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Washington Burning by Les Standiford

[Washington Burning](#) How a Frenchman's Vision for Our Nation's Capital Survived Congress, the Founding Fathers, and the Invading British Army **Written by Les Standiford Trade Paperback**, 368 pages | Three Rivers Press | History - United States; History - United States - 19th Century | **\$16.00** | 978-0-307-34645-2 (0-307-34645-5)

Washington Burning transports us in time to the very founding of our nation and its capital. We learn that the Washington we know might never have come to be had it not been for the destruction of the young city by British troops in 1814, or for Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the eccentric, passionate, difficult architect who fell in love with his adopted country. L'Enfant's sweeping vision of a grand Federal City inspired President George Washington but earned the enmity of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who hated the idea of an imperial city. So was the capital born of feuding personalities, and located on the banks of the Potomac only after great political struggle.

Master storyteller Les Standiford has once again written a compelling, quintessentially American story of hubris and achievement.

"Masterful...For the lover of U.S. history or Washingtonian architecture or even basic political intrigue, this marvelous new history, probably the best to date on L'Enfant and his troubled life, is essential." - Miami Herald

"Scrupulously researched...Standiford has a novelist's gift for engaging, briskly paced narration." -Library Journal

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307346452>

The Man Who Invented Christmas by Les Standiford

[The Man Who Invented Christmas](#) How Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits **Written by Les Standiford eBook** | Crown | Biography & Autobiography; History | **\$19.95** | 978-0-307-44973-3 (0-307-44973-4)

As uplifting as the tale of Scrooge itself, this is the story of how one writer and one book revived the signal holiday of the Western world.

Just before Christmas in 1843, a debt-ridden and dispirited Charles Dickens wrote a small book he hoped would keep his creditors at bay. His publisher turned it down, so Dickens used what little money he had to put out A Christmas Carol himself. He worried it might be the end of his career as a novelist.

The book immediately caused a sensation. And it breathed new life into a holiday that had fallen into disfavor, undermined by lingering Puritanism and the cold modernity of the Industrial Revolution. It was a harsh and dreary age, in desperate need of spiritual renewal, ready to embrace a book that ended with blessings for one and all.

With warmth, wit, and an infusion of Christmas cheer, Les Standiford whisks us back to Victorian England, its most beloved storyteller, and the birth of the Christmas we know best. The Man Who Invented Christmas is a rich and satisfying read for Scrooges and sentimentalists alike.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307449733>

The Man Who Invented Christmas by Les Standiford

[The Man Who Invented Christmas](#) How Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits **Written by Les Standiford Hardcover**, 256 pages | Crown | Biography & Autobiography; History | **\$19.95** | 978-0-307-40578-4 (0-307-40578-8)

As uplifting as the tale of Scrooge itself, this is the story of how one writer and one book revived the signal holiday of the Western world.

Just before Christmas in 1843, a debt-ridden and dispirited Charles Dickens wrote a small book he hoped would keep his creditors at bay. His publisher turned it down, so Dickens used what little money he had to put out A Christmas Carol himself. He worried it might be the end of his career as a novelist.

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<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307405784>

Washington Burning by Les Standiford

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The Riveting Story of the Federal City and the Men Who Built It

In 1814, British troops invaded Washington, consuming President Madison's hastily abandoned dinner before setting his home and the rest of the city ablaze. The White House still bears scorch and soot marks on its foundation stones. It was only after this British lesson in "hard war," designed to terrorize, that Americans overcame their resistance to the idea of Washington as the nation's capital and embraced it as a symbol of American might and unity.

The dramatic story of how the capital rose from a wilderness is a vital chapter in American history, filled with intrigue and outsized characters—from George Washington to Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the eccentric, passionate, difficult architect who fell in love with his adopted country. This Frenchman—both inspired by the American cause of liberty and wounded while defending it—first endeared himself to then General Washington with a sketch drawn at Valley Forge. Designing buildings, parades, medals, and coins, L'Enfant became the creator of a new American aesthetic, but the early tastemaker had ambition and pride to match his talent. Self-serving and incapable of compromise, he was consumed with his artistic dream of the Federal City, eventually alienating even the president, his onetime champion.

Washington struggled to balance L'Enfant's enthusiasm for his brilliant design with the strident opposition of fiscal conservatives such as Thomas Jefferson, whose counsel eventually led to L'Enfant's dismissal. The friendships, rivalries, and conflicting ideologies of the principals in this drama—as revealed in their deceptively genteel correspondence and other historical sources—mirror the struggles of a fledgling nation to form a kind of government the world had not yet known.

In these pages, as in *Last Train to Paradise* and *Meet You in Hell*, master storyteller Les Standiford once again tells a compelling, uniquely American story of hubris and achievement, with a man of epic ambition at its center. Utterly absorbing and scrupulously researched, *Washington Burning* offers a fresh perspective on the birth of not just a city, but a nation.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307449290>

Meet You in Hell by Les Standiford

[Meet You in Hell](#) Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Changed America
Written by [Les Standiford](#) **Trade Paperback**, 336 pages | Three Rivers Press | History - United States - 20th
Century; Biography & Autobiography - Business | **\$13.95** | 978-1-4000-4768-0 (1-4000-4768-4)

Two founding fathers of American industry. One desire to dominate business at any price.

The author of *Last Train to Paradise* tells the riveting story of Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the bloody steelworkers' strike that transformed their fabled partnership into a furious rivalry. Set against the backdrop of the Gilded Age, *Meet You in Hell* captures the majesty and danger of steel manufacturing, the rough-and-tumble of the business world, and the fraught relationship between "the world's richest man" and the ruthless coke magnate to whom he entrusted his companies. The result is an extraordinary work of popular history.

Also available as a Random House AudioBook and an eBook

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781400047680>

Meet You in Hell by Les Standiford

[Meet You in Hell](#) Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership that Transformed America
Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [John H. Mayer](#) **Unabridged Audiobook Download** | Random House Audio | History - United States - 20th Century | **\$20.00** | 978-1-4159-2562-1 (1-4159-2562-3)

Here is history that reads like fiction: the riveting story of two founding fathers of American industry-Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick-and the bloody steelworkers' strike that transformed their fabled partnership into a furious rivalry. Author Les Standiford begins at the bitter end, when the dying Carnegie proposes a final meeting after two decades of separation, probably to ease his conscience. Frick's reply: "Tell him that I'll meet him in hell."

It is a fitting epitaph. Set against the backdrop of the Gilded Age, a time when Horatio Alger preached the gospel of upward mobility and expansionism went hand in hand with optimism, *Meet You in Hell* is a classic tale of two men who embodied the best and worst of American capitalism. Standiford conjures up the majesty and danger of steel manufacturing, the rough-and-tumble of late-nineteenth-century big business, and the fraught relationship of "the world's richest man" and the ruthless coke magnate to whom he entrusted his companies. Enamored of Social Darwinism, the emerging school of thought that applied the notion of survival of the fittest to human society, both Carnegie and Frick would introduce revolutionary new efficiencies and meticulous cost control to their enterprises, and would quickly come to dominate the world steel market.

But their partnership had a dark side, revealed most starkly by their brutal handling of the Homestead Steel Strike of 1892. When Frick, acting on Carnegie's orders to do whatever was necessary, unleashed three hundred Pinkerton detectives, the result was the deadliest clash between management and labor in U.S. history. WHILE BLOOD FLOWED, FRICK SMOKED ran one newspaper headline. The public was outraged. An anarchist tried to assassinate Frick. Even today, the names Carnegie and Frick cannot be uttered in some union-friendly communities.

Resplendent with tales of backroom chicanery, bankruptcy, philanthropy, and personal idiosyncrasy, *Meet You in Hell* is a fitting successor to Les Standiford's masterly *Last Train to Paradise*. Artfully weaving the relationship of these titans through the larger story of a young nation's economic rise, Standiford has created an extraordinary work of popular history.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781415925621>

Meet You in Hell by Les Standiford

[Meet You in Hell](#) Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Transformed America
Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [John Dossett](#) **Abridged Audiobook Download** | Random House Audio | History | **\$13.75** |

978-0-7393-1973-4 (0-7393-1973-6)

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<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780739319734>

Meet You in Hell by Les Standiford

[Meet You in Hell](#) Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Transformed America
Written by Les Standiford **eBook**, 304 pages | Crown | History - United States - 20th Century; Biography & Autobiography - Business | **\$13.95** | 978-0-307-23837-5 (0-307-23837-7)

Here is history that reads like fiction: the riveting story of two founding fathers of American industry-Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick-and the bloody steelworkers' strike that transformed their fabled partnership into a furious rivalry. Author Les Standiford begins at the bitter end, when the dying Carnegie proposes a final meeting after two decades of separation, probably to ease his conscience. Frick's reply: "Tell him that I'll meet him in hell."

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From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307238375>

Bone Key by Les Standiford

[Bone Key](#) Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [Scott Brick](#) **Unabridged Audiobook Download** | Random House Audio | Fiction; Fiction - Thrillers | **\$17.50** | 978-0-7366-9838-2 (0-7366-9838-8)

In 1931, a storm passes through the Florida straits, soon followed by a devastating explosion aboard a freighter, The Magdalena. Decades later, John Deal, the brooding real-estate developer and hero of eight previous Standiford mysteries, is traveling to Key West to talk over a prospective project with an old friend of his father's, the wealthy entrepreneur Franklin Stone. En route, Deal stops to help a young black man being harassed by police officers on a lonely beach road. Two days later, the young man turns up in Deal's hotel room - dead and clutching a label from a bottle of rare vintage wine, 1929, worth thousands of dollars. As Deal finds out, while trying to save his own life, past and present collide in this mystery where all answers point to a seventy-year-old tale of piracy and murder, and where a former girlfriend suddenly appears for reasons only she knows.

"The action moves so quickly that each scene is like a little gasp for breath. There is art to it, and Standiford makes it look easy." (The New York Times)

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780736698382>

Havana Run by Les Standiford

[Havana Run](#) Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [Scott Brick](#) **Unabridged Audiobook Download** | Random House Audio | Fiction; Fiction - Suspense | **\$17.50** | 978-0-7366-9837-5 (0-7366-9837-X)

Many writers have highlighted South Florida's colorful characters, but John Deal is a remarkably normal man, put in extraordinary situations. Deal has spent much of his adult life trying to rebuild the Miami construction firm that his late father ruined. Cuba has just normalized relations with the United States, and when the possibility of a major project there arises, he can't help being intrigued - only to find that he has been lured to Havana for another, far more dangerous purpose: to help spring an American prisoner from a Castro jail. Deal wants nothing to do with it, until he discovers the identity of the prisoner: a man closer to him than he could have possibly imagined, and the holder of secrets many groups would kill for...

"[The John Deal series] is one of the best-written, most completely satisfying series currently being produced." (St. Petersburg Times)

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780736698375>

Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford

[Last Train to Paradise](#) Henry Flagler and the Spectacular Rise and Fall of the Railroad that Crossed an Ocean
Written by [Les Standiford](#) Trade Paperback, 288 pages | Three Rivers Press | History - United States - 20th Century | **\$14.95** | 978-1-4000-4947-9 (1-4000-4947-4)

Last Train to Paradise is acclaimed novelist Les Standiford's fast-paced and gripping true account of the extraordinary construction and spectacular demise of the Key West Railroad-one of the greatest engineering feats ever undertaken, destroyed in one fell swoop by the Labor Day hurricane of 1935. Brilliant and driven entrepreneur Henry Flagler's dream fulfilled, the Key West Railroad stood as a magnificent achievement for more than twenty-two years, heralded as "the Eighth Wonder of the World." Standiford brings the full force and fury of 1935's deadly "Storm of the Century" and its sweeping destruction of "the railroad that crossed an ocean" to terrifying life. **Last Train to Paradise** celebrates a crowning achievement of Gilded Age ambition in a sweeping tale of the powerful forces of human ingenuity colliding with the even greater forces of nature's wrath.

"A dramatic story . . . and Les Standiford has a good deal of fun with it all." -Washington Post Book World

"A rousing-a deeply sobering-story." -Barbara Ehrenreich, author of **Nickel and Dime**

"A fascinating and incredibly compelling account . . . I could not put it down." -Donald Trump

"A definitive account of the engineering feat that became known as 'Flagler's Folly'. . . A rousing adventure." -Atlanta Journal-Constitution

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781400049479>

Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford

[Last Train to Paradise](#) Henry Flagler and the Spectacular Rise and Fall of the Railroad that Crossed an Ocean
Written by [Les Standiford](#) Book, 288 pages | Three Rivers Press | History - United States - 20th Century | **\$14.95** | 978-1-4000-5118-2 (1-4000-5118-5)

Last Train to Paradise is acclaimed novelist Les Standiford's fast-paced and gripping true account of the extraordinary construction and spectacular demise of the Key West Railroad-one of the greatest engineering feats ever undertaken, destroyed in one fell swoop by the strongest storm ever to hit U.S. shores.

In 1904, the brilliant and driven entrepreneur Henry Flagler, partner to John D. Rockefeller and the true mastermind behind Standard Oil, concocted the dream of a railway connecting the island of Key West to the Florida mainland, crossing a staggering 153 miles of open ocean-an engineering challenge beyond even that of the Panama Canal.

"The financiers considered the project and said, Unthinkable. The engineers pondered the problems and from all came one verdict, Impossible. . . ." But build it they did, and the railroad stood as a magnificent achievement for twenty-two years. Once dismissed as "Flagler's Folly," it was heralded as "the Eighth Wonder of the World"-until a will even greater than Flagler's rose up in opposition. In 1935, a hurricane of exceptional force, which would be dubbed "the Storm of the Century," swept through the tiny islands, killing some 700 residents and workmen and washing away all but one sixty-foot section of track, on which a 320,000-pound railroad engine stood and "gripped its rails as if the gravity of Jupiter were pressing upon it." Standiford brings the full force and fury of this storm to terrifying life.

In spinning his saga of the railroad's construction, Standiford immerses us in the treacherous world of the thousands of workers who beat their way through infested swamps, lived in fragile tent cities on barges anchored in the midst of daunting stretches of ocean, and suffered from a remarkable succession of three ominous hurricanes that killed many and washed away vast stretches of track. Steadfast through every setback, Flagler inspired a loyalty in his workers so strong that even after a hurricane dislodged one of the railroad's massive pilings, casting doubt over the viability of the entire project, his engineers refused to be beaten. The question was no longer "Could it be done?" but "Can we make it to Key West on time?" to allow Flagler to ride the rails of his dream.

Last Train to Paradise celebrates this crowning achievement of Gilded Age ambition, a sweeping tale of the powerful forces of human ingenuity colliding with the even greater forces of nature's wrath.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781400051182>

Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford

[Last Train to Paradise](#) Henry Flagler and the Spectacular Rise and Fall of the Railroad that Crossed an Ocean
Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [Richmond Hoxie](#) **Abridged Audiobook Download** | Random House Audio | History - United States - 20th Century | **\$14.95** | 978-0-553-75691-3 (0-553-75691-5)

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From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780553756913>

Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford

[Last Train to Paradise](#) Written by [Les Standiford](#)

Read by [Del Roy](#) Unabridged Audiobook Download | Random House Audio | History - United States - 20th Century | **\$17.95** | 978-0-7366-9792-7 (0-7366-9792-6)

Last Train to Paradise is acclaimed novelist Les Standiford's fast-paced and gripping true account of the extraordinary construction and spectacular demise of the Key West Railroad-one of the greatest engineering feats ever undertaken, destroyed in one fell swoop by the strongest storm ever to hit U.S. shores.

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