

**ANSWER: Herman Wouk [pronounced: WOKE] (1915-2019) was born in the Bronx on May 27, 1915. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and was assigned to be a radio officer on the USS Zane, a destroyer and minesweeper in the Pacific. He later served as an executive officer on the USS Southard. While on the USS Zane, Wouk wrote his first novel, *Aurora Dawn* (1947), a satire on radio admen and a parody of the Victorian literary style.**



Herman Wouk: photo by Douglas L. Benc, Associated Press, 2015

**Wouk was an American author who published fifteen novels. While he didn't pen crime or mystery novels, per se, it was his third and most famous that paved the way for legal thrillers in the twentieth century. *The Caine Mutiny* (1951) topped bestseller lists for two years, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1952), and led to a film adaptation (1954) and a play. His novel preceded literary courtroom thrillers such as Harper Lee's (1926-2016) *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) and most recently Delia Owens's *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018).**

**The *Caine Mutiny* sold more than three million copies in the United States alone. The 1954 movie starred Humphrey Bogart as the paranoid Capt. Queeg. Wouk then adapted the courtroom scenes of the novel into a hit Broadway play, "*The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*" which opened the same year as the film.**

**His page turning “woman’s novel,” Marjorie Morningstar (1955), earned him the cover of Time magazine (Sept. 5, 1955) as his novel was the year’s bestseller with 3.4 million copies sold. The novel inspired the 1958 movie of the same name starring Natalie Wood with Gene Kelly as her boyfriend. His two thrillers came in his tenth and eleventh novels: The Hope (1993) and The Glory (1994) about the formation of the State of Israel. While historical in nature, the stories are replete with espionage and political intrigue.**

**In 2008, he was honored with the first Library of Congress Lifetime Achievement Award for the Writing of Fiction. Wouk donated his diaries, remaining manuscripts, and correspondence to the library.**