

A CONVERSATION with GARY WAID about *GOLIATH*

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF, HOW AND WHEN YOU STARTED WRITING.

I began writing when I was on the run from the feds. In prison, I decided that I had a talent for it and kept at it. Google “A Smuggler’s Tales From Jails.” I was a hoot.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE YOUR NOVEL?

Shawn asked me if I could blow up a supertanker. I said yes.

HOW DID YOU USE YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE OR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND TO ENRICH YOUR STORY?

In EVERY way possible. See above.

ANYTHING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL IN YOUR NOVEL?

I suppose. The tech aspects are not easy to do for most folks without the background I have. But 90% of the story is Shawn’s.

ARE ANY CHARACTERS BASED ON PEOPLE YOU KNOW?

Almost all of them.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE OR MOST SYMPATHETIC CHARACTER? AND WHY?

Sonny Wade. He will need another few books, though, for us to finish his story.

WHO IS YOUR LEAST SYMPATHIC CHARACTER? AND WHY?

Captain Frank Brooks of the Sharpe-Shooter. He the perfect foil, letting things happen around him without taking the heat.

WHAT PART OF WRITING YOUR BOOK DID YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING?

There were many scenes with more than, say, three characters. They become exponentially harder for the reader to get if you’re not careful. It all turned out okay, though.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE THAT READERS WILL TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR BOOK?

The oceans are being inundated with rottenness. I see it every time I sail somewhere. And I don’t want to leave a trash heap to our kids.

WHAT WRITERS HAVE INSPIRED YOU?

Ernest Hemingway, Irwin Shaw, Edward Albee, the short novels of John Steinbeck, a million others including James Lee Burke and Michael Connelly.

WHAT IS THE WRITING PROCESS LIKE FOR YOU?

Wake up, drink a cuppa joe, walk the dogs, do my boat chores, then sit down for a few hours and see what comes up.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE ABOUT WRITING THAT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Cool it with the big words. Do like Hemingway: short, clear sentences for the most part, and leave out most of the ell-why adverbs.

WHAT IS THE WORST PIECE OF ADVICE ABOUT WRITING THAT YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Either do porn or romances, or get a real job.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU? ANY NEW BOOKS IN THE PIPELINE?

We'll come and see you soon, but yes. In fact we have one finished (a YA) and we've started another thriller about a couple sailing the Caribbean getting over-their-heads in trouble. The woman is the hero.

ANY FINAL WORDS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR NOVEL, OR LIFE IN GENERAL?

Yes. Thank you for reading *Goliath*. Maybe it will sell millions. Or at least begin a chain of events that ends well.