

Debut Novel By National-Award-Winning Journalist Reflects On Importance Of Newspapers As Watchdogs, And The Erosion Of Societal Ethics

National award-winning writer TJ Sullivan's debut novel, "Boon," is set for release Feb. 16, 2010.

A journalist for more than 20 years, Sullivan has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *NBC Universal*, among others. He's a former staffer at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, *The Albuquerque Tribune*, and the *Ventura County (CA) Star*, and has received many national and state honors, including the prestigious Sigma Delta Chi Award, which was presented in 2002 for work published in 2001.

Sullivan's novel, "Boon," which will be available in paperback, hardcover and several eBook formats, tells the witty, suspense-filled tale of a newspaper reporter's forlorn attempt to purchase her first home in the suburbs of Los Angeles, and the subsequent downward spiral that forces her to reconsider her belief in the American dream.

The protagonist — a woman named Jake — is the very model of a moralistic reporter, an individual who still believes that truth is synonymous with justice, not to mention her dedication to the notion that hard work and honesty are the surest paths to success. Jake maintains and defends her faith against all odds, at least until her repeated attempts to buy a house begin to challenge her personal and professional ethics. The tenets of the American dream seem to be eroding around her. Even people Jake admires behave as though they've given up hope, as though success itself has suddenly become more important than how it's achieved. Jake goes along only to prove the error of their ways, but ends up entangling herself in a scandal instead. To make matters worse, a sycophantic co-worker who bakes sweets to gain favor, clearly has designs on both Jake's job, and her husband. Doing the right thing has never been so difficult for Jake. It could destroy her whole life — her marriage, her career, her reputation. Keeping her mouth shut, however, might just get her that house she's always wanted, and a chance to start a family of her own. All it takes is the ability to live a lie.

Sullivan spent 15 of his 20 years in journalism as a full-time reporter in the newsrooms and bureaus of daily newspapers in the West. He continues to write as an independent journalist, and to opine on the industry at LAObserved.com. He has regularly stressed the importance of professionally trained and ethically bound journalists to democracy. To that end, he spearheaded the widely publicized *KnowNewspapers* effort in February 2009 to raise public awareness about the value of American newspapers as watchdogs. The effort concluded in July 2009, but the associated Web site remains online at KnowNewspapersPetition.com.

Please contact the author directly regarding interviews, background information, requests for high-resolution jpegs, etc... Sullivan can be reached at TJ@TJSullivanLA.com. Also visit Sullivan's Web site at TJSullivanLA.com. The official Web site for the novel "Boon" is also online at WhatTheBoon.com.

