

Bill Cheng



Bill Cheng received a BA in creative writing from Baruch College and is a graduate of Hunter College's MFA program. Born and raised in Queens, he currently lives in Brooklyn with his wife. *Southern Cross the Dog* is his first novel.

Jeff Shaara



Jeff Shaara is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Steel Wave*, *The Rising Tide*, *To the Last Man*, *The Glorious Cause*, *Rise to Rebellion*, and *Gone for Soldiers*, as well as *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*—two novels that complete the Civil War trilogy that began with his father's Pulitzer Prize—winning classic *The Killer Angels*. Shaara was born into a family of Italian immigrants in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He grew up in Tallahassee, Florida, and graduated from Florida State University. After many years spent in New York City and the mountains of Montana, Jeff has returned to Florida and resides again in Sarasota.

Gail Godwin



Gail Kathleen Godwin is an American novelist and short story writer. She has published one non-fiction work, two collections of short stories, thirteen novels, three of which were finalists for the National Book Award and five of which have made the *New York Times* Bestseller List. She has also published two volumes of her journals under the title, *The Making of a Writer*.

Godwin was born in Birmingham, Alabama and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. She graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She later attended the University of Iowa, earning her M.A. from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and PhD in English Literature. In 1976, Godwin settled in Woodstock, N.Y., with composer Robert Starer, her companion until his death in April 2001, with whom she wrote ten musical works.

Godwin's body of work has garnered many honors, including three times being named a National Book Award finalist, a Guggenheim Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts grants for both fiction and libretto writing, and the Award in Literature from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Five of her novels have been on the *New York Times* best seller list.

## Clyde Edgerton



Clyde Edgerton, raised in the community of Bethesda, near Durham, NC, has published eight novels and a memoir (*Solo, My Adventures in the Air*). Three of his novels have been made into movies: *Raney*, *Walking Across Egypt*, and *Killer Diller*. Edgerton's short stories and essays have been published in *New York Times Magazine*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Southern Review*, *Oxford American*, *Garden & Gun* and other publications. Edgerton is a musician and has performed with musicians including Jim Watson, Mike Craver, Jack King, and Matt Kendrick.

Among Edgerton's awards are: Guggenheim Fellowship; Lyndhurst Prize; Honorary Doctorates from UNC-Asheville and St. Andrews Presbyterian College; membership in the Fellowship of Southern Writers; the North Carolina Award for Literature; and five notable book awards from the *New York Times*.

Edgerton is a professor of Creative Writing in the MFA program at UNC Wilmington. He lives in Wilmington, NC, with his wife, Kristina, and their children.

## John R. Neff



John R. Neff is Associate Professor of History and Director of The Center for Civil War Research at the University of Mississippi. He received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside.

His first book, *Honoring the Civil War Dead: Commemoration and the Problem of Reconciliation*, appeared in 2005. That year, he was also named the College of Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year, and in 2009 he received the Elsie B. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award. He is currently at work on research into the legacy of the Civil War in Chicago, a project tentatively entitled *City of Memory*.

## Ace Atkins



Ace Atkins is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of more than a dozen novels. A former journalist who cut his teeth as a crime reporter in the newsroom of *The Tampa Tribune*, he published his first novel, *Crossroad Blues*, at 27 and became a full-time novelist at 30. Last year, he was selected by the Robert B. Parker estate to continue the bestselling adventures of Boston's iconic private eye, Spenser.

As a reporter, Ace earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination for a feature series based on his investigation into a forgotten murder of the 1950s. The story became the core of his critically acclaimed novel, *White Shadow*, which earned raves from noted authors and critics.

Ace lives on a historic farm outside Oxford, Mississippi with his family.

Jack Pendarvis



Jack Pendarvis spent much of his childhood and adult life in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. He is the author of one novel and two collections of short stories. He is a columnist for *Oxford American*, and *The Believer*. His work has appeared in many other publications, including *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times*, and the 2006 Pushcart Prize anthology. His publications include *Awesome*, 2008, *Your Body is Changing*, 2007 and *The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure*, 2005.

He teaches fiction and contemporary literature in the English Department at the University of MS.

Nancy Miller



Nancy Miller is editorial director of Bloomsbury, where her authors include Gail Godwin, Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket), Lisa Howorth, and Mark Kurlansky, among others. She has previously held positions at HarperCollins, Random House, Simon & Schuster, and Farrar, Straus & Giroux.