

# JOHN VERCHER

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Creative and collaborative writing and teaching professional leveraging years of educational, communications, and management experience.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Writing Instruction – Screenwriting – Curriculum Design – Copywriting/Editing - Internal and External Communications - Team and Leadership Development - Editorial Content – Project Management

## EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

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**MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA), 2014 -2016** – CREATIVE WRITING  
SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY-LOW RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA), 1993 - 1997** – ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH - PITTSBURGH, PA

**MEMBER, WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST (WGAE)**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**DREXEL UNIVERSITY – SEPTEMBER 2023 TO TBD**

**ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY**

- Teach sections of ENGL 101 in the First-Year Writing program
- Lead fiction workshops and semester-long creative writing classes
- Lecture specific to the business of publishing
- Packet exchanges with students in low-residency MFA program
- Coordinate with low-residency MFA director on program design and facilitation

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, ASHEVILLE – AUGUST 15, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

**WILMA DYKEMAN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE**

- Selected for month-long residency based on published and future writing committed to social justice and change
- Participate in community events focused for new and marginalized writers
- Granted stipend and home in order to research and write next novel

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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### RANDOLPH COLLEGE – SUMMER 2022 TO PRESENT

#### FACULTY, LOW-RESIDENCY MFA PROGRAM

- Lead fiction workshops focusing on elements of craft and mechanics
- Presented lectures on the business of publishing and dialogue
- Mentor up to three students at various stages of the program, from first semester to thesis semester

### CHATHAM UNIVERSITY – SUMMER 2022 TO SUMMER 2023

#### FACULTY, LOW-RESIDENCY MFA PROGRAM

- Presented a lecture on the business of publishing
- Mentored one student in their thesis semester
- Led generative fiction workshop at summer residency
- Keynote speaker at summer residency
- Led craft talk on dialogue

### DREXEL UNIVERSITY – APRIL 2023 TO PRESENT

#### VISITING FACULTY, LOW-RESIDENCY MFA PROGRAM

- Working with one student in their first semester with a focus on completing a thesis and mapping a path to publication

### CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE – CHESTNUT HILL, PA – AUGUST 2016 TO AUGUST 2017

#### ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Taught English 100 to first year and adult learning students whose writing samples were insufficient to enroll in 101. Lessons included rhetorical modes and creative writing.

### SELF-EMPLOYED – PHILADELPHIA, PA (REMOTE) – AUGUST 2020 TO PRESENT

#### FREELANCE WRITER/EDITOR

##### Services include:

- Screenwriting
- Book Coaching
- Developmental Editing
- Book Doctoring
- Ghostwriting (non-fiction)
- Blog/essay writing

##### Clients include:

- Former NFL Executives
- Social Change Agents
- Retired Navy SEALs
- Former Hostage Negotiators
- Top business leaders including several CEOs
- Physicians and other health care providers
- Television personalities

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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SCRIBE MEDIA – AUSTIN, TX (REMOTE) – MAY 2017 TO AUGUST 2020

### PUBLISHING MANAGER/LEAD PUBLISHING MANAGER/MANUSCRIPT CREATIVE

**Publishing Manager** – Project management to guide business books from creation to publication. Worked with numerous CEOs and entrepreneurs from various industries at every stage of book development. Managed 35 projects concurrently.

**Lead Publishing Manager** – Promoted to lead within eight months of joining the company. Continued responsibility for thirty-five projects while overseeing a team of three Publishing Managers as their direct support. Held weekly update calls to assist in the management of their projects. Reported directly to the CEO of Scribe Media.

**Senior Manuscript Creative** – Transitioned as one of the first full-time writers with the company based on my extensive publication record. Interviewed authors to create content for prescriptive non-fiction and memoir books. Participated in writing workshops to help prospective authors write their books. Worked weekly with the CEO to develop social media content to expand his brand.

COGNOSCENTI – BOSTON, MA (REMOTE) – DECEMBER 2016 TO PRESENT

### CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Write essays regarding race, identity, politics, and parenting for publication on the thoughts and opinions site for NPR affiliate WBUR Boston. NPR picked up two pieces. Appeared on WBUR's Weekend Edition.

## PUBLICATIONS

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*DEVIL IS FINE AND UNNAMED* – CELADON BOOKS – JUNE 18, 2024/TBD

Two-book deal, exclusive submission for publication in 2024, and a date TBD.

LITHUB – AUGUST 24, 2022

*WHERE ARE THE LARGER-THAN-LIFE STORIES OF BLACK BOXERS IN FICTION?*

Essay on the lack of Black protagonists in fight fiction.

*AFTER THE LIGHTS GO OUT* - SOHO PRESS – JUNE 7, 2022

Published by Soho Press on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The book was bought in a pre-empt. Rights have been sold in the U.K. (Pushkin Press), France (Editions Des Arènes), and Sweden (Modernista). Starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*. Appearance on Fresh Air with Dave Davies to discuss the novel.

BOOKLIST – MAY 1, 2020

“WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY?”

Personal essay about the experiences that contributed to my debut novel.

## **PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

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**CRIMEREADS – SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

### **“GRAPHIC NOVELS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: A PRIMER”**

Essay on learning from comic books to write about social issues.

**THREE-FIFTHS - AGORA BOOKS (AN IMPRINT OF POLIS BOOKS) – SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

The launch title for Agora Books, the new diversity-focused imprint of Polis Books.

Rights sold in France, Japan, Spain, Brazil, Germany, Mainland China, and the U.K.

Optioned by Netflix.

Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Chicago Tribune* and a Book of the Year by the U.K. *Sunday Times*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Guardian*.

Nominated for:

- The Crime Writers’ Association’s (UK) John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger Award (2021)
- The Mystery Writers of America’s Edgar Award for Best First Novel
- Best Debut Novel (2019) for *The Strand Magazine’s* Critics’ Award
- The Anthony Award for Best First Novel

**ENTROPY – OCTOBER 17, 2018**

### **“FIGHT IN THE DOG”**

Personal essay about race, identity, and mixed martial arts competition

**COGNOSCENTI – DECEMBER 2016 - OCTOBER 2019**

Personal essays about race, identity, and parenthood.

## **READINGS & EVENTS**

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**2023**

August 15 – Inaugural Wilma Dykeman Writer-In-Residence, UNC Asheville

July 6 – Keynote Speech, Chatham Summer Conference of Writers – “The Price of Words 2.0”

March 4 – Dallas Literary Festival – Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

## READINGS & EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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March 12 – Hub City Writers Project “Delicious Reads” – Spartanburg, SC

May 4 – *After the Lights Go Out* paperback launch, in-conversation w/Mike Sielski, author of *The Rise: Kobe Bryant and the Pursuit of Immortality* (presented by Doylestown Bookshop) – North Wales, PA

May 10 – Drexel University: Reading and mini-workshop – Philadelphia, PA

May 13 – Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books – Pittsburgh, PA

May 18 – Reading/Signing w/Browseabout Books (hosted by the Lewes Public Library, in-person and online) – Rehoboth Beach, DE

## 2022

June 6 – *Twas the Night Before* Book Launch w/Vanessa Lillie – Instagram Live

June 14 – Malaprop’s Bookstore, in-conversation w/David Joy, author of *When These Mountains Burn*— VIRTUAL EVENT

June 28 – Fresh Air w/Dave Davies – WHYY Studios, Philadelphia, PA

July 7 – Vroman’s Bookstore, in-conversation w/Chris Terry, author of *Black Card* – VIRTUAL

July 18 – The Poisoned Pen, in-conversation w/Eli Cranor, author of *Don’t Know Tough* – VIRTUAL EVENT

July 20 – Riverstone Books – Pittsburgh, PA

July 25 – Trident Booksellers & Café, in-conversation w/Ted Flanagan, author of *Every Hidden Thing* – Boston, MA

September 7 – Reads & Company – Phoenixville, PA

September 24 – Bucks County Book Festival – Doylestown, PA

## READINGS & EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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October 1 – Chocolate Town Book Festival – Hershey, PA

October 20 – Literati Book Store, in-conversation w/Jenny Liou, author of *Muscle Memory* – VIRTUAL EVENT

October 25 – *Cognoscenti* Tenth Anniversary Celebration (Featured writer/reader) – Boston, MA

October 29 – *Barrelhouse* Conversations and Connections Conference – Pittsburgh, PA