

Al Dawson, Author, Warns: America's Criminal Threats Are Evolving and Exploiting the Systems Designed to Stop Them

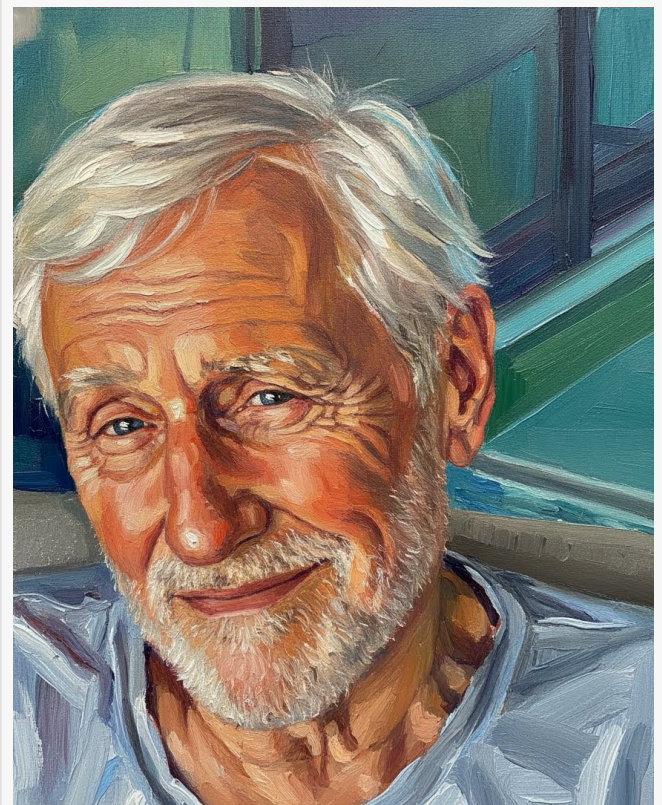
Al Dawson's Explosive Thrillers Examine How Outdated Systems and Jurisdictional Jealousy Can Leave Society Vulnerable to Sophisticated Criminal Organizations

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, August 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Author [Al Dawson](#) writes about people pushed to their limits. Across his fast-paced thrillers, his characters find themselves caught in conflicts where the institutions they trust—government, law enforcement, and their own integrity—cannot provide the protection or answers they need. Rather than simply portraying those institutions as corrupt, Dawson examines a more complicated and unsettling reality: a system can function exactly as designed and still fail the people who depend on it.

"My books are about people in conflict trying to get help when the institutions they depend on cannot keep up with the danger coming for them," says Dawson. "I spent a significant part of my career representing clients before federal and state regulatory agencies. That work taught me something law school does not teach, and no policy paper fully captures: institutions do not always behave the way their charters say they will. They behave according to prejudices and weakness."

His latest novel, [Borderlines](#), released in January 2026, brings that concern directly into the world of organized crime and American justice.

The political and legal thriller follows federal prosecutor Jace Kelly as his crusade against a Mexican drug cartel becomes deeply personal. Kelly is not fighting a corrupt government. He is fighting a government that is functioning exactly as it was designed to function—slow, careful,



Al Dawson

deliberate, and attentive to precedent, process, evidence, and the political environment.

Borderlines does not question whether the law is right. It asks what happens when the law is right but not fast, flexible, or personal enough to help when someone is in danger.

“Our system is laden with good intentions, but it is no match for the sophistication of the cartels, who move with speed, brutality, and opportunism,” Dawson says. “I spent thirty years watching people navigate that question in regulatory contexts where the stakes were financial and reputational. Jace Kelly navigates it in a context where the stakes are the lives of his sister and daughter and his own integrity as a federal prosecutor.”

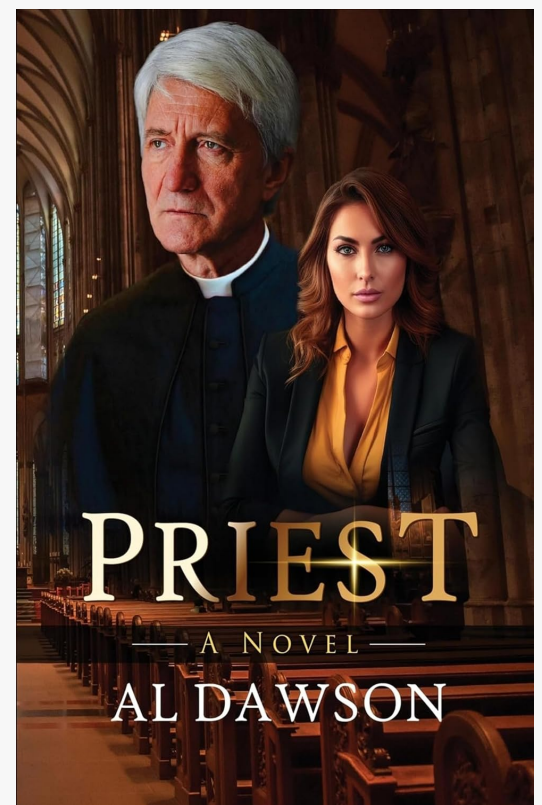
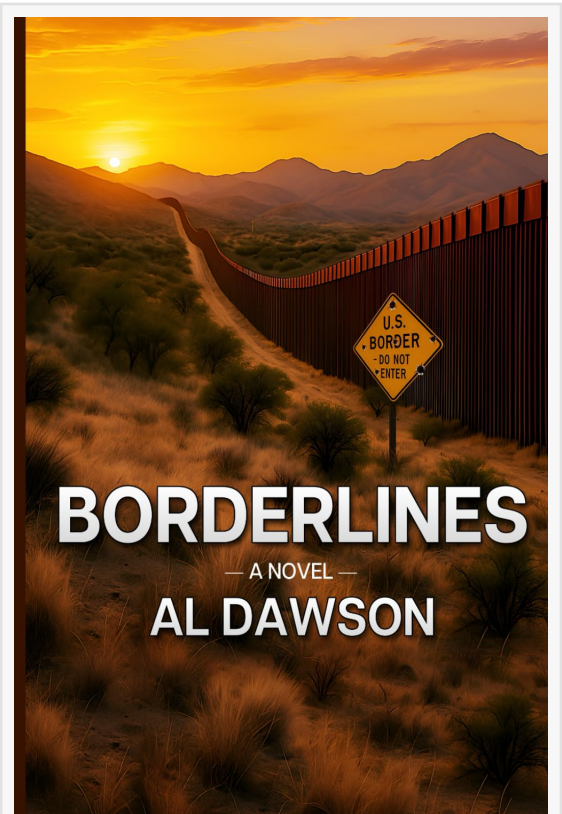
The threat Dawson explores is not simply fiction. The DEA’s 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment identifies Mexican cartels and their networks as a major threat to U.S. public health, the rule of law, and national security. The scale of the illicit drug threat is significant: in 2023, the DEA seized more than 79 million fentanyl pills and 13,176 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

“The question I want readers to contemplate is whether the institutions responsible for protecting us can evolve quickly and cooperatively enough to confront criminal organizations that move with extraordinary speed, sophistication, and complexity,” Dawson concludes. “When those institutions fall behind, it is ordinary people who are left to deal with the consequences. That is the heart of my work, and the warning beneath the thrill.”

To purchase copies of Dawson’s books, [click here](#).

About Al Dawson

Al Dawson is the author of fast-paced historical and legal thrillers that explore people caught in conflict and forced to find their way when the institutions they trust fail them. A former regulatory lawyer who worked with government agencies and financial institutions in Washington, D.C., Dawson draws on his firsthand understanding of complex systems to explore their strengths, limitations, and consequences. His novels include

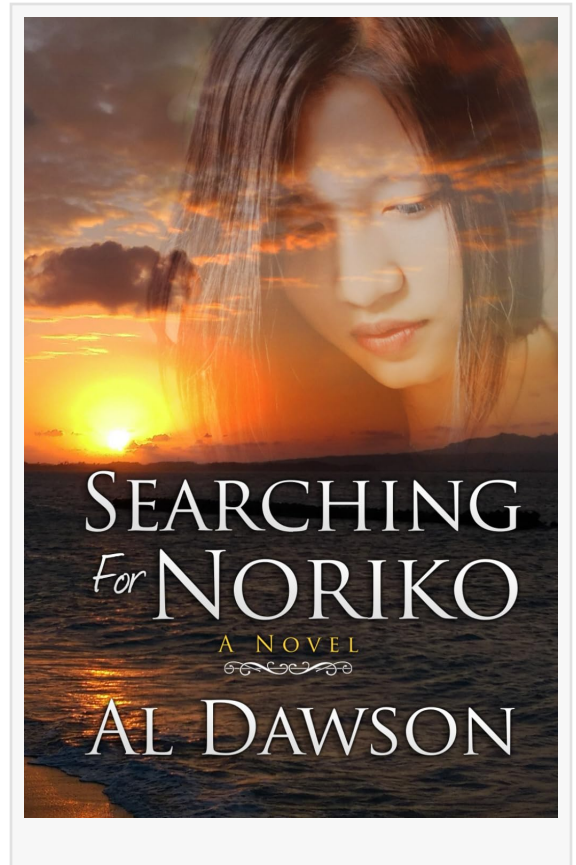


the award-winning *Searching for Noriko*, Priest, winner of the 2025 Feathered Quill Book Award, and his latest political thriller, *Borderlines*. Through his work, Dawson combines suspense, moral complexity, and timely questions about justice, institutional failure, and human resilience.

To learn more, visit: <https://lunadellobo.com/>

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