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CONTACT: Andy Heidel

718-789-1391

andy@perasperapress.com

PER ASPERA PRESS PUBLISHES BILL DeSMEDT'S DEBUT

\* "ACTION-PACKED THRILLER," SINGULARITY

*"I very much enjoyed Bill DeSmedt's Singularity. Bill got the vast majority of the physics right, which is highly unusual especially in a book that is such a good read."*

—Kip Thorne, Astrophysicist and national bestselling author

*\* "DeSmedt veers an action-packed thriller into perilous realms of black hole physics. The combination of adrenaline and intellect sizzles."*

—David Brin, *New York Times* bestselling author

*"An excellent debut from Bill DeSmedt—and I'll be looking forward to his next one!"*

—Greg Bear, multiple Hugo and Nebula award-winning author

Bill DeSmedt's *Singularity*, "juggles Clancy, Crichton, and *The Da Vinci Code*," says *New York Times* bestselling author Kevin J. Anderson. It's "an innovative concept for an end-of-the-world thriller, with convincing research and locomotive pacing." *Singularity*, just published in hardcover by Per Aspera press, "is a swift, gripping novel with a goose-pimple mix of scary science and near-future action," according to multiple Hugo and Nebula award-winning author Greg Bear.

Though it takes place in the present day, *Singularity* begins on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1908, in Central Siberia's Tunguska River basin. The most violent cosmic collision in recorded history decimates an ancient forest across an area half the size of Rhode Island, yet leaving behind not a shred of hard evidence as to what caused it. What if, as some astrophysicists have theorized, the culprit was a submicroscopic black hole, smaller than an atom, heavier than a mountain, older than the stars? What if that fantastic object is still down there, burrowing through the Earth's mantle, locked into a decaying orbit that could one day consume the entire planet? What if you could capture it, and harness a power able to transform the world — or end it?

Jonathan Knox is one of the country's most sought-after consultants for a simple, if somewhat spooky reason: he has a knack for unearthing the hidden relationships among seemingly isolated events, and using these underlying connections to solve the thorniest business problems for his Fortune-50 clientele. But Knox's strange talent will be put to the ultimate test when rookie federal agent Marianna Bonaventure blackmails him into helping her solve a problem of a whole different order of magnitude.

(continued)

The alluring but headstrong Marianna works for CROM, a secret US Energy Department initiative tasked with halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction by plugging the international brain drain of scientists who produce them. For the past six months she's been investigating the affairs of Russian industrialist Arkady Grishin, on suspicion that his Grishin Enterprises International conglomerate is trafficking in proscribed WMD research and researchers.

That suspicion proves well-founded: Already, Grishin has sequestered three of Russia's leading nuclear physicists aboard GEI's floating corporate headquarters, the fabulous megayacht *Rusalka*. And Marianna fears it's only a matter of time before he auctions off their death-dealing expertise to the highest terrorist bidder. She'll do anything to keep that from happening — not least, scamming her way onto *Rusalka* as a guest of Knox's onetime friend, GEI second-in-command Sasha Bondarenko.

But what Knox and Marianna uncover onboard the megayacht is far more earth-shattering than any WMD arms-trading plot. For Grishin is attempting to capture the microscopic black hole that caused the Tunguska Event, and use its awesome power to change the course of history — after the fact!

Hurling from the trackless wastes of Siberia to the rooftops of Manhattan to the stygian depths of the North Atlantic, spanning a hundred years and a thousand miles of open ocean, Bill DeSmedt's *Singularity* is a fast-paced high-IQ science thriller in the tradition of Michael Crichton and Greg Bear.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Bill DeSmedt has spent his life living by his wits and his words. In his time, and as the spirit has moved him, he's been: a Soviet Area expert and Soviet exchange student, a computer programmer and system designer, a consultant to startups and the Fortune 500, an Artificial Intelligence researcher, a son, a husband and lover, a father and grandfather, an omnivorous reader with a soft spot for science fiction and science non-fiction, and now, Lord help us, a novelist. He's tried to pack as much of that checkered history as he could into *Singularity*. Bill lives with his wife of 37 years in Milford, Pennsylvania, a town whose long tradition in speculative literature serves as a constant source of inspiration. He is currently hard at work on a sequel to *Singularity* to be called *Dualism*. Check out the science behind the book at [www.vurdalak.com](http://www.vurdalak.com).

**SINGULARITY**  
**By Bill DeSmedt**  
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