

# MEET THE AGENT

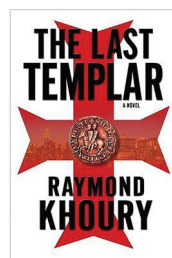
BY KARA GEBHART UHL

## Mitch Hoffman

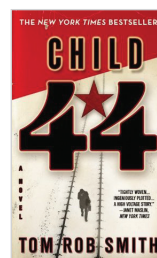
AARON M. PRIEST LITERARY AGENCY

While Mitch Hoffman entered the agenting world only recently, he has 20 years of experience in the industry, having had a hand in publishing more than 200 books, nearly a third of which were *New York Times* bestsellers. He's held editorial positions at Dutton and Dell Publishing and most recently was vice president/executive editor at Grand Central Publishing. Through his career, Hoffman has worked with such noteworthy authors as David Baldacci, Roger Ebert, Harlan Coben, Senator Al Franken and Brad Meltzer. So a year after joining the Aaron M. Priest Literary Agency as a senior agent, he's likely the most veteran "new" agent you'll find hunting for clients.

Hoffman says he's looking for storytellers, regardless of genre, who strive to build surprising and singular worlds on the page. "In nonfiction, my dream author is the person able to make rarefied subjects accessible, and who can open our eyes and make connections between experts and the rest of us," he says. Find him online at [aaronpriest.com](http://aaronpriest.com) and on Twitter @Mitch\_Hoffman.



Raymond Khoury, author of *The Last Templar* (Dutton)



Tom Rob Smith, author of *Child 44* (Grand Central Publishing)



### FUN FACT

"Pre-publishing, I was an office manager for a computer store in London. I knew very little about computers but the owner liked hiring people with American accents."

### FAVORITE

#### DRINK:

"Coffee. Coffee, coffee, coffee!"

**PLACE:** Queens

#### BLOG:

[brainpickings.org](http://brainpickings.org)

**QUOTE:** "We must try to contribute joy to the world. That is true no matter what our problems, our health, our circumstances. We must try. I didn't always know this, and am happy I lived long enough to find out." —Roger Ebert

### AUTHORS HE EDITED WHO ARE NOW CLIENTS

Bouchercon World Mystery Convention, Sept. 15–18, New Orleans

AWP Conference & Bookfair, Feb. 8–11, 2017, Washington D.C.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**FICTION:** thrillers, suspense, crime fiction and literary fiction

**NONFICTION:** narrative non-fiction, politics, popular science, history, memoir, current events and pop culture

### SEEKING

"Be picky in choosing your agent. Make sure that I share your vision of your work and your career."

### QUERY PET PEEVES

"Typos in the first line of your query."

"Sending submissions in categories I don't represent."

"Trying to be too funny/clever. Unless you are a professional comedian—as in, people pay you to make them laugh—refrain from opening your query with a joke."

### PITCH TIPS

"The pitch is all about getting your reader to want to read your work. Be as clear and concise as possible, so we can get to what matters—your writing."

