

May 1, 2007

Dear Editor:

Thank you for taking the time to review the enclosed packet for *The Monk's Son*, author W. R. Wilkerson's coming-of-age story of Michael and Steven set in 1960s London.

But *The Monk's Son* is more than that. It's also a tale of pain and pleasure, religion and desire—the thought-provoking story of the complex bond between these very different men—one an irreverent heroin addict, the other a monk—and their shared search for peace, whether in God's house of worship or in the strength of friendship.

In its five-star review, *Foreword Clarion* said that “Wilkerson's current novel is first-class in style and unique in its portrayal of good versus evil.” And *Kirkus Discoveries* noted that this “entertaining and emotionally raw” book “offers an intriguing glimpse into the inner lives of these two uncompromising men.”

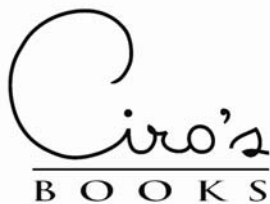
The Monk's Son explores the powerful alchemy of love in a gripping story that takes place in two parallel worlds—one sacred and one profane. It will both break your heart and lift your spirit.

I'll follow up with you soon regarding reviewing *The Monk's Son* in your publication. In the meantime, enclosed are a copy of the book and some background materials. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Stein' in a cursive, flowing script.

Jennifer S. Stein
media@cirosbooks.com
(410) 602-9220



FROM THE ASHES OF A SHATTERED LIFE—AN UNLIKELY REDEMPTION

Southwest England, 1940. Pausing to gather medicinal herbs in a field belonging to his abbey, the Order of St. Martin, an apothecary monk named Dominic hears the cries of a newborn. Considering this a second chance given to him by God, Dominic successfully petitions his abbot to let him raise the boy within the confines of the monastery. Steven grows into young adulthood beloved by everyone, for even though the monks eschew the concerns of the outside world, they each find they have a place in their hearts for a child's love.

In *The Monk's Son*, his quiet yet compelling novel, W. R. Wilkerson III explores the interconnected lives of Steven, the ward of the abbey who has never known any other life, and Michael, the talented artist with a hatred for authority who descends into his own personal hell, from which only Steven can rescue him. Through the lens of this unlikely friendship, the book explores love, revenge, art, religion and spirit; the true meaning of family; and the tensions between the sacred and the profane, the worldly and the isolated.

Michael—a brash and troubled youth—first comes to the monastery as a wartime orphan at the age of sixteen. That's when Steven, then a thoughtful and pious young man of sixteen, meets this young artist, who will test his faith and torment his soul. A midnight encounter between the two results in Steven's attempted suicide, but Steven recovers under the skilled eye of his adoptive father, Brother Dominic.

Michael leaves the monastery to study art at London's prestigious Royal Academy. But after a disastrous romance, he loses his ambition and abandons his studies. His life takes darker and darker turns as he deteriorates into drug addiction and a life of crime on the streets.

Meanwhile, Steven derives strength and meaning from the monastic life. Nurtured by the spiritual and intellectual passion of a community built on faith, he takes his vows and follows in Dominic's footsteps to become a doctor.

When at last Michael's world spirals out of control, he returns to the monastery in despair. When the man of faith and the criminal meet again, Steven weaves a complex web of spiritual, emotional, and physical supports that offer Michael his only hope—but at a deadly price.

The Monk's Son explores the classic struggle of good versus evil in an intricate story of a controversial friendship. A heady mix of religion and desire, *The Monk's Son* is a beautiful and triumphant coming-of-age story whose hypnotic power and heart-wrenching conclusion will haunt readers long after they turn the final page.

(continued on page 2)

Anyone who has ever questioned, sought faith, found respite in nature, or struggled back from the brink will find this book intriguing and entertaining. This emotionally powerful novel proves W. R. Wilkerson as a perceptive, talented writer.

PRAISE FOR *THE MONK'S SON*

“. . . echoes of Hermann Hesse's *Narcissus and Goldmund* . . . the provocative descriptions anchor the tale firmly . . . serene prose, charged action, and sensuality of characters . . . the author offers an intriguing glimpse into the inner lives of two uncompromising men. Entertaining and emotionally raw.”
—*Kirkus Discoveries*

“Wilkerson's emotional novel underlines how an accomplished writer can turn even the most charged of subjects into a compelling, inclusive, and readable story . . . first-class in style and unique in its portrayal of good versus evil. Although graphically descriptive at times, the sex, drugs, and associated violence are never gratuitous. *The Monk's Son* illuminates with its treatment of human issues and motivations, and the tragic illustration of how “from great hell comes paradise.”
—*ForeWord CLARION Five Star Review*

“Moving and compelling.”

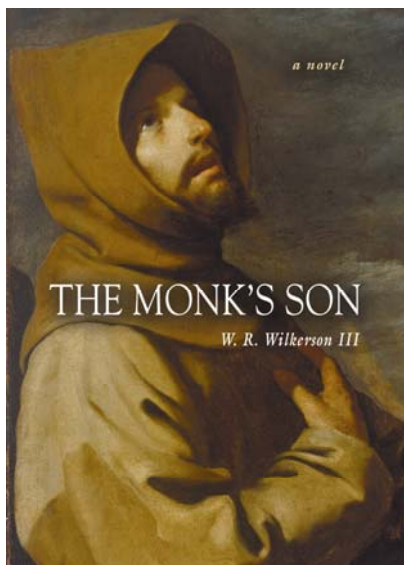
—**Sheila Weller**, author,
*Dancing at Ciro's: A Family's Love, Loss,
and Scandal on the Sunset Strip*

“Many moments of delight and insight into the human soul . . . Bravo, Mr. Wilkerson”

—**Cup 'O Books**

“Beautifully crafted language, poignant characters and themes . . . a guiding example for writers on how to craft a vivid tale.”

—**BookLoons Reviews**



MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Advance galley mailing ▪ National print and online media campaign ▪
Online media outreach at www.TheMonksSon.com

Category: Fiction ▪ ISBN: 978-0-9676643-1-6 ▪ Pub. Date: May 2007 ▪
Trim: 6 x 9 ▪ Pages: 280 ▪ Price: U.S. \$15.95 Trade Paper



MEDIA CONTACT

Jennifer Stein

410.602.9220 (P)

410.602.9227 (F)

info@cirosbooks.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

W. R. Wilkerson III comes from an illustrious publishing family, and he is a published journalist, author, and songwriter as well. His father, Billy Wilkerson, started *The Hollywood Reporter* in 1930—the daily trade paper that quickly became the most powerful news organ in the entertainment industry. Wilkerson followed in his father's footsteps in January of 2000 when he wrote his first book, *The Man Who Invented Las Vegas* (Ciro's Books). His other titles include *All-American Ads of the 40s*, edited by Jim Heimann (Taschen, 2002), *Las Vegas Vintage Graphics* (Taschen, 2003), and most recently, *How Would You Vote If You Were Allowed To?* (Ciro's Books, 2006). Wilkerson currently resides with his son in the state of Washington.

PRAISE FOR W. R. WILKERSON III

"Willie Wilkerson III is a gem of a writer . . . a gem of a book!"

—Robert Lacey, historian and bestselling author

"W. R. Wilkerson III effectively paints the portrait of a man . . . the writing is unadorned . . . the subject and narrative are interesting . . . a compelling drama."

—*The Hollywood Reporter*

"Wilkerson III writes quite well, and the book is worth the attention of those interested in history."

—*The Palm Beach Post*