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For Immediate Release

**THE BREACHER’S PLAYBOOK**

By Tom Hruby and James Pomerantz

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Contact: Jane Wesman

[jane@wesmanpr.com](mailto:jane@wesmanpr.com)

or

Andrea J. Stein

[andrea@wesmanpr.com](mailto:andrea@wesmanpr.com)

“**The Breacher’s Playbook** is expertly crafted . . . a page turner from a new modern crime fiction writing partnership. Deklan Novak joins Joe Pike and Windsor Horne Lockwood III as men of few words and extraordinary talents.” —**Mike Leonard**, longtime NBC *Today Show* correspondent and bestselling author of *Ride of Our Lives*

“**The Breacher’s Playbook** will inspire you to see the true meaning behind a warrior’s spirit and work ethic . . . buckle up for the ride of your life.” —**Pat Fitzgerald**, former Head Coach, Northwestern University football

**THE BREACHER’S PLAYBOOK – A HIGH IMPACT THRILLER  
FROM NAVY SEAL TOM HRUBY  
AND NOVELIST JAMES POMERANTZ**

**From Battlefield to Football Field to FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Squad – A Warrior’s Journey Anchors This Gritty Story of Purpose and Moral Reckoning**

What happens when the skills that kept you alive in war are no longer welcome in everyday life? That’s the central question behind **THE BREACHER’S PLAYBOOK** – a riveting, psychologically rich novel from decorated Navy SEAL Tom Hruby and veteran novelist James Pomerantz.

Told in nonlinear chapters that span two decades, **THE BREACHER’S PLAYBOOK** follows Deklan Novak, a Navy SEAL breacher trained to lead high-risk missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. But after years of service, personal loss, and a disintegrating marriage, Novak attempts an astonishing reinvention: enrolling at Northwestern University as a full-time student while still on active duty — and walking onto the Division I football team at age 32.

The novel opens in 2013 at Northwestern’s training camp, where Novak—heavily tattooed, physically imposing, and emotionally unreadable—stuns coaches and

More

teammates alike. What follows is a raw, nonlinear account of Novak's past: his days as an MMA fighter in Chicago, the grueling selection process for Navy SEALs, brutal deployments as a breacher, and the tragic loss of his brother DJ.

But **THE BREACHER'S PLAYBOOK** is more than a military thriller. In a powerful parallel narrative, Novak becomes entangled in the troubling situation of Kaley Thomas, his football coach's young daughter. Living in Colorado ski country under the care of her troubled mother, Kaley shows signs of repeated illness and neglect. As Novak uncovers disturbing patterns and becomes a witness in a custody trial, he is forced to confront a different kind of moral battlefield—one where justice isn't guaranteed and taking the law into his own hands may be the only answer.

Rather than follow a traditional thriller arc, Hruby and Pomerantz take readers through courtroom testimony, barroom fights, college football locker rooms, and quiet moments of personal reckoning. As the novel speeds towards its conclusion, Novak joins the FBI, training at Quantico and earning a place on the Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force. The novel closes in 2024 as he responds to a child abduction case—bringing the story full circle.

With echoes of *American Sniper*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *True Detective*, **THE BREACHER'S PLAYBOOK** is both a pulse-pounding narrative and a meditation on what it means to protect, endure, and evolve. It is the first in a planned three-book series by authors Tom Hruby and James Pomerantz.

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### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Tom Hruby** served with SEAL Team One, completing multiple deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond. While still an active-duty SEAL, he enrolled at Northwestern University and played linebacker in the Big Ten from age 32 to 34. He is now a coach and father of four, based in Indiana.

**James Pomerantz** is a novelist and journalist who owned and operated nightclubs and restaurants in Chicago. He previously authored *Ghost Bandit*, *Undisclosed Sibling*, and *They Call Me Sid Rock*.