

**TITLE:** *THE NOTE*

**TYPE:** Fiction

**GENRE:** Murder Mystery/Psychological Thriller

**TIME PERIOD:** 1965-1977

**SETTING:** Kentucky

**AVAILABILITY:** Hardback and softcover. Distributed online at [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) (888-280-7715), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and through INGRAM to all retail book stores (**Full Refund Option**), and [www.jjohnportera.com](http://www.jjohnportera.com)

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**PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS:**

- *Tribute To A Champion*—ISBN 0-941602-01
- *Grinning & Grinding*—ISBN 1-886049-02-5
- *Conspirators of Revenge*—1-4208-8027-6 (HC)

**BIOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW (detailed bio enclosed)**

**Author's Birthplace:** West Point, Mississippi

**Education:**

- University of Mississippi, B.A. degree (Graduate Fellowship in English)
- University of Louisville, D.M.D.

**Professional Career:**

- Cosmetic-reconstructive dentist: 1969 - 1998
- Associate Professor of Dentistry (Tenured): 1976-1984, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC), Jackson, Ms.
- Faculty Senate, UMC
- Teacher of the Year, UMC School of Dentistry: 1984
- Fellowship International College of Dentists—F.I.C.D.

**Personal Interests and Pursuits:** Self-taught bronze sculptor ([www.giovanisculptures.net](http://www.giovanisculptures.net)), Painting (pastels), Jewelry-making, Astronomy, Creative Writing, Student of Military History and Native American Cultures (particularly Hopi religion and Kachinas), Science of Bullet Ballistics, Motorcycling, Photography, and traveling the Southwestern USA.

**Family:** Mother: Rose Marascalco Portera; three daughters: Kathryn Rose (Katie) Portera, Caroline Lorraine (Carrie) Portera, and Johanna Haley (Anni) Portera.



**J. John Portera**

**Mississippi Writer Pens Second Novel**  
**(A Mini-synopsis)**

West Point, Mississippi native, Dr. J. John Portera, has recently completed his second novel in less than two years. *The Note*, like Portera's first novel, *Conspirators of Revenge*, is a psychological thriller. The novel poignantly presents the intense, twelve-year manhunt for a serial killer, between June 25, 1965, and July 1, 1977. Each of the seven female victims had been killed in the state of Kentucky, with the first six homicides having been committed within a fifty-mile radius of downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Investigators knew, without a shadow of doubt, that they were dealing with a psychopathic serial killer after assimilating the crime scene evidence discovered in the home of Patricia "Pat" Maniakis, the killer's third victim, in June, 1969.

By the time that Jewel Anne Lott, a fifty-four-year-old Hickman, Kentucky widow was murdered on July 1, 1977, the investigating authorities had labeled the elusive murderer as the SPN Killer; an infamous moniker that struck paralyzing fear in the hearts and minds of Kentucky women anytime they heard or read about the man who always left a written tell-tale reason for committing each of the macabre murders. It was a fingerprint-like piece of evidence that investigators simply identified as *The Note*.

The author, as he did in *Conspirators of Revenge*, has once again utilized the renowned forensic psychologist, Dr. Matteo, to narrate this chilling tale. In the end, it is Dr. Matteo who identifies the killer's psychopathology—as he does with each of the killers in Portera's novels. Reviews, prior to actual publishing release of the novel, have given a glimpse of a novel that promises to be a riveting read; one that is a proverbial page-turner from page one to the epilogue's last page.

### **Pre-Release Reviews for The Note:**

“This second novel by a deeply insightful and articulate southern author takes the reader into a spell-binding search for a serial killer, a psychopath whose horrific homicides in Kentucky went unsolved for twelve years. Portera only puts the pieces of the puzzle together after the reader is emotionally exhausted from efforts to identify the killer.”—**Senator Jack Gordon, Chairperson, Senate Appropriations Committee, State of Mississippi**

“This powerful narrative keeps the reader hungry for the next detailed clue to the mindset of the killer. It is a riveting, revealing study of human desire and needs of both the victims and the killer. “—**Jeannetta Edwards, Editor, *Daily Times Leader***

“The descriptive detail of “The Note” allows the reader to visualize the grotesque terror of each of the victims. That same detail style allowing the reader to understand the mental and physical trauma that Vincent Bugali suffered each day for 12 years.” —**Laddie Huffman, Clay County Sheriff, Mississippi**

“This absorbing tale of murder and mayhem is both fascinating and horrifying. Why? Why would a human being do this to another living creature, much less another human being? And how can a person who wantonly murders another human being walk among us undetected, apparently normal? Even after you know who the killer is, you will be riveted until you hear his story and why he did it. —**Liz Williams, Sales, FedEx**

## **J. John Portera: Biography**

J. John Portera is quite a story in and of himself. One fan of his novels, a Memphis artist, has written that, “*this author is as deep and complex as his novels; Dr. J. John Portera is a study in contrasts.*”

Portera graduated from Ole Miss with a B.A. degree, and then accepted a graduate fellowship in the English Graduate School. His intention at the time was to become a writer; however, the responsibility of supporting a family prompted him to accept a dental school position. He practiced and taught reconstructive cosmetic dentistry for 29 years in Mississippi, eight of those years as an associate professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He retired from dentistry in 1998. He worked on a quarter horse ranch, became a physical fitness trainer, and expanded an intense interest in carving exotic hardwoods to a passion for bronze sculpting

In 2000 he moved back to his native West Point, MS., where he began to turn out bronze sculptures in earnest. The main motif of his sculptures are life-size busts of prominent Native American leaders like Sitting Bull, Geronimo, and Crazy Horse, as well as an exquisite reproduction of Chief Joseph, the great warrior and, later, orator of the Nez Perce. He has many wildlife sculptures which he has given imaginative names like “Defiant” for a Bighorn ram and “Rage”, for a charging African bull elephant. Pictures of his sculptures can be seen at his website: [www.giovanнисculptures.net](http://www.giovanнисculptures.net).

Ultimately his creative and imaginative talents funneled into the creation of what turned out to be “Conspirators of Revenge”. It was a ten month project from beginning to end, working ten to twelve hours a day. Besides being a highly psychologically charged piece of literature in the murder mystery/thriller genre, the novel has what Portera describes as his *author stamps or trade marks*: ‘*Whenever the weather is presented, it is accurately described for the specific date and location. At times, I actually research the weather after I have written the scene. Ironically, more times than not, the actual weather history for the date and place perfectly fit what I had just written. Obviously, this is serendipity in its purest sense.*’

The author says another unique trait is reflected in the ear he has for the Deep South drawl which, oftentimes, is heard as an improper or indistinct dialect form that he can quite accurately convert into the written word. ‘*I also feel that my descriptive detail, when describing a certain character, comes from my lifelong habit of intensely observing the physical characteristics of those around me. Even I though I do this with great concentration, I attempt to make my study of the individual as subtle as possible; otherwise, I will likely see something that is contrived and not natural.*’

Dr. Portera has been guest speaking to book lovers at regional libraries, as well as doing signings in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, since 2005. The first scheduled signing for his latest novel will be in his home town of West Point, MS. It will be held at his favorite hangout, *THE SMOKE STACK*. He will also be presenting discussions of *The Note* at libraries in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky, beginning in September of 2007. Book signings will also be conducted at many of the Barnes and Noble book stores, as well as many other book retail stores. Scheduling of these events can be made at [publicist@jjohnportera.com](mailto:publicist@jjohnportera.com).