

Author Interview

Martin Link

1. Please provide a brief introduction, including your name, the genre(s) you write in, previous work and where you are based.

My name is Martin Link, and I'm based in South-East England. I write crime fiction novels, the first being Misdirection, it's sequel Credence is also available now, with the third instalment (of four) currently with my editor.

2. Which of your books / pieces of writing are you most proud of, and why?

I'm most proud of Misdirection, firstly because I actually finished writing a book! It has received fantastic reviews, and won the Earphones Award for the audio version.

3. How long on average does it take you to write a book?

I'd say around three months to write the first draft, and about a year to have it ready for publishing.

4. What is the most difficult part of your artistic process?

Getting the ending right! This, I feel, is the hardest part; leaving the reader satisfied that the story is concluded, but making sure the ending is memorable.

5. What was your hardest scene to write?

There is a scene in Misdirection where a plot twist occurs, changing the direction of the story. Of course, I knew it was coming, but had to write up to the point as if I didn't know.

6. Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with bad or good ones?

I do read them, and I've been fortunate enough to have had some great feedback. I try to take away any constructive criticism from negative reviews.

7. What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

There was actually quite a lot of research involved in the series, mostly technical and procedural aspects of military and police work. In this genre, the events need to be believable.

8. What does literary success look like to you?

Receiving reviews of four or more stars, especially ones that have included written feedback. I suppose knowing that my books have been read and enjoyed.

9. How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Book 3 in the series is currently with the editor, and book 4 is about a third of the way through the first draft.

10. What was the best money you ever spent as a writer? (E.g. software, self-help books, marketing books etc.)

The narrator Chris MacDonnell, who did an incredible job putting the audio versions of Misdirection and Credence together.

11. Do you want each book to stand on its own, or are you trying to build a body of work with connections between each book?

There will be a series of four books in total.

12. What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Giving up before the work is done. It's easy to doubt the quality of your own work, but until you have a finished story you can never be sure how it will be received.

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