

Interview with Terry Brooks

The American writer Terry Brooks is the author of the famous fantasy novel *The Sword of Shannara*, a beginning of a long saga. He published the *Magic Kingdom* for sale. Sold!, with other four novels to close the series, *Running with the Demon*, with other two stories of the trilogy, and now you can read *The Armageddon's children*.

Q - Good morning Mr. Brooks and thanks for accepting my interview. Here below ten questions that I'd like to ask you. A- Hi Daniele, here are my answers to your interview questions:

Q - You are a writer since the high-school years. What is your first written work (tale, novel, etc.)? A - The first thing I wrote that I still have is a short story I wrote when I was ten years old. It was a story about four boys who stayed overnight in a haunted house that turned out to have aliens and a space ship in the basement. Sort of like real life.

Q - *The Sword of Shannara* has had a great success. Which other your novel, in terms of success, can be comparable to *The Sword of Shannara*? A - That's hard to say. I suppose *Elfstones of Shannara* and *Wishsong of Shannara* are the next most successful, just because they have both been around since the early eighties and have sold more copies. But I might suggest that my measure for success is how good I feel about the book after it is done. Of late, those two would be *Running with the Demon* and *Armageddon's Children*.

Q - Why do you have decided to become a writer? A - I love writing stories. Always have. I would write even if I wasn't published and being paid. It's one of those things that makes me feel like a complete person, and I can't imagine life without writing.

Q - Have you got other jobs before becoming a writer? A - I was an attorney for seventeen years, eight of them before I was published and nine after. It was a way to make a living while trying to break into the business and then it was a way to stay focused. I had four books in print before I retired from practice and became a full-time writer.

Q - All your novels are centered around the struggle between Good and Evil. Have you in mind to write stories on another literary genre? A - Probably not. Almost anything I want to do, I can do in the fantasy form. And make it more interesting. I like it that writing fantasy can reflect our own world so closely, but with a different mirror. I like looking at how we are in a way that makes it new and fresh. Fantasy can have all the other forms of fiction included, and that's been good enough for me.

Q - Allanon is a strong, mysterious character, that appears in almost every novel of the *Shannara's* saga. Will your readers (me included) read in future "The life of Allanon"? A - Again, probably not. Allanon will be back in the new graphic novel, *Dark Wraith of Shannara*, which comes out in the US next Spring. But a book just about him is not in the works. Still, you never know. I might get the urge to do that book one day.

Q - May you describe us your typical day? A - I usually get up and start writing around six in the morning and work until noon. I do some writing in the afternoon, but usually not much. I am fresher in the mornings and seem to do my best work then. That wasn't always so. When I had young children, I worked late at night. You have to fit your writing around your life.

Q - What is your work's method in the draft of a novel? A - I work on a computer, so I edit as I go. I don't start a new chapter until I am satisfied with the old. So by the time a first draft is done, I have a book that is pretty close to finished. It usually only requires a single edit after that. Both my wife, Judine, and I read the book and mark it up. Then I make the changes and send it off to my New York editor for comments and suggestions. The whole process takes about ten months to a year.

Q - Has it been difficult to get published your first novel? A - Actually, I was very lucky. I sent my manuscript for *Sword of Shannara* off blindly to a small press, who turned it down, but directed me to Del Rey books, which picked it up and published it as their first work of original fantasy. They were a new imprint at Ballantine Books, and editor Lester del Rey was determined to prove that a fantasy other than *The Lord of the Rings* could sell in large numbers. He proved it with my book. Now, that's real luck.

Q - What do you can recommend to who would to undertake the job of writer? A - If you want to be a writer, you have to make writing the central undertaking of your life. You have to write every day and work on a regular schedule. You can't let other things get in the way. You have to write a lot of pages that you are going to throw after afterwards before you become comfortable with the process. You have to find out what it is you really want to write, and you find that out through trial and error. Finally, you have to want it more than anything and you have to be willing to sacrifice for it. Patience and determination are necessary assets. Confidence, even when everyone tells you to give it up, helps.

About the Author

Interview by Daniele Imperi, writer and blogger. He writes books' reviews and, as a Poe's fan, he launched the website [Edgar Allan Poe Works](http://www.edgarallanpoe.com), the complete works by Poe.

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