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(Revised August 2004.)

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**BIOGRAPHY**  
**JOHN PASSARELLA**

BRAM STOKER AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

John Passarella was born and raised in the Philadelphia suburbs where he graduated from Interboro High School in Prospect Park, PA. In 2001, John earned the distinction of being inducted into Interboro High School's Hall of Fame for professional achievement. After graduating from Widener University (Chester, PA) with a business degree, John worked an accountant and later as a computer systems administrator for a printing company in New Jersey.

John's lifelong dream of being a professional writer became a reality in November 1997, when Columbia Pictures, in a pre-publication, preemptive bid, purchased the film rights to his debut co-authored novel *Wither* in a six-figure deal—against a seven-figure deal for a finished film. Less than a week later, after intense interest in New York circles, Pocket Books purchased world rights in a two-book deal.

Published in hardcover in 1999, *Wither* [with Joe Gangemi, writing as "J.G. Passarella"], won the Horror Writers Association's prestigious Bram Stoker Award for Best First Novel of that year. *Wither* was an "Editor's Choice" and a horror bestseller in hardcover and paperback at *Amazon.com*, and was also a selection of the Literary Guild/Doubleday Book Club and the Science Fiction Book Club. Pocket has since sold Czech and Russian translation rights to *Wither*.

John's second novel, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Ghoul Trouble* [an original novel based on the popular television series] was a *Locus* magazine media tie-in bestseller. His third novel was *Angel: Avatar*, an original novel based on the WB television series. June 2004 saw the publication of his third media tie-in novel, *Angel: Monolith*.

John's upcoming sixth novel, *Wither's Legacy* (a standalone sequel to *Wither and Wither's Rain*) continues the series based upon the character he introduced in *Wither*, Wendy Ward, a college co-ed and Wiccan. *Wither's Legacy* [Pocket Books ISBN: 0-7434-8479-7 / \$7.99 U.S.] is scheduled for an October 1, 2004 publication.

John currently writes full-time, and resides in New Jersey with his wife and three young children. He has completed and sold an independent supernatural thriller scheduled for October 2005 publication, and is currently at work on book one in a new supernatural series.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 25, 2004

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**New Jersey Author John Passarella Continues  
Supernatural Thriller Series With Pocket Books**

Swedesboro, NJ (8-25-2004) — New Jersey author John Passarella continues his Wendy Ward series of supernatural thrillers with the October 2004 release of WITHER'S LEGACY. Wendy Ward, first introduced in his debut, co-authored, and Bram Stoker Award-winning novel WITHER, returned in 2003's WITHER'S RAIN.

Although Columbia Pictures, in a preemptive, pre-publication bid, purchased the film rights to WITHER in a seven-figure deal, and the novel won the Horror Writers Association's prestigious Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel, Passarella hadn't planned on continuing the story of college co-ed and magic-using Wiccan Wendy Ward until his WITHER co-author (Joe Gangemi) suggested that Wendy would make a good series character. According to Passarella, "Response to the Wendy Ward character, from both Wiccan and non-Wiccan readers, has been overwhelmingly positive."

WITHER'S LEGACY, Passarella's sixth novel—and third in the Wendy Ward series—again uses the 'Wither' name in the book title. Passarella explains, "The character of Elizabeth Wither is important to the first three books in this series. And though she's not the primary antagonist in this one, when I finished the manuscript I decided that her lingering influence had shaped not only the events of the book, but also the lives of the central

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characters enough to warrant her name in the title. Beyond the third book, I foresee books without 'Wither' in the title. As Wendy will be the continuing focus, I thought it important to key that association for readers now. Whether Wendy's story continues beyond WITHER'S LEGACY is up to the support of readers. I'd love to continue telling her story."

Before returning to Wendy Ward, Passarella wrote BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: GHOUL TROUBLE, an original novel based on the hit TV series, followed by ANGEL: AVATAR, an original novel based on the *Buffy* spin-off series. He has since written a third media tie-novel, ANGEL: MONOLITH, the first original Angel novel to debut after the cancellation of the related television series. "I had a lot of fun immersing myself in the universe of *Buffy* and *Angel* for a while. Those books brought me new fans, many of them overseas."

Regarding the Wendy Ward series, Passarella states, "Although it's not strictly necessary, and assuming one plans to read all the books in the series, I would advise reading them in order of publication, because the world and characters within them are not static. Situations change; some characters move on—or die. If someone reads just one of the books, however, then the earlier events mentioned in that novel work as back story. I don't end any of the Wendy Ward novels with a cliffhanger."

While Passarella waits to learn if he will be able to continue the Wendy Ward series, he has completed and sold KINDRED SPIRIT, scheduled for October 2005 publication and is at work on the first book in a new series.

Following the critically acclaimed WITHER and WITHER'S RAIN, Passarella is

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optimistic about the release of WITHER’S LEGACY and the future of Wendy Ward.

WITHER received praise from such varied magazines as *Seventeen*—“Frighteningly good”—and *Fangoria*—“Smart, well-written and engaging... Passarella has real sympathy for his female characters.” New York Times Bestselling author Clive Cussler declared, “WITHER will become a classic [of] the supernatural... Terrifying and hair-raising.” And the San Francisco Chronicle proclaimed, “Passarella hits the groove that makes TV’s BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER such a kick... [WITHER is] a lot of fun.”

Praise for WITHER’S RAIN followed. From #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author Whitley Strieber, "WITHER'S RAIN crept up on me like an eerie mist. I've been reading and writing horror too long to expect to be scared. But I was—very scared. Delightful!" and from *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author Maggie Shayne, “Thrilling, chilling, and utterly impossible to put down, WITHER’S RAIN will haunt you long after its final page. John Passarella shines with the brightest stars in the horror novel galaxy. He’s an author to watch!”

Interested readers can find sample chapters of Passarella’s novels on his self-maintained official Web site, [www.passarella.com](http://www.passarella.com).

Passarella lives in Swedesboro with his wife and three young children.

#### **Related Web sites:**

John Passarella Author Site: [www.passarella.com](http://www.passarella.com)

Pocket Books, a Division of Simon & Schuster: [www.simonsays.com](http://www.simonsays.com)

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