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**Author Connections**

Now lives in Dallas, TX

Author lived in Boston, MA, obtaining

BA, Northeastern University (1988)

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1

**Bancroft Press**

PO Box 65360

Baltimore, MD 21209-9945

410-358-0658

800-637-7377

fax: 410-764-1967

bruceb@bancroftpress.com

www.bancroftpress.com



## Thanksgiving at the Inn

By Tim Whitney

### BOOK SUMMARY

Tells the story of Heath Wellington III, a young boy whose life is changed when forced to take over his family's rural Massachusetts farm and bed and breakfast, alongside his father, Junior, after the death of the grandfather he barely remembers. Leaving behind a stressful, unhappy life in New Jersey, Heath and Junior confront their strained relationship and Heath Senior's death with the help of the Sleeping Inn's quirky residents—an old Jamaican preacher, a tattooed grease monkey-turned-children's book author, an elderly widow with a fortune to give away, and a mousy TV news junkie.

### SALES HANDLE

- *Thanksgiving at the Inn*, a story of family and forgiveness, is a wonderfully inspirational and remarkably innocent book, which is rare in YA nowadays.
- Pre-publication praise is extensive, most notably from John Klawitter, former longtime Disney Executive and Editor-In-Chief of *Hollywood Havoc Book Report*. "Told through the eyes of young Heath, this is a story of family values, of coming together, and of learning life lessons too easily forgotten in the bustle of the computer age. It has the warmth of a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, and the feel of a timeless classic."

### MARKETING/ PUBLICITY

- To be reviewed by *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *VOYA*, among other trade review publications.
- Author and book featured on TheNextBigWriter.com, where the book was workshopped, receiving over 1,200 favorable reviews and reaching #7 on top ten novels list.
- Author and book also being featured by Cheverus HS *Alumni Magazine* and *Northeastern University Alumni Magazine*, and newspapers *The Greenfield Recorder* and *Dallas Morning News*, among others.
- Pitching to Yankee Candle and Hallmark Cards for holiday chain placement at register or as part of holiday gift baskets.
- Author will donate books to the troops overseas for Thanksgiving.
- Author has set up own website (timcwhitney.com) and a site especially for the book (Thanksgivingattheinn.com). Will use site to do blogging. Site will also include book excerpts, video journal entries, a video interview, and video book trailer.
- Kindle edition already available.
- As an internationally recognized manufacturing consultant and operations executive, Author is an engaging speaker, and arranging to give talks at national chain bookstores; K-12 schools, public, private, and parochial; and especially Jesuit schools, of which Author is a prominent graduate.
- Also to be reviewed by approximately 50 YA bloggers, generating a likely 20,000 entries by publication date.
- Ad to run in *VOYA* and *Booklist*
- Publicity for 1 month before and one month after publication being handled by Ascot Media Group.
- Author and Publisher sponsoring Internet contest to win free copies by answering this question: "What three things are you most thankful for?"
- Press kit, including make your own turkey arts and craft set, recipes, a Yankee candle, and 5 reasons why recipients will be thankful they read the book, to be placed in a holiday basket and sent to websites and various publications asking that book be included in media's holiday gift guides.
- Making deals with gift basket companies and national craft store chains to include book in Thanksgiving baskets.
- Asking holiday-themed gift sites, such as gifts.com, theholidayspot.com, bethanyroberts.com, kaboose.com, shopwiki.com, and others to carry book
- Getting placement in grocery stores (Superfresh, Kroger, Publix, Giant, Big Y) with Thanksgiving section or near area where turkeys bought. Proposed offering: if person buys book, they receive discount on turkey or vice versa. Or anyone who buys a turkey could enter to win a free book.
- Promoting book clubs use throughout year, but especially for November.