



American M. G. Crisci discusses the “How and Why” of his best-selling book, *Call Sign, White Lily*, with the RUSSIA NOW TV Network.



SELECT EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:

“While searching for a topic for my sixth book, I met a cabdriver in Miami Beach named Boris. He and his family had immigrated to America about five years prior. I asked him what was the most surprising thing he had found in his time in America? He said sadly, “27 million dead and nobody remembered”. He told me a bit about WW2 from a Russian perspective. I could feel his pain. But, I realized I knew virtually nothing about what really happened to the Russians during WW2.



....My first thought: I would write a Russian version of Tom Brokaw’s very human book, *The Greatest Generation*. I would call it *The Greatest Patriots*, since Russians know WW2 as “The Great Patriotic War.” Things quickly changed during my first phase of research on the internet.



...There I found sketchy and contradictory information about a Moscow teenager named Liliya Litvyak. I was fascinated how she managed to become the world’s first female flying ace, in a male-dominated society. Her missions, her solo kills, the fact that she became Hitler’s worst public relations nightmare were great stuff. I found it incredibly ironic that her story had been lost in time for more than 60 years, that controversy still surrounded her death, and that she was virtually unknown outside of Russia.



....In the end, I decided she would be my metaphor to tell the Russian story of war and life and love from one person’s perspective. My thought was simple, Lilya’s story might be a way for Americans and Russians to reach out and try to understand each other a little better, despite the decades of exaggerated stereotypes...on both sides.



...I took great pains to listen and observe cultural subtleties and differences. I had some great teachers in the many generous, ordinary citizens I met along the way, many of whom have become my friends.



...In the end, I guess, this book is different than all my others. It is my legacy to my children and grandchildren that I once passed through here, and, in my own way tried to make the world a little better place.



...I now believe, unequivocally, if we all worked a little harder to understand each other a little better, the world would be a more peaceful place. The bottle line, is most miscommunications are born from a lack of understanding.”

MEDIA:

Video Interview

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