

For Immediate Release

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Press Release for *The University* (A novel by C.K. Houck)

Headline: C.K. Houck Delivers Suspense–Packed Novel

Remember the last time you were on a university campus? The stately buildings—the well-tended grounds—a place most people consider a safe haven. *The University*, a recently released novel by C.K. Houck transports readers to such a time-honored place. Only this year, a tranquil place it is not.

Power. Greed. New beginnings. Young lives cut short. To the steady cadence of one academic year, Houck weaves an extraordinary story of intertwined lives at this iconic school and how it lives and breathes. A challenging year that shakes fictitious Brighton University to its very core. A multi-layered story that unfolds through a cast of characters one might encounter on any university campus.

What inspired this story? “Universities are fascinating places and while insulated to a point and promoting all that is good, they are not immune to untoward forces and intrigue seen elsewhere although we might want and expect them to be,” Houck explains. “*The University* is fiction but lifetime exposure to numerous university settings created vivid images allowing me to weave this present tale. The calendar and events of one school year provided inherent structure. Move-in week, classes, Greek life, sports events, homecoming, school breaks, exams, graduation—such time-stamped happenings provided an underlying drumbeat driving the story. I want readers to be swept up in these events and traditions as if there’re there.”

As the story begins it’s fall, the start of a new year at Brighton University, and Provost David Bradford is doing his best to hold things together. When the seemingly placid campus in Ridgemont, Virginia is thrown into a tumult that shakes the prestigious school to its core, Bradford must protect the time-honored school’s reputation at all cost avoiding missteps as he makes a long-awaited bid for the presidency.

Marjorie Starr, a stunning young chemist, has just arrived, energized and ready to begin her first faculty position. Leaving behind the privileged life she could easily have, she’s determined to make it on her own and embrace the small-town life. But when she becomes entangled in campus scandals, Marjorie finds that life is not always simple in the Blue Ridge.

And across campus on sorority row, Susan Arnold breezes into town looking forward to one last glorious year at Brighton. About to face a senior year she never imagined.

If you're looking for suspense, intrigue, and a bit of romance unfolding across richly drawn settings, *The University* delivers.

Born in Daytona Beach, Florida, Houck grew up in a college town in Alabama and spent her working life in a college town in Virginia. Now retired from a career as a university professor, she writes fiction, an interest she deferred since her undergraduate years at the University of Alabama. Author of numerous scholarly publications, she now enjoys the freedom of letting her imagination take her to places she's never been and stepping into the lives of characters that appear on the wondrous 'stage' of her mind. Widow of her high school sweetheart, mother of their beloved son, and blessed with three precious grandchildren, she splits her time between her homes in Florida and Virginia. She is currently working on her second novel.

Available Through: Ingram Catalog booksellers, Indie Bound, Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, Books-A-Million, etc. in both trade paperback and Kindle editions. For additional information visit ckhouck.com.

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