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Last updated: September 22, 2011 12:11 am

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Tables turned on WikiLeaks founder

By Tim Bradshaw and Lorien Kite

Feedback?



Julian Assange, the [WikiLeaks](#) founder who rose to prominence by publishing others' information without their consent, will wake up today with his own autobiography on sale against his wishes.

Canongate Books, an independent British publisher, is going ahead with the UK publication of Julian Assange:

the *Unauthorised Autobiography* against its subject's wishes following a contractual dispute.

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The irony that the operator of the world's largest whistleblowing site, responsible for releasing hundreds of thousands of secret documents, will himself find his private comments aired in public is likely to raise a smile among diplomats and politicians worldwide. The US government and others have repeatedly condemned Mr Assange's activities, in particular the leak of thousands of US diplomatic cables.

The £20 book, penned by a ghostwriter, is based on transcripts of more than 50 hours of interviews with Mr Assange during the year.

Canongate said the book was "very faithful" to those interviews but with a "certain amount of editing".

On Wednesday night Mr Assange condemned the publisher for "profiteering from an unfinished and erroneous draft". He told Associated Press that Canongate had acted in breach of contract and personal assurances that the draft would not be published without his consent. He said it was a work in progress, and had not been checked for facts.

Mr Assange signed a contract in December last year. But after reading the first draft in March, he became "increasingly troubled" by the idea of an autobiography and declared: "All memoir is prostitution."

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Canongate alleges that Mr Assange had already used his advance – reported in The Guardian to be £500,000 – after signing deals with 38 publishers around the world – to pay his legal fees. Mr Assange has been fighting extradition to Sweden to be [questioned over allegations of sexual offences](#), which he has consistently denied.

“The contract still stands and Canongate has decided to honour it and publish the autobiography,” the publisher said.

The book details Mr Assange’s bohemian upbringing in Australia, the 1980s computer hacker scene and his sudden rise to international notoriety last year. A chapter is dedicated to the Swedish allegations.

Canongate’s decision surprised observers.

“It raises understandable and real concerns that a draft could be published, but it all turns on what the contract provided for,” said Philippe Sands, a barrister and professor of international law at University College London.

This article is subject to a [correction](#) and has been amended.

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If this isn't a publicity stunt I'd be amazed. How can you have an unauthorised autobiography? By definition it was written by him!
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Assange and a cabal of moronic journalists in his wake so obsessed with their ideologically driven quest to expose their Great Satan now reap what they have sown. And why not, the damage done to people mentioned in these classified documents has been done, with an intent bordering on spite.

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ravi.kant | September 22 7:05am | [Permalink](#)

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This is Sad to have a real reformer of the current time being targeted from every front. And no Organisation/ Sect is coming in support.
Crusader to all the political reform taking in different part of World, India Included!

CitySlicker | September 21 10:42pm | [Permalink](#)

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Assange is a force against organised interests that show a similar arrogance and corruption to those in the soviet union. The non transparent way with which candidates are picked for high office is a massive question mark over the quality of democracy in the USA. Assange is just an individual who had the idea first but many people like the idea of a shakeup of certain interests in politics, and specifically how money buys huge influence. this needs to change.

Pete Daniels Band | September 21 10:36pm | [Permalink](#)

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Julian, we got a coast-to-coast request to dedicate this song to you. Enjoy: <http://www.youtube...atch?v=vXd949lwjdw>
