



MEL PARKER BOOKS, LLC

Mel Parker has worked in virtually every aspect of book publishing, from hardcover and paperback publishing to direct marketing and book clubs.

In 2004, he launched Mel Parker Books, LLC, a full-service literary agency and book packaging firm.

As a literary agency, Mel Parker Books focusses primarily on the categories of narrative nonfiction, current affairs, science, psychology, lifestyle, and memoir/biography. Some agented titles include the New York Times bestselling *New Digital Age* by Google's Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen (Knopf); *The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century* by Columbia University professor Dickson Despommier (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press); *Locavesting: The Revolution in Local Investing and How to Profit from It* by financial journalist Amy Cortese (John Wiley & Sons), *Date-onomics* by Fortune Magazine contributor Jon Birger (Workman Publishing) and *Now I Know Who My Comrades Are* by journalist Emily Parker (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

In his capacity as a book packager and book producer, Mel Parker Books specializes in major practical nonfiction, originating and developing book ideas for individuals, brands, and institutional entities. Packaged books include *The Structure House Weight Loss Plan* for Simon & Schuster, *One Minute Manners* for Doubleday/Broadway, *Helping the Addict You Love* for Simon & Schuster, and the *American Medical Association Complete Guide to Prevention and Wellness* for John Wiley & Sons.

Before launching Mel Parker Books, Mel was Senior Vice President and Editorial Director of Bookspan, the ten-million-member book club partnership between Time Warner and Bertelsmann AG, where he directed the editorial acquisitions programs for all of Bookspan's general interest, lifestyle and specialty book clubs, including Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Guild, Doubleday Book Club, Mystery Guild, Quality Paperback Book Club, History Book Club, Black Expressions and One Spirit. At Bookspan, Mel also played a key role in consolidating the book club businesses of Book-of-the-Month Club and Doubleday Direct into Bookspan; launching a number of successful new book clubs; and leading Bookspan's successful proprietary publishing program for book club members.

Mel came to the book clubs from Time Warner Trade Publishing, now the Hachette Book Group, where he was Senior Vice President of Warner Books and Publisher of its paperback division. During his more than eleven years at Warner, Mel acquired and edited his own hardcover list of bestselling fiction by authors such as Dean Koontz, David Morrell and Larry Bond, as well as hardcover bestsellers in a variety of nonfiction categories, from narrative nonfiction and biography to business books, health, inspiration and pop culture.



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Mel was also responsible for Warner's mass market paperback publishing program, which featured major bestselling authors such as James Patterson, Michael Connelly, Nelson DeMille, David Baldacci, Scott Turow, Elmore Leonard, P.D. James, Carl Hiaasen, Sidney Sheldon, Brad Meltzer and Sandra Brown. In addition, Mel oversaw Warner's trade paperback list, publishing critically acclaimed authors such as Jeffrey Eugenides, Rick Moody, Katherine Dunn, Philip K. Howard, Alan Lightman, James Ellroy, Lorrie Moore, Ethan Canin, Calvin Trillin, Robert Hughes, E.O. Wilson, and Sherman Alexie.

Prior to joining Warner, Mel was Editor-in-Chief of the Berkley Publishing Group, now a division of Penguin USA, where he played a key role in helping build the company into a major paperback publisher featuring many continuing New York Times bestselling authors. He also personally acquired a number of major bestsellers, most notably *The Hunt for Red October* by Tom Clancy, which set the stage for the author's bestselling career at Putnam and Berkley.

Mel was chairman of the Executive Trade Committee of the Association of American Publishers, where he launched the book publishing industry group's national Get Caught Reading Campaign, which secured millions of dollars of free print advertising to promote books and reading.

Mel has also lectured on publishing at the Stanford Publishing Course and at the University of Denver Publishing Institute, and his chapter on paperback publishing appears in *EDITORS ON EDITING* (Grove Atlantic).