



## WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

*Writer Stewart Raffill takes on political correctness in his new international thriller*

by JANE ROSER



*“There are no good wars, the admiral was told by a professor at Annapolis, but winning was at least a consolation for the stupidity of it all. And ironically, as the admiral redirected his Naval assets to defend the people of the Middle East against a weapon of his own making, he began to question his allegiance to the cause. It was after all the militant religiosity of the Middle East that was responsible for the deadly doppelganger they had created in a new American terrorist organization.”*

**A**uthor Stewart Raffill’s inspiration for his debut novel, *RAGE*, stemmed from research he had conducted into the Navy’s Ohio-Class nuclear submarines, in which just 170 men are responsible for over 160 nuclear weapons, each one thirty times more powerful than the ones that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

“It’s a form of madness,” Raffill says. “Particularly when you consider the fact that most scientists believe the detonation of just 100 such weapons would create a nuclear winter, and destroy the world as we know it. It’s a holdover from the Cold War, which doesn’t really exist anymore, and when you combine that with the unending strife we face every day from militant Islamists, the seeds of Raffill’s novel, *RAGE* were born.”

*RAGE* is an international political thriller, which finds a new President distracted from his dreams of reviving the nation’s economy by 15 US Naval Officers who take command of a nuclear submarine and threaten to use its weapons against Islamist terrorists if they continue their war of terror against the non-Muslim world.

The cautionary tale about the dangers of unending religious terrorism and the continuing proliferation of nuclear weapons, which

Raffill has entwined into a shocking and devastating story with an ending that not even an *O. Henry* enthusiast would see coming. “Predictability compromises the very art of storytelling,” Raffill laments. “So I tried to create a tale with sufficient twists and turns to keep its audience captivated until its shocking end.”

Raffill was surprised by the detail of information he found on the Internet about nuclear submarines, their weaponry, means of remaining undetected, and even details about the Polaris missiles they carry. It was all disturbing information that he has incorporated into the plot of his story. But ultimately, *RAGE* derives its motivations, politics and compelling tale from its colorful, contemporary characters. A fact born out by the strange and disturbing reality of sometimes finding one’s self-agreeing with the motivations of the book’s antagonists.

Raffill’s writing style is fast paced with characters reflecting the world we live in. In many ways, you feel like you’re watching a movie as well as reading a novel, which is not surprising when you consider that Raffill is also a writer/director in the film business.

*RAGE* is a controversial, politically incorrect novel that will grab your attention from its first page and hold you in its grip until its shocking and twisted end. **PRH**