

DAILY VARIETY

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Morgan Creek buys Cannell's 'Victim'

By MICHAEL FLEMING

Though Stephen J. Cannell has long been established as a TV producer, it only took his second novel, "Final Victim," to make him a player on the feature level. In a deal completed Monday, Morgan Creek Prods. agreed to pay \$1 million for screen rights to the novel, which will be published by William Morrow in July.

Cannell hit the bestseller list with his debut novel, "The Plan," and has followed up with the tale of a serial killer murdering women for body parts to reconstruct a figure from his past. A female detective working the case figures out the killer's motive, and draws him out by putting herself in line to be his final victim.

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SYNDIES' GAME PLAN

With talk tough to sell, questions offer answers

By JOE FLINT

Let the games begin.

With a glut of talkshows causing lower standards of conversation, advertiser backlash, diminished ratings and concern from broadcasters, Sony Television Entertainment and King World Prods. are betting that gameshows are the answer to the talk glut of 1995.

Both companies are going forward with new gameshows, with

Columbia TriStar TV Distribution confirming plans to roll out an hour block of remakes of Chuck Barris gameshows "The

'Bullard' is Katz's meow, page 6

Dating Game" and "The Newlywed Game." Columbia will offer the shows as a one-hour strip tentatively titled "The Dating/Newlywed Hour" as a counter to daytime and early fringe talk, although the syndicator also will

look for clearances in access and latenight.

King World, meanwhile, is expected to roll out "Planet Hollywood Squares" for fall of 1997. The syndicator likely will make an official announcement later this week, and quietly has booked the Planet Hollywood restaurant in Las Vegas for the NATPE con-fab next week to unveil more details on the show.

Sony and King World also are

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CAROLCO STOCK SALE PROBED

NUMBERS

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