

An Autobiography with a Twist....

My autobiography was certainly not the first and definitely wouldn't be the last, so I sought out over a year ago to put together something as credible as it was readable. The credibility point was key because who am I? The readability point was equally important because somebody had to edit this thing, and they weren't about to sit through a book about my life to this point.

Not that my life was in any way boring or the portrayal of such would've been in any way vain, but I was honestly hoping for something a little bit more relevant. A big portion of my life dealt with my craft - my writing, my music, my creative profession. And much of this carried with it a story of trials and tribulations as interesting as any plot from my regular novels. So I went for it opting for an inspirational piece that could pass the 'So what?' test.

The internet and communication (in general) are evolving to a point information has become not only readily accessible to our fingertips but also astonishingly transmittable from those very same fingertips to the furthest reaches of the universe. Many of us may speak different languages or interpret meanings differently, but the methods of communication are converging by default. Simply put, somebody thinks up the mechanics of a communicative medium and we're then limited to the parameters of its usability. It's like a phone. Although the languages spoken through the transmitter and the meanings heard from the receiver may be wildly different, the phone is one succinct method of communication.

Status updates have ripped their way into the forefront of the communicative spectrum in a big way. I've seen them be used for advertising, telling stories, battling ideals, quoting wisdom, expressing vanity, and otherwise just carrying on conversations

with anybody who might be out there listening - reading rather.

People are using status updates with a regularity like how I once used internet messenger, and they're using them instead of typing emails. There was no denying the personal nature of a status update however, so what better way to tell an autobiography than to spread this thing out across a year's worth of daily status updates? The challenge from status update parameters would keep the writing concise and ensure things remained interesting while the scope of the project would only underscore the magnitude of the effort by solidifying the genuineness of the prose.

If I were to do this, and I had to psyche myself up to commit to actually doing this, the status update manner would be the way to do it. So I present to the universe a journey that was a journey within itself. An introspective rarity, these are my beliefs, feelings, and thoughts on the creative process presented as an ambitious irony delving beyond the ironic presentation of its own delivery.

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Constructs of a Maniacal Mind

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The creative voice happens to be an amplifier for the soft-spoken, but the aim isn't necessarily to become outspoken. To me, the creative voice provides an unfiltered clarity, and its purpose is to simply be heard.

-DJ VoiceCrack

For some, their creativity is an overflow of the gushing amounts of love they have to give. This geyser effect can spray out in many different directions, and I'm fortunate enough to've been a recipient of its grace.

-Jago Dike-Sims

The marriage between creator and character is symbiotic.

-Lieutenant Marileva Dike-Sims

Space Force

My limitless ability to weave time and space doesn't make me a god
- just a writer.

-Edmund Sims

For
My Sanity.

01: January

2010-01-01

SSC2 was as long as SSC, but the characters of the defunct predecessor series demanded closure then and there - unwilling to wait for SSC3.

2010-01-02

Not a fan of prequels/reboots, I needed to devise a way to propel the current SSC iteration forward while honoring the last's continuity.

2010-01-03

should rephrase that: Prequel/reboot wouldn't have worked here. The startling contrast between youth & adult writing should be preserved.

2010-01-04

It was naïveté versus life experience: If I had known then what (I think) I know now -> translated directly to the literature.

2010-01-05

From there, the True Love Trilogy was conceived. SSC introduced it. SSC2 turns it dark. SSC3 resolves conflict or tries to at least.

2010-01-06

had a lot of fun writing SSC. Anybody who knew anything about him that read it would smile, but the novel wasn't about him.

2010-01-07

If it were, I wouldn't write this. The personal cost is very high. I do this for Marileva in particular and the characters in general.

2010-01-08

These characters deserved their story be told, so I was tasked with

raising the bar. To do this, a strong lead was called for.

2010-01-09

Both deadly and cerebral, Marileva possessed a killer instinct capable of saving the universe or destroying and remaking it in her image.

2010-01-10

took numerous creative liberties with character design - none more so than the choice of prolonged gratification over instant gratification.

2010-01-11

Perception's a corporate cop-out for not taking the time to get to know someone, so does greater pleasure lie in the journey or destination?

2010-01-12

Not all different from you or me, part of the allure of these characters was in their mystery. The other part was in their timing.

2010-01-13

Enter pacing. The tag 'Epic Novels that Read Like Movies' cites the delicate balance between blowing stuff up and telling a complex story.

2010-01-14

doesn't draw, so he created a storyboard of words (called Novel Logic) allowing him to keep the cinematic images straight in his mind.

2010-01-15

Outline? Treatment? I'm not sure, but SSC had 180+ bullet points, SSC2 has 594 bullet points, and SSC3's release date is pushed back.

2010-01-16

Additional specificity would've been deadly (read: head explodes), so I placed the onus on the characters to flesh out & navigate the Logic.

2010-01-17

No matter the preparation, things rarely go exactly as planned. Thankfully the writing process allows ample chances to adapt midstream.

2010-01-18

The extended Chapter 2 and Epilogue of SSC were proof of this. Such simple edits dramatically refocused the entire story on its heroine.

2010-01-19

was never, is not, and refuses to become a perfectionist. If he missed something, he'd just get it right the next time around.

2010-01-20

Perfectionist = Obstructionist. Completion > Perfection.
Perfection in Completion = Attitude.

2010-01-21

talks big but still took over ten years to seriously start writing SSC2, so that's why he's the authority on the evils of perfectionism.

2010-01-22

omits reasons as to why because they'd be listed as excuses. The underlying issue stems from a general lack of confidence to perform.

2010-01-23

This is similar to stuttering or something else. Writer's Block must be converted into a tool writers can use to block out distraction.

2010-01-24

It's no easy task weathering a psychological barrage of Aikido meant to either get you to quit or feel guilty for not having done so.

2010-01-25

Such is the life according to Robert Frost. And with chapters opening and closing in real life, I become that much stronger in prose.

2010-01-26

Spelling & grammar (even this is debatable) aside, the scholarly takeaway is authors must do things the way they need them to be done.

2010-01-27

None of this is to say feedback is at all unimportant, but feedback is like advice. Some can be sound while the other costs you money.

2010-01-28

scrapped many-a-story from fifty pages in, but to be expected to backtrack after completion and change major plot elements is a bit much.

2010-01-29

The delicate balance between openness to implementing feedback and standing ground in favor of original intention is a tightrope's dance.

2010-01-30

will just come right out and say it: SSC was a wild ride with quick pacing and a ton of minor characters. That was the intent (!).

2010-01-31

The Star Wars I saw on Beta was crafted in exactly the same way. If anybody wants to debate this fact, I have the toys to prove it.

02: February

2010-02-01

Unlike Star Wars, SSC hinted at a much deeper premise such as the one espoused by the masterful narrative on race relations in Star Trek.

2010-02-02

greatly acknowledges the big two and many others, but SSC needed to stand on its own. First the setting's backdrop mirrored current times.

2010-02-03

To me, Modern Science Fiction meant: Not post-apocalyptic nor neo-technological. SSC envisions today's world with legitimate space travel.

2010-02-04

It isn't, however, a dig against 'blaster guns' and 'space aliens'.
Some are ashamed, but we came from those roots as did smartphones.

2010-02-05

believes the story was and will continue to be told intelligently
with those elements inside it. Nothing in SSC is used as a crutch.

2010-02-06

My use of Hard Science Fiction as a descriptor will get me in
trouble. Hard referred to 'cussing' and 'violence' not strict
interpretation.

2010-02-07

It was either 'Hard' or 'Hardcore', and I felt 'Hardcore' was too
long plus gave off an erotic connotation - not bad but misleading.

2010-02-08

Those who know of my activism and/or my philosophies can vouch for

my credibility in being able to write powerful Feminist Science Fiction.

2010-02-09

Now SSC isn't man-hating feminism or feminism that clings to one issue while turning its back on sexism. It's of the fair-minded variety.

2010-02-10

has to save the juicier tidbits of his ideology for the novels, but here we must briefly divert to the discussion on racism versus sexism.

2010-02-11

When a hostile alien looks down upon Earth, they don't see black or white. Their weapons are color-blind and only see 'Human'.

2010-02-12

has an idea about what race many of his characters are, but most times he doesn't as it's ultimately irrelevant to the storytelling.

2010-02-13

This is the true power of books. If some little girl reads SSC and believes Marileva looks like her, who am I to dash that aspiration?

2010-02-14

So yes, race plays a big part in SSC but at a much larger and less petty scale. I don't have the luxury of ignoring the sex of characters.

2010-02-15

Instances of grouped character generality allow for it, but the one alien race neither male nor female will be a fun challenge to describe.

2010-02-16

Because of the current climate of cultural differences, highlighting and playing off contrasts between the sexes makes for a great story.

2010-02-17

Dark Science Fiction refers to the fact SSC is an incredibly messed up story that's getting worse as far as the stakes are concerned.

2010-02-18

The story is dark, so from the characters to the scenarios they find or put each other in, a tinge of dark humor needed to be sprinkled in.

2010-02-19

likes how SSC manages to be self-aware without overly poking fun at itself - conscious of the irony but not giving in to juvenile slapstick.

2010-02-20

felt it necessary to lighten the mood. After all, SSC wasn't slated to be a drama, but there was this new affinity for the word 'gritty'.

2010-02-21

New and Original Science Fiction went without saying but rounded out SSC's sci-fi descriptions: Dark, Feminist, Hard, Modern, New, Original.

2010-02-22

Without ruining the story, other keywords included Alien Invasion, Interplanetary War, and Interstellar Conflict - all are fairly obvious.

2010-02-23

Not quite as obvious from the discussion thus far is the keyword Mobile SpaceStations which differentiates SSC versus stationary types.

2010-02-24

It's an important distinction, but at the risk of not making the title sound like anime, I chose not to include the 'mobile' part within it.

2010-02-25

The SSC moves! I'm pretty impressed with the technology and design. As interaction occurs, the ship becomes larger in a figurative sense.

2010-02-26

The SSC's physical dimensions are fixed until the decision to retool, but a simple literary trick makes the internal compartments infinite.

2010-02-27

In fact, the main nurturer of the protagonists, SpaceStation Colt (the ship), will become as important a character as those she protects.

2010-02-28

still remembers Roman and Marlena's wedding. That moment forever turned him into a hopeless romantic, so he needed to include the element.

03: March

2010-03-01

This leaves the final keyword(s): True Love Trilogy. I spent years pondering the question of whether love was even possible without lust.

2010-03-02

Touchy subject - so before I go on, to each their own. Deciphering this was critical to the story for differentiation & 'so what' purposes.

2010-03-03

Love, not cheapened by the animalistic emotion of itself, could only exist if it displaced the sanctioning god as the most powerful force.

2010-03-04

Removing the dominion of love from gods, hereinafter referred to as Ethereals, made possible the ascension of lower beings to their level.

2010-03-05

And vice versa. Being an Ethereal might not be all it was cracked up to be, but at least the burden of 'Ethereals = love' was lifted.

2010-03-06

With no middle entities between the interface of love and lower beings, this purity of unfiltered, untainted energy became True Love.

2010-03-07

Describing True Love is no joke, so although I'm a sucker for vanilla romance elements, mixing in D/s sensibilities really set SSC off.

2010-03-08

Wait what?! He put vanilla and D/s in the same sentence with True Love?? The SSC trailer said 'greatest love story ever told', right? :)

2010-03-09

would have to imagine this wasn't the first time both had been depicted at the same time within the context of a single relationship.

2010-03-10

For the proponents of each claiming to have the monopoly on True Love, I'd caution against arrogantly overlooking the merits of the other.

2010-03-11

That about does it for the SSC novels' keywords. The genre is up next, and an open debate exists as to why Romance wasn't also included.

2010-03-12

should take a step back. Action, Non-Science Fiction, and Ultra Violence were carefully chosen because of their associative literary depth.

2010-03-13

Perhaps I underestimated how strong the True Love angle actually was, but I was looking ahead to SSC4, SSC5, SSCx in coming up with genres.

2010-03-14

If the main character, Marileva, decided to take a novel off, I didn't want the entire premise of the series to be shattered in her absence.

2010-03-15

By using romance as an element, I didn't cheapen its impact by treating it as a genre. That's how I wrote it. How it's read is the debate.

2010-03-16

While my peers were reading Encyclopedia Brown and Baby-sitter's Club, I was reading Don Pendleton's Executioner series for my book reports.

2010-03-17

loved the styling in Action writing that'd long become his preferred genre. Everything written since the age of three veered this way.

2010-03-18

At its basest, component level of telling an exciting good versus evil story, the Action genre requires shades of gray in order to shine.

2010-03-19

These days, black & white perspectives insult intelligence. There

needs to be something more than twists, turns, and subsequent responses.

2010-03-20

had a hard time reconciling villains who did what they did because they saw themselves as evil. He knew conflict wasn't so cut-and-dried.

2010-03-21

Similarly the antihero didn't fit because those questionable tactics might have been called for - not childishly unleashed as acting out.

2010-03-22

Make no mistake, the heroes were just as hungry as the quote/unquote villains. This killer instinct was what blurred any differences.

2010-03-23

Action, at its best, includes all parties at the top of their games. To the victor goes the distinction of being right as spoils of battle.

2010-03-24

The 'Science Fiction' part of Non-Science Fiction was covered at length earlier, but its nifty 'Non' component could stand some explaining.

2010-03-25

The 'Non' part of Non-Science Fiction is a nod to the Choose Your Own Adventure second person perspective with an interesting twist.

2010-03-26

SSC is told in third person omniscient perspective, and nowhere did it say I couldn't write myself into the story without changing my name.

2010-03-27

In pseudo-biographical fashion, I'm forced to write introspectively so my character is true to himself/myself without the favoritism.

2010-03-28

tends to be a private person, so this was a way of putting himself out there in grand fashion. It should be added SSC is his life's work.

2010-03-29

had often said, especially as of late, all he really owned was a laptop and a fast car. His creativity belonged on the list as well.

2010-03-30

It was creativity honed from scratch like a home-cooked meal - not so easily wholesaled. Feedback was welcomed, but criticism was ignored.

2010-03-31

Creativity provided a chance to be myself, so in that presentation, how could anything be wrong? We're not talking spelling errors here.

Please purchase a copy to read the rest!