

## **Fiction trumps reality**

IUPUI alumnus Kevin Surface takes you to Cuba in the 50s to follow a boy who becomes an assassin, in his thriller *The Cuban Connection*.

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## **Transcript**

[K. Surface] When I graduated from school and went from fiction--non fiction to fiction, rather--I had always had an interest in the thriller type of books--a heady political, espionage and conspiracy to it. One of the authors I read when I was in high school and younger was Robert Ludlum, and I had read all his works and I had wanted to do a book like that, that had suspense, an edge-of-the-seat read, that had an assassin in it maybe, that had some real life political espionage in it. So I kind of mirrored it after that, but I wanted it to be a little easier to read than he was, and make it exciting and have the person guessing on every page.

The book is called *The Cuban Connection* and it's published by AuthorHouse, and we've had some success with it. It's a suspense thriller, along the lines of Robert Ludlum, and it's kind of like *The Bourne Identity* series, and--the movie's out, *The Bourne Ultimatum*--and I kind of mirrored it like that. It's about a young boy who grows up in Cuba in 1958, and his family's very wealthy, and it's about the struggle when Castro takes over and what happens to his family, and the boy's whisked off the island and 20 years later it fast forwards to the second part of the book and the second part of the book you have the Mafia, the CIA, the FBI, the KGB, and this boy's an assassin for hire and it's about his chase to make a hit on Fidel Castro.

If somebody came to me and said "Kevin, I'm thinking about writing a book. Should I? Or how do I do it and what can you tell me or what advice can you give me?" First I would tell them, first of all, don't even start to write unless your passion is so strong that no matter what you read, no matter what you look at, no matter who says, oh the traditional publications thing, people--the naysayers--"you'll never get it done, you'll never write a bestseller, the odds are like getting hit by lightning and winning the lottery in the same day, you can't do it, nobody does it, it's one in a million." So, don't get started, unless you just love to write and you don't care about any of that stuff, but don't get started, unless you've got this passion, and this dream, that no matter what anybody says, that it'll happen. And then the rest of it is just hard work, and it's a learning curve. You've got to be patient and you've got to work your butt off, explore all your options, and seek a lot of counseling and a lot of advice from people in the business and anybody you can think of and just pick their brain. So it's a long hard road, but it can happen and there is a great amount of satisfaction when it does.