

The 7 Question Interview with Caleb Fox



Caleb Fox was born on the edge of what was once called Indian Territory. When he was a teenager, his aunts revealed to him that he was part Cherokee, or “redneck on one side of the mountain, redskin on the other.” They told him that no one in the family would ever discuss this fact with him again. Though Caleb needed to take care of college, grad school, and learning to make a living, he finally gave in to his curiosity about who his ancestors were and why they hid their red blood. The search brought him to many Native people of a number of tribes, to thousands of stories both mythic and modern, hundreds of sacred ceremonies, and to his own commitment to walking the red road. Since that time he has lived near or among Native people, gathering their wisdom and sharing their laughter at life. His joys are writing and playing music. This fantasy novel, his first, comes from his research into the People of the Caves.

Some of his novels are:

- Zadayi Red
- Shadows In The Cave

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

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

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

I'm actually at least two writers. Win Blevins came first and has published a shameful number of books, deforesting the world. I, Caleb Fox, am his creation (pen name) and very much his junior, much better looking, and a lot more fun... If we give birth to another pen name, we will be a formidable trio.

My own first book was the historical fantasy ZADAYI RED. The sequel to it, SHADOWS IN THE CAVE, comes out this month from TOR. Both are about the magical world inhabited by the ancestors of the Cherokees more than a thousand years ago.

Win and I were born on the edge of what was once called Indian Territory. When we were a teenager, our aunts revealed to us that we were part Cherokee, or “redneck on one side of the mountain, redskin on the other.” They told us that no one in the family would ever discuss this fact with us again.



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Though Win and I needed to take care of college, grad school, and learning to make a living, we finally gave in to our curiosity about who our Cherokee ancestors were and why they hid their red blood. The search brought us to many Native people of a number of tribes, to thousands of stories both mythic and modern, hundreds of sacred ceremonies, and to our own commitment to walking the red road.

Since that time we have lived near or among Native people, gathering their wisdom and sharing their laughter at life. Our joys are writing, playing music, and hanging out with our wife Sarita. We trust that this kind of polygamy does not make us criminals.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

No one knows less about what we may do next than we do. I would love to write another fantasy. Win wants to write a biographical novel about the young Mark Twain, the guy who was a silver prospector and fledgling journalist. I want to do a comic and romantic story about the inter-cultural dance of the red and white people who live here on the edge of the Navajo rez. If we give birth to a third writer, he'll probably want to something completely crazy.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

All we know for sure is that human beings need stories. We have a tee shirt that says on the front, Member of the World's Oldest Profession, and on the back, STORYTELLER. Stories doubtless were born as soon as someone had any kind of adventure worth telling about, and they are the mythical-historical memory of the human race--from them we get our sense of who we are. So regardless of any so-called innovations in fiction, or the state of book publishing (a mess), there will always be a demand for stories, and writers to fill it.

Who is your favorite author/s and why?

Our favorite writers change with the day, but there are only so many days. Shakespeare for the glories of his language. Mark Twain for his understanding of ordinary human beings, and because he is the progenitor of all American fiction. Dylan Thomas for the magnificent intensity of his poems. E. E. Cummings (and he liked his name in capital letters) for his uniqueness and the vividness of his evocation of human emotion. Tolkien for the majesty of his imagination. When Saturday and Sunday come, we'll have other favorites.



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

We've each started book that didn't work. We haven't finished any books that started out making the rounds of publishing houses and died disappointment and exhaustion.

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

Writing fiction is a wondrous occupation. The writer gets to step into the mind of all sorts of people--women, men, children, the elderly, Anglos, blacks, red people, Asians, etc., and look at the world through their modes of awareness. For us, this is what fiction essentially is. It's a great challenge and great fun.

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

We are for a thousand times as much exposure for all writers. We're especially in favor of more attention for writers who write for a wide audience, rather than other people with masters degrees in literature. (The ancient stories were for everyone in the community.) Some day we'll be strong advocates for senior-citizen writers.

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