



Author Bio for Rich Zahradnik

Rich Zahradnik is writing the Coleridge Taylor Mystery series for Camel Press. The first book, *Last Words*, was published Oct. 1, 2014, and the second, *Drop Dead Punk*, comes out Aug. 15.

Last Words won Honorable Mention for mystery in Foreword Reviews' IndieFab Book of the Year Awards and Bronze Medal for mystery/thriller ebook in the IPPYs. It was also a Finalist in the mystery category of the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

Before taking up fiction full time, Zahradnik was a journalist for 30-plus years, working as a reporter and editor in all major news media, including online, newspaper, broadcast, magazine and wire services.

Zahradnik held editorial positions at CNN, Bloomberg News, Fox Business Network, AOL and *The Hollywood Reporter*, often writing news stories and analysis about the journalism business, broadcasting, film production, publishing and the online industry. In January 2012, he was one of 20 writers selected for the inaugural class of the Crime Fiction Academy, a first-of-its-kind program run by New York's Center for Fiction.

He has been a media entrepreneur throughout his career. He was founding executive producer of CNNfn.com, a leading financial news website and a Webby winner. He also co-founded the weekly newspaper *The Peekskill Herald* at the age of 25, leading it to seven state press association awards in its first three years.

Zahradnik was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, and received his B.A. in journalism and political science from George Washington University. He lives with his wife, Sheri, and son, Patrick, in Pelham, New York, where he teaches elementary school kids how to publish online and print newspapers.

He is available for readings and signings as well as talks and Q&As on mystery, crime, journalism and the history of newspapers.

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