

John DeDakis: When the President Shakes Down the Media

[00:00:00]

[00:00:01] **Bob Gatty:** Hey guys. Welcome to the Lean To Left Podcast, where we focus on the key social issues of our time and we keep a sharp eye out on Trump and his hijacking of America. One of the big concerns today is the media and the lack of trust that's so prevalent. Why is that? Have journalists changed in their approach to covering the news?

[00:00:22] Are reporters more interested in pleasing certain politicians than are reporting the truth? Is it all about clicks and online revenue? That's our focus today with journalist, novelist and writing Coach John DeDakis. John's a former editor on CNN's the Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer. During his 45 year career, he also was a White House correspondent during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

[00:00:51] On top of that, he's the author of six award-winning mystery Suspense thriller novels. Plus, he's a manuscript editor and [00:01:00] motivational speaker. John's specialty is helping wannabe writers like me become published authors. He also inspires people struggling with grief. To use writing to find healing.

[00:01:14] There has been tragedy in his life, along with his brilliant professional success and all of that is woven into his books. His latest and most controversial is Enemies Domestic, which tackles abortion Q Anon, white Christian nationalism and mental illness at a time when America itself is teetering between democracy and authoritarianism.

[00:01:42] John, welcome to the Lean to the Left podcast. Thanks,

[00:01:45] **John DeDakis:** Bob. It's good to be here.

[00:01:47] **Bob Gatty:** Speaking of democracy and authoritarianism, I'm curious to know what your thoughts are, John, about what Trump is doing to our country today.

[00:01:56] **John DeDakis:** It's not good. And [00:02:00] the interesting thing is that I don't think he's consciously doing something to America.

[00:02:06] I think that's a consequence of what he's trying to do for himself. It's all about him. He's a narcissist. He has this just black hole that he needs to fill with adulation. Just the other day he had a three hour and 15 minute cabinet meeting where everyone was outdoing themselves, telling him how wonderful he was.

[00:02:30] He needs that. Yeah. And in order to save his ego, he is ruining America. It's a consequence. Yeah. Of I think of his psychology.

[00:02:41] **Bob Gatty:** I think you're absolutely right. And you know what, if those people didn't sit there and do all that stuff telling Trump how great he is and all that, they'd be out the door.

[00:02:52] **John DeDakis:** Exactly.

[00:02:53] **Bob Gatty:** Yep. Yep. Because that's what he does. He did, he did that at the CDC [00:03:00] people disagreed with RFK Jr., The idiot, over his, vaccination policies, top scientists, three top scientists quit when he fired the head of the CDC that he had appointed. Because he disagreed with the Kennedy about his vaccination stuff. Right. And that's just going on all anyway. Yeah,

[00:03:27] **John DeDakis:** I know. It's, yeah. Every day is just another atrocity.

[00:03:32] **Bob Gatty:** Tell me this though. What do you think journalism's role should be as all of this unfolds?

[00:03:38] **John DeDakis:** The role of journalism should be to hold power accountable.

[00:03:42] **Bob Gatty:** Correct. And

[00:03:42] **John DeDakis:** I think that they're doing their best. But it's really difficult to call out lies, at least in the moment, because you have to be able, he says so many audacious things that you have to. Go back and check, and I think that there are still news [00:04:00] organizations that are doing that.

[00:04:01] UPI, AP Reuters, New York Times, Washington Post National Public Radio. I mean there are reputable news organizations out there that are doing their best to report the facts and to correct the record and to do their best to, dig more deeply, to understand, what's really going on. But there is just so much other stuff out there.

[00:04:26] Our media is, it's fractured. It's nicheafied. The internet has made it possible for anyone with a phone to publish and there's no editor on your shoulder asking, where'd you get that? How do you know it's true? Correct. And so the internet is just full of, for lack of a better word, bullshit.

[00:04:45] And so a person needs to be really discerning to be able to cut through the, the noise.

[00:04:52] **Bob Gatty:** One of the problems that I see, I've been a Washington Post, Follower, [00:05:00] subscriber, fan for years and years, they've been my go-to source for reliable information. But now I have to wonder because of the ownership of the post.

[00:05:13] **John DeDakis:** Right?

[00:05:14] **Bob Gatty:** And this has happened with other entities as well, where these billionaires have purchased these independent news organizations and turning them into their own syncophantic mouthpieces.

[00:05:32] **John DeDakis:** I'm not sure that's actually happened yet at the Washington Post. I know the editorial page has been hijacked to a certain extent.

[00:05:39] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:05:39] **John DeDakis:** But I'm not sure that it's actually affected the day-to-day coverage.

[00:05:43] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, I think you're right because I've been pleased generally with the, with their coverage, with the tone of it, I have.

[00:05:52] **John DeDakis:** So there's and you've been around for a long time and there's, there's always been an attempt to put a firewall between, the editorial [00:06:00] side and the, the day-to-day reporting side.

[00:06:02] The business side and the reporting side. But that's a challenge. And 60 CBS is going through that and it's, we're in, it's a, it's very troubled right now because it's, the waters are roiling and we haven't gotten onto to the other side yet.

[00:06:18] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, that's right.

[00:06:20] Alright, so did you ever imagine that major media outlets would cave in to bullying politicians like Trump, though?

[00:06:31] **John DeDakis:** That's been a surprise. That's been a surprise and a disappointment. Yeah. The 60 Minutes lawsuit, Trump sued them for what, \$20 billion? Yeah. On a story that it was just a matter of the way it was cut for a tease.

[00:06:45] And and they caved for \$16 million. It was a shakedown. Yeah. It was a shakedown.

[00:06:50] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah.

[00:06:50] **John DeDakis:** And and. Stephen Colbert was right. It was a bribe in order to get permission to merge. That's troubling. That's very troubling. I know at least when we're speaking now [00:07:00] at the end of August, 2025, the Wall Street Journal has been sued by Trump for \$10 billion on a story about the Epstein files.

[00:07:08] And the, and that's Rupert Murdoch for crying out loud. So who knows how that's gonna go. But I think the interesting thing is. That, the Wall Street Journal, in spite of Rupert Murdoch's ownership, it, it skews conservative, but their reporting is straight.

[00:07:23] And and at least for now the Washington, the Wall Street Journal hasn't caved. I'm hopeful, but

[00:07:31] **Bob Gatty:** No, I am too.

[00:07:32] **John DeDakis:** It's a shakedown going on out there.

[00:07:34] **Bob Gatty:** Oh, it is. And that's just his method of operation.

[00:07:38] **John DeDakis:** I had an interesting experience that that kind of feeds into this.

[00:07:42] I was at the Chautauqua Institution, which is in southwestern New York state. It's, I know where it is. Yeah, this, the and every week in the summer, they have a different theme that, and it's like Disneyland for nerds, right? Okay. And so I was attending a lecture delivered by a former [00:08:00] CIA analyst,

[00:08:01] **Bob Gatty:** uhhuh,

[00:08:01] **John DeDakis:** and I asked a question during the q and a, the answer to which I did not know.

[00:08:07] So I tried to cover all the ground. I said, I asked him, is Donald Trump a Russian asset? A useful idiot? Both. Neither. And if you don't know what's your best guess? And he gave, I thought a very thoughtful answer. He said, for the most part, Trump is an enigma. And he's not sure. As I was walking out, a person walked up to me and said to me, if I were president of the United States, I would have you arrested and deported for asking the question.

[00:08:38] **Bob Gatty:** No kidding. My goodness.

[00:08:43] **John DeDakis:** That's the MAGA mindset.

[00:08:45] **Bob Gatty:** It is the MAGA mindset. Incredible. Incredible. Oh, we have a congresswoman here in South Carolina where I live who wants to bring Alligator Alcatraz to [00:09:00] South Carolina. Nancy Mace. Yeah. She who dressed up like a cop. For a photo op of some sort. And I shouldn't say this, I did a I did a, an interview the other day with some friends of mine.

[00:09:18] I have this a little episode every month. It's called the Dixie Dems, and there's three of us that sit around and be us about politics and we had this local, activist on who, who had been thrown out of Nancy Mesa's town hall meeting, basically. 'cause she was a Democrat. And I asked her, did you hear about Nancy MAs dressing up like a cop?

[00:09:41] And she said, no, she, and she didn't, hadn't heard that. And turns out that there was just some kind of a, I don't know why she did it, but, she did. And the guy that's running for her seat had posted it online. So I suggested maybe she was, playing sex games. [00:10:00] 'cause she was all, she was all about

[00:10:02] **John DeDakis:** Or auditioning for the village people.

[00:10:04] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Maybe who knows. Anyway, so we got a little bit off track there. I thought it was funny. Now you've interviewed presidents you've covered very famous people. You've covered the White House. You were teargassed covering a riot. Was that in Chicago, by the way?

[00:10:22] **John DeDakis:** That was at the University of Wisconsin or Madison after Kent State in May of 1970.

[00:10:27] **Bob Gatty:** Oh, okay. Because I was tear gassed at the 1968 convention at the, in Chicago. I thought more fun. More fun. Yeah. Anyway, so how is journalism different today than back in the day when we were doing our thing?

[00:10:43] **John DeDakis:** It's definitely different. Back in the day it was ABC, CBS and NBC period.

[00:10:49] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah.

[00:10:49] Right.

[00:10:49] **John DeDakis:** And even then, you remember this, Spiro Agnew was Nixon's vice president and he was running around the country calling journalists, nattering, nabobs of negative Oh yeah, [00:11:00] that's

[00:11:00] **Bob Gatty:** right. Nattering. Nabobs. And

[00:11:01] **John DeDakis:** then effite core of impudent snobs, which is just another elegant way of saying.

[00:11:07] Fake news. Exactly. And they were critical of the way the press was covering the Vietnam War and the reporters in Vietnam who were, going out with with the troops in the field. They used to call the briefings in Saigon, the five o'clock follies.

[00:11:22] Ah. 'cause they bore no resemblance to the truth that they were seeing in the field.

[00:11:27] **Bob Gatty:** And

[00:11:27] **John DeDakis:** We've got, 50 years now since then, more than 50 years, and we know that the press was for the most part, doing a good job of reporting the facts. Against tremendous odds. And Woodward and Bernstein, proved that you can find out the truth in spite of all the stonewalling, but, journalism has changed. It's changed a lot. Part of it is just because of the technology. Journalism has evolved over the years, from the printing press to the the telephone to the typewriter and so on.

[00:11:57] Every time there's been a [00:12:00] technological advance it's speeded things up.

[00:12:03] And it used to be where you had to get your film in, a couple hours before, the program or whatever, now it's all instant. It's live, it's digital, and and so there's no real time to reflect. I think somebody said that at least at the wire service, it's a deadline every minute,

[00:12:19] **Bob Gatty:** right?

[00:12:19] **John DeDakis:** So it's changed and it's splintered because as I mentioned earlier, everybody's got a cell phone. And you've got newspapers that are closing. You've got people that are getting laid off and they're starting their own podcasts, right? They're starting their own. They're, you have sort of citizen journalists.

[00:12:36] You've got influencers who have hundreds of thousands of followers and they're making

[00:12:42] **Bob Gatty:** billion, not billion.

[00:12:43] **John DeDakis:** They're making money. They're making money, they're. They're profitable. Yeah. But, and in some cases, these people are reputable journalists. They're just, they're doing it without corporate oversight.

[00:12:53] **Bob Gatty:** Sure.

[00:12:53] **John DeDakis:** But in many cases, they don't necessarily have the legal department behind them. That they do at a newspaper. Or an, [00:13:00] or a network. And there may be a little reluctant to do the investigative stuff because they don't wanna get sued. Because you can be right. And, the case could still, come down in your favor, but anyone with deep pockets knows how to play out the clock, bleed you dry financially.

[00:13:21] And win. Just because they can win. Not 'cause they should win. Yeah. Journalism has, it's gotten to the point where, and Trump did this starting when he first ran for president the first time around, almost. 10 years ago. Undermining trust in everything you know.

[00:13:39] And if you can't trust the press, the judiciary, the intelligence community, the medical community, who else can you trust but Trump, he wants you to trust him.

[00:13:48] **Bob Gatty:** Right.

[00:13:49] **John DeDakis:** And it's working. It's working. People are so disillusioned right at the noise from both the left and the right that they've tuned out.

[00:13:57] I think most people have tuned out. [00:14:00]

[00:14:00] **Bob Gatty:** I do. I agree with that. And I think that's horrible because that just means he is gonna keep getting away with this stuff.

[00:14:06] **John DeDakis:** Yeah. Yeah. Because it's gonna take, and when he leaves the scene, he's created so many wannabes that are just like him. But younger. That I think this whole MAGA mindset is gonna be with us for a long time.

[00:14:20] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. You know how we used to write when we talk about a congressman or a senator and we would put R dash SC for Republican of South Carolina, right? Just normal. I, today I just do MAGA Dash because that's what it's,

[00:14:43] **John DeDakis:** I

[00:14:43] **Bob Gatty:** just changed.

[00:14:43] I can do that.

[00:14:45] **John DeDakis:** Yeah, nobody can tell me. I can, I promise. If I were, if you were, if I was editing your stuff, I'd change that.

[00:14:51] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, I know you would. But I don't have anybody but me editing my stuff. Which is making

[00:14:57] **John DeDakis:** my

[00:14:57] **Bob Gatty:** point, which does make your [00:15:00] point exactly right.

[00:15:01] Except that at least I have some journalism experience and background.

[00:15:06] **John DeDakis:** Yeah. And not only that, you've earned the right to be heard. Yeah. You've, you covered the 68 convention in Chicago. Yeah.

You've got decades under your belt. Yeah. So that's what a, that's, what qualifies you to have an opinion and discuss it.

[00:15:19] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Alright, thank you very much for that. I appreciate it.

[00:15:21] **John DeDakis:** You're welcome.

[00:15:22] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Now we did talk, we did touch, you talked about the internet. I wanted to ask you if you, about the influence of social media. Maybe we've covered that to the extent that we need to. Do you have anything else you'd add, like to add about that?

[00:15:36] **John DeDakis:** The only thing I'll add is that it's, the internet itself is morally neutral. It's what you do with it. And it's tremendous as a resource tool, research tool you can reach. I just did an interview an hour or two ago with someone in India, Uhhuh, and doing another interview and two hours from now with someone in Australia.

[00:15:55] Okay. That's the internet.

[00:15:57] **Bob Gatty:** It is. And,

[00:15:57] **John DeDakis:** and I think it's great. The reach that [00:16:00] we have, the way the interconnectivity that exists, I think is wonderful. It's just that you have to be discerning about what's out there and what you can trust.

[00:16:08] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. That's for sure. Now the other thing that's happened.

[00:16:13] As we speak. It's just growing and growing. Is ai, artificial intelligence. How do you feel it will impact us going forward, especially when it comes to writers?

[00:16:26] **John DeDakis:** That's in flux and I've been looking at it quite closely. And I know there are horror stories and dangers out there.

[00:16:34] No doubt about that. But there are advantages as well. AI can be, a great resource for doing some research, doing outlining. Those kinds of things. Helping you write a succinct synopsis of a, of your book. Yeah. Or writing a blurb for the dust cover of your book.

[00:16:52] Stuff like that. Sure. But I did try. To write a short story using ai because I was commissioned by someone to [00:17:00] do to write one. And so I decided to give it a try just to see what kind of writing I got. And I put the parameters in. I wanted it to be so many words, this style.

[00:17:10] These are the, this is what it should be about.

[00:17:13] **Bob Gatty:** Right.

[00:17:13] **John DeDakis:** And in an instant. It spit out, what I could use. And it sucked. It was terrible.

[00:17:19] **Bob Gatty:** Uhhuh, I went

[00:17:19] **John DeDakis:** to my, and I, and it cured me of that. And I said geez, I can do a lot better than this. And I did.

[00:17:24] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah.

[00:17:25] **John DeDakis:** And I came away from it realizing that, the internet is great at being able to regurgitate everything that's out there. But it can't, it doesn't know you, it doesn't know, it doesn't have your personal experiences. It doesn't have your psyche, your heart. Your ethics. That's right. And so that's what you bring to the table as a creative writer. And my wife and I, we worked on book The Enemies Domestic that you mentioned.

[00:17:51] We worked on that together. We had the idea together. I did the writing. She was my alpha reader and it was wonderful. And so we're doing it again for book seven, [00:18:00] but I. Still felt I needed to kind of experiment with ai to come up with some plot scenarios and things like that.

[00:18:08] And that prompted us to have quite a conversation or an argument about, using ai. And Cindy is a. Cindy's a pre a creative purist. She's very dubious about using AI creatively. And I tend to agree with her, but I at least felt that I needed to experiment. Yeah. Not only, and this is one more thing I'll put on the table. The resources, the electricity that it takes to keep AI up and running is vast. It's, they have to build these huge data centers that just suck up all the energy and all the resources. In order to fuel our creativity. And our curiosity.

[00:18:48] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah.

[00:18:48] **John DeDakis:** The jury is still out and Congress, it would be nice Yeah.

[00:18:51] If Congress knew anything about anything. And could come to agreement on anything to come up with ways to use artificial [00:19:00] intelligence responsibly, because right now there's major copyright infringement going on. And any number of problems the jury is still out.

[00:19:07] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. I feel a lot of jobs are gonna go away, but for people that do basic writing, I'm not talking about creative writers. As much as I am people that write advertising copy people that

[00:19:23] **John DeDakis:** yep.

[00:19:24] **Bob Gatty:** People that do, blurbs for podcasters and also graphics people. Sure. Because I now, I can do a, I can do a graphic to promote this episode that we're working on in five minutes using Canva where I would back 10 years ago, I would've had to hire a graphics designer, pay her 500 bucks, wait a week and then get my piece. And if it wasn't good, I'd have to send her back to the drawing boards.

[00:19:56] **John DeDakis:** Exactly. And you gotta admit that, which do you [00:20:00] prefer?

[00:20:00] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, exactly. Exactly. Alright, now Enemies Domestic, you brought that up. I wanted to talk to you about that book. I wanted you to tell me about it. Basically what's, what it what it covers and. The importance of it, and just take me through it if you'd like.

[00:20:18] **John DeDakis:** Thank you for the home run pitch, sir. Sure. The title Enemy's Domestic comes from the oath of office where government officials pledge to protect the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

[00:20:31] And I don't think it's a stretch to say we are riddled with domestic enemies right now. And they're basically the party in power. And Cindy and I came up with the idea for the story when the Roe v Wade decision legalizing abortion was overturned. Oh, okay. And by this time I write as a, my books are a series.

[00:20:52] My protagonist is a young woman in her late twenties. By the time I finished Fake, which is the book that precedes this, [00:21:00] She's pregnant. The dad is dead. She's ambivalent about becoming a single mom. Abortion is a

crime, at least in many states, right? And she, it's her first day on the job as White House Press Secretary, okay's been White House correspondent.

[00:21:15] And the first question that she's asked. In the daily briefing on live television comes from a Tucker Carlson type who asks, are you or are you not planning to abort your unborn child? And that puts Lark in the crosshairs and the cross current of the abortion pro and anti-abortion forces.

[00:21:36] And it's a toxic, polarized political fishbowl. A dictator becomes president. And interestingly, it was published July 4th, 2024, the same week that the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that presidents have absolute immunity from prosecution for crimes they commit as part of their official duties.

[00:21:59] They [00:22:00] have yet to define what official duties are, but it's probably pretty much anything. And one of my early readers said this is pretty farfetched. Not anymore.

[00:22:10] **Bob Gatty:** Not anymore. It's not farfetched at all. That's what's going on in this country. Yeah. Okay. Now your fourth novel "Bullet in the Chamber", deals with your 22-year-old son's heroin overdose death.

[00:22:25] Why did you tackle such a personal and painful topic?

[00:22:30] **John DeDakis:** I think it was because I had to. Okay. And it goes really, it goes all the way back to when I wrote my first novel, "Fast Track," and I started writing it in 1994 Uhhuh, 14 years after my sister took her life.

[00:22:42] **Bob Gatty:** Oh my. That's the very

[00:22:43] **John DeDakis:** first scene of that book is her suicide.

[00:22:46] It's not. Her suicide. But that is what ins, I hate to use the word inspired, that's what influenced the writing. And I discovered that I, you have to write what you know, and it was ther, it was therapeutic and [00:23:00] cathartic to be able to do that. Because I think, good writing comes from a place of authenticity.

[00:23:05] Right?

[00:23:05] **Bob Gatty:** So I

[00:23:06] **John DeDakis:** wasn't really writing to heal from grief. But I look back over 20 years in six books and I can see that, grief and loss are subtexts for all of the books because that's what, forms Lark, my protagonist's, psyche. She, the first book is she's discovered the body of the aunt who raised her who's dead on the floor of a carbon monoxide poisoning.

[00:23:30] And that sticks with you. And so that influences her, as a person, as a character going forward. And so by the time Steven died, I was already doing that, writing from a point of grief. And I think I started writing the first few chapters, maybe eight months after Steven died, but it was way too soon.

[00:23:51] And I had to put it aside for another two years, went through grief counseling and so when I went back and picked it up again, Those chapters [00:24:00] remain, but in a different form because by that time I had a story. And and so I used that the collateral damage around Steven's disappearance and death.

[00:24:10] And I used that as a, as I don't know, subplot material for my protagonist Lark who's dealing with something similar. It was just a way to work things through, by necessity, I guess you could say.

[00:24:24] **Bob Gatty:** So you do feel that writing can help a person heal from grief?

[00:24:28] **John DeDakis:** I really do.

[00:24:29] And it doesn't necessarily mean having to write a novel. You can write poetry, you can write music you can paint. There are any number of creative outlets to deal with those tumultuous emotions. And I use, and you could journal. There are any number of ways. And I teach writing classes and that's one of the things I teach is how you can tap into that.

[00:24:50] Okay. And make art out of it in a way that is helpful to others. And it's therapeutic for you.

[00:24:58] **Bob Gatty:** No. It took you a while to get [00:25:00] your first book published, didn't it?

[00:25:01] **John DeDakis:** 10 years. 10 years. You went

[00:25:04] **Bob Gatty:** through how many you tried to call up, how many agents and until you finally I tried. I tried to, I was number 29.

[00:25:11] I think

[00:25:11] **John DeDakis:** I pitched 39 agents before, or 39. Yeah. And it went through 14 major revisions. But the agent that I've, with Barbara Casey, we've been together. 20 years now over three. Oh wow. Over six novels. Wow. And and I, you take the long view right and it'll work out and publishing has changed a lot since then.

[00:25:30] It's much easier to get a book out there if you're willing to self publish it.

[00:25:34] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah I self-published a book, but it wasn't very successful.

[00:25:38] **John DeDakis:** You gotta market it.

[00:25:39] **Bob Gatty:** That's the thing. I, oh yeah. All right let's see here. Are we having fun yet? I lost my track, my, my track of thought, whatever.

[00:25:50] Tell me about what you do to help authors as manuscript editor and writing coach. What do you do?

[00:25:57] **John DeDakis:** And this is something I just fell into because as soon as I [00:26:00] got published, I would go to a writer's conference and someone would come up to me and say, here's my 150,000 word tome. Give it a quick read and tell me what you think.

[00:26:09] **Bob Gatty:** Right.

[00:26:10] **John DeDakis:** There's no, a quick read. Yeah. There's no such thing as a quick read Uhuh and it needs work isn't really that helpful. So I monetized it and I, I had learned enough by making mistakes, building my own novel that I know. I knew. I know what the moving parts are, right?

[00:26:27] So I can take a look at someone's writing and say you need to do this. You shouldn't do this. Try this.

[00:26:32] **Bob Gatty:** And

[00:26:32] **John DeDakis:** so over time it has evolved into basically a second career. I left CNN in 2013 when my third novel came out. By this time I was speaking around the country at writer's conferences.

[00:26:44] People were hiring me to be a coach and a manuscript editor. I basically had a new career that I just fell into.

[00:26:51] **Bob Gatty:** Oh, that's awesome.

[00:26:52] **John DeDakis:** It is.

[00:26:53] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah.

[00:26:53] **John DeDakis:** I should have left C Nnn 10 years before I did. I wouldn't have been able to afford it then, but. [00:27:00]

[00:27:00] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. I know what you mean. All right. So what are you working on now?

[00:27:04] I think you mentioned Book seven coming up.

[00:27:06] **John DeDakis:** Book seven. I haven't worked on it for a while. I'm working on a short story now for an anthology. The manuscript is due by the end of the year. It's, the theme for the anthology is yacht rock. So every story has to be related. To something that was, that kind of music like the Doobie Brothers and Oh.

[00:27:27] Stuff like that. And so I've written a story called Black Water, which is a Doobie Brothers song. Okay. And what you're supposed to do is just drop little Easter eggs in there about the, about that music, but it needs to be a crime story oh, okay. So I'm working on that.

[00:27:42] I'm about ready to turn it in and we'll see what the editor rips it to. Shreds. I've got a me a memoir that. Is sitting with a publisher right now. They're making a decision on it. And that basically is a look back at my life and I've tried to identify the pivotal moments. Okay. That [00:28:00] brought me where I am.

[00:28:01] So it's a memoir on writing and living, things that I've learned 'cause I'm old and let's see, what else? Not that old. Oldish, old dish,

[00:28:09] **Bob Gatty:** old enough to know better. I said that white beard that makes you look a little bit, older straggly. Yeah. If you didn't have that on, you wouldn't look.

[00:28:16] You wouldn't.

[00:28:17] **John DeDakis:** That's what my wife keeps telling me.

[00:28:20] **Bob Gatty:** Now that's my brand. It's my brand now. I'm sure it is. Very distinguished too. All right, so where can people find your books Anywhere?

[00:28:27] **John DeDakis:** The best place would be to go to my website, which is johndudakis.com. J-O-H-N-D as in dog, ED as in dog, a kIS as in sam johndudakis.com. It's got thumbnails of all the books, links to where you can buy 'em a portal or two for how you can get ahold of me. If you want more information about writing and editing there are some success stories that are on there of some of my clients. I'm doing, speaking now more [00:29:00] to corporations that have wellness programs.

[00:29:03] And associations that deal with grief because I'm trying to expand away, not away from the writing community, but in addition to the writing community, to people who may not know yet that you can use writing as a way to heal from grief.

[00:29:18] **Bob Gatty:** Okay. That's awesome. And guys as I always do with the authors that I interview.

[00:29:24] I will have a direct Amazon link for his books. I'll put it, I'll put that link in the in the show notes for this episode. And so you can just click on that too if you want to.

[00:29:36] **John DeDakis:** Thank you.

[00:29:37] **Bob Gatty:** And I am starting a new a new service on my. Lean to left.net website called the Book Club.

[00:29:45] And all the authors that I interview, I'm going to have thumbnails of their books, descriptions and an Amazon link to those books as well. And that's in the works right now. It's not ready, but John your. Your books will be there.

[00:30:00] Thank you when I get to that point.

[00:30:01] **John DeDakis:** Thank you. Thank you. Sure, absolutely.

[00:30:03] And my books are also available as Kindle and and audio books as well.

[00:30:08] **Bob Gatty:** Excellent. Alright, John, I really appreciate you coming on with us. I enjoyed the conversation. Oh, Bob, we could have talked all night. We could have for sure, but you've got. What'd you tell me? Two more interviews today yet.

[00:30:21] **John DeDakis:** One, one more to go. And that's someone in Australia.

[00:30:24] **Bob Gatty:** Okay. There you go. All right, listen. Thank you, John. I appreciate it. Thank you, Bob. Great to talk to you.