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## About Doug M. Cummings

Author of *Every Secret Crime*



Before becoming a full-time writer, Doug M. Cummings worked both sides of the crime scene tape first as a deputy sheriff and then as an investigative reporter, most recently at WGN. With over 30 years of broadcasting experience under his belt, he's developed a knack for crafting compelling stories.

"I always loved the challenge of describing an exciting story with word pictures that brought the listener to the scene," says Cummings. "And on top of that, I've seen so many bizarre things: vicious crimes, tragedy, good and bad cops, unusual people."

Drawing from his professional experiences, Cummings created his series character Reno McCarthy, a street smart TV reporter who made his debut in Cummings' critically acclaimed novel *Deader by the Lake*. In *Every Secret Crime*

(Five Star, June 2008, 978-1-59414-665-7, \$25.95), McCarthy returns after a homicide rocks wealthy Chicago suburb, Falcon Ridge. When the 17-year-old son of celebrity attorneys is found shot to death just outside his bedroom door, the police rush to the scene - and while there, conduct a bizarre investigation. McCarthy suspects a cover-up, and endeavors to find the real killer without police help. As he gets closer to discovering the truth, the killer gets closer to him - and aims to make McCarthy's next TV shot his last.

Cummings became a TV news photographer at 18 when he was starting college at Washburn University of Topeka. He received his BA in Communication Arts/Radio, and at 21, became a deputy sheriff. In 1981, Cummings received his MA in Public Affairs Reporting from the University of Illinois-Springfield and picked back up in the media world. He worked as an anchor, reporter, and talk show host in Kansas, Missouri, and downstate Illinois before finally settling in Chicago. There, he spent the next 17 years working as a crime reporter, first at WMAQ radio and then at WGN radio.

"I found a real passion for news-radio in the days when it, rather than television, was the fastest way to provide information about a breaking story," says Cummings. Indeed, that passion became a signature of Cummings' reporting: during his tenure at WMAQ and WGN, he received awards for his coverage of dozens of stories including murders, train crashes, fires, school shootings, and tornadoes. He was the first reporter on the scene at the now-infamous 1993 Browns Chicken massacre in Palatine, Illinois, and his reports have been heard on every major network.

After retiring from WGN last year, Doug is now a full-time writer. He lives in Chicago with his cat Socks-Monster, Feline Action Hero, who enjoys a cameo role in *Every Secret Crime*.

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To request a copy of *Every Secret Crime*, or to set up an interview with Doug M. Cummings, please contact Tolly Moseley at (512) 478-2028 ext. 213 or [tmoseley@phenixpublicity.com](mailto:tmoseley@phenixpublicity.com).

