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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release
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Former Reporter Details Journey from the Star-Ledger to Mystery Novelist at Newark Public Library Event



Former Star-Ledger reporter Brad Parks put his newspaper career behind him in 2008 to devote full time to writing mysteries that take place in a city he spent 10 years covering—Newark, New Jersey. His debut novel, *Faces of the Gone*, the first in a series featuring investigative reporter Carter Ross, is due out from St. Martin's Press next month.

Parks will launch his new book and detail the journey that took him from being a journalist to a novelist, in "An Evening with Brad Parks: The Power of Storytelling," presented by the Newark Public Library, Thursday, December 10 at 6 p.m. The event, which will take place in the Library's second floor Centennial Hall, is co-sponsored by the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience (IECME), Rutgers-Newark. Following his comments, the author will autograph and sell copies of the book.

"Brad Parks' years as a distinguished *Star Ledger* reporter were very well spent, said Dr. Clement A. Price, a Library trustee and executive director of the Institute. "He came to know of Newark's contemporary history, the city's complicated and sometimes off-putting cadence, and most especially, the on-the-edge existence of many city residents. *Faces of the Gone* will further underscore Newark's centrality in the imagination of immensely talented American writers."

Drawing from his own experience as a journalist, Parks presents *Newark Eagle-Examiner* investigative reporter Carter Ross faced with a quadruple murder. It's a front page story; four bodies found in a weed-choked vacant lot. The police have no leads, but Ross discovers that the four victims have a connection, which puts him on the path of an ambitious killer.

"The inspiration for *Faces of the Gone* is a real-life quadruple homicide I covered for *The Star-Ledger* that took place over Thanksgiving weekend in Newark in 2004," explains Parks. "Newark is a natural place to set a crime novel, because obviously some bad things happen there, but what really fascinates me is how the good people living there deal with—and overcome—those bad things. Their strength is one of the main threads in my fiction."

"I spent 10 years as a reporter in Newark and came to love the city's history, character and people. It's a place with so much energy and character, and it really loads up a writer's toolbox with possibilities," he said.

Parks second book in the Carter Ross series, *Eyes of the Innocent*, is due out in 2010.

Mark Di Ionno, *The Star-Ledger* columnist and former editor under whom Parks worked, will introduce the author. Di Ionno will talk about Parks' experience as a journalist at both *The Washington Post* and New Jersey's largest newspaper, noting his transition from sports writer to news feature writer.

Library Director Wilma Grey said she is "delighted" that the Library is hosting the debut of Park's new book. "Brad is a talented writer who entertains us through a great story set in Newark without minimizing the negative realities it shares with other major urban cities. But at the same, it is refreshing to know that his story also conveys the strength, tenacity and triumphant spirit of Newark's citizens."

The program is free and open to the public. The Newark Public Library is located at 5 Washington Street in downtown Newark. For more information, please call 973-733-7793 or log on to rsvp@npl.org to reserve a spot for the program.