

A CONVERSATION with PAUL BATISTA about *MANHATTAN LOCKDOWN*

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF, HOW AND WHEN YOU STARTED WRITING.

I have always had an interest in writing. In fact, I selected Bowdoin College from any other opportunities because both Longfellow and Hawthorne are Bowdoin graduates. During college I was a summer intern and reporter for the Washington Post. During the course of my practice of law, I have published articles on the Op-Ed page of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The National Law Journal*. I wrote the first and still-bestselling treatise on the federal racketeering law. About ten years ago, I decided to combine my interest in writing, my experience as a criminal defense lawyer, and my imagination to produce novels.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE YOUR NOVEL?

I wanted to write a “very big” and exciting book about the terrorist threat to the United States. I also very much write to entertain myself and, more importantly, to entertain as many readers as possible. I am always so pleased when a random person says he or she loved one of my novels.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE OR MOST SYMPATHETIC CHARACTER? AND WHY?

Gina Carbone, the first female police commissioner of New York City and a very powerful, ruthless, successful woman.

WHO IS YOUR LEAST SYMPATHIC CHARACTER? AND WHY?

Tony Garafalo, Gina Carbone’s lover, who secretly betrays her by divulging extremely sensitive information to a reporter for the *New York Times*.

WHAT PART OF WRITING YOUR BOOK DID YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING?

None. Writing it was a pleasure.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE THAT READERS WILL TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR BOOK?

A sense of “wow, that was great.”

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE ABOUT WRITING THAT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Just sit down and do it.

WHAT IS THE WORST PIECE OF ADVICE ABOUT WRITING THAT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Believing there is such a thing as writer's block.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU? ANY NEW BOOKS IN THE PIPELINE?

I am writing a new novel based on the lead character in *The Borzoi Killings*, Raquel Rematti, one of the two or three greatest criminal defense lawyers in the U.S.