

Inca Author Information Page

W.D. Frank

Currently living in: New Braunfels, Texas. It is a relatively small town founded by proud Germans that has been growing quite a bit over the last few years. The metropolis of Wilburn in my books was inspired by a combination of this town, Los Angeles (my birthplace), and Dallas. (The latter being the home city of some of my darkest childhood memories.) Wilburn is the largest and most important place in my fictitious version of America and I think that is because Texas is such a strange and bitter-sweet part of my identity. Out of all of the places I have lived, the chaos and pain associated with this state have stuck with me the most, so even if I could leave again, it would likely stick to my writing like Gorilla Glue.

Main works: I have created a massive multi-verse that is linked together by humanity's seemingly eternal struggle with the ever-shifting gods of reality and the true God that toys with them all. The main universe is populated by titles like 'Adel's Crossing,' 'Lucifer's Ladder,' 'The Age of Abraxas,' and 'Death, My Immortal Love.' Two of those are works in progress that follow the eccentric character of Hugh Aaron (a murderous and nihilistic narcissist with a God complex) and his journey to reshape the world in his own image... and create true Paradise by any means necessary. I am working on getting Lucifer's Ladder republished. The company I previously had a contract with was not what I needed in a publisher. I currently have a novella called Love, Guns and Rosemary published on Amazon. That one is part of a romantic crime series that follows an unstable, sociopathic mob enforcer and his struggles with love, insanity, and ambition.

I started writing because: I was in a dark place, I was alone, and I was bored. I wanted to create a character that represented who I was at the time. I thought it would be cool to have someone to relate to even if I had to create that person myself. I suppose that writing was my way of coping with my loneliness and the hatred that comes with being stomped on by the world for so long. I was disgusted with humanity as a whole and I disassociated myself from them for a while. I did not see myself as human and I refused to see the humans who rejected me as lifeforms worthy of my time. I loved animals and that was it. If humankind came to an end in those years, I would have been overjoyed. It was all a defense mechanism, I imagine. Regardless, that is how the character of Hugh Aaron came to be. After venting through him, I became much more emotionally stable. I started to see things more clearly. Eventually I even made friends. I am so glad that I am not alone anymore, but since loneliness, rage, and boredom were the triggers that convinced me to start writing, I don't finish books as fast as I used to these days. My writing time suffers because I see the world differently now. I would like to think that my writing itself is better than ever, though. I personally think that Adel's Crossing is one of the best books I have ever written, but time will tell.

My main writing interests are: I suppose you could say that I typically write grimdark surrealist fiction that focuses on psychological exploration and a healthy dose of philosophy, but my fiction isn't truly bound to any particular genre or era. (Although, I often use the modern age for the sake of simplicity.) I just write whatever I think will entertain me and compel me to keep exploring. If I want to read it and I don't see it out there, then I write it. I think of myself as my own fan-boy. God, that sounds narcissistic, however, I absolutely love the stories and characters I have created. After all, that is the main reason I never stopped writing.

My sources of research and information are: I don't usually have to do that much research, but when I feel that I don't know something, I typically turn to books... or reputable websites if I don't have the books I require. If I resort to the internet, I make sure that I quadruple check my sources before I believe them to be accurate. The internet makes me paranoid.

My inspiration comes from: Honestly, it could be anything. The concept of Love, Guns and Rosemary had been on my mind for years, yet the version I finally released was inspired by the rapper Eminem. Adel's Crossing is the result of my fascination with how we change as people. Hell, I once thought of a story by stumbling upon an unusually sinister adult film. Now, it wasn't creepy because of the actions being taken, but rather it was unsettling because of the music playing and the bizarre vibe it gave me that I had forgotten something important. (I will go into the story that it inspired at a later date.) My point is that it could be anything that triggers an idea for a story... and it doesn't even have to be related to the concept it spawns in an obvious way either. It can even be completely random. The way my mind works is odd indeed.

My stories are planned like this: I create what I call a 'frame' first. It is the basic concept and core character that is meant to be filled in with the full story. Then I fill it in as much as I need to before I start writing. I almost always have a route and an ending in mind before I start. Sometimes that is all I need. For the Hugh Aaron trilogy, I planned nearly every single little detail. There are barely any blanks to fill in. For Adel's Crossing, I created the frame, the main character's back-story, his fate, the symbolism of everything, and the ending. However, I left a lot blank before writing it because I thought it would feel more natural that way. I wanted that sense of chaos for that book in particular. It feels like a deranged man's acid trip sometimes... and there is a reason for that.

I have written a series of books based on: I think the main idea behind my stories is that the world and the people in it are puzzles that you may think you have solved yet cannot initially comprehend. Morality, identity, and the universe; these things are not as simple as we make them out to be. There are a lot of hidden truths we don't care to see. There is a lot of humanity behind the people we demonize. There are many undiscovered secrets in space yet we assume we are the only forms of intelligent life. We think we know everything and we hardly know a darn thing. For example: What determines if our actions are righteous? Is it God, our own feelings, the law, or logic? The fact that hardly anyone has a definitive answer for this has always frustrated me. Most of us barely even know ourselves yet we pretend to have a firm grasp on what reality is. We build our own truths and shape our universe from our emotions. I think that is what I base my writing off of. I enjoy that sense of the unknown. I love exploring... and I want people to see the complexities that I see too.

My future plans are to: I intend to finish the series I have started and continue adding to the multi-verse I have created after that. I will hop from genre to genre and era to era along the way, I imagine. I prefer not to think about the future too much.

My own favourite character is: Hugh Aaron is my favourite character. I have spent so much time with him and I understand him so well that I almost think of him as my little boy. I want to save him and help him find happiness, but I know that I cannot... and that makes me sad. His relationship with his boyfriend is so beautiful to me. It is such a pure thing coming from two horrible, extremely damaged people and I think that conveys my perception of human complexity better than I ever could in this interview. He is the first character I ever wrote and I put my entire soul into him. I wanted people to understand that he was a person despite his darkness... and I think that comes across better than I ever could have imagined. That is why he will likely always be my favourite.

I sometimes find myself thinking like: Honestly, I am probably most similar to Lucifer. Out of all the characters I have written, that is the one that I still find myself acting and thinking like sometimes. My best friend says that Lucifer is my alter ego... and I tend to agree. He is awesome, though. When you read his scenes, prepare to fall in love.

I also have a few other books I'd like to highlight as follows: I will deliver more news on my other works later, but be sure to check out Love, Guns and Rosemary in the meantime.

My advice to new writers would be: My advice is to never let yourself believe that you are less than your idols. The first story that you write is going to be terrible. The story might be perfect, the characters might be brilliant, and the jokes might be absolutely hilarious, but your writing style will not have had a chance to evolve properly yet.

I wrote around four novellas and several novels before I felt like my writing style was on the level that it needed to be. It is just something that you have to keep doing. You aren't going to be conscious of the fact that you are getting better because there is no real trick to learn about writing. It is a compulsive task that inexplicably possesses you when you sit in front of a keyboard and the words just pour out like they have a mind of their own.

Because of this it isn't something that you spend much time thinking about while you are doing it. It is an automatic process for the most part. (In my experience, anyway.) Although, you will eventually start spending an ungodly amount of time obsessing over your word choices once your chapter is finished and you begin staring at it trying to figure out what you did wrong. Don't worry about that struggle until you feel that you are reaching the level of the authors that you idolize. Don't try to edit until you know that you have something worth publishing. Just always remember that you can get to that point if you have a good story to tell.

There is nothing separating you from those you revere except for experience. Please do not ever let anyone make you feel like you aren't worthy of telling the stories that haunt your mind.

Writing has its ups and downs: I think the worst part about writing is that it isn't something you can do any time you want to. I have days where I just cannot seem to get the words out and I hate it. Writers block sucks. When I am writing and exploring those worlds, I don't think there are any downs that I can think of, to be honest.

When I'm not writing: I dedicate most of my free time to reading, television, and video-games.

For copy editing and proofreading: My editor is a beautiful and magnificent woman named Catherine Lenderi. She is the best. There are a few story-related changes that I argue with her about, but we usually agree for the most part. If you ever want an affordable editing service, check her out. She is my hero.

I accept criticism from: I accept criticism from anyone who is willing to offer it. I handle it better than I thought I would when I started writing. That is for sure.

My experiences with self-publishing: Honestly, I have barely bothered with it. I self-published one book and then I realized that I had no idea of how to promote it and no money to do so. I am going to do some research and start taking it more seriously before I release my next book, though.

I promote my books via: Once again, I need to work on that promotion thing!

My favourite mainstream authors are: Robert E. Howard, Hideaki Sena, Koji Suzuki, Tsugumi Ohba, Hirohiko Araki, and Stephen King.

I am currently reading: I am currently reading the JoJo's Bizarre Adventure manga series! I am thoroughly obsessed with it.

I prefer to read books in: I like to be able to hold a book in my hands. I can read them digitally if I have to, but it is not the same.

A bit about my other interests: Pizza, coffee, and David Lynch movies. Enough said.

My most unattainable ambition is: Hmm... I want to gain the power to convince Cartoon Network to bring the Thundercats reboot back. That show was great. I need closure, guys! Come on!

Last thoughts before we go down the pub/club/library/boot-sale/exercise yard: Honestly? Now I am just really sad about Thundercats. I cannot even promote my work properly. However, if you want to help soothe the void that Cartoon Network left behind when they cancelled Thundercats, then buy Love, Guns and Rosemary and leave a review. I would appreciate it! Either that or join my army so that we can wage war on Cartoon Network for cancelling the best 80s reboot ever. Thundercats ho!

Author Links

Amazon Author page: www.amazon.com/author/wdfrank

Twitter: [@GregariousOtter](https://twitter.com/GregariousOtter)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wdfrankauthor

Any other links: www.amazon.com/Love-Guns-Rosemary-W-D-Frank-ebook/dp/B00Y12HHUO