



Red Cape Publishing

INDIE WRITERS REVIEW

AUTHOR INTERVIEW with Steve Cain

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, THE GENRE(S) YOU WRITE IN, PREVIOUS WORK AND WHERE YOU ARE BASED.

My name is Steve Cain, and I am a writer of poetry, short stories, and horror. I am originally from Augusta, Georgia, but my work as a health, safety, and environmental manager has taken me to Connecticut and now the Cincinnati, Ohio area. I have two published books of poetry/short stories, "The Great Inevitable" (Losantiville Press), and "Jumpin' Jesus, Hallelujah." My first horror novella, "Thorn," will be out in October on Amazon.

WHICH OF YOUR BOOKS / PIECES OF WRITING ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF, AND WHY?

I am proud of all my works for different reasons. "The Great Inevitable" was my first published book, which came out in 2019. I am proud of it because it was my first published work, and my desire to publish it was so that my kids had something that I had created. "Thorn," which is coming out in October, is a work I'm especially proud of because it is my longest work to date, and I feel like it is a great story, but then I'm biased!

HOW LONG ON AVERAGE DOES IT TAKE YOU TO WRITE A BOOK?

It really depends on the content. I am not one of those writers, unfortunately, who are disciplined enough to sit down and write every day. I write primarily when I am inspired, which, lately, has been frequently. It took me roughly 46 ½ years to write my first book, and I have written four more in the last year and a half, so it's just a matter of how the floodgates are open.



WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS?

Having the discipline to sit down and write. I have a lot of distractions. I work full time, spend time with my wife and kids, draw, paint, read a lot, play guitar, and do a lot of yardwork, so there is not a lot of free time to write. Many times, I will write notes on my phone and then follow up later on the computer.

WHAT WAS YOUR HARDEST SCENE TO WRITE?

There was a story in my first book called, "Dead End." The premise behind the story is that a man has lost his parents, and he feels empty and goes off to kill himself. Where he is, he has no cell service, but before he commits the deed, his phone registers a voice message from his dad. Though the message shows as having been received months before, the man had never seen or heard it. He listens to the voice mail with the gun in his hand, and it changes his mind. It was difficult to write, and I cried when I finished writing it. Though the suicide part is fictional, there were biographical parts of the story because I lost both of my parents in a nine-month period in 2013.

DO YOU READ YOUR BOOK REVIEWS? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH BAD OR GOOD ONES?

I do read book reviews, but I honestly have not received many. I appreciate honest feedback because it helps to know what your faults are so you can improve. I also love to hear when someone likes my work or is affected by something I wrote. I am a very emotional writer, and I like to stir those emotions in people.

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO, AND HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND RESEARCHING BEFORE BEGINNING A BOOK?

It depends on the subject matter. When I am writing poetry, there is little to no research. For "Thorn," I did a bit of research on schizophrenia. For some of my other short stories, such as "Pompitous," which is a Steve Miller Freaky Friday tale, I did a bit of research on him and on the pacific northwest. I also have a big interest in baseball, especially history in the Augusta, Georgia area, and I have been working on a book about the 1955-1958 Augusta Tigers baseball team. That is pure research, and it has taken me nearly a decade off and on to work on that!

WHAT DOES LITERARY SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

I would love to make a lot of money, have best sellers, and be able to write full time for a living. I think that's the goal of most writers. Truly though, I just have a lot on my mind, and I have to get it out of there and on paper. My dad was a mechanic and a woodworker, and he could fix and build anything. I have several very nice bird houses and toy cars that he made that I can pass down to my kids. My mother was very good with needlework and quilting, and we have several quilts that she made. I did not inherit those skills, but I can write a little. My books are my legacy to my kids and what I can leave for them. That is success for me.

HOW MANY UNPUBLISHED AND HALF-FINISHED BOOKS DO YOU HAVE?

"Thorn" will be my third book and will be out in October. I have a fourth book completed called "The Box of Dreams and Memories," which is a collection of poetry and short stories. It is in the hands of beta readers now, and I anticipate having it released around January. A fifth book, "The Periodic Coffee House," is complete but in the editing stage. I am thinking about a spring or summer 2021 release. My book on the 1955-1958 Augusta Tigers is complete and needs to be edited. I work on that one here and there, but I hope to release it next summer as well. There are also three children's books, "The 23rd of September," "If Mountains Were Pizza," and "The Skunk in the Trunk," which I am looking to get illustrated and attempt to release. I have a lot going on right now!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE UNDER-APPRECIATED NOVEL?

I read all the time! It's been many years since I read Dalton Trumbo's "Johnny Got His Gun," but that was an exceptional book, and I don't believe it's gotten the notoriety that it should. I only knew about it because it was the basis for the Metallica video, "One."

WHAT WAS THE BEST MONEY YOU EVER SPENT AS A WRITER? (E.G. SOFTWARE, SELF-HELP BOOKS, MARKETING BOOKS ETC.)

My first book was self-published but through Losantiville Press. I had to pay for everything, but it allowed me to get my book out and I learned a lot along the way, things to do and not to do, so that was a great lesson and money well spent!

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?

Currently, all of my books are stand alone, although there is going to be a bit of continuity with my poetry and short story books. There is an unnamed character that has a prologue and an epilogue in these collections, and he is basically the narrator, providing the stories to an unnamed individual who comes to visit to hear these tales.

WHAT ARE COMMON TRAPS FOR ASPIRING WRITERS?

There are a lot of people out there who will take advantage of you, either through reading, editing, or publishing your work. Do the research and see who is credible. Another trap is genre. You do not need to write just one genre. Write what you know and write what you feel. Let the story take you where it wants to go.

WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT THING ABOUT WRITING CHARACTERS FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX?

It can be difficult to get in the mind set to write about other genders or other races just because you don't have the same perspective. In these situations, it is helpful to talk to people and see what they would do, how they would feel, how they would react in the situations you want your characters to be in.

