99), and on Amazon.com in print form (\$9.99).


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your family and friends to our

3RD ANNUAL LIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2012 - 2:30 P.M.

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This non-denominational Candle Lighting Memorial Service is held in celebration of the loved ones we have all lost. To reserve a Candle for your Loved One or Friend contact the Vander Plaat Aftercare Coordinators at 201-843-3100 by September 30th.

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