

Media Kit

Robbie Bach

***The Blockchain Syndicate:
A Contemporary Thriller***

October 21, 2025



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Announcing

The Blockchain Syndicate:

A Contemporary Thriller

COMING OCTOBER 21, 2025: *The Blockchain Syndicate: A Contemporary Thriller* by Robbie Bach

A dead man blackmails a U.S. senator. A shadowy syndicate unleashes financial chaos. A war hero must risk everything to save her family and the country she swore to protect.

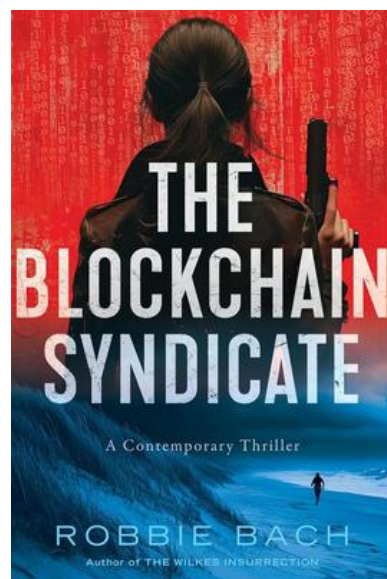
From Robbie Bach, former Chief Xbox Officer at Microsoft and author of *The Wilkes Insurrection*, comes a riveting new contemporary thriller that blends cutting-edge technology with political danger in a way only he can. *The Blockchain Syndicate* (Hardcover; \$26.95; October 21, 2025; Greenleaf Book Group Press) imagines a world alarmingly close to our own and it's just one wrong move away from collapse.

When a dead man begins blackmailing Senator Tamika Smith, it sets off a chain of chilling events. Her boyfriend is kidnapped. A school shooting leaves his daughter wounded. A shadowy digital syndicate unleashes a string of crimes, from fraud and identity theft to assassination, all choreographed with military precision. As the country teeters on the edge of economic collapse, Tamika races against time to rescue her family and uncover the truth behind a global conspiracy built on blockchain and buried secrets.

As a former war hero and now a rising political star, Tamika must navigate a battlefield of misinformation, betrayal, and moral compromise to rescue those she loves and expose a criminal network capable of global devastation.

Bach's insider knowledge of the tech world and his deep involvement in civic and policy circles lends a chilling authenticity to this thriller. With themes ripped from current headlines, AI, disinformation, political extremism, and digital vulnerability, *The Blockchain Syndicate* is not just a suspenseful read; it's a wake-up call.

Written with the pulse of a political thriller and the conscience of a reformer, *The Blockchain Syndicate* offers a gripping exploration of trust, technology, and how easily the world we know can come unraveled.





About the Author: Robbie Bach

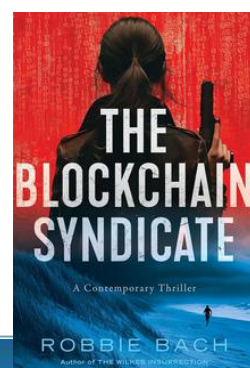
Robbie Bach joined Microsoft in 1988. Over the next twenty-two years, he worked in various marketing, general management, and business leadership roles, including supporting the successful launch and expansion of Microsoft Office. As Chief Xbox Officer, he led the creation and development of the Xbox business, including the launch of the Xbox and its highly popular successor, the Xbox 360. He retired from Microsoft as the president of the Entertainment and Devices Division in 2010.

In his new role as a civic engineer, Robbie works with corporate, philanthropic, and civic organizations that are driving positive change in our communities. He guest lectures extensively at various colleges and universities and speaks to corporate, civic, and trade association audiences across the country. In 2015, he published his first book, *Xbox Revisited: A Game Plan for Corporate and Civic Renewal*. His debut novel featuring Tamika Smith, *The Wilkes Insurrection*, was published in 2021.

He is the former chairman and current board member at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He serves on the national board of governors for Boys and Girls Clubs of America and was the chairman of that board from 2009 to 2011. He is also a board member for Habitat for Humanity International and Genius Sports. He previously served as a board member of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, Sonos Inc., Brooks Running Company, the Space Needle Inc., Magic Leap, and Year Up Puget Sound. He is the co-owner of Manini's Inc., a company specializing in gluten-free foods.

He was an Arjay Miller Scholar at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he earned his MBA, and a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina, where he earned his degree in economics.

He and his wife, Pauline, reside in Washington State, with their yellow lab, Roscoe. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.





Robbie Bach

Robbie Bach is a bestselling author and former tech executive who helped lead Microsoft through some of its most dynamic years. As the Chief Xbox Officer, he spearheaded the creation of the iconic Xbox and Xbox 360. After retiring from Microsoft, he shifted his focus to philanthropy, civic advocacy, and storytelling.

His first novel, *The Wilkes Insurrection*, introduced readers to Senator Tamika Smith in a high-stakes battle against a domestic terror conspiracy. In his latest novel, *The Blockchain Syndicate*, Bach continues the gripping saga as Tamika faces a cryptic criminal syndicate threatening America's financial and political foundations.

With sharp insights into both technology and public life, Robbie brings a unique perspective to the most urgent issues of our time. Robbie joins us now to talk about the real-world issues behind this gripping story.

On social media:

LinkedIn: robbiebach

Instagram: @robbiejbach

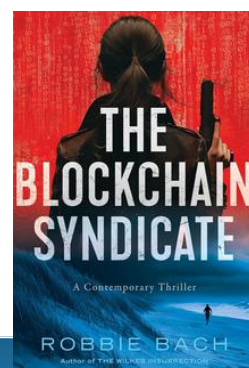
Facebook: @robbiebach61

Twitter/X: @Robbie_Bach

For more information, go to www.robbiebach.com and theblockchainsyndicate.com



Please download the book jacket and a hi-resolution author photo.





Praise for *The Blockchain Syndicate*:

“A high stakes poker game with America in the balance. Bach’s thrillers race like Tom Clancy’s, and Tamika Smith is as cunning and determined as Jack Ryan.”

—**ROBERT DUGONI,**

New York Times best-selling author of The Tracy Crosswhite Series

“*The Blockchain Syndicate* is fiction, but it’s fiction with a purpose. It captures real-world headlines with a frightening fiscal message that resonates even today in the halls of Congress. Bach weaves his technological acumen into a five-star political thriller. Senator Tamika Smith fights a sinister organization that tries to destroy US democracy by creating a financial apocalypse. Her sacrifices to save loved ones and her country kept me fully engaged up to the surprising climax.”

—**G. WILLIAM HOAGLAND, SVP,**

Bipartisan Policy Center; former U.S. Senate Budget Committee Staff Director; former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Budget and Appropriations Director

“Be careful! If you pick up this book, you will not be able to put it down.”

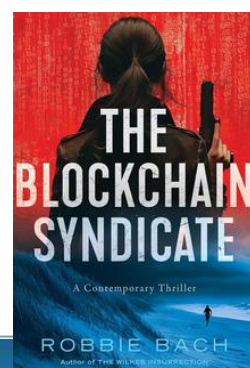
—**J. LAWRENCE GRAHAM,**

author of *Charlotte’s War* and *The Hidden Front Line*

“Bach’s firsthand knowledge of business, politics, and technology explodes across every page, delivering a suspenseful and chillingly plausible thriller that mirrors today’s headlines. It’s fiction, but barely.”

—**CARRIE SCHWAB-POMERANTZ,**

Corporate Director





“Robbie Bach is a civic leader, technology developer, institution builder, and futurist, but more than anything, he is a storyteller. In *The Blockchain Syndicate*, Robbie—and his avatar Tamika Smith—race to prevent global financial chaos. It is a story of old school espionage and new age cybercrime. As always in a Bach thriller, democracy hangs in the balance.”

—**JASON GRUMET, CEO,**

American Clean Power Association; founder, Bipartisan Policy Center

“*The Blockchain Syndicate* is a nonstop thriller filled with rich characters, turnstile plot twists, and powerful human emotions. But it also highlights an existential threat to our country. The budget deficit and the financial risks it poses are a real and present danger to America’s future. Tamika Smith is more than just a U.S. senator and a thriller heroine. She represents the leadership we need to end the financial roulette game we are playing.”

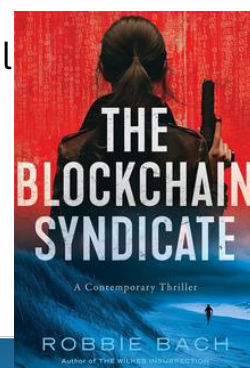
—**RON CHRISTIE,**

founder and CEO, Christie Strategies LLC; former political analyst, BBC World; Lecturer of Constitutional Law, Cornell in Washington; Adjunct Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy; Council on Foreign Relations Life Member

“In an increasingly divided nation, great leaders are called to sustain our democracy. Bach’s heroine, Tamika Smith, is one of those leaders. In *The Blockchain Syndicate*, she demonstrates the resilience, principles, and courage required to fight the opportunists that want to tear our country apart for their own advantage. Bach takes us on a rollercoaster ride that is uncomfortably close to reality, demonstrating that there has never been a more crucial time for us to come together.”

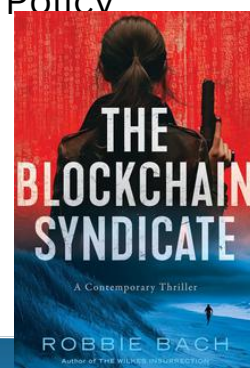
—**STEVEN OLIKARA,**

President and CEO, Bridge Entertainment Labs; Senior Fellow, Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy; founder of Future Caucus



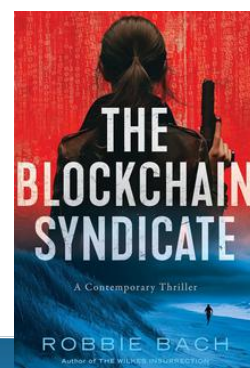
Suggested Questions

1. *The Blockchain Syndicate* weaves together cyber threats, financial sabotage, and political corruption. What sparked the idea for this storyline?
2. In *The Wilkes Insurrection*, we first met Senator Tamika Smith as she confronted a domestic terror conspiracy that threatened the nation. In *The Blockchain Syndicate*, she faces an even more complex web of threats. How has Tamika evolved as a character between these two books, and what inspired you to continue her story?
3. What was the most difficult part about writing the book?
4. Your background is in tech and business, not politics. How did that inform the way you approached this novel?
5. How close to reality is the threat posed by blockchain in the book?
6. You describe your current role as a “civic engineer.” Can you explain what that means and how it connects to your writing?
7. *The Blockchain Syndicate* explores disinformation as a tool of destabilization. How concerned are you about its actual impact in the real world?
8. You’ve written both nonfiction (*Xbox Revisited*) and fiction. What different muscles do those require?
9. The pacing in your thrillers feels very cinematic. Do you see them as potential screen adaptations?
10. What role do you think fiction plays in helping us navigate and process complex issues, such as national security and tech ethics?
11. How has your work with organizations like the Bipartisan Policy Center influenced your perspective on democracy and resilience?
12. There’s a school shooting in the book that sets off a major plot thread. How did you approach writing about such a sensitive issue?



Suggested Questions

13. What are the ethical responsibilities of tech leaders in an age of rapid innovation and unintended consequences?
14. Many of your villains are morally complex, not cartoonish. Why is that important to you?
15. How has the reception of *The Wilkes Insurrection* shaped the direction of this second book?
16. How do you research geopolitical and cybersecurity issues for your novels?
17. You served on boards for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Habitat for Humanity. Have those experiences influenced your characters or stories?
18. What do you hope readers will think differently about after finishing *The Blockchain Syndicate*?
19. How do you balance entertainment with deeper commentary in your storytelling?
20. What's next for Tamika Smith? Is a third installment already underway?





The Blockchain Syndicate Excerpt

PROLOGUE

A SPECIAL DELIVERY

In the end, the actual job was easy. When he'd first read the instructions, his reaction had been, "No way in hell I can do that." And now he was doing it. Without a hitch.

What had begun as a simple act of defiance, the proverbial "stick it to the man" moment, had become a mission. An opportunity to change what was wrong in America.

His America.

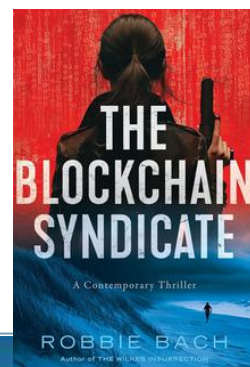
The nondescript black van was unlocked with the keys in the visor, per the instructions. He followed the directions to the loading dock, carefully adhering to the timing of his trip. 3:45 a.m. wasn't an easy hour for him, but perhaps that was the point. He checked the security cameras as he parked, satisfied they were turned off. As were the exterior floodlights, leaving the parking area inky black in darkness.

Promises kept.

Pulling the metal cart out of the van, popping up its legs, loading the goods, and then rolling the cart up the ramp was really a job for two people. The damn thing was heavy—like moving a football blocking dummy uphill. He almost dumped the cargo as it came over the lip of the shipping ramp but managed to wrestle it back into position.

He laughed quietly to himself. "No harm, no foul, huh."

But better to keep things clean and neat. There was important evidence to preserve, after all.





He checked the luminous dial on his fitness watch to make sure he was still on schedule. Although he didn't know all the details, he assumed there were one or more guards on duty, and the timing was designed to miss them on their rounds. He was worried about darkness, but once his eyes adjusted, there was plenty of ambient light seeping through exterior windows and doors.

Thirty seconds to the elevator. Up two levels.

Down the hall to the right. Wait two minutes before proceeding.

Two more lefts, and he was in position.

Then came the only part of the mission that had scared him. He'd worn special shoes to reduce noise on the polished marble floor, and oiled the wheels and joints on the cart to make sure they didn't rattle or squeak. Out of the darkness to the right, he saw a flashlight sweeping across the room, a circle of yellow reflecting off the walls, creating echoes of illumination. He held his breath and subconsciously sucked in his stomach, as if that would make him harder to see. The light moved away down an adjacent hallway.

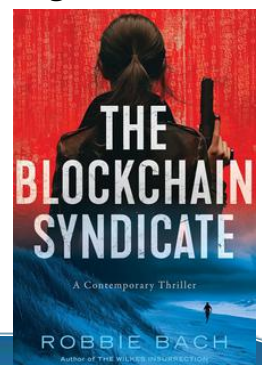
More promises kept.

After a few deep breaths, he began the walk out into the cavernous rotunda, wide open and exposed, and put the package on display.

But this wasn't just a Federal Express drop-and-run delivery.

There were very specific requirements for the presentation. A flag draped in a particular manner. Flowers and plants arranged just so. Battery-powered lights deployed to create just the right atmosphere. And a typed note placed so that nobody could miss it.

After a few deep breaths, he began the walk out into the cavernous rotunda, wide open and exposed, and put the package on display.





But this wasn't just a Federal Express drop-and-run delivery.

The moon shone down through the upper windows of the rotunda, creating shadows and shimmering light as it bounced off the beams he'd just arranged. He had no idea who had come up with this macabre display and didn't really care. He just wanted to get in, get the job done, and get out undetected.

He checked his watch again to verify the timing. Spot-on.

He pulled a photo from his pocket that showed how the scene should look. He checked everything to make sure he'd done it right. Then he realized he'd almost forgotten the most important item. He pulled back a white sheet, tucked it in on either side of the box, and then lifted open the top half of the container.

All he got in return was a blank stare.

He wasn't the squeamish type, but shivers ran up and down his spine as her bronze skin reflected in the light and her beautiful eyes bored through him accusingly. The deed had been done by someone else, but he was the delivery boy.

And now a United States senator was on display in a state capitol rotunda.

He didn't have any insight into the grand plan, but he was sure of one thing.

There were other rotundas just like this one.

And they each had a special delivery."

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