

# BILL PESCHEL

AUTHOR, EDITOR, PUBLISHER

MEDIA KIT, 2018



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# SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Bill Peschel is a former journalist who shares a Pulitzer Prize with the staff of *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg, Pa. He is also a mystery fan who runs the Wimsey Annotations at Planetpeschel.com.

The author of *Writers Gone Wild* (2010, Penguin), he publishes through Peschel Press the 223B Casebook Series of Sherlockian parodies and pastiches and annotated editions of Dorothy L. Sayers' *Whose Body?* and Agatha Christie's *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* and *The Secret Adversary*. An interest in Victorian crime led to the republication of three books on the William Palmer poisoning case.

Peschel was born in Warren, Ohio, grew up in Charlotte, N.C., and graduated with a B.A. in journalism from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He lives with his family and animal menagerie in Hershey, where the air really does smell like chocolate.

# LONG BIOGRAPHY

All his life, Bill Peschel has had a passion for asking why and finding answers. It is a quest that has taken him into journalism, historical research, a non-fiction book about the success and failures of notable authors, and as publisher of Victorian true-crime, Sherlockian parodies and pastiches, and the mystery novels of Dorothy L. Sayers and Agatha Christie.

Peschel was born in Warren, Ohio, the son of a steel company worker who in 1970 moved his family to North Carolina. In high school in Charlotte, N.C., Bill was enrolled in an open high school that experimented with alternative means of learning and was exposed to the works of Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Tolkien, and Eldridge Cleaver. He decided to be a reporter after internships at *The Charlotte Observer* and *The Charlotte News*.

He attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for three years, taking classes in history, political science, and drinking, wrote and edited stories for the school newspaper, and launched a quarterly tabloid that published stories on politics, the university, and underground comics. He finished his education with a journalism degree at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where he filed stories as a stringer for *The New York Times*.

Following an interest in fantasy role-playing games and computer games, he worked for The Avalon Hill Game Co. in Baltimore. He edited the company's magazine for

role-players, debugged computer games, and wrote and edited instruction manuals.

In 1990, he returned to journalism as a copy editor for the *Rock Hill Herald*. In addition to his editing duties, he took over the book page and wrote hundreds of reviews. He also wrote the occasional feature, such as the front-page story about the time he played an extra on the set of the Mel Gibson movie *The Patriot*, that was filming in the area.

In 2000, he joined the staff of *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg, Pa., where he shared a Pulitzer Prize for the paper's coverage of the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal.

Since the mid-1990s, he has run his personal website, PlanetPeschel.com, where his Lord Peter Wimsey Annotations inform and entertain fans of Dorothy L. Sayers' murder mysteries.

In 2010, Penguin published his book *Writers Gone Wild*, a collection of stories about the successes and failures of writers. About this time, self-publishing was possible through Amazon's CreateSpace and Kindle. When Bill decided to annotate Dorothy L. Sayers' first novel, *Whose Body?*, he realized that it was in the public domain outside of Great Britain and the European Union. He decided to publish an annotated edition through his newly created Peschel Press. He also annotated Agatha Christie's first two novels that were in the same situation as *Whose Body?*

Since then, Peschel Press has published a series of books about Victorian poisoner William Palmer, and has embarked on the 223B Casebook Series, reprinting nearly all of the Sherlockian parodies and pastiches that appeared during Arthur Conan Doyle's lifetime, until his death in 1930.

Peschel lives with his family and animal menagerie in Hershey, where the air really does smell like chocolate.

## MEDIA

### Print

- "Living With Music: A Playlist by Bill Peschel" The New York Times ArtsBeat blog, 2010.

### Television

- "Mysteries at the Museum" —Travel Channel—Narrated segment on Agatha Christie's disappearance. 2014.

### Radio

- "Hoosier Writers Gone Wild" WFIU Indiana Public Radio. 2010.

## Talks

- Interviewed author Ellen Crosby—Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop. 2018.
- Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop—On Sherlock Holmes and parodies. 2015.
- Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop—On Agatha Christie's life. 2014.
- Delta Kappa Gamma's Northeast Convention—On "Where Do You Get Your Ideas." Bill discussed the nature of creativity as the result of remixing, not just inspiration; the techniques famous and successful writers used to make their books; and the tools writers need to make it all work. 2012.
- Camp Hill Woman's Club about "Writers Gone Wild" 2012.
- Fredricksen Public Library, Camp Hill—About "Writers Gone Wild" 2012.

# ABOUT THE PESCHEL PRESS

Bill Peschel and his wife, Teresa Peschel, founded the Peschel Press in Hershey, Pa., in 2011. He was a part-time book publisher until he moved to full-time work in 2013 when he lost his newspaper job.

The Press started with British mystery author Dorothy L. Sayers and her amateur detective, Lord Peter Wimsey. Bill is a Sayers fan and for years annotated her novels and stories for the Annotating Wimsey section at Planetpeschel.com. As he prepared to tackle Sayers' debut novel, "Whose Body?" (1923), Bill discovered that, because it was published first in the United States, it was in the public domain in most of the world. As a longtime reader with a love for editing, cover design, and typography, Bill decided to publish the novel with his annotations.

In 2011, "The Complete, Annotated Whose Body?" became the first book issued from Peschel Press. This was followed by two annotated editions of Agatha Christie's early novels, three books about Victorian murderer William Palmer, and at least eight anthologies of Sherlock Holmes parodies and pastiches. The Press sells its books through many retail sites online, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple iBooks, Google Play, Kobo, Lulu, and Smashwords. Bill and Teresa also sell their books at arts festivals in the Hershey area.

Today, the Press has published at least 17 books and added new subjects such as self-help ("Suburban Stockade" by Teresa Peschel), reference ("The Dictionary of Flowers and Gemstones" by Skye Kingsbury), and contemporary fiction ("The Casebook of Twain & Holmes" by Bill Peschel).

# BOOK INFORMATION

*(As of May 30, 2018)*

## THE 223B CASEBOOK SERIES

Anthology series with notes and annotations by Bill Peschel

**The Early Punch Parodies of Sherlock Holmes** (2014)

**Sherlock Holmes Victorian Parodies & Pastiches: 1888-1899** (2015)

**Sherlock Holmes Edwardian Parodies & Pastiches I: 1900-1904** (2015)

**Sherlock Holmes Edwardian Parodies & Pastiches II: 1905-1909** (2016)

**Sherlock Holmes Great War Parodies & Pastiches I: 1910-1914** (2017)

**Sherlock Holmes Great War Parodies & Pastiches II: 1915-1919** (2016)

**Sherlock Holmes Jazz Age Parodies & Pastiches I: 1920-1924** (2018)

**Sherlock Holmes Jazz Age Parodies & Pastiches II: 1925-1930** (*coming in '18*)

**The Best Sherlock Holmes Parodies & Pastiches: 1888-1930** (*coming in '18*)

## THE RUGELEY POISONER SERIES

**The Illustrated Life and Career of William Palmer** (1856, *republished* 2016)

By Anonymous. Edited by Bill Peschel

**The Times Report of the Trial of William Palmer** (1856, *republished* 2015)

By Anonymous. Edited by Bill Peschel

**The Life and Career of Dr. William Palmer of Rugeley** (1925, *republished* 2014) By George Fletcher. Edited by Bill Peschel

## ANNOTATED EDITIONS

**The Complete, Annotated Whose Body?** (2011) By Dorothy L. Sayers.  
Notes and Annotations by Bill Peschel

**The Complete, Annotated Secret Adversary** (2013) By Agatha Christie.  
Notes and Annotations by Bill Peschel

**The Complete, Annotated Mysterious Affair at Styles** (2013) By Agatha Christie.  
Notes and Annotations by Bill Peschel

## OTHER BOOKS

**The Casebook of Twain & Holmes** by Bill Peschel (2018)

**The Dictionary of Flowers and Gems** by Skye Kingsbury (2018)