

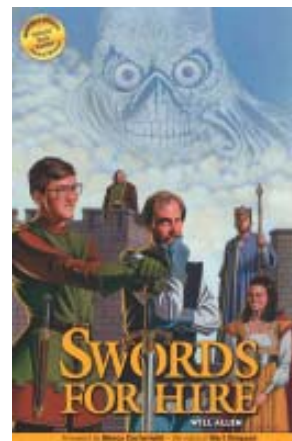


CenterPunch Press

Media Release

For Immediate Release

For an interview with the late author's brother, Paul Allen, or for a review copy of the book, please contact the publisher at 513-561-3392, or info@centerpunchpress.com



Publication Of New Award-Winning Children's Book A Fitting Legacy To A Young Writer's Talent

Twenty-three years after succumbing to cancer, author Will Allen's whimsical tale of unlikely heroes and royal deception is brought to print by his brother

Cincinnati, OH (March 2003)—Will Allen was something of a prodigy. From an early age he showed promise as a writer, constantly pecking away on his typewriter, producing story after story. In college, Will also demonstrated his comedic talent, writing and directing his own radio show with a cast that included Nancy Cartwright, who later went on to become the voice of Bart Simpson and an Emmy Award winner.

Will was also something of a fighter. Although weakened by the cancer that would eventually cut short his life at the age of 22, he worked feverishly on his last labor of love, the manuscript that would become *Swords For Hire* (CenterPunch Press; 2003; ISBN 0-9724882-0-0; \$6.95; Paper), a comic and quirky adventure tale about a boy on the brink of manhood who joins forces with an unlikely swashbuckling hero.

On Christmas morning in 1979, Will presented his family with the *Swords For Hire* manuscript, his last work before losing his final battle with cancer four months later. And for two decades it seemed that *Swords For Hire* would remain the family's secret—and one of their most-treasured memories of Will.

But now, 23 years after Will's death, his brother Paul has resurrected *Swords For Hire* and is intent on sharing the delightful book with readers of all ages.

"I had read and enjoyed Will's story many times, but it wasn't until I read it aloud to my daughters that I realized it was as good as the bestsellers I had read to them," Paul explains. "I knew then that it should be shared. It's a testament to Will's passion for life, his storytelling skill, and most of all, his great sense of humor. *Swords for Hire* is a very funny story about a young man coming of age, about good overcoming evil, and about two very unlikely heroes."

After uncovering a plot that has captured the rightful king in a deep dungeon, the book's heroes set out to restore the king to his rightful throne, defeat his evil brother, and of course, rescue the requisite damsel in distress. But *Swords for Hire* is far from predictable. As one reviewer wrote, "The story is fast and fun and often surprising, taking a classic adventure and saturating it with humor and irony, smashing through clichés as quickly as the protagonists smash through obstacles."

And the characters are refreshingly original. The king's brother is not only evil, but also a bit . . . odd. Boonder has an unusual affinity for worms, which he likes to wear on his greasy head. The story also includes a very unconventional damsel in distress, who turns out to be just as capable and strong-willed as the heroes.

Paul entered the story in a national competition sponsored by *Writer's Digest Magazine*, where it received accolades and one of the top awards in the competition, confirming his belief in the strength of this timeless tale. For the book's cover he elicited the services of well-known fantasy and comic book artist David Michael Beck, who used Will's likeness for the story's young hero, Sam Hatcher; Paul's likeness for the misfit swordsman, Rigby Skeet; and Will's widow, Annie, as the high-minded and strong-willed damsel, Melinda.

The foreword is lovingly written by Nancy Cartwright, a fan of the book who offers fond remembrances of Will as well as important advice to the book's readers: "Just one little tip while reading this book to yourself or your kids: Worms do not belong on your head. Keep that in mind and you'll be just fine."

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About the Author:

Twenty-two year-old Will Allen was a prolific writer, radio show director, loving husband, brother and son. He wrote *Swords For Hire* in the fall of 1979, four months before losing his fight against cancer. The book was inspired by William Goldman's *The Princess Bride*, one of Will's favorite books by one of his favorite authors.

About the Book:

Publishing *Swords For Hire* was a labor of love for the author's brother, Paul Allen, who edited and produced the final version of the book. The cover design features the likenesses of Will (Sam Hatcher), Paul (Rigby Skeet), and Will's widow, Annie (Melinda).

Swords For Hire (CenterPunch Press; 2003; 168-page paperback, ISBN 0-9724882-0-0; \$6.95), is available nationally at neighborhood and online booksellers. More information is available at www.SwordsBook.com