



## The 7 Question Interview with Maurice Broaddus

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Maurice Broaddus graduated in 1993 from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology (with an undeclared major in English). He works as an environmental toxicologist for a local firm, Commonwealth Biomonitoring. He comes from a family that includes several practicing obeah (think: Jamaican voodoo) people, but is now the facilitator for the church, The Dwelling Place. Obviously his areas of interests includes religious studies, folklore, and myths. It should be noted that he only wants to get famous enough to be able to snub people at horror conventions. To that end, he has already started to practice referring to myself in the third person.

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

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### The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

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

I have a theory that it takes ten years to become an overnight success. I'm basically in year ten. I've built most of my writing reputation via my blog (<http://www.mauricebroaddus.com/blog.htm>) and my short stories. My stories have seen print in the Dark Dreams (2 & 3) anthology series, Apex Magazine, Weird Tales, Doorways Magazine, the Legends of the Mountain State (2) anthology, and Space & Time Magazine among others. My essays have appeared in all sorts of places from Spirit & Place, The Storyteller and Listener, and Morbid Curiosity. I also have two novellas out: Orgy of Souls (co-written with Wrath James White, from Apex Books) and Devil's Marionette (from Shroud Publishing).

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

I have a few more short stories coming out, most recently "Pimp My Airship" an African American steampunk story in Apex Magazine (<http://www.apexbookcompany.com/apex-online/2009/08/short-fiction-preview-pimp-my-airship-by-maurice-broaddus/>); "Uncle Boogeyman", a tale of abusive nurses aides in a retirement home, on the Dark Recesses web site (<http://www.darkrecesses.com/?p=704>), and a couple of stories in upcoming



issues of Shroud Magazine and All Hallows. I also will be in the Morbid Curiosity Cures the Blues anthology, the Harlan County Horrors anthology as well as the Ancient Shadows anthology.

Because I don't believe in having free time on my hands, I am editing an anthology due out next May called Dark Faith. The theme revolves around horror, fantasy, and science fiction writers wrestling with the ideas of faith and art. On the off chance that I have any spare scraps of time remaining, I have a novel series entitled The Knights of Breton Court (Angry Robot Books/HarperCollins UK). The first book, Kingmaker, debuts next June and each subsequent book comes out six months afterwards. This has me on tight deadlines, so I'm a writing beast these days.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

The entire industry is in a state of flux as technology has caused it to not only play catch up, but re-evaluate how it does things. Nothing is safe from scrutiny: the markets (new ones opening, many existing ones crashing), financial models (of how to fund projects), story delivery (the role of the internet, electronic publishing, and reading devices), marketing (the increasing role of the writer in the process, so that we're no longer just artists but business partners and brands), and even protecting your work (in this age of piracy, rights being grabbed, and copyright infringement). It's exciting and rife with possibilities, especially for the creative writer. But it is also just as rife with scams and folks looking to take advantage of uninformed writers. So in other words, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Who is your favorite author and why?

In genre, I'd have to say Neil Gaiman. I've been a long time fan of his (since his days writing the Sandman comic), but I've always been drawn to his use of folklore and love of stories in his work. However, I have four other writers I truly, truly love: Michael Chabon, Toni Morrison, George Pelecanos, and Amy Hempel. Chabon and Morrison are enough to make me want to put down my pen. Their use of language is a marvel to behold (and envied). Pelecanos is a different breed. He does thing with setting so that the city is as much a character and part of the story as any other character. Speaking of characters, Hempel does brilliant character work in ways that any student of writing ought to study. She weaves characterization into every sentence so that her short stories are portraits of insight into the human condition.



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

Certainly. I mentioned that my novel series debuts next June. That novel was my fifth that I've written and my first to get published. My first two each occupy special places in my heart but have met two different fates. The first has been revised and is still being shopped around. It was a more personal work, not to mention my first attempt at writing a novel, and has all the love a firstborn should have. My second novel I also loved, but was written as more of a lark, to creatively exercise different parts of my story-telling brain than my first novel. It had mixed results. So it has been truncked. One day I may bring it out again and work on it, because I had so much fun with those characters.

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

I hope you enjoy my work. I write to engage and entertain, so let me know how well I've done either. You can always learn more about me or what's going on with my writing at [www.MauriceBroaddus.com](http://www.MauriceBroaddus.com). For that matter, you can follow me on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MauriceBroaddus>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/mauricebroaddus>), or MySpace (<http://www.myspace.com/mauricebroaddus>).

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

I think your goals are quite laudable. As I said, things on the literary landscape are in flux, so writers need to explore many different ways to not only gain exposure but take advantage of their opportunities. They need to research, make sure that what is promised as exposure is worth the effort (and make sure they aren't just giving away stories/rights). It's one reason why the rule of thumb is "money flows to the writer". We don't just write for money, but that's a sure way to help us avoid being taken advantage of.

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