

AUTHOR Q&A

Author: Roman Goforth

How did you become inspired to create the book Chairiots?

“The idea for Chairiots came about from my time in Art College. Late night cram sessions were commonplace, students sleeping on their drafting tables in their pajamas. As a mental reprieve, some of them went about racing their chairs around the room. That scene stayed in my head afterward for some time. Off and on over ten years I worked on the idea of the technology and science of how a chair could be morphed into a creature half-alive/half-dead; and raced much like a car in the Indianapolis 500 or NASCAR. The magic of the Invokers, the folding of the Portraits, the Ceiba trees, even the notion of this story being a handbook was yet to be uncovered; there and then it was all about a possessed chair. It wasn't until January 2015, ten years later that I set a New Year's resolution to finally write it all out. At this time there were no illustrations, merely the text. I knew then, to get Chairiots published was going to be hard, harder than a traditional novel, heck it didn't even really have a plot, or a protagonist, nor a single bad guy. A book in this style was usually released after the reader had already made a connection to an established character! Chairiots is a 'What If' book on how to manage and ride a piece of furniture if said equipment was alive and kicking. However, I was excited to see a book like Chairiots out there. I loved every minute creating it so I knew there was an audience who would be thrilled to read it”.

What is your background, where is home?

“Personally I am a bottle of Heinz 57 ketchup, but predominately German and English. I was born in Canada to American parents, so I have lived here and there in the US and Canada; once long enough in my mother's home State of Arkansas to develop a strong southern accent. I have called the Niagara Region in Ontario my home since 1991”.

Who are some of your favourite writers?

“There are a few that I can rely on for a really great adventure. In the genre of macabre and horror, the author/artist Clive Barker is at the top of the list, his twists on religious concepts is truly original. When I am wondering how far humans are capable of debasing their fellow neighbor, with a dash of the supernatural I reach for a Stephen King novel. The late writer Frank Herbert's series *Dune* had a profound effect on my perception of how we explain intelligence, the mortal coil of what defines us as humans, that no matter how far in the future man may survive, or the incredible advances in technology we fashion it will be our same rudder of emotions and instincts that have been ingrained in our DNA and psyche for hundreds of thousands of years that steers our path”.

Do you have any upcoming projects?

“I am currently working on '*Lily with No Lenses*', a book about a little girl who finds a pair of old glasses in a Lost and Found box”.

How would you define your book?

“A fantasy book primarily, an art compendium secondly, and an odd read overall”.

Where will Chairiots go from here?

“For now, I am concentrating on several small stories for a Grade One audience, but do not worry, I have begun working on the framework for a Chairiots novel. Let’s just say a lot will have happened from the time of the handbook’s fictional date of 1941, till now. Following the adventure of a young boy named Royce and his Grandfather Orville (a Glen Duncan drop out). The two of them will uncover the true origins of the Chairiots, become the target of forces both industrial and unnatural, who have abused the use of the Spirit Guides, and even learn the *How’s* and *Why’s* that led to the School of Glen Duncan and the whole of the Chair Racing organization to collapse into ruins”.

How did you go from drawing to wanting to write a children’s book?

“Words create images, images create words. The acts of writing and drawing are all about illusion, making the reader or viewer see something that really is not there. For me professionally, there is a long trail of breadcrumbs to that question. My first freelance client, after Graduation was one of the top book publishers in Canada; I have also worked with kids in various venues such as community clubs, summer camps, public schools, treatment centres, and as a substitute teacher on a Native Canadian Reservation. I personally love a book with lots of pictures. In fact, I learn better that way”.

Contact Information

- Roman Goforth
905.329.5665
www.goforthbooks.com
contact@goforthbooks.com