

A.C. Chauncey

author

PRESS KIT

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A.C. CHAUNCEY BIO

Short:

A.C. Chauncey is a thriller author who writes from the inside. A longtime IATSE Local 80 (Hollywood) grip and Warner Bros. security officer, his firsthand experience on sets like Netflix's *The Residence* and *Nemesis* fuels his debut, *Bad Press*—praised as "a hell of a ride" by USA Today/Publishers Weekly bestselling author Carter Wilson.

An alum of the Netflix Ladder Program (first in the U.S.) and a Paramount Writers Mentoring Program finalist, he lives in Los Angeles.

Long:

A.C. Chauncey is a Los Angeles-based thriller author, screenwriter, and filmmaker. His debut novel, *Bad Press*, has been praised as "a hell of a ride" by USA Today bestselling author Carter Wilson.

Chauncey's unique authenticity comes from his day job as a longtime IATSE Local 80 grip on major productions like Netflix's *The Residence* (2025) and *Nemesis* (2026), and from his experience as a licensed security officer on the Warner Bros. lot. Selected for the inaugural U.S. cohort of the prestigious Netflix Ladder Program, he uses this insider's view of Hollywood's machinery to fuel the gritty, high-pressure worlds he builds on the page.

A finalist for the Paramount Writers Mentoring Program, his screenplays have been optioned by Emmy-winning producers. His filmmaking has earned festival nominations for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay.

Originally from Orlando, Chauncey's writing consistently explores the dark, unnerving edges of the stories that compel him.

BAD PRESS (Synopsis)

Title: Bad Press **Genre:** Crime Thriller **Word Count:** 86K

High up in the Hollywood Hills, “*Can I watch him die?*” asked Tina Moon, a fading pop phenom, as EVAN PRESS, the sociopathic founder of the exclusive L.A. publicity firm Press Public Relations, prepared to have her assistant murdered in the pop star’s mansion to secure the number one spot on Billboard’s Hot 100 for her new album ‘Passion Dome’. This latest murder is just one of Evan’s many eccentric PR stunts, which he labels “campaigns” — an elite, off-the-books service he provides to his A-list clients. *Shhh!*

Tina’s assistant dies, the campaign becomes a massive viral success, and Tina obliterates the competition to claim the top spot on the pop charts.

However, things take a sudden turn when Evan’s emotionally conflicted and estranged stepsister, HEATHER PRESS, a West Hollywood detective, and her new partner are assigned to investigate Tina’s assistant’s suspicious murder. Still wounded by a miscarriage, stressed by a pending divorce, and fresh out of a numbing affair, the case leads to a forced reunion between Heather and Evan, shedding a stark light on their shared trauma-filled, dark past.

Initially, Detective Heather Press unconsciously obstructs the investigation, prioritizing repairing her relationship with her stepbrother, fueled by wishful and guilt-driven thinking. As damning evidence mounts in the case, tension grows between her and her partner. The rising pressure causes Evan to unhinge and start gathering more victims (campaigns) than he initially intended to maintain his publicity empire.

Detective Heather Press refuses to believe Evan is involved in the killings and vows to protect him—something she couldn’t do during their abusive childhood. However, as Evan is confronted with evidence of varying severity—such as his subpoenaed phone logs, suspicious red carpet photos, and damning videos—linking him to his twisted campaigns, he ultimately chooses to shoot Heather’s partner at close range in his driveway after discovering a search warrant has been issued for one of his L.A. penthouses, where he hides a sinister secret behind a hidden wall: his stepfather—Heather’s father… Peter Press, tortured and strapped to a gurney.

The murder of her partner fuels a much-needed fire within Detective Heather Press, reigniting her commitment to the West Hollywood P.D. badge, no longer blinded by blood. She intensifies her pursuit of Evan as he tries to throw her off his trail by manipulating her at every turn and guilt-tripping her into blaming herself for not protecting him from her father’s abuse.

Evan’s tactics eventually lose their power, and Heather ultimately arrests him for the murder of one of his own clients.

Yet, in a twisted turn of fate, Evan will never end up in jail. On the way to the West Hollywood Precinct, they get distracted by a shared memory of a cherished childhood moment, causing Detective Heather Press to lose control and crash into a telephone pole suddenly—her vehicle erupts into flames.

Initially unconscious, Detective Heather Press opens her blood-filled eyes to see Evan burning alive in the backseat as he screams her name. “*Heather!*” he cries in agony. “*Evan,*” she

mutters back. Before she can wipe the blood from her eyes and try to rescue him, the driver's door is forced open. She is yanked from behind the driver's wheel of the inferno, crying and screaming for Evan as his remains are engulfed by thick black smoke, catapulting his empire and their relationship into the ethers, ending in their own campaign of Bad Press.

Quote(s):

“LOVE THE PREMISE. A HELL OF A RIDE!”

—USA Today/Publishers Weekly bestselling thriller author Carter Wilson.

MEDIA ASSETS



Photo Credit: A.C. Chauncey



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Suggested Interview Topics

- What are your thoughts on mainstream media?
- In your opinion, how does the current media landscape influence celebrity culture?
- What motivated Bad Press?
- In Bad Press, your main characters are deeply flawed and complex. How did they develop?
- What was the hardest part for you in writing this specific type of story?

A.C. CHAUNCEY FAQ

Where are you from? I was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, but I've called Los Angeles home for nearly fifteen years.

What genres do you enjoy reading? Believe it or not, I read far more self-help and nonfiction than fiction. I write thrillers, but when I'm relaxing, you'll usually find me with a self-help book in my hands. I'm a little backwards that way.

Where do your ideas come from—whether for a book or a script? I've lived a pretty full life, so I'm constantly filing away people, conversations, and situations. When the urge to create hits, I dig through that mental archive until something grabs me and demands to be written.

An Emmy-winning producer optioned your TV pilot *Bad Press*. How did that happen? Hollywood runs on connections. An associate passed my script to an Emmy-winning producer without telling me. One random afternoon, while I was binge-watching TV, I got a text from him out of the blue. The rest is history.

Is your debut novel *Bad Press* based on the TV pilot of the same name? Yes, exactly. The novel expands the world and characters from the pilot.

How long did it take to write the novel version of *Bad Press*? I wrote it throughout 2025, mostly on my days off from working security at Warner Bros. Discovery or gripping on the Netflix series *Nemesis* (IATSE Local 80).

Your thriller *Bad Press* dives into the dark side of public relations. Do you have any PR experience? I do! Back in Orlando, I was the publicist and manager for a local rap group. I wrote press releases, pitched media, and even landed them radio and TV spots after a Grammy-winning producer invited them out to the awards show.

What's your overall vision for *Bad Press*? I see it as a trilogy of novels and, hopefully, a TV series. We'll see where the road takes it—if it's meant to happen, it will.

You've had a pilot optioned, worked as a grip on Netflix shows, and now you're a debut novelist. How did you end up in so many corners of the entertainment industry? Simple: I just love entertaining people. Whether it's on a screen or on the page, I'm happy to be part of the process however I can.

You were a finalist in the Paramount Writers' Mentoring Program. What was that like? That year the program received over 12,000 submissions. Being selected as one of the twelve finalists for an interview with network executives felt incredibly validating.

You were also one of the first participants in the Netflix Ladder Program that launched in the UK on *Bridgerton*. How did that come about? Classic Hollywood story: someone knew

someone. One night I got a random text telling me to apply. I did, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I've ever made.

What is A.C. Chauncey working on next? Another thriller titled '18'. That's all I'm saying for now.

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