Mind The Gap: And 2 Other Mysteries

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First Mystery by Emeritus Professor Published

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Working on fiction was a new challenge, said Brown, who is used to conducting interviews to research his biographies. “When I was interviewing, I could always think, ‘How does what he told me fit in with what she told me?’ In a way, I was writing the book in my mind even before I sat down to put it on paper,” said Brown, who has interviewed such people as Harrison Ford, Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Peter Jennings for his books. “When I started with fiction, I started with just a blank screen staring at me, which was a touch overwhelming,” he admitted.

Once he completed the first story, Brown said other stories flowed with much more ease. Two of those stories are included in *Mind the Gap*. The first, “The Value of Books,” follows a librarian in love with a co-worker, who plots to get rid of his romantic rival. The second, “Midtown Detectives,” Brown calls a spoof of the noir mysteries of Dashiell Hammell, Raymond Chandler and Robert B. Parker. “There was a time when I would read two or three mysteries a week,” said Brown of his love for the noir work.

*Mind the Gap* has further Illinois Wesleyan connections. The cover art was created by 2009 graduate Matt Young of Madison, Wis. “I asked [Professor of Art] Sherri McElroy if she had any outstanding students in her graphic design class who might want to design the cover,” said Brown. “She offered Matt.” The cover is a darkly blurred shot of the London Underground, a setting of one of the book’s crimes.

Along with his books, Brown is the author of several plays. His next project will be the production of three of his one-act plays at the Heartland Theatre Company in Normal, Ill. The performance called *Three for the Show* is slated to open in the fall of 2010.