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***Charlie-Man Dives into the Pressures of School, Heartbreaks in Relationships, and Importance of Trauma Awareness Through One Boy’s Journey to Manhood***

written by Thomas Cullen

on sale Date

“Insightful, heart-breaking, both tender and raucous, *Charlie-Man*is a moving tale of friendship, loss, hope, and the winding road to manhood.”

 Christopher Swann, author of *Shadow of the Lions, A Fire in the Night,*and the Faulkner Family Thriller series

[Brandylane Publishers, Inc.](https://brandylanepublishers.com/) of Richmond, Virginia, is pleased to announce the upcoming release of a new young adult novel, *Charlie-Man*, written by Thomas Cullen.

Set in August 1994, Charlie Stewart begins his final year at St. Mark’s Episcopal School, a prestigious all-boys school in Richmond, Virginia. Charlie, an undistinguished student by St. Mark’s standards, faces tough odds as he seeks to rekindle his relationship with Katy Hendricks, a beautiful tennis star, and gain admission to a highly selective state university.

Through it all, Charlie relies on Beau Miller, his best friend and the top student-athlete in their class. Despite Beau’s movie-star looks and infectious charm, he has a darker side, which becomes more apparent as the year progresses.

Charlie, though, endures his trials with wry determination and ultimately emerges with a renewed sense of purpose. *Charlie-Man* is a heart-rending but hopeful story of one boy’s journey toward manhood in the American South.

Like many adolescents and young adults, Charlie is not alone in his battles against bullies and peer pressure, his struggles to retain friendships and relationships, and his desire to belong. While Charlie learns coping skills to handle stress, anxiety, and depression, this is a challenge facing a large population of youth today, which is why prioritizing positive mental health is important more than ever.

*Charlie-Man* is scheduled for release on July 15, 2025.

Book cover

Set in Richmond, Virginia, the James River can be seen on the cover of *Charlie-Man*. This river is known as the “founding river” due to being the site of Jamestown, the first English settlement in America. The river has also supported indigenous tribes and been the site of historic battles. Notably, the river supports diverse wildlife, including the Atlantic surgeon, a fish that has survived for 120 million years.

**About the Author**

Thomas Cullen is a federal trial judge and former U.S. attorney in Virginia. He is also an accomplished writer, regularly publishing op-eds and essays for national and regional media outlets over the past decade. Thomas graduated near the top of his class from William and Mary Law School and was recently honored as its 2024 Carter O. Lowance Fellow. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Thomas studied history and ran track at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, which recently awarded him an honorary doctorate. *Charlie-Man* is his first novel.

**Interviews available upon request.**

[Brandylane Publishers, Inc.](https://brandylanepublishers.com/) is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia, that has published books since 1985.

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