



The 7 Question Interview with Tad Williams

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Tad Williams has held more jobs than any sane person should admit to—singing in a band, selling shoes, managing a financial institution, throwing newspapers, and designing military manuals, to name just a few. He also hosted a syndicated radio show for ten years, worked in theater and television production, taught both grade-school and college classes, and worked in multimedia for a major computer firm. He is cofounder of an interactive television company, and is currently writing comic books and film and television scripts as well as novels. Tad and his wife, Deborah Beale, live in the San Francisco Bay Area with their children and far more cats, dogs, turtles, pet ants and banana slugs than they can count. Some of his novels are:

Ordinary Farm series: Young-adult, written with Deborah Beale

- Book 1 - The Dragons of Ordinary Farm
- Book 2 - A Witch at Ordinary Farm (currently in progress)

Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn Series

- The Dragonbone Chair
- Stone of Farewell
- To Green Angel Tower

Otherland Series

- City of Golden Shadow
- River of Blue Fire
- Mountain of Black Glass
- Sea of Silver Light

Shadowmarch Series

- Shadowmarch
- Shadowplay

Standalone Novels

- Tailchaser's Song
- Child of an Ancient City
- Caliban's Hour
- The War of the Flowers

His official website can be accessed here: <http://scottlasserbooks.com>

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

My name is Tad Williams, and I'm primarily known as a writer of fantasy and science fiction novels.



Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

My wife Deborah Beale and I have just published our first all-ages book (in other words, appropriate for younger readers) called **THE DRAGONS OF ORDINARY FARM**. I'm finishing one set of books (the **SHADOWMARCH** story) and beginning another (**SLEEPING LATE ON JUDGEMENT DAY**.)

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

It's an interesting time. The expansion of media, the complicated future of standard publishing, and the availability of free things to read on the internet makes it both worrisome and exciting to be a writer. If you're confident, you have to feel good: more places to be read than ever before. On the other hand, it may be hard for some people to get paid for writing. Like I said, interesting.

Who is your favorite author and why?

I'd be hard pressed to pick a favorite author, although a list of some of them -- Thomas Pynchon, Neal Stephenson, Dan Simmons, Umberto Eco, Ruth Rendell -- tends to feature writers who enjoy writing (at least sometimes) with some of the tropes or boundaries of genre, while being as literary as they choose. Eco's **THE NAME OF THE ROSE** is a perfect example of a good writer setting his work within genre conventions (in his case, the classic murder mystery with super-sleuth) and then respecting the genre while still delivering a literary work. I love that tension between audience-pleasing and the writer's own internal compass.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

I was talked into putting aside an 18th Dynasty Egyptian historical novel, which nowadays would be a bit superfluous, but twenty years ago would have been fairly rare. Nobody stopped me from publishing it, I just didn't have an obvious market for it at the time so I didn't finish it.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

To MY readers? Thank you. To readers in general? Thank you, again, but also that we share a wonderful fellowship which non-readers (and by that I mean people who don't lose themselves in books for days and days and stay up too late to finish them and all those other things) will never know. Thank God for books! I can conceive of a world in which people don't read, I can even conceive of those people as living in some approximation of contentment, but I can't imagine ME living there...



How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

I think that anything that encourages people to write is good. Anything that encourages people to think about what they write (and what they read) is also good. You can spend too much time thinking, however, and (as a writer) short-change yourself on actually WRITING. If I'm excited about doing research, or rethinking my approach, or discussing other people's techniques and interests, it usually means I'm avoiding my own work.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Tad Williams for taking the time out of his busy schedule for this interview.