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CONTACT:

[JKSCommunications](http://JKSCommunications.com)

Dan McLaughlin

312.485.8177

dan@jkscommunications.com

Twitter: [@JKSlitpublicity](https://twitter.com/JKSlitpublicity)

**NOVEL EXPLORES FEMALE EMPOWERMENT AND
AGE-OLD RIVALRY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

Provocateur appeals to fans of *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*

NEW YORK, NY – May 2012 – Charles D. Martin explores the vast emergence of Alpha-females in today's society in his debut novel *Provocateur* (August 2012). The book is a thrilling look into the age-old contest between men and women, set around a complex, enigmatic woman of superior intelligence.

The story follows Nadia, a young Russian woman who comes to America through a mail-order-bride program. She becomes employed in an enterprise operated by an ex-CIA agent whose agency, through clever missions, extracts large amounts of money from wealthy men. Readers watch Nadia through three dangerous assignments, and along the way, her brief encounter with romance. Born an orphan, Nadia rises out of a life of poverty and despair to face her struggles and take on the challenges of her "profession" using aptitude and female prowess.

"Wow! Provocateur sizzles! Fiction? Perhaps, but this taut thriller shoots you right into today's high-wire world of global intrigue, collapsing financial markets and the pulsing tension between brilliant, sensuous women and cunning, powerful men," said best-selling author Harvey Karp.

Provocateur will appeal to fans of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*, *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *Body Heat* for its suspense and sexual tension between Nadia and the men she encounters. David Ward, Academy Award winning screenwriter for *The Sting* and nominee for *Sleepless in Seattle*, is adapting Martin's book for its own big screen debut. **Ward called *Provocateur* "a first-rate thriller with something on its mind. Sexy, smart and topical."**

Martin grew up in a small Ohio town. He had a distinguished career in venture capital and private equity, founding two highly successful investment firms that he managed during the decades of the 1980s and 1990s. Currently he runs a hedge fund, Mont Pelerin Capital, LLC, and serves on the investment committees of prominent universities. The author has extensive background in finance and technology, and has travelled to the exotic locations featured in his novel. He lives with his wife Twyla in a coastal town south of Los Angeles.

AUTHOR WEBSITE: www.ProvocateurBook.com

FACEBOOK: [Provocateur-Book](https://www.facebook.com/Provocateur-Book)

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