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THE SECOND CHAPTER

Former Army intelligence officer
embarks on a new career as an author

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Harris L. Kligman with wife, Nancy, and son Rob



Cover Story

By DONNA BOYLE SCHWARTZ



Kligman at Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1959

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Former Army intelligence officer embarks on a new career as an author

Many people look forward to spending their retirement enjoying rest and relaxation. However, U.S. Army veteran and retired international professional Harris L. Kligman is not at all like most people: he commenced a whole new career as a fiction writer, and currently has an array of tightly plotted novels available through Amazon.

Kligman says he started writing as a way to share stories and connect with his family, due to the fact that both his military and civilian careers kept him on the move. "I was traveling internationally constantly, upwards of 60 percent of the year and for extended periods of time," he recalls. "My youngest son, Rob, wanted to know what I did for a living and why I was away so much of the time, so I decided to start writing down some events, people that I interacted with and places I visited. It turned into a book, and from that book, I wrote 10 additional fiction novels." Four of those novels, *The Profession*, *The Shaolin Covenant*, *Her Father's Daughter* and *The Dark* are now published and available for purchase on Amazon. A fifth novel, *Life Impossible*, is forthcoming.

Kligman wrote short stories, children's books and his novels, all from a cramped workspace in the basement of his childhood home in North Stamford, Connecticut. After completing a novel, he typically would have the manuscript bound at a local office supply store. Once friends and family read the bound copy, he retired it to a large cardboard box in his bedroom, which ultimately was overflowing with manuscripts. He said he had no intention of publishing until the pandemic hit, when his wife and son insisted that family, friends and avid readers would enjoy his novels as a way to get through the hardships and frustrations of nationwide quarantine.

"In all my books, the main character struggles with difficulties," he says. "His or her determination to overcome these difficulties or obstacles and accomplish whatever it is that they are trying to obtain, is what I strive to get across to the reader.

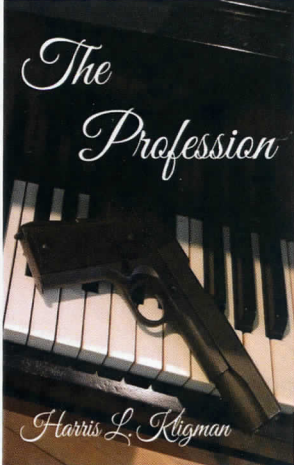
"Writing comes easy to me," he adds. "I never had difficulty with writing, whether in school or in the business world. Getting published is another story. The major publishing houses are not interested in



Harris L. Kligman with wife, Nancy, and son Rob

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—Harris L. Kligman



Two of Kligman's book covers

tary background gives him a unique perspective. “No matter what branch of service, a veteran has faced diversity and discomfort, forging a very strong bond in each and every veteran. The military builds three-dimensional characteristics in a person: depth, personality, and motivation. These characteristics

“My military education and experiences required accountability, teamwork, leadership, character and trust,” he continues. “All of these were easily applied to my civilian career, and the successes I achieved enabled me to climb the corporate ladder and reach the position of vice president/international of a multi-billion-dollar marketing company.”


are strengthened as a result of an individual's training, actions and experiences.”

Kligman notes that his works seem to have a common theme: “That we all face challenges in life and that we all have choices. It's how we approach these challenges and what choices we make that determine the outcome—both good and not so good—which will affect our lives forever.

new writers unless you're a TV personality, etc., that has name recognition and can provide free advertisement on their shows. Amazon offers a turnkey self-publishing platform where the writer can control the content, cover design, pricing, marketing and distribution. This has been a game-changing platform that has allowed me to bring my novels from manuscript to published format.”

Kligman notes that he uses his diverse life experiences in his writing. “Although the individuals and some of the events have been changed to fit my storyline, the characters and situations depicted in my story are always based on some experience, good or bad, that I have had during my military and civilian careers,” he says, adding that his mili-

Kligman entered military service in October 1958 at Fort Benning, Georgia, and remained in the active reserves until his retirement in January 1979, serving as a military intelligence officer and working with the Military Attache's office at the American Embassy in Seoul, South Korea; he also earned a black belt in the martial art of Hapkido while living in South Korea. “My civilian career, which paralleled my military career, involved extensive international travel throughout the Far East, South America and Africa. From 1966 through to 1971, I made frequent trips to Vietnam, and several to Laos and Cambodia.

“I've learned many things during my lifetime...things that have had a major impact on how I interact with people, and situations,” he adds. “If I had to sum it up in a few words, the most important thing that I learned in life is that one act of kindness can change a person's life forever. I try to include this aspect into all my stories.” 

For more information about Harris L. Kligman, visit his website: harrisligman.com.