

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

TED DEKKER



TED DEKKER (born October 24, 1962) is a New York Times best-selling author best known for novels which could be broadly described as suspense thrillers with major twists and unforgettable characters, though he has also made a name for himself among fantasy fans.

Early in his career he wrote a number of spiritual thrillers and his novels were lumped in with ‘Christian Fiction’ a surprisingly large category. His later novels are a mix of mainstream novels such as Adam, Thr3e, Skin, Obsessed and BoneMan’s Daughters, and Fantasy thrillers that metaphorically explore faith. Best known among these is his Circle Series: Green, Black, Red, White and The Paradise Books: Showdown, Saint, and Sinner.

BIOGRAPHY

Dekker was born to missionaries who lived among the headhunter tribes of Indonesia. Because his parents’ work often included extended periods of time away from their children, Dekker describes his early life in a culture to which he was a stranger as both fascinating and lonely. It is this unique upbringing that forced him to rely on his own imagination to create a world in which he belonged.

After leaving Indonesia, Dekker graduated from a multi-cultural high school and took up permanent residence in the United States to study Philosophy and Religion. Upon earning his Bachelor's Degree, he entered the corporate world and proceeded to climb the proverbial ladder. But his personal drive left him restless and, after many successful years, he traded corporate life for wide range of entrepreneurial pursuits that included buying and selling businesses, healthcare services, and marketing.

In the early nineties while visiting a friend who had just written a book, Dekker decided to pursue a long held desire to be a novelist. Over the course of two years he wrote two full length novels before starting from scratch and rewriting both. Now fully enamored by the the process and the stories, he realized that storytelling was in his blood

and a new obsession to explore truth through story gripped him anew.

He sold his business, moved his family to the mountains of Western Colorado and began writing full-time on his third novel. Two years and three novels later his first novel, Heaven's Wager, was published.

EARLY YEARS AS A WRITER

His first four offerings to publishers were dark and edgy and after turning in four novels which were all rejected (Including his now bestselling novel, Black) Dekker penned Heaven's Wager, a more 'Christian Book,' as he would say. Four offers came in and Dekker inked a 3 book deal with Thomas Nelson for similar books.

Dekker proceeded to write 6 more supernatural thrillers and quickly rose to the top of the bestsellers lists, dubbed the new master of Christian Thrillers. These titles included: Heaven's Wager, When Heaven Weeps, Thunder of Heaven. Blessed Child, A Man Called Blessed, Blink.

LATER YEARS AS A WRITER

He then turned back to his roots and penned Thr3e, his first mainstream novel which included some strong spiritual. The book won several awards and landed at the top of several bestseller's lists.

Since then Dekker has written in two primary genres, mainstream serial killer novels and fantasy. Each of which is very different from the other.

As of 2009 his Mainstream novels include Thr3e, Obsessed, Skin, Adam, and BoneMan's Daughters, the first of what he calls his 'New York' novels, published by Hachette.

His fantasy novels include: Black, Red, White, Green (Circle Series) Showdown, Saint, Sinner, and House, co-authored with Frank Peretti. He has also penned 6 young adult novels in the Lost Book series, a spin off of the Circle Series.

Interestingly, publishers and bookstores don't know quite how to categorize Dekker. He is an anomaly among Christian writers and his books are like nothing else in the category, typically drawing large numbers of readers in their teens and twenties. But his novels consistently explore themes that resonate with people of faith. It has made for a unique phenomenon that has struck gold among his legions of fans, 40,000 of whom congregate on his website, Teddekker.com as part of a fan club called The Circle.

Beginning in June 2007, fans gathered in Nashville TN of their own accord to discuss all things Dekker with a focus on the Circle Series. They dubbed the event The

Gathering. In 2008, over 200 showed up. In 2009 over 500 will spend \$100 a ticket and congregate for the first fully produced Gathering event. Like Trekkies they cross the country, passionate about the stories that have them buzzing. The whole mystique surrounding Dekker's Novels is nothing short of an underground cultural phenomenon that show all the signs of going mainstream.

In 2008, Seven years from the publication of his first novel, Dekker's novels had sold over 3 million copies worldwide. Two of his novels, Thr3e and House, have been made into movies with more in production. As of 2009, Dekker resides in Austin, Texas with his wife Lee Ann and two of their daughters.

RECURRING THEMES

Dekker has frequently described his novels as pure escapism with inescapable truth in which he often plumbs humanity's ongoing struggle with evil. As such many of his novels are set in the darkest of settings. Common thematic elements that appear in his novels include:

- A desperate struggle that typically plunges the protagonist into a hopeless situation from which they must find their way out, such as being stalked by a serial killer.
- A vivid distinction between the forces of good and evil, typically utilizing stark imagery of darkness and hopelessness contrasted with light and love.
- The existence of a spiritual reality that, while unseen, consistently proves itself as real as the visible world. The centrality of faith.
- The ideal that love and self-sacrifice are life's greatest discovery and highest purpose.

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5141 Virginia Way, Suite 320 | Brentwood, TN 37027 | 615.297.5010