

## Q & A

**Q.** What excites you most about your book's topic? Why did you choose it?

**A.** It's an inside look at the fashion industry from a perspective not usually found in novels by someone who spent almost thirty years working in it. One of the highlights of my career was the time spent in the development and marketing of Opium perfume by Yves Saint Laurent. During this period I was faced with many unusual business situations with which I had to contend. I thought there was an interesting story here, but by itself not one to be the subject of an entire novel. So I created this fictitious perfume, Orgasme, and then conflated different characters that I had met over the years and circumstances beyond those solely related to Opium, to build the story that had Orgasme, the perfume, as the binding element.

**Q.** Was your book written entirely from experience, or did you do any research?

**A.** For the most part I wrote from experience buttressed by a vivid imagination, but for certain topics with which I was unfamiliar, I did do research; for example, the effects of alcoholism and drug use on one of the principal characters, the designer, Jean-Pierre Armand, and how it is treated by a psychiatrist. Of course I did have some help with the latter from my wife, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice in New York City.

**Q.** What can we look forward to in your next book?

**A.** My second book, *Silent Partners*, includes several characters that play important roles in *Orgasme*, but introduces a famous Italian fashion designer Giorgio Donati, who is assassinated outside his brownstone home in New York City. Once again the reader gets to look behind the curtain and observe how different personalities interact with each other and a New York City Detective Frank Egan as he traverses an unfamiliar landscape to identify Donati's killer. As the story unfolds and the list of suspects is narrowed down, the most obvious are guilty, but not necessarily of murder.

**Q.** Is this book based on the murder of the Italian designer Gianni Versace?

**A.** *Silent Partners* draws its premise from the sudden and disturbing murder of the Italian designer Gianni Versace; however its characters are conflated from different persons I had met over the years and circumstances totally unrelated to that incident.

**Q.** What do you hope your readers will gain from reading your books?

**A.** First and foremost I would hope they find each story an enjoyable read as in different ways they present a unique combination of subject matter not ordinarily found in fiction today, while opening the back door to an industry and the celebrities that bring it to life. And for those interested in fragrance, the fictional narrative provides a fairly accurate description of how a fragrance is developed and marketed.

Robert H Miller is the author of *Orgasme . . . Made in France* and *Silent Partners*. To learn more about Bob, visit [www.rhmilller.com](http://www.rhmilller.com)