

The Daily News, New York Times, and the Post Agree . . .

The Interceptor is a Winner.

Contact Rich at (610) 252-7564 for an interview. Contact Geoff MacDonald at (212) 572-2389 for review copies of "The Interceptor."

★ CRITICS' ★ CHOICE ★

A selective sampling of the weekend's best bets



"Frankly, it is so good that, if I didn't know differently, I'd think it was true."

—Timothy McDunnah, New York Post

Murder in Manhattan

Richard Herschlag
The Interceptor

What do an aspiring film director found bludgeoned, a real estate tycoon, and a cold-blooded chief borough engineer who brewed below the surface together? The answer is a cold-blooded murder that could cost the lives of 5 million.



RICHARD HERSCHLAG

Available
ISBN 0312-
Ballantine
\$5.95

Reality Bites

"I had always been a self-styled writer," RICHARD HERSCHLAG was saying. "The novels I wrote tended to be Generation X novels, not so plot- or character-driven."

The New York Times

He had a day job as the chief engineer in the Manhattan Borough President's office. But he quit over what he called "policy differences" in 1995, three years after RUTH W. MESSINGER surprised many political colleagues by endorsing construction plans for Donald J. Trump's Riverside South complex.

Mr. Herschlag said that DOUG GRAD, a friend who is an editor at Ballantine Books, called and said, "Did you ever think of taking your writing skills and your engineering experience and

putting them together in a thriller? But unlike a lawsuit, it would have to have a real ending."

Mr. Herschlag's 419-page book, "The Interceptor," was published on Aug. 4. The principal character is the chief engineer for the Manhattan Borough President.

"The skeletal structure of the book, it's mostly truth," he said. "The cartilage and muscle built on top of it is fiction — my idea of a Hollywood ending. It takes place in the sewer system, after all."

JAMES BARRON

Paperbacks

By BILL BELL

A tired, wounded Confederate soldier deserts and starts walking home to North Carolina and the woman he plans to marry. But for all the thrilling, chilling drama, *Cold Mountain* (Vintage, \$13) also works as a love story, Civil War history lesson and survival saga. Charles Frazier deserves every prize and every dollar he's earned.

Richard Herschlag provides a most unusual hero, a Manhattan engineer who understands New York's vast underground well enough to save the city from an environmental disaster. Murder, slimy deals, city planning and more make *The Interceptor* (Ballantine, \$8.50) fun and informative.