

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Critically Acclaimed Mystery Author Releases New Literary Novel

CHRIS ORCUTT, author of the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series and a short story collection, recently published a modern pastoral novel, *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*, about a fictional wealthy Upstate New York community. The novel is receiving excellent reviews from Amazon readers and Hudson Valley reviewers.

**Millbrook, NY**— Chris Orcutt, author of mysteries and short fiction, has published a new novel that has a lot of people talking—particularly those from Millbrook.

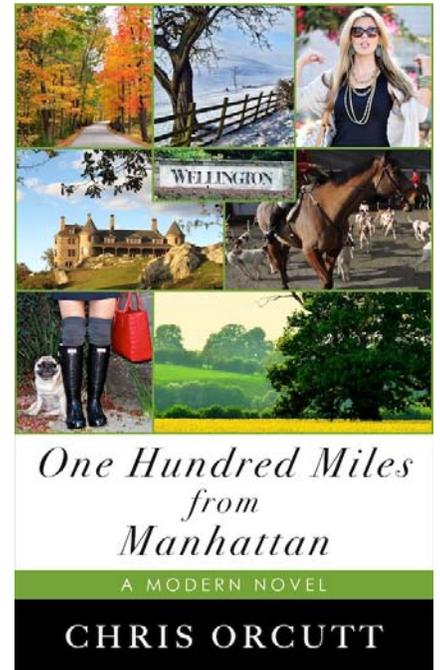
*One Hundred Miles from Manhattan* is a novel about an upscale rural community—Wellington, NY—where the hills and the seemingly quaint village conceal lives of love, lust, adultery, tragedy and small wars.

Unlike most other novels in the pastoral tradition, which attempt to tell the story of a place and a time through the eyes of a single character, this modern novel uses 10 narrators, a different one per chapter, to shed light on this exclusive community. A trophy wife undergoes a shocking transformation. A medical doctor attracts his own destruction. A local bachelor steals a dog and has an epiphany. A town Casanova goes on a personal odyssey to make amends. And a Manhattan book editor reveals what it's like to be a first-time visitor to this rarefied world of wealth, horses and equestriennes.

To this exquisitely written novel, Chris Orcutt brings his meticulous craft and his talent for writing in multifarious voices and styles—all while exposing a world of massive estates, rolling green hills, hilltoppers, townies, celebrities, hopes, dreams, sex, and the fleeting promises of love...

The fictional community of Wellington, NY was inspired by Millbrook, NY and other affluent rural towns in Upstate New York, as well as Derbyshire, UK—the home of Jane Austen's fictional character Mr. Darcy from her novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

“I first got this idea of writing a novel about a wealthy community over 20 years ago, when I was a reporter in a Millbrook, New York,” Orcutt said. “But at the time I could only envision the story being told from the point of view of the local reporter. I'm so glad that I waited to write this book, because I think that the use of 10 narrators gives the reader a richer, broader experience of the town, and because back when I was a reporter, my writing skills weren't even close to what they are now.”



*One Hundred Miles from Manhattan* is available at Amazon.com as a Kindle book and a paperback. The paperback is also available at Createspace.com and locally (in limited quantities) at Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook, NY.

Millbrook, NY and Dutchess County have provided backdrops for some of Orcutt's other fiction, including his Dakota Stevens Mystery Series, which features a PI who is based in Manhattan but has a small estate in Millbrook. "It's his fortress of solitude," Orcutt said. "Yet somehow the bad guys all seem to know about it."

**Chris Orcutt** has written professionally for over 20 years as a journalist, fiction writer, playwright, scriptwriter, technical writer and speechwriter. He is the creator of the critically acclaimed Dakota Stevens Mystery Series, including *A Real Piece of Work* (#1) and *The Rich Are Different* (#2), and he is the author of *The Man, The Myth, The Legend*—a short story collection voted by IndieReader as one of the Best Indie Books of 2013. As reporter for the *Millbrook Round Table*, he received a New York Press Association award. Finally, Orcutt is a Millbrook resident and a proud graduate of Millbrook High School.



For more information about ONE HUNDRED MILES FROM MANHATTAN, please visit [WWW.ORCUTT.NET](http://WWW.ORCUTT.NET) or contact ALEXAS ORCUTT at 845-705-6389.

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## Chris Orcutt Bio

CHRIS ORCUTT was born in Augusta, Maine in 1970. He grew up in New England and Dutchess County, New York, and graduated from Millbrook High School in 1988.

In 1992, while reporter for the *Millbrook Round Table* (his first job after college), Orcutt received a New York Press Association Award. Subsequently, he worked briefly as a freelancer for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

In the following years, Orcutt taught high school American Studies (American history and English), as well as European history, in Freeport, Maine; he co-founded a software startup (Actis, Inc.); he was a web usability and information architecture consultant for Merrill Lynch and J.P. Morgan, and then was hired by Merrill Lynch at the World Financial Center as a vice president of client communications.

After 9/11, Orcutt took a severance package, traveled out west for a while, then taught as an adjunct lecturer at Baruch College (City University of New York). He taught Freshman Composition, Introduction to Literature, and Business Communication for 5 years, and received the college's Distinguished Teaching Award. During this period, Orcutt was writing fiction full-time and being published by a number of literary journals including *Potomac Review*. He also wrote nonfiction articles that appeared in magazines including *Writer's Digest*. In 2004, he won the 55 Fiction World's Shortest Stories Contest.

In 2006, Orcutt moved back to his hometown of Millbrook, NY, and while working on his Dakota Stevens Mystery series, provided freelance writing and web design services for artists, non-profits and Fortune 100 corporate clients. He has written executive speeches, scripts for corporate industrial films and multimedia presentations, and annual investment reports.

While writing a multimedia performance piece for Pepsi Bottling Group, Orcutt discovered that he had a talent for short plays, and the first three that he wrote were performed at the Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor, Maine. A couple of years later, one of his 10-minute plays was performed by the Half Moon Theatre Company in Poughkeepsie, NY.

He started publishing his book-length fiction in November 2011 on Kindle, beginning with his first PI/mystery novel, *A Real Piece of Work*, featuring Manhattan–Millbrook detective Dakota Stevens. This novel quickly achieved a #1 top-rated ranking in Literary Fiction for Kindle, and #4 in Mystery. The second Dakota novel, *The Rich Are Different*, came out in June 2012; a collection of short stories, *The Man, The Myth, The Legend*, in July 2013 (the collection was voted by Indiereader as one of the Best Indie Books of 2013); and a modern pastoral novel, *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*, in April 2014. As of May 2014, all four books are available in trade paperback.

Sales of the first Dakota novel were so strong that they financed two long trips abroad for himself and his wife, Alexas. In the fall of 2012, they traveled to Paris and Normandy; and in the fall of 2013, they did a road trip through England, all the way up to his ancestral homeland in Highland Scotland.

Chris lives in Millbrook, NY and is a full-time writer.

## **One Hundred Miles from Manhattan: A Q&A with Chris Orcutt**

### **What do you mean by “modern novel”?**

Here’s why I call *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan* a “modern novel”: 1) the novel is told by 10 different narrators, one per chapter; and 2) the timeline is segmented.

For example, in the movie *Pulp Fiction*, the scenes are presented out of order. That’s what I do here. It’s the story of one year in Wellington, but the events are shown out of order. The book starts in the late spring/early summer, then goes to the early spring, then mid-summer, etc. It is not in chronological order.

I believe this enhances the reader’s experience. Also, many characters overlap between the chapters, and so do the events.

### **Why 10 different narrators or points of view?**

As much as I admire the single POV novel, in today’s ultramodern society, where everyone is a star (or considers himself one; social media tools aid in this delusion), everyone’s story or POV contributes to the larger story. Nowadays, it doesn’t make sense that any one person would be capable of telling the complete story of a town.

### **How is Wellington unique?**

Actually, I don’t think Wellington is unique (as in “being the only one of its kind”) as much as it’s iconic or symbolic.

There are lots of wealthy communities with big estates, rolling green hills, exclusive rod and gun clubs, pheasant farms, Range Rovers, a lively but mostly unnoticed equestrian scene, and a low simmer of conflict between “hilltoppers” and “townies.” Wellington is meant to be an amalgamation of several of those places, and it’s also meant to be more of an idea than an actual place. Mythical, if you will.

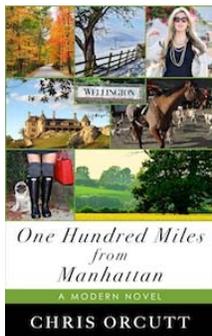
Imagine if the world of Mr. Darcy’s Derbyshire could be transplanted to modern-day Upstate New York. That’s Wellington.

### **What was your inspiration for the novel?**

I first got this idea of writing a novel about a wealthy community over 20 years ago, when I was a reporter in a small town similar to Wellington. But at the time I could only envision the story being told from the POV of the local reporter. I’m so glad that I waited to write this book, because I think that the use of 10 narrators gives the reader a richer, broader experience of the town, and because back when I was a reporter, my writing skills weren’t even close to what they are now.

I was also deeply inspired by my favorite classic authors of pastoral fiction including Chekhov, Tolstoy, Hardy and Austen.

## Critical Acclaim for Chris Orcutt's Work



### ***One Hundred Miles from Manhattan* (A Novel)**

“He is so exquisite in his writing that I couldn’t wait to finish....I cannot tell you the joy it gives me to read literature that is so well defined. The prose is exemplary.”

— **Pam Stack**, *Authors on the Air Global Radio Network*

“May I add that there’s also humor, delight and fun? This is a portrait of a town and its denizens—its schools, its diner and hardware store, its hair salon...as you read it, you are there (hey, maybe you really are there!). In short, this book is full of surprises and is totally fun to read.”

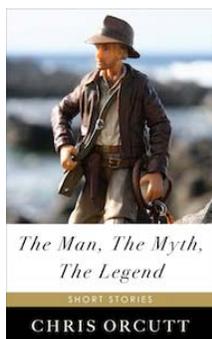
— **Ann La Farge**, *Hudson Valley News*

“One hundred miles from Manhattan is the town of Wellington, where life is different. Chris Orcutt’s ten short interwoven stories are widely varied in style, offering rich and descriptive language....a lightness and fluidity in writing....Orcutt pays tribute to his literary muses, often mentioning his inspiration through his literate characters....Deftly interwoven short stories effectively reveal picture-perfect life—with all its hideous flaws. (5 stars; IR approved)”

— **IndieReader**

“Like Gustave Flaubert, Orcutt is passionate about finding *le mot juste*, the right word. Anyone who appreciates the beautiful use of language will enjoy *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*, Orcutt’s latest novel.”

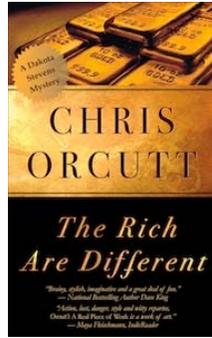
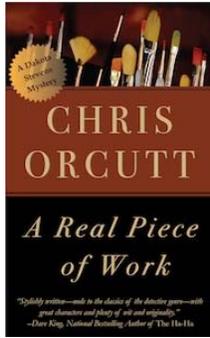
— **Kate Goldsmith**, *Northern Dutchess News*



### ***The Man, The Myth, The Legend* (Short Stories)**

“Author Chris Orcutt serves up a deliciously cheeky and ironic collection of short stories....Whether it is a hunter in Africa, or a feisty General of a Civil War-era army, a gentlemanly writer, a senior road sign engineer, dogcatcher, or an artist daring to live outside New England, Orcutt highlights the tongue-in-cheek intrigue, danger and adventure in each man’s life. Orcutt’s fresh, lively descriptions preserve the irony of the stories, as with the description of Nick Carraway’s ‘mean little bungalow that quaked in the shadow of Gatsby’s mansion like a tick beneath a Burmese elephant....’ Orcutt’s glib use of language and deft ability to switch into multifarious voices and writing styles captures the nuances of time, setting and mentality of each protagonist...making each story unique, engaging and insightful. (5 stars; IR approved)”

— **IndieReader** (Voted one of the Best Indie Books of 2013)



**The Dakota Stevens Mystery Series**  
**(*A Real Piece of Work & The Rich Are Different*)**  
**Featuring Manhattan/Millbrook Private Eye Dakota Stevens**

“Action, lust, danger, style and witty repartee, Orcutt’s *A Real Piece of Work* is a work of art (5 stars; IR approved).”

— **IndieReader**

“The series features the exploits of private detective Dakota Stevens and his ultra-capable assistant, the brilliant and beautiful Svetlana Krüsh. Dakota maintains a practice in New York City but retreats to his Millbrook home for rest and reflection, so there are many local references for Hudson Valley readers.”

— **Kate Goldsmith, *Northern Dutchess News***

“Orcutt hopes his neighbors and friends will enjoy that Dakota and Svetlana eat at the Millbrook Diner, shop at Marona’s Market, and—while trying to recover a stolen painting—are chased by a gang of thugs through the Town of Washington.”

— **Jesse Ordansky, *The Millbrook Independent***

“As a former FBI agent with experience in the field and the lab, Dakota Stevens combines the wit and grit of PIs Marlowe and Spenser with the ratiocination of Sherlock Holmes.”

— ***Hudson Valley News***

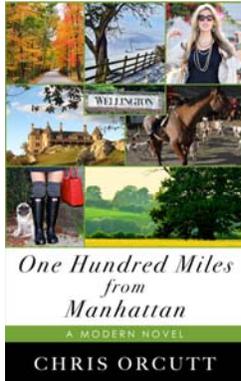
“Stylishly written—nods to the classics of the detective genre—with great characters and plenty of wit and originality (5 stars).”

— **Dave King, National Bestselling Author of *The Ha-Ha***

“I downloaded a sample of his first book. The title of that was *A Real Piece of Work*. By the third page, I was totally hooked and of course bought the book, as well as the second one, *The Rich Are Different*. Chris is an extremely gifted writer.... You’ll see, when you read his books, how the care he takes in writing them translates to the page.”

— **Stephen Campbell, Authors on the Air, “Murders, Mysteries and Mayhem”**

## Chris Orcutt Available Titles



### ***One Hundred Miles from Manhattan***

*Category:* Literature, Contemporary Fiction, Romance

*ISBN:* 978-0615999838

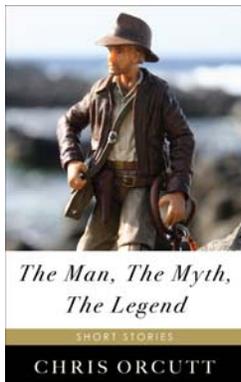
*Format:* Kindle eBook and Trade paperback

*Publication Date:* April, 2014

*Pages:* 254

*Trim:* 8 x 5.2 x 0.5 inches

*Price:* Kindle edition \$5.99, print edition \$12.95



### ***The Man, The Myth, The Legend***

*Category:* Literature, Short Stories, Action & Adventure

*ISBN:* 978-0692205402

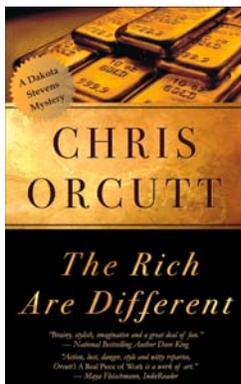
*Format:* Kindle eBook and Trade paperback

*Publication Date:* July, 2013

*Pages:* 222

*Trim:* 8 x 5.2 x 0.5 inches

*Price:* Kindle edition \$3.99, print edition \$11.95



### ***The Rich Are Different* (2<sup>nd</sup> book in the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series)**

*Category:* Mystery and Thriller, Private Investigator, Series

*ISBN:* 978-0692208519

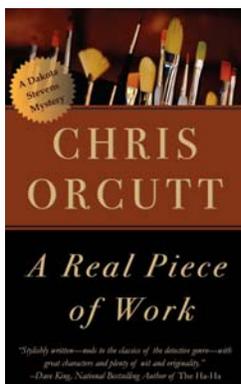
*Format:* Kindle eBook and Trade paperback

*Publication Date:* June, 2012

*Pages:* 352

*Trim:* 8 x 5.2 x 0.7 inches

*Price:* Kindle edition \$4.99, print edition \$14.95



### ***A Real Piece of Work* (1<sup>st</sup> book in the Dakota Stevens Mystery Series)**

*Category:* Mystery and Thriller, Private Investigator, Series

*ISBN:* 978-0692206379

*Format:* Kindle eBook and Trade paperback

*Publication Date:* November, 2011

*Pages:* 338

*Trim:* 8 x 5.2 x 0.7 inches

*Price:* Kindle edition \$4.99, print edition \$14.95

HAVE PEN WILL TRAVEL

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