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Novice author sells 'Son' to Davis

By CHRIS PETRIKIN

John Davis' Davis Entertainment has optioned the rights to "Fortunate Son," an unpublished manuscript by Dallas-based attorney David R. Marlett.

Marlett's first novel is a historical courtroom drama about one of the most celebrated and costly trials

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led it to his boss. Davis optioned the book out of his own pocket and will produce along with Kesselman and Josh Silver, the duo that recently established Jericho Ent. with a first-look deal with Davis Ent.

Baker and Davis Ent.'s Wyck Godfrey, who brokered the deal for the 20th Century Fox-based com-

pany, will most likely earn executive producer credits.

Davis is looking to package the project with an actor, writer and/or a director before trying to set it up at Fox or another studio. And Marlett, who negotiated the deal himself, is hoping to find any or every combination of publisher, book agent and film agent.

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in British history. The story revolves around English-Irishman James Arnesley and the ancestors of the Kennedy clan in Ireland during the early 18th century.

After receiving the book from Marlett's blind mass-mailing, producer Robert Baker brought "Son" to John Davis' former assistant Josh Kesselman, who then submitted it to Davis.

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