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March 31, 2009

**Via e-mail only (simon@sevenstories.com)**

Dan Simon, Publisher  
Seven Stories Press  
140 Watts Street  
New York, NY 10013

**Re: *Out of Fear* by D.E. Hutcheson**

Dear Dan:

We are agents for D.E. Hutcheson, who just completed *Out of Fear*—a first novel about a young ad writer forced to face, and accept, a cycle of psychological violence that shatters three generations of men in his family. I've attached here the first 32 pages of the work (210 pages).

*Out of Fear* is the story of 30-year-old advertising *wunderkind* Will Stallworth. In the 1980s, he returns home to Atlanta after his initial career triumph in San Francisco. He's been offered a unique opportunity to lead and elevate a white shoe Atlanta advertising agency. He arrives in Atlanta armed with talent, arrogance, accolades, money. He soon wins the affections of a hauntingly beautiful woman.

Immediately, inexplicably, he begins to unravel. Ghastly dreams of his brother Randall's childhood suicide poison his nights. He must contend with his dying father—brutal and mocking. While leading his new employer's pitch for a \$100 million client, he is ambushed by panic attacks and feelings of being an "imposter." His rise as the agency's new star disintegrates. Co-workers, smelling blood, sabotage him. The woman of his dreams walks out. Desperate, he grasps at anything and everything to stop his downward spiral. And he finds deliverance in the least likely of all places . . . .

*Out of Fear* is a psychological drama about the underlying doubts and fears that plague everyone: how they hide, grow secretly, and attack suddenly. It is also an edgy redemption story that introduces us to an eccentric but brave young man who faces down his deepest fears and emerges with the greatest prize: himself.

600 Grant Street, U.S. Steel Tower, 32nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 USA  
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*Out of Fear* is the first installment of a trio of novels based on the character Will Stallworth—from age 30 until his death at 92. The novels *Will Wakes Up*, and *The Men's Circle* are now being written.

**About Mr. Hutcheson.** In the 1980s, he founded HutchesonShutze, a highly regarded ad agency he ran for a decade in Atlanta. The firm won awards at the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, the Clios and The British Design Show before being purchased by Omnicom Worldwide. He has co-authored two nonfiction books, *The Lemming Conspiracy* (Longstreet, 1997), and *Don't Waste Your Talent* (Longstreet, 2001), as well as a nationally syndicated column. He is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, where he majored in Russian Language and Literature.

Dan, I am attaching the first five chapters (32 pages). After you or an editor read a few pages, you will know whether you are interested or not.

I know you and yours are extraordinarily busy--just let me know when you can.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Daniel Hull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "D".

J. Daniel Hull  
for D.E. Hutcheson

Attachment: *Out of Fear* (excerpt 32 pages)