

S P E A K E R & M E D I A K I T

Daniel Kalla



Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Hello,

It is my pleasure to introduce Daniel Kalla, author, speaker and ER doctor. A bestselling author, he has published six books that have been translated into eleven languages. His novels, *PANDEMIC* and *RESISTANCE*, have been optioned for feature films. His seventh book, *THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY*, will be released on June 5th, 2012 by Tor-Forge/MacMillan. In his keynote speeches, Daniel reveals the little-known but captivating role that Shanghai played in harboring over twenty thousand German Jews—one of the few uplifting stories of the Holocaust. He also discusses his ‘behind the scenes experiences in the ER’, life as a part of a multigenerational medical family, and his firsthand perspective on preparation for and prevention of pandemics.

Daniel is a third generation physician – the son of two doctors – and married to a pediatrician. Daniel’s grandfather was a Czech doctor who left Prague, with family in tow, on the last commercial flight before the Nazis descended. Daniel’s father spent much of his teen years evading fascists and Nazis in Budapest. Daniel is a clinical associate professor of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, and the department head of St. Paul’s Hospital ER.

THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY follows the story of Franz Adler, a widowed Jewish surgeon who, in the wake of Kristallnacht, is forced to flee his beloved Vienna and find sanctuary for his young daughter. Like thousands of other German Jews, the Adlers escape to the only city that will have them: Shanghai. In this cosmopolitan “Paris Of The East” they find a thriving Jewish community. There, Franz falls for Soon Yi “Sunny” Mah, a Eurasian nurse who is as capable and headstrong as any physician. But Shanghai is also besieged by the rampaging Japanese Army and infiltrated by Nazis. Facing disease, starvation and threats from two hostile powers, Franz is torn between ensuring his family’s security and following his heart.

Daniel has participated in media interviews across North America discussing his books and various medical related issues. He has appeared on CNN, Good Morning America, Fox News Channel, Sirius Satellite, CBC, Entertainment Weekly, The National Post, City TV, The Vancouver Sun and the Globe & Mail. Daniel has proven his ability to write and sell books, and expertly express himself on camera and in print as an articulate, humorous, self-deprecating family man who happens to be addicted to writing.

Daniel is available for media, speaking and book signings. Enclosed you will find media clips, bio, book synopses, and media experience. It will be my pleasure to collaborate with you to share his messages.

Please feel free to contact me at neisha@prime-timemedia.com or 310-559-0445. I appreciate the opportunity.

Thank you and warm regards,

Neisha Cohen

President
Prime Time Media

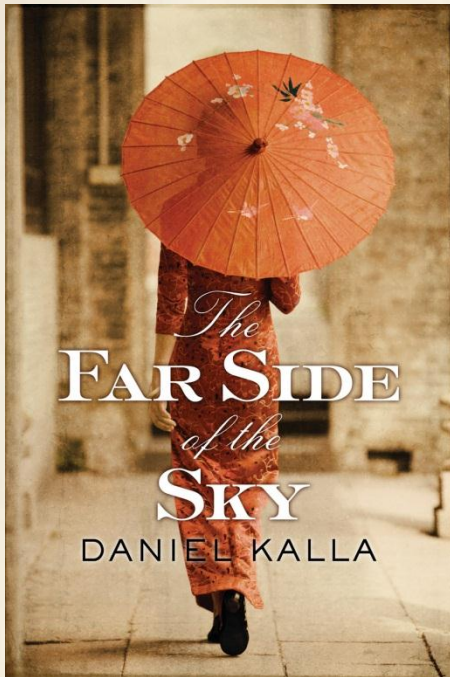
Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Daniel's New Book
(available June 5th, 2012)

THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY

— On the eve of the Second World War, one family's final hope lies across the world, in Shanghai —



February 16th, 2012 - Daniel Kalla's seventh novel, **THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY** (Tor-Forge/MacMillan, June 5th, 2012, 9780765332332, \$26.99) focuses on a short but extraordinary period of Chinese, Japanese and Jewish Second World War history.

November 9th, 1938—Kristallnacht—the Nazis unleash a night of terror upon German Jews. Franz Adler, a widowed Jewish surgeon, experiences firsthand the wave of violence sweeping Vienna when his beloved younger brother is lynched. Desperate to find sanctuary for his young daughter, Franz hears whispers of Jews fleeing to distant Shanghai in the Far East.

After a harrowing escape from Europe, the Adlers land in Shanghai to find it besieged by the rampaging Japanese army. But the cosmopolitan city—"Paris of the East"—still represents the last haven for thousands of Jews fleeing the Third Reich.

Franz meets Soon Yi "Sunny" Mah at the refugee hospital where they both volunteer. Half-Chinese and half-American, the compassionate and headstrong young nurse is an outcast in her own culture. Recognizing her ability, Franz mentors Sunny in surgery. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, tensions soar. With Japanese soldiers lurking on every corner, the threat of starvation, disease and internment hangs over the Adlers. So does the menace from Nazis who refuse to let go of the Jewish "escapees". Franz is torn between ensuring his family's security and following his heart.

Weaving together intrigue, medical drama and romance, **THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY** brings to life an extraordinary and little-known chapter of Second World War history, when the cultures of Europe and Asia converged. Stirring and fast-paced, **THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY** is a grand, sweeping account of a world in tumult and a moving saga about the value of family and courage in the darkest of times.

THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY will be available in bookstores and via www.danielkalla.com in June 2012.

For more information on the book or to pre-schedule Daniel for media or speaking, please contact Neisha Cohen at neisha@prime-timemedia.com or 310-559-0445.

Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Praise for The Far Side of the Sky

Shortlisted for the 2012 Evergreen Prize for Readers' Favorite Book (Ontario Library Association)

"The novel never falters.... Kalla's surgeon-steady hand deftly keeps this story moving forward. Readers are sure to develop a genuine interest in the characters' fates."

—**Vancouver Sun**

"A definite page-turner."

—**Quill and Quire**

"Storytelling, pure and simple"

—**National Post**

"*The Far Side of the Sky*...sweeps the reader along for the ride."

—**Globe and Mail**

"Combining his medical background with meticulous research, Daniel Kalla has written the best sort of historical fiction, in which individual lives are shaken by the tectonic forces of history—and then miraculously reconstructed."

—**David Layton, author of *The Bird Factory* and *Motion Sickness***

"A prescription for medical suspense. In *The Far Side of the Sky*, a refugee doctor, war-torn Shanghai, and Eichmann's monstrous bureaucracy collide with surgical precision. Only a gurney will keep you from finishing this novel's many scenes of triage—both in the operating room and in matters of the heart.

Kalla's characters mend both body and soul."

—**Daniel Levin, author of *The Last Ember***

"Wartime Shanghai is captured in vivid, tumultuous detail in this adrenalized survival epic."

—**William Deverell, author of *Snow Job* and *Kill All The Judges***

"Wartime Shanghai provides a magnificent canvas for Daniel Kalla to depict a world of people, religions and continents colliding. These are wonderful characters, and Sunny Mah is a heroine for the ages."

—**Adam Lewis Schroeder, author of *Empress of Asia***

Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Daniel Kalla, M.D. & Author



Born, raised, and still residing in Vancouver, Daniel spends his days (and sometimes nights) working as an Emergency Room Physician in an major teaching hospital. In his 'off' time, he writes and manages a dual career. He is the author six books, and his seventh will be released in June 2012. Daniel's books have been translated into eleven languages to date, and **PANDEMIC** and **RESISTANCE** have been optioned for feature films. A three-time finalist for the Spotted Owl Award for the Pacific Northwest's best mystery novel of the year, Daniel has been dubbed 'the next Michael Crichton' by the Chronicle Herald.

The idea for his first medical thriller—the bestseller **PANDEMIC**—sprang from his professional experience in dealing with the SARS crisis of 2003. In his next novel, **RESISTANCE**, a superbug immune to antibiotics—unleashed intentionally—threatens the unsuspecting public. His psychological thriller, **RAGE THERAPY**, came in October 2006. In it, he plumbs the depths of forensic psychiatry and the fields of impulse and rage control therapy. **BLOOD LIES** pulled the reader inside his world of the Emergency Room, exploring varied themes as the science of DNA evidence, the plight of drug addiction, and the lethal American-Canadian cross-border drug trade. **COLD PLAGUE** ties a Mad Cow Disease outbreak in Europe to a mysterious underwater Antarctic lake and uncovers a conspiracy that could unleash a microscopic Jurassic Park. His sixth book, **OF FLESH AND BLOOD**, features two multi-generational families, a major West Coast medical center, and an interwoven storyline of family chaos, threats, and successes.

His latest novel, **THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY**, weaves together intrigue, medical drama and romance to bring to life the extraordinary and little-known chapter of the Second World War, when the cultures of Europe and Asia converged. Stirring and fast-paced, it is a grand, sweeping account of a world in tumult and a moving saga about the value of family and courage in the darkest of times. It has been short-listed for the 2012 Ontario Library Association's award for favorite readers' book.

Daniel is a keynote speaker at cultural societies, medical conventions, interdenominational events, universities, women's organizations and book clubs. He speaks of Shanghai's fascinating history during the Second World War. He also shares his 'behind the scenes' experiences in the ER, life as a part of a multigenerational medical family and his teachings on preparation for the next pandemic. Daniel has participated in media interviews across North America discussing his books and various medical related issues. He has appeared on or in ABC, NBC, FoxNews, CNN, CBC radio, The National Post, City TV, The Vancouver Sun, Entertainment Weekly, Kirkus Reviews and Publishers Weekly. He was featured on the front page of the Globe & Mail review section and was interviewed on national TV on the Vicki Gabereau Show.

He is married and the father of two young girls, and received his B.Sc. in mathematics and his MD from the University of British Columbia, where he is now an assistant clinical professor. He is the Physician Operations Leader at St. Paul's Emergency Room.

Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

MEDIA SUMMARY**GUEST APPEARANCES****Television**

- ABC: Good Morning America Health
- FoxNews
- WGN Chicago
- NBC New York
- Global National
- CBC Television: Canada Now
- Global Television Toronto
- CHUM TV: Bravo News
- CITY TV
- CTV: Gabereau
- Omni Television: People Uncut
- Shaw Television: Fanny Kiefer Show
- Shaw TV Studios
- Urban Rush talk show – Medical Expert

Print

- Entertainment Weekly
- Booklist Magazine
- Kirkus Reviews
- Publishers Weekly
- Seattle Post-Intelligencer
- Statesman Journal
- The Lansing State Journal
- Calgary Herald
- Edmonton Journal
- Just for Canadian Doctors
- Lethbridge Herald
- National Post
- Ottawa Citizen
- Quill & Quire
- The Globe and Mail
- The Richmond Review
- The Vancouver Courier
- The Vancouver Province
- The Vancouver Sun
- The Westender
- The Winnipeg Free Press
- TV Week

Radio

- USA Radio Network
- Sirius Satellite
- Voice of America
- CNN: News Break
- Talk America Radio Network
- Relevant Radio Network
- Lifestyle Talk Radio Network
- 1410/The Buzz
- CBC Radio
- CFX Radio
- CFUN Radio: Pia Shandel Show
- CHAY Radio: Focus
- CIXX FM Radio
- CJAD/CFRB
- CKNW: The Bill Good Show
- KAH1-AM
- KBEM-FM
- KCMN-AM
- KLPW-AM
- KMSU-FM
- KPQ-AM
- KTOE-AM
- KWIX-AM
- WASN-AM
- WBBM FM: Chicago Connection
- WBEV-AM
- WCBQ-AM/WHNC-AM
- WCMF-FM
- WDIS-AM
- WFNY-FM
- WICO-AM
- WMKX-FM/WJNG-FM
- WMOV-AM
- WNDB-AM
- WNTJ-AM
- WNWR-AM
- WOCA-AM
- WQCS-FM
- WTAG-AM
- WTAX-AM
- WVOX-AM
- WXCE-AM

Daniel Kalla*Author, Speaker and ER Doctor*

TELEVISION APPEARANCES (RECENT)



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrfOLDxR27U&list=HL1329840302&feature=mh_lolz



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBKxQiMy4U&feature=related>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuFwOc1q8ew&list=UU9Z2Lq9peEMhIxpTz2mYNrg&index=2&feature=plcp>



<http://www.wgntv.com/news/middaynews/wgntv-author-dr-daniel-kalla-of-flesh-and-blood,0,3296663.story>

Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Speaking and Workshops

Daniel Kalla is known for the quality and content of his keynote addresses. He presents from his personal and professional experiences, as well as from the content of his books.

“Kalla is not only a great writer, but also an excellent speaker with a broad and loyal fan base. As a speaker, Daniel is engaging and warm, his sense of humor and intelligent narrative keep audiences enthralled. Always respectful of audience questions and opinions, Daniel has a great way of connecting with his audience no matter what the demographic or the subject matter.”

—Nicole Nozick, Director, Vancouver JCC Jewish Book Festival

Daniel offers:

- Media Interviews
- Speaking
- Book Readings
- Book Signings

Audiences and clients include:

- Women’s Organizations
- Jewish Community Centers, synagogues and other interdenominational societies
- Medical/Healthcare
- Book Club Members
- Middle School/High School/College
- Nursing Associations
- Psychologists/Psychiatrists
- Book Club Members
- Parent Organizations

Speaking and Workshop topics include:

- The little-known but amazing role that Shanghai played in sheltering over twenty thousand German Jews from the horror of the Holocaust
- His parents’ families harrowing escapes from the genocide in Europe
- The state of 1940s health care, and the devastating realities and dilemmas of war-time medicine
- The Multi-Generational Medical Family: Real Life and Fiction
- Living the Dual Career – Choices, Challenges and Balance
- Preparing For A Pandemic: What if the Spanish flu were to return?

Content, length and messages are tailored for the audience addressed. Typical keynote addresses are 45-60 minutes.

To book Daniel for speaking or media, please contact Neisha Cohen at neisha@prime-timemedia.com or 310-559-0445.

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Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

Speaking Topics – Overview

Shanghai: Microcosm of a world at war, and last refuge to desperate German Jews

By the early 1940s, no city better epitomized the microcosm of a world at war than Shanghai, “The Paris of the East”. Governed for over a hundred years by multiple sovereignties, Shanghai had become the world’s fifth largest city and the third most powerful financial center. It was arguably the most interesting city of the Twentieth Century, and home to the most diverse collection of expatriates, refugees, gamblers, gangsters, prostitutes, political exiles and other colorful figures to be found anywhere. No other city sheltered close to as many German Jewish refugees as Shanghai; over twenty thousand Jews found sanctuary in this exotic land. **THE FAR SIDE OF THE SKY** tells the story of war-torn Shanghai through the eyes of two characters—one native and the other foreign—caught up in a whirlwind of events in a unique time and place. Daniel is passionate in describing this often-neglected yet vital piece of Second World War and Holocaust history.

The Multi-Generational Medical Family: Real Life and Fiction

Medicine runs deep in Daniel Kalla’s blood and it is a world he knows intimately. Like the fictional hero in his latest book, **The Far Side of the Sky**, many of his relatives have endured drama and tragedy. Daniel is a third generation physician – the son of two doctors – and married to a pediatrician. His grandfather was a Jewish family doctor from Prague in the late Thirties. With children in tow, his grandparents left Czechoslovakia hours before the Nazis descended. Daniel’s father spent much of his teen years evading fascists and Nazis in Budapest. Later, as surgeon, he was forced to flee the Soviets during crackdown of the Hungarian Revolution. Daniel provides a glimpse of history, and his personal experiences in today’s rapidly changing health climate. He shares with his audiences a rare behind the scenes look at the unique pressures and stakes that many doctors deal with professionally and personally, particularly his own challenges and expectations of coming from in a medical “dynasty”.

Preparing For A Pandemic: Will the Spanish Flu return?

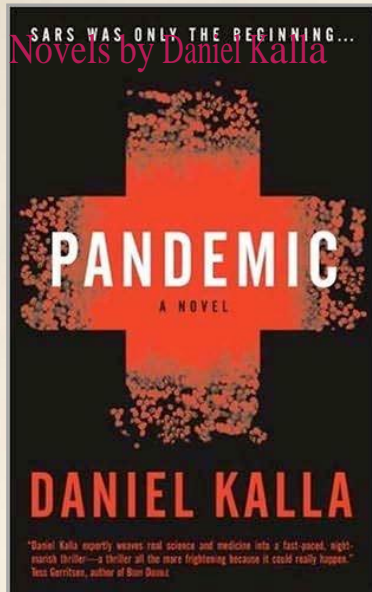
Daniel lived through the SARS crisis of 2003, as a front-line doctor who confronted cases and as administrator who sat on his regional SARS Response Taskforce. That experience inspired him to write the bestselling novel, **PANDEMIC**, which fictionalized a very real (some would argue inevitable) scenario. Ever since, he has been haunted by one of the themes of the novel—could we possibly be prepared to face the next (and overdue) pandemic, if it occurred on a scale anywhere near the 1918 Spanish Flu outbreak that killed over fifty million people? Daniel shares insights on the state of our safety, and how we can best prepare personally for the next “big one”.

Dual Career - Choices, Challenges and Balance

Have you ever said, “I wish I could do that for a living” and not known how to begin or what you might experience? As a physician and a novelist, Daniel not only has a dual career but he has the opportunity to regularly “work out” both sides of the brain. Science and logic are traditionally considered “left brain” functions, while creativity and art are usually ascribed to the “right brain”. From this experience, he has noticed how both careers benefit the other, and how exerting one side of the brain helps to develop the other. He shares with audiences how and why he pursued a second career, lessons learned for balancing them, and how to best manage the process.

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“Michael Crichton ought to be looking over his shoulder. The author of the best-selling thrillers *The Andromeda Strain* and *Jurassic Park* has some serious competition in Kalla.”

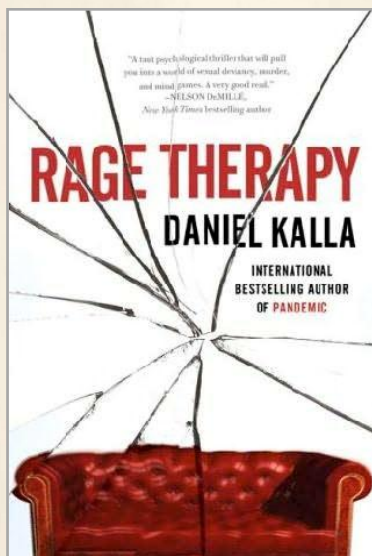
— *The Chronicle Herald*, April 17th, 2005

“Kalla’s ripped-from-the-headlines plot and confident command of both language and medicine make this sobering book a pleasure.”

— *Publishers Weekly*, January 31st, 2005

“Pandemic is an absorbing, compulsive thriller, the sort of book you could stay up too late reading.”

— *The Vancouver Sun*, February 16th, 2005



Kalla navigates the emerging fields of impulse and rage control therapy, and the issue of doctor/patient abuse, turning it all into an ingenious thriller.”

— *The Ottawa Citizen*, October 20th, 2006

“His first novel, *Pandemic*, was as fine a medical thriller as I’ve ever read; his newest, *Rage Therapy*, is a taut psychological thriller that will pull you into a world of sexual deviancy, murder, and mind games. A very good read.”

— Nelson DeMille, *New York Times* #1 best-selling author

“Gripping”

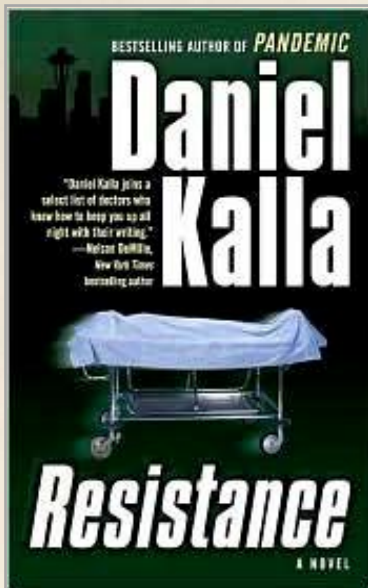
— *The Vancouver Sun*, November 4th, 2006

“*Rage Therapy* is a compelling story. It’s layered and nuanced ... Kalla might well grow to be the James Patterson or John Grisham of the medical world.”

— *January Magazine*, December 2nd, 2006

Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor



"Kalla builds suspense and keeps the medical action moving."

— The Globe & Mail, May 13th, 2006

"Daniel Kalla's prescription for a perfect thriller includes snappy characters, a pace that sweeps up a reader and not too much technical jargon... the kind of magnetic story you can't put down. And the twist at the end of the book is the flourish that caps a strong story."

— The Vancouver Province, May 21st, 2006

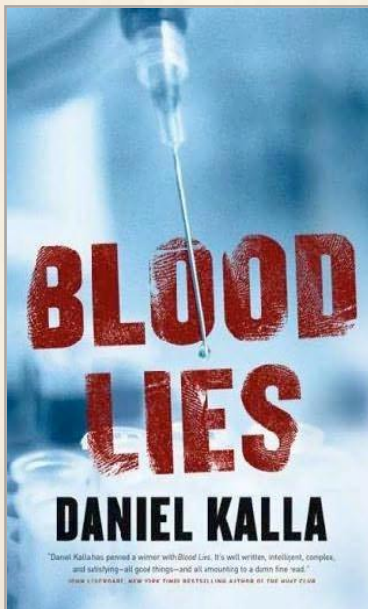
"[Kalla] is back with another gripper..."

— The Ottawa Citizen, June 18th, 2006

"The twists are well done, and Kalla has a gift rare in the thriller field for creating sympathetic characters."



Publishers Weekly (starred review) April 23, 2007



"Kalla's well paced medical thriller has twists that surprise us, but always make sense."

— Entertainment Weekly, June 15th, 2007

"Kalla strikes again with another perfect page-turner."

— Lee Child, New York Times best selling author

"A damn fine read."

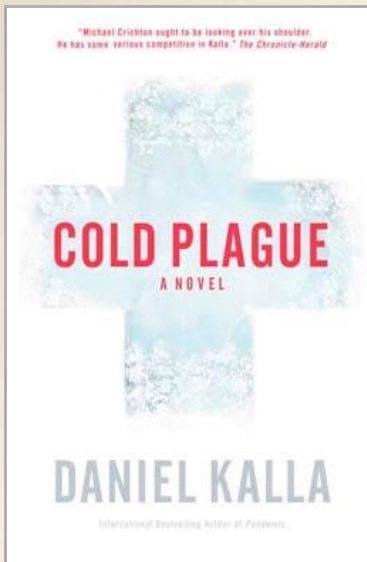
— John Lescroart, New York Times best selling author

"Fast paced and smartly written. Kalla has quickly matured into a force to be reckoned with... The novel springs several fresh surprises on the reader (including one whopping great shocker)."

— Booklist, May 1st, 2007

Daniel Kalla

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“A terrific read.”

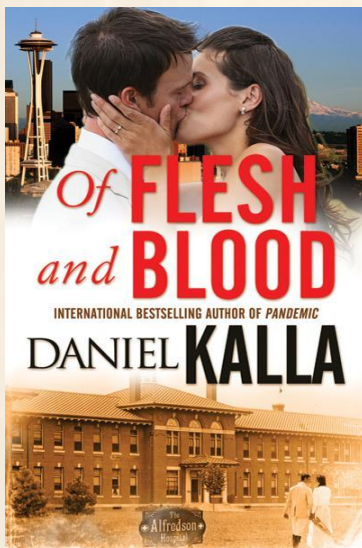
— *Globe & Mail*, April 26th, 2008

“Well-written novel... Kalla, an emergency-room physician, employs just enough medical realism to carry a wild tale through one cliff-hanger chapter after another.”

— *Library Journal* March 15th, 2008

“Similar in many ways to Michael Crichton and even Daniel Brown's bestsellers, *Cold Plague* is testament to just how good commercial fiction can be: entertaining, informative, and downright fun.”

— *Winnipeg Free Press*, June 24th, 2008



“He's a strong storyteller who keeps his characters moving and, struggling, and we're right there, struggling with them, rooting for them.”

— *The Vancouver Sun*

“Should appeal to any reader who enjoys a rich medical narrative.”

— *Library Journal*

“It is suspenseful, partly because it is so realistic.”

— *The Winnipeg Free Press*

To order copies of Daniel Kalla's books visit: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/danielkalla>

or any major bookstore/bookseller.

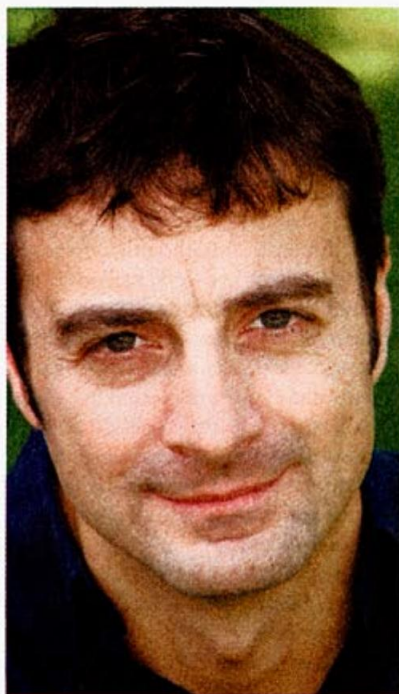
Daniel Kalla

Author, Speaker and ER Doctor

FRONTMATTER

CLOSEUP

The doomsday artist



■ Daniel Kalla

Pandemics, superbugs, ancient Antarctic bacteria: Vancouver novelist Daniel Kalla has imagined enough doomsday scenarios to be labelled an alarmist by some. But the author prefers to think of himself as simply a realist. “In the last 1,000 years, there have been pandemics every 30 to 40 years,” he says.

Not that he’s about to panic. “I’m not building a bunker in my backyard,” says the married father of two. What he is doing is writing science thrillers – one per year so far, with the fifth and latest, *Cold Plague*, having just appeared last month. Kalla’s publisher, the American house Forge/Tor, has been trying to brand him

as a kind of Michael Crichton of the north; the jacket blurb for *Cold Plague* even calls the book a “microscopic *Jurassic Park*.”

Kalla has developed his writing career while maintaining a rather demanding day job: for 14 years he’s worked as an emergency-room doctor in a downtown Vancouver hospital. His moonlighting started with a night-school course in the late 1990s, leading to a co-written screenplay that was optioned but never produced, as well as a still-unpublished novel. (“That one will *never* see the light of day,” says Kalla. “I was definitely cutting my teeth on it.”)

By 2003, though, Kalla had managed to land an American deal; Forge released his debut, *Pandemic*, that year. “I got lucky,” Kalla explains. “I just started cold-calling American agents. I did know that my writing was commercial, and Canadian publishing houses don’t seem to be interested in that.” At the same time, Kalla – a lifelong British Columbian – notes with pride that his publisher has never pressured him to Americanize his work. His 2007 novel *Blood Lies* begins in Seattle and ends in Vancouver, “which wasn’t felt to be any kind of liability,” he says. “Also, they’re both cities that I *know*, so they’re easier to write about. Is that laziness or credibility?”

The new novel has neither an American nor Canadian backdrop: *Cold Plague* is set almost entirely in Europe. It’s also Kalla’s first “sequel,” bringing back Dr. Noah Haldane, the hero of the optioned-for-film *Pandemic*. “Sure, I’m ‘investing’ in my character – it only makes sense,” admits Kalla. Asked if she’d like to see the sleuthing scientist make more appearances, Kalla’s editor at Forge, Natalia Aponte, offers “a qualified yes, because we do understand that Dan has many plots and characters in development already for stories that certainly wouldn’t be Haldane territory, and he has our support on that.”

Indeed, Kalla’s already looking forward to the publication of his next book, which he describes as both “a departure and a compromise.” A departure because he wanted to write a historical novel, and a compromise because he acknowledges that Forge has “worked very hard to build me as a thriller writer.” So while *The Hospital* – the title is tentative, and Arthur Haley-inspired – is set in a fictionalized Mayo Clinic, detailing the century-old backstory of the institution’s founding, it also splits its timeline to deal with a modern-day medical crisis as well.

Despite the compromise, Kalla says there are still some negotiations ongoing with Forge. Although his agent, Henry Morrison, fully supports his itch to stretch, Kalla says the publisher “is worried about confusing readers by not providing a clear-cut niche.” Aponte doesn’t exactly disagree with that assessment: she says Forge wants to “make book buying easier for corporate buyers” (chains, that is) and to “give readers a sense of easily understood triangulation.” As in Michael Crichton + James Patterson = Daniel Kalla? “I don’t know,” Kalla laughs. “I don’t even read medical thrillers.”

Still, Kalla is confident that *The Hospital* will see release in 2009. He calls Forge owner Tom Doherty a friend – “we just went skiing two weeks ago.” And if Kalla’s career continues its upswing, he may even start thinking about dropping that day job. “I talk about a five-year plan, but I’ve learned in this business to look far ahead and not take anything to the bank,” he says. Which means that for now, he’s sticking with the crazy hours, unpredictable sleep patterns, and adrenaline rushes. “Leaving the emergency room is not an economic option right now,” he says, “though in general, emergency medicine is a career for a younger individual.... I’m 41, and there’s a big physical difference from when I was 31.” – GARY BUTLER

10 questions

Stethoscope-wielding author enjoys *Scrubs*, fears Britney Spears

Novel approach thrills ER doctor

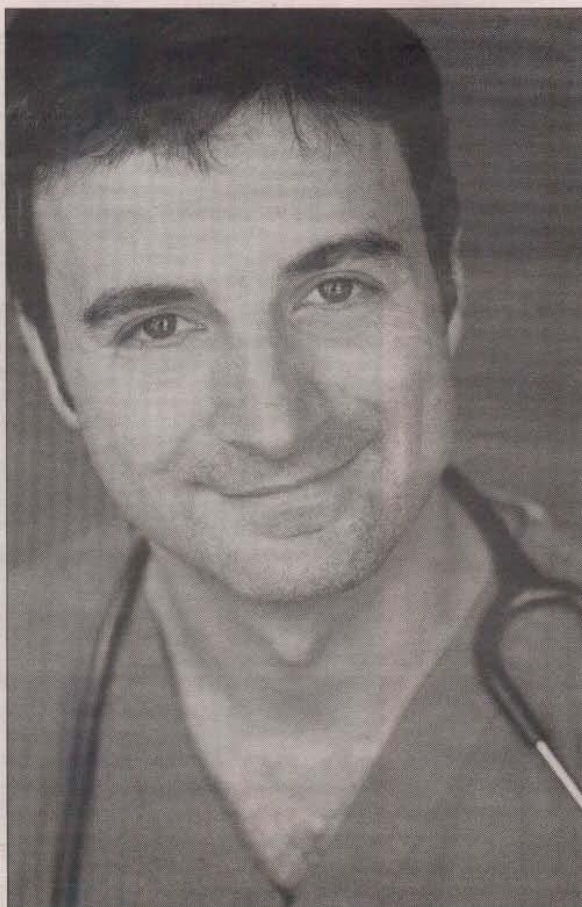
It's hard to imagine Daniel Kalla worrying about much these days. He's an ER doctor at St. Paul's and Mount Saint Joseph hospitals; he was named one of *TV Week's* 10 Most Beautiful People alongside pro baseball player Justin Mureau, jazz star Diana Krall, fashion model Noot Seear and *Battlestar Galactica's* Cylon babe Grace Park; and he just released his fifth novel, *Cold Plague*. But lurking in the pages of his latest medical thriller is fear, panic and a real-life threat of a dangerously infectious disease. Kalla's past efforts have included such heart-warming titles as *Pandemic*, *Resistance* and *Rage Therapy*. So what gives? Are we all doomed? In the name of science, Kalla volunteered to take a near lethal dose of the *Courier's* 10 Questions and report back to us on writing, worrying and the size of his stethoscope.

1. How does an emergency room physician find the time and energy to write five novels? Are you on some sort of intense vitamin regimen?

Do you consider Red Bull a vitamin? Actually, I thrive on deadlines. I always impose artificial ones for my writing schedule, and I usually hit my targets. Also, I do shift work in the ER, which helps. I'll often have two or three weekdays off, when the kids are at school, to get my writing done.

2. Your medical thrillers have a lot of fear, panic and deadly diseases in them. Do you know something we don't?

Yes, but I'm not telling you until book number seven. Actually, I don't have a clue what might or might not come next. However, with the *Black Plague*, Spanish Flu, HIV, Ebola, small pox, and numerous pandemics, history has taught us



Doctor-turned-thriller writer Daniel Kalla: "It's not the size of your stethoscope, it's how you wield it."

that new microscopic threats continue to emerge. I believe it's much better to be prepared and try to predict what might come next than to pretend there won't be another.

3. Should patients in our medical care system be worried?

Not really. They're better off than those in almost all other countries' medical care systems. And thanks to SARS, which didn't amount to much more than a dry run, pandemic flu planning and preparedness has improved significantly.

4. What strikes fear in you?

Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears and the Olsen

twins... In other words, good kids gone bad. Then again, I have two daughters. And I do worry about what the future holds for them.

5. The title of your book *Cold Plague* sounds a little like Coldplay. Are you a fan of the band?

I love Coldplay. In fact, with this novel I was hoping to ride their coattails and to capitalize on some misspelled Google hits. My iPod holds music ranging from Tom Jones and ABBA to Red Hot Chili Peppers and Green Day. The eclectic workout mix drives my wife nuts if she ever picks up the wrong iPod.

6. You were named one of *TV Week's* 10 Most

Beautiful People—in your face, Squire Barnes—and you were in some impressive company. Who wasn't on the list who should have been?

That is an absolutely no-win question. I had no business being on that list. But editorial mistake or not, what's done is done and I get to still wear the "10 Most Beautiful" sash I made. I've met Chihuahuas with skin conditions who are more beautiful than me, but I'm keeping the damn sash.

7. What can you tell about someone from the size of their stethoscope?

It's not the size of your stethoscope, it's how you wield it.

8. What's your favourite medical show on TV?

Scrubs. Primarily because it's not *ER*, *Grey's Anatomy*, or *House*. In *Scrubs*, the doctors are far from perfect. I can relate.

9. What's the best free health advice you can give me?

Perform frequent hand washing. Especially when preparing meals. Double especially when preparing my meals!

10. Why should people pick up your new book *Cold Plague*?

My whole reading life I've loved the kind of books you can lose yourself in on a plane or by a pool. The kind of story that is so engrossing you want the flight to last just a little longer so you can finish it. That is what I tried to accomplish in *Cold Plague*. The story ties a very real Antarctic subglacial lake to a devastating mad cow disease outbreak in France, and throws in a conspiracy involving bottled water. You'll have to decide if I succeeded or not in writing a good "plane read," but I've sure as hell tried!

—Michael Kisinger