

# Assassination Can Be Made Into a Lucrative Affair

BY ART BUCHWALD

News Item: NBC TV pays \$11,500 for exclusive interview with Sirhan Sirhan.

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"Mr. Crump, I understand you're one of the best literary agents in the United States."

"Well, I'm not one to blow my own horn."

"I've come to you for some advice. I am thinking of assassinating a major public figure, and I was wondering how much money I could make on it."

"It really depends on the victim. If it's a major-major public figure, there is quite a bit of money to be made. The families and lawyers of previous assassins have been paid hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"But I can't write."

"That's no problem. We can always find a writer to work with you. You sign an exclusive contract with him for your story and then we work out a split."

"Well, can you give me some idea of how much money we're talking about?"

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"First, there are the book rights. I know several publishers who are willing to go to six figures for the exclusive story written by an assassin. We'll keep the magazine rights separate. I'm sure I could get some very energetic bidding going from the periodicals, and I would estimate we could get into six figures there as well."

"After we make a magazine deal, we'll go for newspaper syndication. I'm certain I can create some interest there."

"What about television?"

"We'll make a deal for television, but it will have to be on an exclusive basis. I don't want you appearing on

every network for free. If you see a TV camera, clam up. In this way we can get a lot more money for an interview."

"Do you think you can get any companies to bid for the movie rights?"

"I should hope so, particularly if there is an element of mystery involved in the assassination. I think what you have to do is make many contradictory statements at your trial, as James Earl Ray did. In that way the script writers will be able to write it in more dramatic terms."

"What else?"

"Don't overlook the overseas publication rights, as well as all your personal letters, which will certainly have value."

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"Then there's your wife's story which can be sold separately, your mother's story, and we could make another book from your family album."

"Gosh, I wouldn't have thought of half those things."

"Of course, I must warn you that you won't get all the money. Your defense attorney will demand a large percentage of it. Then there's my commission, the expenses of research for your collaborator and money we must pay to other people who have to give us clearances for using their names in the movie version."

"Still, there will be a lot left over for myself and my family, won't there?"

"Of course. You and your family could come out of this very comfortably."

"I didn't realize there was this much money to be made in assassinating somebody."

"Only in America."