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Depicting the Character of Bristol

(Williamsburg, VA • March 7, 2011) Bristol native and author Greg Lilly returns home for a presentation and book signing Saturday, April 9th at the Bristol Public Library at 2:00 p.m. to benefit the Friends of the Library. Lilly grew up in Bristol, graduating from John S. Battle High School and Virginia Tech, and credits the culture of Southwest Virginia as inspiration for his storytelling drive. His appearance at the Bristol Public Library is part of the book tour for his most recent mystery novel and part of a research project for his new work-in-progress.

Lilly is the author of four novels including the Derek Mason Mystery series newest release *Scalping the Red Rocks* and the historical novel *Under a Copper Moon*. Lilly's novels are acclaimed by critics for their sense of place and settings that act as characters in the stories. Drewey Wayne Gunn from *Lambda Literary* magazine praises *Scalping the Red Rocks* for its "vivid sense of place." Author Keith Pyeatt says the new novel "showcases Greg Lilly's mastery of characterization, setting, and suspense." *AOL Travel* listed the new novel as an *Editor's Pick* in Sedona (Arizona) Culture, alongside John Wayne's movie *Angel and the Badman* and Glenn Ford's original western *3:10 to Yuma*, which were both filmed in the desert resort town. "For a good airplane read," AOL lists, "try Greg Lilly's Derek Mason Mystery, *Scalping the Red Rocks*. Lilly, a former Sedona resident, so thoroughly captures the town's personality and culture that a favorite game among the locals is guessing who the characters are based on."

With his next project under way, Lilly has part of the story take place in Bristol, in modern times. "In one of my earlier books," Lilly says, "I had characters flashback to scenes in Bristol. Topher and Myra of *Devil's Bridge* both went to high school at John S. Battle, so there is a scene there, and one scene at the Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon. In this new project, one of the main plots follows a character who lives and works in Bristol." Capturing the setting and culture of a place in a manner that makes the town stand out as a character is the basis of Lilly's library presentation. "The setting of a book has the potential to add another layer of symbolism and meaning to the actions of the characters," Lilly explains.

The April 9th presentation at the Bristol Public Library provides a glimpse into the work process of an author. Lilly plans to discuss the importance of setting in writing, with examples from his novels and explain why he chose each locale for the characters. "Setting becomes a character in the book," he explains. "Getting that right involves a thorough understanding of the town and its culture, which may be viewed differently from person to person, character to character." A dynamic, interactive exercise conducted by Lilly during the library event allows the audience to contribute to the development of the personality and character of Bristol in the new book. "Country Music, antiques, NASCAR, Exit 7, State Street... What is the character of Bristol?" he asks. "I know that subject will create some lively discussions."

Discover the writer's process and add your own view of Bristol on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the J. Henry Kegley Meeting Room at the Bristol Public Library with author Greg Lilly.

A portion of the proceeds from book sales during the event will be donated to the Friends of the Bristol Public Library.

The library is located at 701 Goode Street, Bristol, Virginia and may be reached at (276) 645-8780. More information about the Friends of the Bristol Public Library can be found at www.Bristol-Library.org/about-us/Friends-of-the-Library. More information about Greg Lilly and his novels can be found at www.GregLilly.com.

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