

INTERVIEW

WITH

TONEYE EYENOT



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

Hails n howls! My name is Toneye Eyenot and eye write terrible tales of terror, occasionally dabbling in the realms of Dark Fantasy, but with one paw firmly rooted in Horror. Apart from writing, eye also scream bloody murder in Extreme Metal bands, Infinite Black and Chaotic Impurity, as well as 'pretend' to be a bass player with my Punk mates in Rock n Roll Detectives. Eye lurk in the Blue Mountains of Death in New South Wales, the Dirt Down Under.

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

Man, that's a toughie haha. Eye guess, of all the many things eye have put out there (3 novellas, 1 novel, 1 flash fic collection dozens of poems and around 40 short stories) The Scarlett Curse (The Sacred Blade of Profanity: Book I) will always hold a special place in my dark heart, being my first wordchild. Kinda pretty proud of my latest release, Flash of Darkness, as it's my first self published effort.

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

It varies greatly. The Scarlett Curse barely made a novella and took me 3 years to write. It's prequel, Joshua's Folly, made a short 40k novel and took me about 4 moons to write. Novellas seem to be my comfort zone, though Book III in The Sacred Blade series is planned for at least 60k...a bit ambitious on my part, as it has taken me nearly 3 years, yet again, to write and is still only half done. In the meantime though, eye have developed and subsequently vanquished a rabid anthology/short story addiction, which was largely to blame for my book taking so long, (on the bright side, my stories have been published in over 30 anthologies since 2015 and my name has gotten out there a bit) plus eye have also put out 2 more novellas in that time. They didn't take more than a few moons each to complete.

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

Motivation, by far. Sitting down to write can be daunting at times. Sometimes, the words just aren't there, and eye know this before even looking at the screen. But, as they say... "This story ain't gonna write itself!"

5. What was your hardest scene to write?

Probably the rape scene in Joshua's Folly. It was a necessary evil to include and eye hated every word of it. The main villain in the story though, is an unforgivably evil fucker and as much as it disturbed me, the scene just had to be written. A lot of authors will say the same thing...We don't write the stories, our characters do. We're just along for the ride, and quite often, we are just as shocked as our readers at what comes out of our characters' depraved minds. My story, 'Babycakes' in the 'How to Cook a Baby: and Other Cannibal Cuisine' anthology from JEA Press was no picnic either. *pun intended haha.

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

Eye do. Quite often, you can take away valuable critique and learn what readers are turned off by. An honest and constructively critical review is what you really should hope for. Glowing praise is great, of korpse, but you'll never know where to improve if nobody points it out to you. That said, every now and then, you get some shitkunt who just wants to act all high n mighty while hangin' shit on your hard work – Seems to be a lot of those fuckheads on Goodreads. Had a couple less than favourable reviews in my time, which is great. It keeps your head outta the clouds and keeps it real.

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

Eye write fiction...fantasy. Research is mostly non-existent with me. One story though, The Sadistic Nurse Emilie in the latest Rejected For Content anthology from JEA, eye did some research on Austria during the Nazi occupation, plus a little medical research to help with my main character. Eye based her on a real life nurse friend who eye worked closely with while writing it.

8. What does literary success look like to you?

Well, there are varying levels of success, of korpse. There's the 'Stephen King' or 'JK Rowling' level of success, for example. Then there's the 'Holy shit! Eye sold a book!' level of success. Having sold a book or three, Eye consider myself somewhat of a literary success.

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

2 in the works and one title/synopsis waiting in the wings.

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

The only money eye have spent really as a writer, and by far money best spent, is on an airfare to Spain. If it wasn't for my writing, eye would never have met the woman who inspires me more than anyone else on this planet has been able to do. Being here with my dark goddess, my career as an author has begun to move in a more positive direction. We're working together on some upcoming projects, which is much easier when we're not on opposite sides of the world, and she makes me a very happy wolf, which in turn makes me more productive and inspired. It's all win.

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?

Both. My Sacred Blade of Profanity series books are obviously connected. Not sure how many more books will be in that series. No other plans for anything connected though. My other books, Blood Moon Big Top and Wolvz: Whispers of War are connected somewhat, as they are both werewolf books, but they are stand alone otherwise.

12. What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Seeing a lot of authors taking the self-published route lately, which is in some cases good and in others, fucking horrible. Some of the better ones are doing it right, while others are releasing books that look as though an editor has been nowhere near and covers which look to have been made with Microsoft Paint. Rushing shit out just so you can be able to say you have a book published does nobody any favours – either yourself, nor the many self-published authors who are serious about their writing careers. One shitty looking book will get nothing but shitty reviews and you'll never be taken seriously as an author. Take your time, if necessary, spend the money and be professionally edited with a decent cover. Self-pubbed authors are demonized enough as it is. Last thing we need is half-arsed self-pubbed books making us all look shit.

13. What's the most difficult thing about writing characters from the opposite sex?

Eye don't know. To be honest, it's never been a problem for me. My main character in The Sacred Blade series is a woman, and my fave character in the series is an 11 year old girl. Writing their stories has been a breeze.

FLASH OF DARKNESS

BY TONEYE EYENOT

"Lurk within my mind(s) and see the terrors which await thee. Just keep in mind, once in my mind, you cannot flee"

\$0.99



LUNAKK PUBLICATIONS

