

Questions and Answers

With

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Q. How did you move from the classroom to *The Confessional*?

A. I retired after thirty years as an educator and though I had written two novels and three screenplays, I never had any dedicated time to focus on them. Now that I'm retired time is on my side.

Q. What about our free will in the eternal battle between good and evil?

A. As a 12th grade honors English teacher one of my favorite works to teach was *Paradise Lost*. From that unit I wrote the following as part of a query letter:

When God chose to bestow free will on his creations, he in turn created the universal theme of Good versus evil. If we are to believe John Milton, prior to the creation of Mankind this struggle was an external one between the forces of good – God and evil – Satan. When Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, the struggle is then internalized in Mankind and forever after, Mankind must choose to fight evil or embrace it. *The Confessional*, a psychological thriller, has such a theme.

Q. How can a murderer commit crimes with no remorse?

A. Having been a lover of murder and mayhem for most of my life, I find psychopathic serial killers the most interesting because they have no remorse. Somewhere along life's journey, they never developed a moral compass. Without that, they kill for the sheer pleasure of killing.

Q. Why are people fascinated with psychopathic behavior?

A. Perhaps people are fascinated with psychopathic behavior because they are unable to wrap their minds around the fact that people can actually kill with impunity.

Q. Are psychopaths a product of nature, nurture or both?

A. I think it's both. Though I believe that children are, by in large, born without sin, I do think that there may be a psychopathic gene mutation. Nurture, or lack thereof, certainly plays a huge role in the development of psychopathic behavior. This can be backed up by the fact that serial killers share certain character traits attained by the way they were raised. When both are in place, psychopathic behavior develops.

Q. What was it like transitioning from your role as educator to author?

A. As an English and avid reader, transitioning from educator to author was a no brainer. I think there is an element of teaching in my novels, especially *Night and Fog*. I researched WWII, the Holocaust and the biographies of my Norwegian family who were deeply involved in the Norwegian Resistance movement. There's a lot to be learned from reading this historical novel. For *The Confessional* I researched psychopathic behavior and psychic phenomena.