

## The 7 Question Interview with Stephanie Osborn



Stephanie Osborn is a former payload flight controller, a veteran of over twenty years of working in the civilian space program, as well as various military space defense programs. She has worked on numerous Space Shuttle flights and the International Space Station, and counts the training of astronauts on her resumé. Of those astronauts she trained, one was Kalpana Chawla, a member of the crew lost in the Columbia disaster. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in four sciences: Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and she is “fluent” in several more, including Geology and Anatomy. She obtained her various degrees from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Stephanie is currently retired from space work. She now happily “passes it forward,” tutoring math and science to students in the Huntsville area, elementary through college, while writing science fiction mysteries based on her knowledge, experience, and travels.

Some of her novels/series are:

- The Burnout Series
- The Cesperia Saga
- The Point Series
- Dreams of Steam

Her official website can be accessed here: [www.stephanie-osborn.com](http://www.stephanie-osborn.com)

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## The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

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

My name is Stephanie Osborn. I’m a former payload flight controller, a veteran of over twenty years of working in the civilian space program, as well as various military space defense programs. I’ve worked on numerous Space Shuttle flights and the International Space Station, and count the training of astronauts on my resumé. Of those astronauts I trained, one was Kalpana Chawla, a member of the crew lost in the Columbia disaster.

I hold graduate and undergraduate degrees in four sciences: Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and I am “fluent” in several more, including Geology and Anatomy. I obtained my various degrees from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

I’m currently retired from space work. I now happily “pass it forward,” tutoring math and science to students in the Huntsville area, elementary through college, while writing



science fiction mysteries based on my knowledge, experience, and travels.

I am currently known for my first novel, Burnout: The mystery of Space Shuttle STS-281, a story concerning a Shuttle disaster that turns out NOT to have been an accident, the ensuing coverup, and the dangerous cat-and-mouse investigation by intrepid flight director "Crash" Murphy and astronomer Dr. Mike Anders.

There is also my work on the award-winning Cresperian Saga, a series also written by Darrell Bain and Travis S. Taylor. There are three books in the series to date: Human By Choice (Taylor, Bain); The Y Factor (Bain, me); and The Cresperian Alliance (me, Bain). All three have been ebook best-sellers. At least one, and possibly more, books are planned in the series.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

Yes! Burnout is becoming a feature film! We are looking for producers/investors. Interested parties are invited to contact:

FFE Productions  
P.O. Box 741091  
Boynton Beach, FL 33474;  
or call 305-333-1554 or email [moviegreat@aol.com](mailto:moviegreat@aol.com)

Due to popular request, the sequel to Burnout is in work now. Tentatively titled Escape Velocity, it picks up where Burnout leaves off, telling the story of Project Aurora, Crash Murphy, and others who have become intertwined in the web of intrigue.

In addition, I am thrilled to finally be collaborating with my mentor, Travis S. "Doc" Taylor, on the first in what we hope will be a series. The first book is Extraction Point!, another action packed science fiction mystery, definitely a techno-thriller read. What happens when a super-secret division of Homeland Security discovers a spacetime anomaly, a person who apparently doesn't belong here/now? What do they do? What is he up to? Why is he stealing large quantities of gold, fissile material, and space suits? Why are cutting-edge scientists mysteriously disappearing from their locked offices? And how do they stop him?

Soon to be out is the steampunk anthology, Dreams of Steam, from Kerlak Publishing, containing my first foray into that genre with the short story, "The Bunker." After all, nobody really knows what happened in the United States during a certain little alien invasion...

Having ventured into the steampunk subgenre, I found I liked the waters, and so I am diving in again. The Bellerophon Club is, I hope, the first in the Adventures of Aemelia Gearheart! Aemelia is a Victorian-era American transplanted by her husband to London, where he introduces her to the members of a somewhat mysterious, and definitely

intellectual, explorers' society, The Bellerophon Club. Composed of world explorers, renowned scientists, famous detectives, government operatives, and others, Aemelia soon finds herself caught up in a world of science and intrigue!

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

Healthy. Contrary to what some might think. Yes, ebooks are a force to be reckoned with; no, ebooks are not going to send print books into obsolescence. There are too many people like me who like having a substantial object in their hands while reading, who enjoy the delicate smell of the new paper and the feel of a heretofore-unopened book as it bends gently beneath our fingers. Or the familiar feel of a battered, worn cover and the musty smell of the pages therein. That, I think, will never go away. Ebooks are simply more convenient for things like travel. My iPad tucks away into my purse and under my airline seat much more easily than half a dozen paperbacks ever would.

Who is/are your favorite author/s and why?

Aw, now that's just mean to make me narrow it down! I love Travis Taylor's stuff of course – he and I write a lot alike – and I'm very fond of Lois McMaster Bujold's Vorkosigan Saga. I love Arthur Conan Doyle and Mark Twain. Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, H.G. Wells, Bram Stoker, JRR Tolkien, E.E. Smith. Some of Dickens' works, but not all, because I find them too dark. Thomas Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur. Victor Hugo's Les Miserables. I like James Joyce for his fearlessness in playing with the English language. He can be very hard to read until you catch on to the grammatical system he employs, which is nothing like normal English grammar.

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

Well, it isn't published so far, at any rate. I have four manuscripts complete on my own science fiction mystery series, the Displaced Detective Series, regarding the discovery of alternate universes, and the commotion (both funny and deadly serious) which ensues when a certain inhabitant of one universe – presumed by us to be fictional – inadvertently crosses into our own. This series is in the hands of my agents at Sullivan-Maxx Literary Agency (<http://sullivanmaxx.com/>) for placement. I love this series! The "plot bunny" bit hard, and words poured out like water from a fire hose. The first two volumes were written in about two months, at just over 215,000 words total, and the third soon thereafter.

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

Well, I suppose I'd tell them I hope you enjoy my work. I'd like to think that I not only

entertained, and did so well, but made you think a bit, in addition. My characters sometimes have a lot to say, more than I'd expected, and sometimes they say it in ways not even I anticipate. Not that I ever want it to get preachy – if that happens, somebody tell me to stop! I'm not trying to write the Great American Novel. I only want to write something that I personally would enjoy reading, and that engages my noggin from time to time. If my readers can say the same, then I've accomplished what I set out to do.

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

I think it's an excellent thing. So many people turn to online resources these days for everything from ordering clothes to purchasing movie tickets to book reviews to news updates. Having online resources to introduce them to new and exciting authors and their works is just one more avenue of good marketing.

\* **BONUS QUESTION:** If you could suggest one book that everyone should read, what would that book be and why?

I'd say the Bible. Not necessarily for religious reasons, though that can be a good thing, and I do read it for that reason, but also because the Bible is actually a compendium of other books of various genres. There is history, there is poetry, love stories, military action, autobiographical material, letters, apocalyptic stories, virtually the entire gamut of literature to be found within its covers. It can be educational to see the take earlier cultures had on the same themes we wrestle with today.

WRT a piece of writing, you might try the excerpt from The Cresperian Alliance, due to come out in print next month, found here:  
[http://www.twilighttimesbooks.com/CresperianAlliance\\_ch1.html](http://www.twilighttimesbooks.com/CresperianAlliance_ch1.html)

My website, btw, which I neglected to put in the interview, is [www.stephanie-osborn.com](http://www.stephanie-osborn.com) and fans can keep up with my appearances, press releases, news and announcements, and coming projects there.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Stephanie Osborn for taking the time out of her busy schedule for this interview.