

Q&A WITH CHRIS HAMMER

1. Please tell us about FULL CIRCLE.

Full Circle is a story of corporate greed and dynastic ambition. Two wealthy families come into conflict as they wrestle for supremacy, even as they contend with internal dissent.

Into this world ventures Travis Somerland, a former undercover cop seeking redemption following a bungled operation. And then people start dying. Murdered. Just how far are these families and their patriarchs prepared to go to achieve their goals?

Think *Succession* meets *The Big Short*, with a sprinkling of *The Great Gatsby*.

2. This is quite a change of scenery and characters, compared with the more rural crime books from your past. What inspired this setting and these characters?

A company I'd invested in was subject to a totally scurrilous attack on the stock market. That led me to do a little research, and I found these so-called short attacks are reasonably common, particularly in the US. It seemed like the wild west of capitalism.

And the wild west is ripe with stories. So, I concocted a story around that idea: investors going rogue.

3. In typical Chris Hammer style, the book starts off with something dramatic happening. Do you write the prologue first and go from there? Or is that added in later?

In *Full Circle*, the prologue came later. Much later. I typically don't plot my books in advance, although sometimes I wish I did!

I tend to start with a few ideas, an opening, maybe the ending of one or two of the story lines, and then I start writing. The story emerges as I write and evolves over time as more and better ideas occur to me.

It's an on-going process as I write. So, I often don't know what will work as a prologue until I've written a loose first draft.

4. Tell us in summary about your two key characters in the book – Travis and Judy. How did you come up with them and are they based on people you know/have met?

Neither Travis or Judy are based on real people. That's typical of all of the characters in my books.

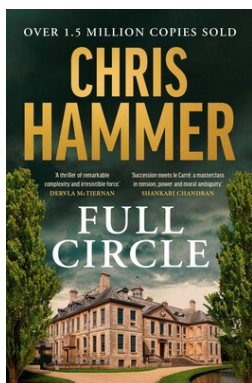
When we meet Travis, he's a former undercover cop, still coming to terms with a bungled operation in which someone close to him was killed. He seeks redemption working for one of the powerful families living at Sorrento. But he is soon embroiled in a murder investigation.

Judy is Travis's former partner, an ambitious young woman trying to rise through the corporate world. But she hasn't told Travis everything: she is hiding secrets about her past and her motivations.

5. For someone that has never picked up a Chris Hammer book before, what do you think they can expect from you, particularly in this one?

I hope they get an immersive read, the sort of book they can get lost in. That's what I like to read. So, a good plot, some intriguing mysteries, but also a strong sense of place, relevant issues, a sprinkling of humour. Most important: characters with emotional depth. That's really important: that the reader feels an emotional connection with the main characters. And then, hopefully, all those elements work to together to create a fulfilling read.

Full Circle by Chris Hammer is out now. Available in paperback, ebook and audiobook.



Photograph by Mike Bowers