

MEDIA RELEASE:

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For Immediate Release:

William Parker's debut novel, *The House Martin*, released by Eirini Press

Eirini Press has released first-time novelist William Parker's *The House Martin* to enthusiastic reviews. A coming of age story set in an English prep school, the protagonist tries to come to terms with his mother's alcoholism and his favorite teacher's downfall with no one to guide him. Despite the subject matter, this is a loving treatment of a child's struggles.

Will Self, novelist and commentator, called it: "bubbly, haunting and oddly affecting."

Elizabeth Day, feature writer of the Observer, wrote: "[Parker] gets into a child's mind, seeing things he does not understand fully and yet tries to make sense of, trying desperately to protect the people he loves..."

William Parker was born in Newport, Wales and spent his early childhood in the Middle East. He attended schools in Gloucestershire and Wales before studying drama at the Guildford School of Acting. William spent 20 years acting, including a season at The Royal National Theatre, two national tours of Peter Pan, a production of Hair at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket in the West End, in addition to three seasons in repertory theatre and many supporting roles in TV and film. He is now happily settled into a part time job—off stage—with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group, which gives him time to pursue his interest in writing. He has a nine-year old son and lives in London.

Synopsis: Ben is learning to keep secrets. No one must know about his mother and her addiction to sherry. No one must know about the bedwetting that so bewilders him. And no one must ever know about the blue folder that he'd stumbled across in Stuart England's car at the end of the previous term. Stuart England is the charismatic young master—not long down from Oxford—who makes life possible for Ben in the emotionally sterile environment of his prep school in Gloucestershire. This is the story of Ben's long struggle to be free of the demons that have chased him since childhood. Will he ever find the courage, like the house martins that fly high above the school, to accept life on life's terms?

Keywords: alcoholism, recovery, coming of age, homosexuality

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Listed on Bowker, Amazon. Wholesale orders: Baker and Taylor

For a review copy, please contact Denise Meyer (203-458-1321 or dlmeyer@snet.net).

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