



## Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle)

By Kyle Mills

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**Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle)** By Kyle Mills

***The Firm* meets the tobacco industry in this wildly compelling corporate thriller.**

Through a series of unwanted promotions, Trevor Barnett has become the lead spokesman for the tobacco industry just as it's on the verge of extinction. Plaintiffs' attorneys have finally found the weakness they'd been searching for and have filed a \$200 billion lawsuit that the industry will be unable to appeal. America's tobacco companies react by doing the unthinkable—they close their plants and recall their products from retailers' shelves. The message is clear: Not another cigarette will be manufactured or sold until the industry is given ironclad protection from the courts.

As the economy falters and chaos takes hold, Trevor finds himself the target of enraged smokers, gun-toting cigarette smugglers, and a government that has been cut off from one of its largest sources of revenue. Soon it becomes clear that this had always been his function—to take the brunt of the backlash and shield the men in power from the maelstrom they've created. As he is slowly abandoned by an industry that his own ancestors helped to create, he begins to hatch a plan to fight back.

Kyle Mills continues to explore the controversial subjects that have won him legions of fans and accolades around the globe. Fascinating in concept, rich in characters, and broad in appeal, *Smoke Screen* has all the trademark flair of his previous novels.

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## **Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle) By Kyle Mills Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #342978 in Books
- Published on: 2003-09-15
- Released on: 2003-09-15
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.36" h x 1.21" w x 6.30" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

With this sixth novel in as many years (following last year's *Sphere of Influence*), Mills departs from his usual suspense thriller format of mass murder, conspiracy and terrorist threat. What he presents instead is a timely and chilling tale hinging on the power of Big Tobacco to bring the American government and economy to a standstill. Trevor Barnett, 32, is heir to a giant tobacco conglomerate called Terra. He is also a lazy ne'er-do-well who works for the company only because his trust payments are tied to his employment in the tobacco industry. He knows cigarette smoking kills people, but doesn't really care, believing that smokers have the right to make their own decisions. The tobacco industry is about to lose a \$250-billion class-action lawsuit, a judgment the industry cannot appeal. Such a ruling will permanently bankrupt all of the tobacco companies, and Terra's ruthless CEO, Paul Trainer, is not about to let that happen. After making some snappy and irreverent comments at a board meeting, Trevor suddenly and unwillingly finds himself spearheading a tobacco offensive that shakes the nation. Big Tobacco closes all its plants and recalls all its tobacco products in a clever game of chicken, facing down the courts, Congress, the White House and the antismoking lobby. The result is a catastrophic loss of tax revenue and political donations, and an angry population of smoking voters who want their cigarettes back. The novel's plot is carefully crafted and original, filled with corporate and political intrigue, treachery, betrayal and the complex backroom deals that keep big companies humming along. With a refreshing lack of sanctimony, Mills turns the tobacco wars into grist for an absorbing business thriller.

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From [Booklist](#)

Trevor Barnett is the ne'er-do-well descendant of one of the original tobacco dynasties. He lives off a trust fund and has an insignificant position at the family's tobacco firm. But the free ride may soon be over. The industry is looking at a \$250 billion judgment in a lawsuit funded by the antismoking industry. A decision is made to throw Trevor to the wolves in a national television appearance with the anti-smokers' pit bull, Angus Scalia. Although scared to death, Trevor acquits himself well through a combination of honesty and anger at Scalia's personal attacks. Voila! The smoking industry has a likable persona. Trevor then develops the industry's new strategy: give up. Pull all product off the shelves, close distribution centers, stop buying from tobacco farmers, and lay off all their workers. The ensuing economic chaos leads to smokers' riots, attempts on Trevor's life, and, finally, a compromise in which it's acknowledged that tobacco users bear the responsibility for their own choices. Mills, best known for thrillers such as *Sphere of Influence* [BKL Ag 02], breaks away from the world-in-peril theme to explore a burning social issue. He does an exemplary job of presenting both sides of the issue--essentially, health versus choice--and presents a Swiftian solution designed to bring both warring factions to their knees. This may disappoint a few of the author's usual fans but will gain him many new ones. *Wes Lukowsky*

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Review

'If you haven't read Kyle Mills yet you should - I do' - Tom Clancy - 'Kyle Mills is that special kind of thriller writer who knows how to keep an ominous chill lurking on almost every page' - Allan Folsom - 'Fabulous' - New York Times - 'In the world of political thrillers, I have a feeling that young Kyle Mills will soon be a very big player' - Frederick Forsyth

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Leon Santiago:**

This Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle) book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle) without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle) can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Smoke Screen (Mills, Kyle) having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Latosha Page:**

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#### **Albert Collins:**

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#### **Shawn Calvin:**

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