

See page 3 for additional obit from  
The Scotsman, Scotland's National  
Newspaper. June 12, 2017

## Ed Victor

(9 September 1939 – 7 June 2017)



Edward Victor

<b>Born</b>	Edward Victor 9 September 1939 <a href="#">Bronx, New York City, New York, USA</a>
<b>Died</b>	7 June 2017 (aged 77) <a href="#">London, England, UK</a>
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Occupation</b>	Literary agent based in London for much of his career.

### Biography

Victor was born on 9 September 1939, in [Bronx, New York City](#), the son of [Russian Jewish](#) immigrant parents, who ran a [photographic](#) equipment store.<sup>[1][2]</sup> After graduating from [Dartmouth College](#), Victor attended the [University of Cambridge](#) on a [Marshall scholarship](#) in 1961.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Publishing editor

Victor married Michelene Samuels (now known as the writer [Michelene Wandor](#)) in 1963; the couple made their home in [London](#) and had two children. Victor worked for publishing house the Osborne Press, then part of [Lord Beaverbrook's Express Newspapers](#) group. He then worked on [coffee table](#) books for [Weidenfeld & Nicolson](#). After approaching [George Weidenfeld](#) in the [toilet](#), Victor was moved to general publishing, looking after the works of [Saul Bellow](#) and [Vladimir Nabokov](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

In 1970, his first marriage ended in divorce, and wanting a new challenge Victor co-founded countercultural newspaper *Ink* (May 1971 – February 1972)<sup>[4]</sup> with *Oz* founders [Felix Dennis](#) and [Richard Neville](#). Conflict about what *Ink* should be led to its failure, and Victor returned to the United States to work for [Knopf](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

### Literary agent

Victor married his second wife, American [lawyer](#) Carol Ryan,<sup>[2]</sup> and after a year travelling they made their main home in London to be close to Victor's children.<sup>[5]</sup> Victor was one of the first former journalist/editors to make the move to be a publishing agent, when in the 1970s literary agents were not welcomed by British publishers. However, many changed their minds when Victor's first sale in 1976<sup>[6]</sup> was for the book and film rights to [Stephen Shephard's](#) novel *The Four Hundred* for \$1.5m. In 2005, Victor's client [John Banville](#) won the [Booker Prize](#). The following day Victor sold [Eric Clapton's](#) memoirs for \$4 million.<sup>[3]</sup>

Rather than take "blind" scripts sent to him, Victor instead began to gain clients through personal reference. In 2003, Victor and his wife were named second on [Tatler's](#) list of the most invited guests in London, behind [Elton John](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

In the [2016 New Year Honours](#) he was appointed [Commander of the Order of the British Empire](#) (CBE) for his services to literature.<sup>[7]</sup> In September 2016, it was reported that [David Cameron](#) had signed with Victor to write his memoirs.<sup>[8]</sup> He celebrated the 40th anniversary of his literary agency, Ed Victor Ltd, in November 2016.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Personal life and death

With his second wife, Carol Ryan, Victor lived mainly in London, with a secondary home in [the Hamptons](#) on [Long Island](#) in the United States. The couple had a son Ryan, while Victor had sons Adam and Ivan from his first marriage to Michelene Wandor. In 2002, Victor suffered from an attack of [viral pneumonia](#), but fully recovered.<sup>[3]</sup>

The same year, Victor published his first book, *The Obvious Diet – Your Personal Way to Lose Weight Fast Without Changing Your Lifestyle*, through [Ebury Press](#) and [Arcade Publishing](#).<sup>[10][11]</sup>

Victor was Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the [Almeida Theatre](#), a Trustee of the [Arts Foundation](#)<sup>[12]</sup> and of the [Hay Festival](#),<sup>[13]</sup> as well as a founding director of the [Groucho Club](#).<sup>[14]</sup>

Victor was suffering from [chronic lymphocytic leukaemia](#) when he died from a [heart attack](#) on 7 June 2017.<sup>[15][16]</sup> Survivors include his wife, Carol; three sons, Ryan, Ivan and Adam.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Dartmouth

Ed was a member of Delta Upsilon and graduated with Honors in English.

Additional Obit from The Scotsman, Scotlands National Newspaper June 12, 2017

## Obituary: Ed Victor, Literary agent who counted rock stars and Booker Prize winners among clients



Ed Victor with his Commander of the Order of the British Empire meda. Picture: PA

Ed Victor with his Commander of the Order of the British Empire meda. Picture: PA  
**07:00**Monday 12 June 2017

**Ed Victor, colourful literary agent. Born: 1939 in New York, United States. Died: 7 June 2017, in London, aged 77**

Ed Victor, an A-list literary agent whose colourful personality was well-matched by such clients as Keith Richards, Eric Clapton and Andrew Lloyd Webber, has died of a heart attack. Victor was 77 and had been battling leukemia.

A self-described “shark in the water”, Victor negotiated multi-million dollar deals for memoirs by Richards and Clapton and also found publishers for such top sellers as Douglas Adams’ Hitchhikers’ Guide to the Galaxy series and Johanna Basford’s adult coloring books. Other clients include Pete Townshend, U2, Carl Bernstein and Candice Bergen. In one notable week in 2005,

his client John Banville won the Booker Prize and Victor finalised a deal for Clapton's autobiography. Two years later, he had the publishing world bidding fiercely for Richards' *Life*, which Hachette Livre acquired for \$7 million.

"I adored doing business with him," Henry Holt and Company president and publisher Stephen Rubin, who published books by Clapton, John Banville and other Victor clients, said. "He was straight, pro-active, honest, smart as a whip. And he was tough, very tough, but always within the context of a very fair deal."

Rubin was close to Victor and called him the "ultimate party boy", often attending multiple events in a single night. The bearded, ever-sociable agent was once ranked second behind Elton John on Tatler's list of London's most invited celebrities.

"Ed Victor funny, stylish, gossipy, very very shrewd," historian Simon Schama tweeted. "Those striped suits and the eyes of mischief; one of the greats of agenting. He was also master of the perfect meatloaf."

Novelist Ken Follett tweeted that Victor was a "giant of the book world & life-enhancing friend".

Hachette CEO Michael Pietsch, who edited Richards' memoir, said that Victor was "so charming, charming and relentless" and credited his vision and "360-degree" range of interests. Victor handled literary stars such as Banville, Edna O'Brien and former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, who wrote the best-selling memoir *Lone Survivor*. Victor not only represented Nigella Lawson for her best-selling *How to Eat*, but wrote his own cookbook, *The Obvious Diet*

He could be both relentless and patient, working for years on getting Richards to commit to a book. "I remember him approaching me long before and saying, 'So, what would you think of a memoir by Keith Richards?'" Pietsch said.

Victor was highly praised in his adopted country. In the 2016 New Year Honours, Victor was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to publishing.

A New York City native, Victor moved to Britain in the early 1960s after receiving a scholarship from the University of Cambridge. He attempted to start a newspaper and was an editor at Alfred A Knopf and at Weidenfeld & Nicolson before launching his own literary agency in 1976.

"It was a cardinal sin," Victor said in 2004, recalling how one publisher described being an agent as women's work. "It was a completely inexplicable act. Why would anyone leave publishing to become an agent?"

Victor is survived by his second wife, Carol Ryan. He had three children.