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Camel Press Announces the October Release of *Lights Out Summer*, by Rich Zahradnik: City in the Dark

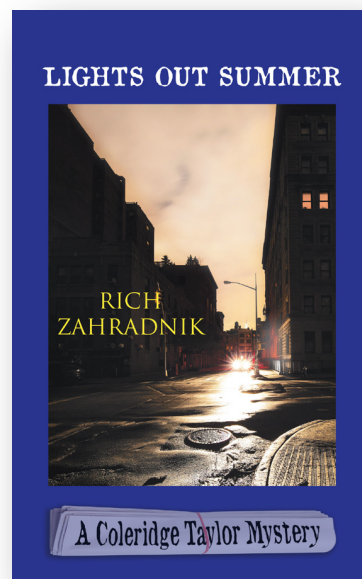
Seattle, WA—In the summer of 1977, New York City is cast into darkness. And Son of Sam isn't the only killer in town.

On October 1, 2017, Camel Press will release *Lights Out Summer* (\$15.95, 296 pages, ISBN: 978-1-60381-213-9), by Rich Zahradnik, book four of a mystery/thriller series featuring newsman Coleridge Taylor and set on the mean streets of Manhattan and surrounding boroughs in the '70s. While the rest of the media pursues the Son of Sam story in the spring and summer of '77, Taylor investigates a murder that happened the same night as one of the serial killer's attacks. The story will take him places he's never gone before, including into Park Avenue society and onto the streets during a blackout when the city endures massive looting.

Book 1, *Last Words*, won Honorable Mention in the mystery category of *ForeWord Magazine's* 2014 Book of the Year Contest, was a Bronze Medal winner in the mystery/thriller eBook division of the 2015 IPPY Awards, and a finalist in the mystery division of the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. *ForeWord* called it: "A fast-paced, deeply entertaining and engrossing novel."

Book 2, *Drop Dead Punk*, was a finalist in *ForeWord Magazine's* 2015 Book of the Year Contest, a Gold Medal winner in the mystery/thriller Ebook division of the 2016 IPPY Awards, and a finalist in the mystery division of the 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. *RT Reviews* wrote, "Hours of engrossing entertainment [...] A thoroughly satisfying read."

Book 3, *A Black Sail*, earned a starred review in *Library Journal*: "Fans of the late Barbara D'Amato and Bruce DeSilva will relish this gritty and powerful crime novel." It is also a finalist in *ForeWord's* 2016 Book of the Year Contest.



In March 1977, ballistics link murders going back six months to the same Charter Arms Bulldog .44. A serial killer, Son of Sam, is on the loose. But Coleridge Taylor can't compete with the armies of reporters fighting New York's tabloid war—only rewrite what they get. Constantly on the lookout for victims who need their stories told, he uncovers other killings being ignored because of the media circus. He goes after one, the story of a young Black woman gunned down in her apartment building the same night Son of Sam struck elsewhere in Queens.

The story entangles Taylor with a wealthy Park Avenue family at war with itself. Just as he's closing in on the killer and his scoop, the July 13-14 blackout sends New York into a 24-hour orgy of looting and destruction. Taylor and his PI girlfriend Samantha Callahan head out into the darkness, where a steamy night of mob violence awaits them.

In the midst of the chaos, a suspect in Taylor's story goes missing. Desperate, he races to a confrontation that will either break the story—or Taylor.

Says Zahradnik, "As Taylor enters 1977, I knew there were two major crime stories I could not ignore—the serial killer Son of Sam and the looting and rioting during the mid-July blackout. Taylor, of course, can't pursue the Son of Sam case as his story in the book. The detectives who broke that case are a matter of historical record. But I wanted Taylor to dance in and out of the tabloid frenzy that surrounded the forty-four caliber killer, particularly as it was the year Rupert Murdoch took over the *New York Post*. So Taylor does what he always does best, he finds a victim the rest of press are ignoring, a victim whose story needs to be told. The blackout was a bit easier to work in, as I could portray those terrible hours—the moment when New York really hit bottom—by reading the news stories and history books and having Taylor observe the destruction."

Rich Zahradnik has been 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. He lives with his wife, Sheri, and son, Patrick, in Pelham, New York, where he teaches kids how to publish online and print newspapers. For more information, go to www.richzahradnik.com.

Lights Out Summer is currently available for pre-order on Amazon.com. After October 1st, it will also be for sale in both eBook and 5x8 trade paperback editions on BN.com, the European Amazons, Amazon Japan and select independent bookstores. Bookstores and libraries will be able to order wholesale through Ingram, Baker & Taylor, or by contacting orders@epicenterpress.com. Libraries can also order from Brodart Company. Other electronic versions will be available on BN.com, Kobo, and eBooks.

ABOUT Camel Press—Based in Seattle Washington, Camel Press is an imprint of Coffeetown Enterprises, Inc. We publish genre fiction: romance, mystery/suspense, science fiction, and fantasy—the books that grab you and hold you in their grip long into the night.

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