

0:02: Hello, and welcome to after hours at chat tech writes, my name is lane neighbor Chattahoochee tech is filled with faculty who are active in the disciplines they teach.

0:12: On today's EPS, so we are fortunate to have Jessica instructor of English, who will join me to discuss writing and her new novel the children of Menlo Park.

0:23: Jessica holds a BA, in English and a master of Arts and professional writing from Kennesaw State University. And, as I said, teaches, , at Chattahoochee Tech teaches English.

0:36: Composition, and I think of an introduction to literature as well.

0:43: So, with that said, welcome, Jessica.

0:47: Hey, how are you doing? I'm well, how are you today?

0:52: I am doing great. It's Friday. I'm sorry. Absolutely. Um, you've just published a a new novel called children of Menlo Park I have to ask what it feels like. Oh, great.

1:06: Yeah, I know. Um, I have to ask what it feels like to accomplish such feet.

1:13: Um, I'm still in the in the stunned stage.

1:18: Um, I'm not sure how long the certain stage goes on, but I just every once snowfall I still look over at the shelf over there cause I've got like, 5 copies over there and I'll look at them and I'm like.

1:30: Is that real? And I, I, it's like, I went and got my readers copy a minute ago and touched it and went once again.

1:39: Is that really mine? Um, it's.

1:43: It is a mixture of relief and being done.

1:47: And everyone else was still get like, little girl excited about it. That's true.

1:54: God, this is so cool. Um, I got to see a hard back about about 2 weeks ago for the 1st time.

2:01: My heartbeat came out in December and,

2:04: um,

2:05: somebody that I know around here bought 1,

2:07: and they wanted me to sign it and I touched it the 1st time and I,

2:10: just about nearly cried over it because I never dreamed that,

2:14: I mean,

2:15: I knew it could happen,

2:16: but there's still a part of me that's,

2:18: like,

2:18: still want still marveling that it's even real.

2:21: So that's you go through a lot of things.

2:24: Okay, is there do you have a sense of sadness that it's complete that you don't have that, that you're working on or.

2:32: Sort of, but my publisher wants a 2nd, at least 1 more book maybe 2 so I'm starting to go and visit with Kate and shadow and some of the characters again. Mm hmm. Um, and fiddling around with them.

2:45: So, um, I'm sad that the process of that 1st book is over, because I struggled, but I enjoyed the struggle but.

2:53: I'm struggling all over again with booties. Oh, different struggle. But, um, at least I get to hang out with.

3:01: With some of my favorite people again and and that's kind of cool. Yeah. That's great. That's great. Um, let me ask this uh, when did you 1st consider yourself to be a writer.

3:12: That was something that you remember, and you could put a stamp on it and say I'm a rider now.

3:19: I knew.

3:23: When I was 11, I knew.

3:27: That's what I wanted to do. I had no idea how it was going to do it. It and but.

3:34: I knew that that's what I wanted and then.

3:40: The next year, that would have been 7th or 8th, 7 grade I think 7th grade grade.

3:46: Our middle school had a literary magazine, which I look back now and go that was pretty progressive. We had a literary magazine.

3:56: And I've submitted this.

3:59: And it was probably terrible, but it was a science fiction story. I had.

4:03: Began really getting serious with reading.

4:07: Um, science fiction, and 1 of my instructors in 7th grade.

4:10: Um, introduced us to of all people, Frederick, Paul, and I don't know if he knows who he is. Mm. Hmm but mm. Hmm.

4:17: Um, so she read us 1 of his stories, and I'm like.

4:21: I could do that. Now, what in the world possessed a 12 year old girl to think she could do this? I I don't know, but I wrote a story and they liked it well enough to put it into the magazine.

4:34: And that's when I began to think that I was a writer. Sure. So, maybe about 12. now, the, the journey has been long from age, but.

4:44: Um, and there was a time when I sort of left being right? Or behind.

4:50: But it always comes back as 1 of those things that always comes back for me. So, that's how I know that I am that.

4:58: Okay,

4:59: well,

5:00: uh,

5:00: of course,

5:01: you teach English as an academic subject so I'll follow up with this,

5:05: uh,

5:05: which came 1st,

5:06: the desire to to,

5:08: uh,

5:08: teach writing,

5:09: uh,

5:09: with the degree uh,

5:11: or with the education that you got,

5:12: or,

5:13: uh,

5:13: to continue and and become a published writer.

5:17: This is going to be convoluted, so.

5:21: Just bear with me, um, when I first went to college at age 17, I thought I was going to be a teacher. I still wanted to be a writer, but I thought, well, I'll be a teacher because I was told you need a backup plan.

5:35: So, teacher was a backup plan, and then I decided about halfway through my 1st year that I really didn't want to be a teacher. And so I started just pursuing English just because it's good for a writer and they didn't have a writing program at.

5:49: Can is at that point.

5:50: Um, back in the dark ages. Mm. Hmm. And then I left college.

5:55: And I stopped riding for a while, and then when I came back.

5:59: At age 30, um, I had to depend on the backup plan.

6:07: If that makes sense. So I went back to school with the under was sort of an understanding that I would probably end up teaching because I needed to support my kids and have insurance.

6:19: So, part of me still wanted to write and I did write and I really started focusing on writing again at that point.

6:26: Um, because I discovered rediscovered my voice. Mm. Hmm. And.

6:31: So, I got through my bachelor's degree and people kept saying you should teach you to teach should teach. And I went to Chattahoochee tech and began tutoring.

6:43: And then decided to go ahead and try teaching and that way, if I figured out, I didn't like it. I, it was okay to figure out something else to do. Um, and now I've been teaching 20 years 18 of those full time.

6:57: So, yeah, that backup plan supported my kids, because I realized that my writing couldn't at the time.

7:03: Sure, I wasn't ready for that. So.

7:06: You know, you go with a practical thing, and especially if you're a single mom, you go with a practical thing. Right? Okay.

7:13: Well, you had mentioned that you had found your voice again and I liked that comment when you, uh, when you teach and, of course.

7:23: I know this whole well, students struggle with all kinds of things with writing, but but we do as well. It may be surprising for them to know we struggle as well.

7:34: Um, do you do you allow your your professional writing struggles? Uh, do you talk to your students about those and share those as encouragement for them?

7:45: Yeah, yeah, I do I tell them about, um, we talk about.

7:50: About planning, or, you know, like the writing process, for instance, and I, I always tell them about my writing process because.

7:59: I think a lot of people come to the idea that if you're a professional writer, you don't have to do that writing process. You sit your button down and you just write.

8:07: And while I do fly by the seat of pants, I.

8:10: I do have a writing process. Mm. Hmm.

8:14: And I struggle with that, because I'm not an Outliner. Natively.

8:19: I I tend to the the novel.

8:23: Basically, I sat down and had a general idea of what I was going to do and wrote to it. Um.

8:31: When we talk about writing process with students.

8:35: They need a little bit more structure than that.

8:39: If you just say, fly by the CD, your pants, you're not gonna get much and you know that, um, and they're not gonna know what to do.

8:45: So, I talk a lot about how the writing, how I use the writing process to put my ideas together, or I'll talk about how yeah, I still struggle with those commas.

8:58: And that my editor had to point out that I use so.

9:01: So many times in my novel, when we were editing it that I had to go through and find all of them and get rid of them. Mm. Hmm. Um, yeah, I, I would I start dialogue that way a lot.

9:12: So, blah, blah, blah, and so when I do that, now, I have to catch myself and don't do that anymore. Yeah. So, yeah, so, yeah, I do share my struggles because I do think they need to see that even.

9:24: Those of us who have been farther along and have the degrees, we still don't know anything.

9:31: Sure, yeah, we're still students. Yeah, and that's I think that's a, a great, a great attitude for 1 thing, but something that's great to to share with students. I know.

9:44: Sometimes they put us on pedestals a little bit, and it's, um, it's it's hard to be knocked down from that. pedis little. I always start, I think, a little bit with, uh, with, uh, those same ideas that, you know, I'm a human being too.

9:58: I make mistakes and I like that. I like that. Thanks for sharing. Um.

10:03: I would say that being an English instructor too, I know 1st hand what it's like to have several sections of essays to grade. And, um, the reason I say that is, uh, what is your work schedule?

10:17: Like, I mean, you just wrote a novel that some 400 pages.

10:21: Well, you wouldn't know secret. It was actually bigger than that in the 1st draft that I sent to them. Um.

10:30: My work schedule is this, and when I worked on the novel, and I've tried to hold on to it, and I'm still like, kind of getting it back together, cause the pandemic changed a whole lot of things but.

10:43: I realized pretty early on, after I really started.

10:48: Hey, I mean, I wrote the 1st chapter and I'm like.

10:51: Let's see how far I can go, and once I got about 30,000 words in, I'm like, this is really serious. Okay. Um, and so I have to build a structure for myself.

11:01: And so I have a wise friend named Charles, Charles Rutledge, and he lives here in.

11:09: In the area and kind of stuff and he's a writer to you and he's farther along the professional journey than I am. And.

11:16: He said to me, if you'll sit down for an hour, each day.

11:19: And just write, he writes like, 1500 words. All right like.

11:23: On average when I wrote the novel, I was writing about 800 words a day, sit down for an hour. Right? The words.

11:30: And then going about your day so I get up before the sun gets up. I'm up at about 430 to 5 o'clock in the morning. Yeah. And, you know, I teach a 730 class, right? Mm. Hmm. So, um.

11:44: So, what I do is I kind of compartmentalize.

11:49: That the early morning section, I sit down.

11:53: I might have breakfast or a cup of coffee, and I write for an hour if I possibly can and some days I crank out 800 words and some days I crank out 200 words it and.

12:06: I've learned to forgive myself if I don't hit that 800 word. Mark. Um.

12:12: But I was pretty much cranking out at the point where I was writing the book. I was cranking out about.

12:19: 6, to 800 words a day and so that's pretty good for an hour. Occasionally I would get other like, pocket time to go write extra for the day and I would do that. Um, and then I compartmentalized my, my grading.

12:34: And do that during certain points of the day, and there's certain points of the day, you know, and you know, this, where we have.

12:41: We don't have class and things are kind of quiet and so you can take that time or maybe you're maybe your class is doing. Um, I do open writing times with my students.

12:52: So, we'll have a class period for their writing and asking me questions and if they're quiet and focused on quiet and focused you and I'm working, um, but I'm talking to them as well.

13:02: Um, so and I wouldn't write during those times, but I would great. Mm. Hmm.

13:08: And I would take care of the business I needed to take care of for work. So it all balanced now. Mm. Hmm. It all really balances out. And suddenly you have.

13:18: You know, 10,100,000 words of a novel and you're like, whoa, How'd that happen?

13:27: Well, we're gonna ask this about I know we haven't discussed the, uh, the novel yet, but can I ask this about it?

13:34: Um, I'm a token fan too, and I, I remember reading in some of his, uh, in some of his journals, and some of the things that he wrote that, uh, the story that he told when, when he was driving the lord of the rings in the hobbit.

13:46: Uh, grew in the telling, uh, is, uh, I think the words that he used, um, you know, you talked about outlining and having an idea of what's going on.

13:56: Were you surprised at anytime during the routing process of the things that were beginning to happen in the novel.

14:05: Yeah, a lot of times I was shocked, I was like.

14:09: Where where did that person come from or, you know, just.

14:12: Because initially, I just had like, a kernel of a story, and I've seen in my head and.

14:20: Didn't really know much of anything and so I, I got a lot of surprises.

14:26: Researching which we can talk about more, um.

14:32: And then sometimes I would write something and go. Well, that took a really interesting turn or I didn't know that character could do that. Or, um.

14:42: I'd come up with a new character that I was like.

14:46: Okay, how does that fit in and and yeah, I mean, it does grow with the telling and, I mean, if you had really asked me.

14:56: Just how large scale everything was going to end up being.

15:01: When I started, I wouldn't have believed it.

15:05: I mean, by the, by the time I was writing the, the final big, big, bad battle.

15:13: It was massive and I was kind of terrified about it because I'm like, this is so freaking big and I, I've never written anything.

15:22: This large, because up to this point, I wrote short stories and short stories are really contained. And sometimes they're in 1 space.

15:33: And you've got a tiny, tiny cast. I've got this massive cast.

15:39: Um, it was even bigger in the 1st draft by the way. Um, massive tasks.

15:46: Monsters of enormous proportion.

15:49: People throwing magic everywhere and, you know, doing crazy things and and so.

15:56: Yeah, there was lots of surprises I guess that's the bottom line. Okay. Someone made it fun. That's what made it fun.

16:02: Well, and, you know, I, as I read the book, I actually got that sense of that had had been fun to create, uh, the, the, the, the scenes, the different scenarios that the characters found themselves in.

16:16: Um, let's talk a little bit about the novel again. It's called, uh, the children in Menlo Park.

16:22: Uh, it features a a strong female, main character.

16:28: And her name is Kate warn, and of course, you give us some information.

16:34: Uh, in the, at the end of the book that she was a historical figure, and was 1 of the, it was the 1st woman detective for the Pinkerton detective agencies that right?

16:48: You modeled this character after this true life detective, but.

16:57: She's such a strong character and I know your information was limited about her. Did you, did you turn to another model to help develop the characterization of.

17:11: Um, well, with her, I think I know a lot of strong women I'm really blessed. Um.

17:20: I grew up in a family of really strong, opinionated women and.

17:25: So, I thought a lot about them and.

17:30: My daughter squares, that cadence part me. I don't know. Um, I hate to say I hate to say whether she's right or not.

17:38: Um, but she definitely reflects some of my.

17:44: My views of things, I think um, but I really want when I wrote about her and really began to think about her.

17:53: And read about her, the little bits that I did read about her in the little bits of.

17:59: Knowledge that I have about her kind of communicated that.

18:04: She was very passionate about her job. Um, she was very determined. I mean, any, any woman that would walk into.

18:12: This male dominated office, right up to the CEO and say I want a job and I want to be a detective.

18:20: In those days, and, you know, the, the early 860 s, when she did it or the 850 s when she did it.

18:27: Um, that to just an amazing amount of strength and, and just.

18:36: Sure, I think Moxie what 1 would do that.

18:41: But she did, and so I kind of I use that as the baseline of her is, like, well, she, this is a woman who walked into man's office and said, I want.

18:52: The job that you've got, and a time when she couldn't have that job. Mm. Hmm.

18:57: And then she.

19:00: She went through the civil war and she was a spine and she did all these things.

19:05: And the strength comes from that, those stories.

19:10: To me, and probably, you know, maybe I'm putting a little bit of my, um.

19:15: Self into her, but.

19:18: Ultimately, and maybe I'm interpreting an overlaying things that I think about her.

19:24: As a person cause, you know, you don't know, you just know what you read.

19:28: Um, but I just kind of built it on that base of any woman that would do that.

19:34: Could take on just about anything, including things. That were just really, really weird. So well, let's let's talk about that. I don't want to give away too much of what's inside of?

19:48: I want to save that for, for everyone who reads it, but if you had to, to characterize the book in terms of a shaundra or a focus, what what would you call it? I know history plays a big role in this.

20:03: Is it is it fantasy science fiction or a mixture of all 3 or? There's a couple of labels for this and I've gotten this from Amazon and other places. We've labeled it. Steam punk fiction.



20:18: Cause there's that element alternate history. Um.

20:23: I like to go for, um.

20:26: Maybe gaslight, alternate history, or guess, like fantasy because it's it's gas, like fantasy and guess, like, fantasy basically is a story set in.

20:37: The 88,890 s that period.

20:41: Um, that has fantasy elements. Mm. Hmm. Um.

20:47: My my publishers sure basically says it's the wild wild West meets league of extraordinary gentlemen. Okay. And I think that's a really good connection. Um.

20:58: I would agree with that. I think I don't well, are there any, uh, riders who ride in the same kind of vein or riders from the period that, that you were inspired by.

21:10: Well, a, of course, um.

21:14: And, you know, this, I don't want to give a lot of way, but there's some love crafty elements. Um.

21:20: H. G. wells um.

21:25: There are women who are a lot of women are writing in this in this genre today. Probably. My favorite is Veronica calls.

21:34: And our theodora constant, always got her name theodora Goss and, um.

21:39: She has written and my brain just went blank her books, right over there on the shelf too, but she's written.

21:48: A trilogy about basically where she takes.

21:53: The daughters of various, um.

21:58: 4 characters from the 880 s, and done something just extraordinary with them and turn them in kind of into kind of a, a super team if you will. Um.

22:10: And if I can remember the title, that would be great. But theodora, golf and she's wonderful and.

22:15: I'm sort of glad that I didn't read her before I finished the book, because I might have gotten intimidated. Uh, she is so good. It's so good. Um.

22:27: So, yeah, there's lots of different influences that I've had wells. I've read just about everything. Wells is written. Mm. Hmm. Um.

22:36: Things like that. Okay.

22:40: Yeah, well of course, it is said in the 19th century, and in America you mentioned the civil war a couple of times, and I know Kate in real life and in the story, too, was, um, what she was a spot, I think, for the yeah. Okay.

22:56: Um, that's a, that was interesting to me that a woman could, uh, to to fill that role during that time, because of of course, gender roles and things like that.

23:09: Um, was it important for you? And by the way, I'm, I'm making this question up as I go because that's okay because I was I was thinking about.

23:21: Her as a character,

23:22: um,

23:24: what,

23:24: uh,

23:25: WH,

23:25: what were you trying to build in terms of her characterization when you were,

23:31: including a character who spied on the Confederacy from the North is there um.

23:42: I guess what I mean to say is there, um, is.

23:46: How does it add to to her? Uh.

23:50: Her as as this strong female, uh, character. Well, once again, it's 1 of those things that.

23:57: A lot, I mean, there were other female spies I'm pretty sure, but.

24:03: I think her, uh, her being a, was kind of interesting because she was doing it as a Pinkerton. The Pinkerton is.

24:13: Did work his spies during the, the civil war and.

24:18: I mean, she was involved even, you know, even if the war was beginning protecting Lincoln, she foil helped to foil, um, an assassination attempt temped on him during his 1st, um, campaign. Mm, hmm.

24:32: Before he was even President, and I know that's kind of discussed in the novel.

24:38: Um, but I I think.

24:41: She's able to get places other people can't, which is something that she and Pinkerton both both observe in real life, um, about why she was a spine, because she could get places other people couldn't. Mm. Hmm.

24:53: Um, she could be, she befriended other women and got in got information from them about what was going on. There are even some photographs of her, um, dressed as a man.

25:05: Mm, hmm in some of the, um, Confederate key. Wow. Where she infiltrated as a man and that's.

25:13: Really impressive. So, um, essentially, she actually did that. Okay. But, yeah, she essentially has skills that, uh, manages lab.

25:23: Yeah, it's okay.

25:25: And,

25:25: uh,

25:26: you know,

25:26: that that was what,

25:27: uh,

25:28: that that was what I was drawing toward,

25:30: uh,

25:30: with her and because if you,

25:32: uh,

25:32: if you read all that information,

25:34: and you put it together with who she is as a character in the in the story,

25:40: you can tell that,

25:41: uh,

25:42: you know,

25:42: if,

25:42: if she's bothered by something,

25:44: or if she's in pain,

25:46: then it's really bad pain because she's such a strong,

25:49: a strong person,

25:51: a strong woman,

25:52: uh,

25:53: that,

25:53: uh,

25:53: you know,

25:54: if she's bothered by something,

25:56: I guess,

25:56: for intuition points or in a direction she needs to go in that direction.

26:01: Um.

26:03: As we said,

26:05: this piece was,

26:06: uh,

26:06: or or the settings,

26:07: the 19th century you have several historical figures in in the,

26:11: in the novel Thomas,

26:12: Edison,

26:13: Nikola,

26:14: Tesla and and I was absolutely surprised when,

26:21: uh,

26:21: when,

26:22: uh,

26:22: Mark Twain in the in the novel.

26:26: But, um, let let me ask this as I read the book, I was struck by how naturally you created a genuine sense of who we know these characters to be.

26:38: And, uh, was it difficult to develop these characters? Um, what kind of research to their.

26:45: They were a little tougher than K. I mean, Kate was tough, but then.

26:51: At 1st, I had a little trouble with with Edison, especially because I was really worried, he was going to be flat. Mm. Hmm and then I got to reading about him and I'm like.

27:03: No, there's so much I can do with this and I kind of followed.

27:08: I followed my sense of who he was historically and I know.

27:13: I'll go ahead and say, I know some people are going to be upset by the way I portray him.

27:18: But if you read your history and you pay attention.

27:22: It really was kind of that way. Sure. Um.

27:26: Twain's easy because Twain was easier, because Twain's Scott written so much, and he created this persona.

27:36: And at the same time, kind of was his persona. Um.

27:40: Especially if you read, like, behind the scenes so, like, um.

27:45: The whole discussion about him, smoking cigars in certain places. Um.

27:51: That was really a thing, he was not allowed to smoke in the house they lived in at that time his sister wouldn't allow it. Mm. Hmm. Um, so there was that issue. So, I picked up little things like that and played with that and that gave them him a little bit more.

28:06: Plus, if you, if you really read some of his, like, diaries and stuff, he really is kind of a playful grumpy 88 got grumpier as he got older.

28:15: But there's a sense of playfulness about him and a sense of and he has this drive adventure, which, I mean, you can tell.

28:26: Um, whether you're talking about him, going up to California or all the things that you did in his live, he has a sense of adventure already.

28:35: Mm, hmm so he was kind of it, it was kind of easy to kind of develop on that level. What Tesla Tesla was probably the hardest because I was having to get his diction right?

28:49: And trying to figure out exactly who he was. Mm. Hmm. And probably the best thing.

28:55: That I discovered was that he wrote an autobiography, and this was pretty late in the development of the of the novel that I found the autobiography. Um.

29:06: And it changed the whole way he, he spoke how he delivered his lines. Mm. Hmm. Um, who he was, how how he interacted with the rest of my world. And I really.

29:18: I discovered he was a lot more.

29:22: Hate to use the word alien.

29:26: There was a lot of stuff going on with him that made him a lot more other.

29:31: Then you would believe Mm hmm.

29:34: And I really wanted to hit that otherness with him. And when I found the autobiography, I learned how to do that. I love Nicola. He's wonderful. Um.

29:47: And I hope that might love for him really shows in the book because he's, he's like 1 of my favorites. I love him. Well, I thought so.

29:56: I actually, I liked the I like the connection between Tesla and Twain. The, um, of course you don't use Twain's name, uh, his name. Sam Clemens. Yeah, and that's great. I thought that was great.

30:09: Um, but there's a connection and you can tell it's it's a, it's a, it's a strong connection. You can sense that. Playfulness and Dwayne, and that, um, the otherness I like that, uh, that description of Tesla, I think that's certainly, um.

30:24: There's, there's something going on there, like, um, it's almost like he is able to think on a different plane than the rest of us. In some way. He kind of did he kind of did, um.

30:38: The way he described it in the autobiography it.

30:41: It's almost terrifying. I, I don't know how human could borne all of that, but.

30:47: He did, and and, I mean, he had these ideas that came full form in his head.

30:54: Who does that who does that? And then to connect up with somebody.

31:00: Like, like Sam Clemens who's.

31:04: Totally different totally different than him.

31:09: And yet they build this bond and the crazy thing is, is that friendship was for real wow. That they really did and they did meet. Exactly the way I I tell in in the book about how they met. Um.

31:24: Which I think is 1 of the funny stories in the whole world um.

31:28: So, yeah, so I really wanted to make that bond strong because that's what I get from the history is that they really did have a really great friendship.

31:39: As odd as it was, you know.

31:42: No, I thought, I thought it was a great, uh, it's a great way to really let people in on that information and to see that, um, see that relationship.

31:50: Because, I mean, I guess most, uh, you know, sometimes, um, we, and I honestly did not know that relationship existed.

31:58: Uh, um, so I'm glad to know that, uh, that it did, and you were able to share it with us, uh, in that, uh, in that novel.

32:06: Um,

32:07: I was excited because I'm a fantasy,

32:11: um,

32:11: uh,

32:12: person myself and,

32:13: and I'll probably give away that I like or to hear but as I was reading,

32:19: I,

32:19: I was reading along and all of a sudden I saw the word.

32:23: Um, and I was like, oh, my goodness, you've introduced love craft, an element of load craft H.

32:32: P Lovecraft, uh, for those listeners who don't know who love craft he is he's a American W\*\*\* rider who produced his works in the early part of the twentieth century.

32:41: Is horah was not hack in slash it was instead, uh, he developed stories that dealt with a cosmic W\*\*\*. Something that's beyond our comprehension. Really? And that's what he would say about it.

32:55: I think he developed quite a following and was an inspiration. The writer such as Robert Howard I don't know if you know that connection Robert Howard a creative, the barbarian and solving. Cain.

33:09: Um, but do you feel that your novel carries on in that tradition of storytellers? Those things that they were doing those, um, those types of.

33:18: I don't know I hope so. Okay. I hope so. Um, and.

33:23: It tickles I get tickled about it because not.

33:27: A lot of women dabble in those things. I mean, some of us are beginning to in her in the horror genre, but.

33:38: A lot of us don't dabble in in love craft so much or the Howard kind of path. But, I mean, I grew up I didn't read low craft as much as I did. I did read Robert. Howard I read burrows.

33:52: Um, so I was along that path, I love Pulp fiction. Um.

33:57: And I love Paul plora and pope fantasy and all of that stuff. So I grew up.

34:04: You know, Burroughs was was a staple at my house.

34:08: Tarzan and, um, John Carter of Mars who's better than, um, fight me on it. I'm telling you. Um.

34:19: Uh, and so I grew up reading this stuff and not really understanding until much later.

34:26: The value, or the, the real literary.

34:31: Value of those stories because, you know, you're you're a literature major to, you.

34:38: When you go to college, they don't teach you Howard, and they don't teach you love craft and they don't talk about.

34:44: You know, um, Robert Howard, except to kind of like.

34:48: Do that kind of turn your nose up and get John? Um.

34:56: And they influence so much.

34:59: Of what we read and popular literature now. Mm. Hmm.

35:03: Whether we're talking about my book or.

35:07: Other author Stephen King. Mm. Hmm.

35:11: Who not only loves Pulp fiction, but loves life like me loves B, horror movies, you know um.

35:20: All the movies, our books are movies.

35:25: They all can connect back in some way to those guys. Mm. Hmm.

35:30: You were cranking out those stories and making money, but also creating a whole genre that.

35:37: Was going to change the way things were written in the 20th century and now I'm lecturing. No, that's great. I appreciate it. And I'm glad that you, uh, that you talk about their contribution to our cultural artifacts.

35:51: Because as you said, we always tend to lean on those riders who are in the Canon. Right?

35:59: And those riders who, uh, who, uh, you know, I guess in some measure we still hold up today and rightfully.

36:07: So, uh, but, uh, there are other writers out there who, uh, who are strong writers, not not just the ideas that they create. But if you can actually learn a lot about writing, but.

36:19: But reading their works.

36:22: Absolutely, absolutely. Um, so I know you mentioned right at the beginning of the interview that, uh, that, uh, there's, uh.

36:32: Uh, another book or 2, maybe in the works and, uh, at the end of the book, you left that open um.

36:41: Well, have you started I'll ask you that. Wh, WH, what I have a, what? I'm calling a Proto chapter. I've tried to start writing the 2nd book about 3 different times with 3 different ideas. The latest 1.

36:57: I cranked out a chapter day before yesterday, crank out a chapter and it felt like I was at home.

37:03: So, I feel like I'm on the right track. Wow. Um.

37:08: And, of course, I was info dumping too. I've been doing a lot of research. Um, I've learned.

37:13: A lot about the Pinkerton that make me go in.

37:18: Kind of a, the way that I go towards Thomas Edison. Let's just sure. Um.

37:25: And I'm trying to figure out how to get us to that point because, you know, there's.

37:31: There's already a conflict kind of going on.

37:35: With with Kate and her boss and.

37:39: So I'm thinking, you know, with all the stuff that I'm learning, how can I escalate.

37:44: That a little bit more, because I had I have an idea of where she's going.

37:50: And, you know, eventually, I mean, the, the great thing is because of who she is in the novel time is suddenly no longer really an, a woman that matters. So, um.

38:06: Well, we want to see some shifts more shifts in the world, and we might see some more shifts specifically in her world and her connections to individuals. Um.

38:16: And, of course, some people historically are coming upon their death pretty quickly, even though they don't know it, uh, which might complicate things even more. So, um, I've started on the 2nd book.

38:30: I kind of know what I'm doing with it. I don't, you know, it's funny because you get through your 1st book and you're there's a party of things. Oh, now I know what I'm doing. It will be great. Exactly, what I'm doing and then you sit down and you go.

38:44: And my publisher and I were talking about this the other day, and I'm like, I'm flailing here, John. He's like, I would tell you, it's going to get better but, um.

38:55: I'd be lying and I'm like, well, you can tell me, but my cynical nature is going to not believe you and he's like, it's going to get better. Not really. So.

39:04: So, the thing is, is that I'm going to I have to make myself sit down and just write.

39:10: And just see what happens some characters that, you know, already may return. Mm. Hmm.



39:17: And I already have kind of a short list who I want to return.

39:21: We're going to meet some characters that are referenced, but you don't get to meet. Mm. Hmm.

39:26: Um, which is very exciting.

39:29: I'm pretty sure that the 2nd book is going to happen, at least at least partly in Savannah, Georgia. Wow. Primarily because.

39:37: I want excuse to go down there and do research. That's great because it's, it's family and because.

39:46: 1 of the characters that's mentioned, but never seen.

39:51: Lives there, um, and he's based on.

39:56: Someone I love very much, and he grew up down there so so it all connects.

40:02: That's great. That's great. Well, I look forward to it. I, uh, had to speed read, uh, because, uh, your novels not been out very long. It came out in October, right? I think maybe the paperback version of it.

40:16: So, now it's in paperback. It's in hard back.

40:20: And you can get, uh, the, um.

40:23: Digital version of it as well for for candle and that's how I read it. I, uh, I got it on my candle, uh, that way. I could just take it with me everywhere and.

40:36: So well, I really appreciate you spending time with me, talking about writing and talking about your book and I can't wait.

40:46: And I'm sure it once once others have read, can't wait for the next 1 to come out.

40:53: Awesome. All right well, thank you. It's been a pleasure. It's been so much fun. Thank you.