
Travis Heermann

Media Kit

February, 2017

Contact Information

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**This media kit is available in
electronic form, with copy-ready
text and hi-resolution graphics,
upon request.**

May 22, 2017

Dear Editor, Journalist, Producer, or Bookseller:

Thank you for taking a moment to peruse my media kit.

My latest novel *Death Wind*, co-authored with Jim Pinto, was released in September 2016 by WordFire Press. This is my seventh published novel, and I have a growing list of short fiction published credits, as you might see from my bibliography (included).

I am a 2009 graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop, in addition to holding a Masters degree in English. I spent three years teaching English in Japan and currently teach English at the university level, including developing a course in science fiction literature, plus writing full-time.

I have been interviewed on several audio podcasts including SF Signal and Adventures in Scifi Publishing, three times in *Westword*, once in *Amazing Stories* and *Apex Magazine*, plus in an Omaha-area newspaper, the *Belleme Leader*. Recently I was featured in the *Taranaki Daily News*, the New Plymouth, New Zealand, daily newspaper.

I also regularly attend events such as the DragonCon, Denver Comic Con, the World Science Fiction Convention, the World Fantasy Convention, and the World Horror Convention, where I have been privileged to participate in panel discussions with luminaries of the speculative fiction world.

I am available for book signings, readings, interviews, guest blog posts, appearances, and talks. If you would be willing to discuss scheduling an event with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I very much appreciate your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Heermann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

Travis Heermann

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Author Bio

Freelance writer, novelist, award-winning screenwriter, editor, poker player, poet, biker, roustabout, Travis Heermann is a graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop and the author of *The Ronin Trilogy*, *The Wild Boys*, *Rogues of the Black Fury*, and co-author of *Death Wind*, plus short fiction pieces in anthologies and magazines such as *Apex Magazine*, *Alembical*, the *Fiction River* anthology series, *Historical Lovecraft*, and Cemetery Dance's *Shivers VII*. As a freelance writer, he has produced a metric ton of role-playing game work both in print and online, including the *Firefly Roleplaying Game*, *Battletech*, *Legend of Five Rings*, *d20 System*, and the MMORPG, *EVE Online*.

He enjoys cycling, martial arts, torturing young minds with otherworldly ideas, and zombies. He has three long-cherished dreams: a produced screenplay, a NYT best-seller, and a seat in the World Series of Poker.

In 2016, he returned to the U.S. after living in New Zealand for a year with his family, toting more Middle Earth souvenirs and photos than is reasonable.

Medium Bio (100 Words)

Travis Heermann is a novelist, freelancer, award-winning screenwriter, editor, poet, and a graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop. His latest novel, co-authored with Jim Pinto, is the horror-Western *Death Wind*. Other novels include *The Ronin Trilogy*, *The Wild Boys*, and *Rogues of the Black Fury*, plus short fiction published or forthcoming in *Apex Magazine*, *Alembical*, *Fiction River*, and others. His freelance work includes contributions to the *Firefly Roleplaying Game*, *Battletech*, *Legend of Five Rings*, and *EVE Online*.

In 2016, he returned to the U.S. from New Zealand after a year there with his family, toting excessive Middle Earth souvenirs.

Short Bio (50 Words)

Freelance writer, novelist, editor, Travis Heermann is the author of seven novels, including *Death Wind* (with Jim Pinto) and *The Ronin Trilogy*, plus short fiction in *Apex Magazine*, *Alembical*, and

others. His freelance work includes contributions to the *Firefly Roleplaying Game*, *Battletech*, *Legend of Five Rings*, and *EVE Online*.

Social Media and Web

Web Site: <http://www.travisheermann.com>

Blog: <http://www.travisheermann.com/blog/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/travis.heermann>

Twitter: @TravisHeermann

Wattpad: <http://www.wattpad.com/user/TravisHeermann>

Goodreads: http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/418704.Travis_Heermann

Top 10 Things to Know About Travis Heermann

1. Travis Heermann has sold four novels thus far to U.S. publishers, WordFire Press, Gale-Cengage/Five Star, Open Road Integrated Media, and Caliburn Press (formerly Damnation Books). His Open Road Integrated Media novels are distributed in the U.K. through Gollancz.
2. He taught English in Japan for three years, where he stood out like an alien with his head on fire. During his stay there, he was fortunate enough to live where his historical fantasy novel *Heart of the Ronin* takes place, resulting in a first-hand research bonanza.
3. He has traveled extensively in the Eastern Hemisphere, with visits to Australia, Fiji, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Bali, with the photos to prove it. Don't ask him about these experiences unless you're prepared to be regaled with stories.
4. In 2014, he traveled to Cuba with a group of doctors and psychologists for an educational exchange about the Cuban medical system.
5. His novel *Heart of the Ronin* has been translated into Bahasa and published in Indonesia by Mahda Books.
6. He has podcast two complete novels to date in serial audio format, *Rogues of the Black Fury* and *Heart of the Ronin*, through Podiobooks.com. Those novels have together garnered over a million downloads.
7. *Spirit of the Ronin*, *Sword of the Ronin* and *The Wild Boys* have been adapted into awesome audio book presentations and released on Audible.com and iTunes.
8. He holds an M.A. in English from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and was the first graduate of U.N.O. to receive two graduate certificates along with his degree, Advanced Writing (creative non-fiction) and T.E.S.O.L. (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). After graduating, he taught writing and literature there, including development of U.N.O.'s first-ever course in science fiction literature.
9. He is the author of over half a million words of role-playing game supplements for a variety of game systems comprising almost thirty titles, including the *Firefly Roleplaying Game*, *Legend of the Five Rings*, d20 System, and almost 200 missions for *EVE Online*, the science fiction MMORPG.
10. He has been interviewed on several audio podcasts, including *SF Signal*, *Adventures in SciFi Publishing*, *Podiorocket*, *SciFi Surplus*, and *Beyond the Trope*.
11. His as yet unproduced horror-western screenplay, *Death Wind*, written in partnership with long-time friend and collaborator Jim Pinto, won 1st Prize at the CINEQUEST Film Festival in San Jose, CA, in March, 2012. An earlier draft of the script won 2nd Place at the H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival—L.A. in September, 2011.
12. He has been known to eat outlandish things like raw horse, live squid, sea cucumber, and pork cartilage. Sometimes he doesn't even require alcohol and a dare.
13. On two separate occasions, he embarked on bicycle trips across mountainous rural Japan, each covering 300km in three days, to help raise money for Indian Ocean tsunami relief.
14. He is a 2009 graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop and alumnus of the Superstars of Writing.
15. He has been a presenter/panelist at some of the largest conventions in the world, including Dragon Con, Denver Comic Con, World Con, and the World Fantasy convention, among others. He has also presented at the Colorado Gold Writers Conference, the Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and will in April 2017 at the Pike's Peak Writers Conference.
16. He lived in New Zealand, in the shadow of an active volcano, from 2015-2016.
17. That's *way* more than ten things but who's counting?

Media Appearances

Print

[February 6, 2009 - Bellevue Leader - "History Meets Fantasy"](#)

[October 14, 2015 – Taranaki Daily News – “Travis Heermann Writing in a Foreign Universe”](#)

Web

[December 13, 2011 - Writerly Wednesday](#)

[July 21, 2012 - Dreams of the Damned](#)

[August 22, 2012 – SFWA.org](#)

[December 6, 2012 - Spann of Time](#)

[January 9, 2013 – SF Signal](#)

[January 22, 2013 - Murverse](#)

[March 13, 2013 – Stop, Drop, and Read!](#)

[February 10, 2015 – Amazing Stories](#)

[August 5, 2015 – Westword – “Spirit of the Ronin Book Launch”](#)

Audio

[December 22, 2008 - SciFi Surplus - Episode 82](#)

[April 17, 2011 - Adventures in SciFi Publishing - Episode 119](#)

[July 4, 2011 - The View from Valhalla](#)

[February 22, 2012 - Podiorocket - Episode 68](#)

[September 25, 2012 - Adventures in SciFi Publishing - Episode 177](#)

[December 5, 2013 – SF Signal - Episode 222](#)

[December 13, 2016 – Beyond the Trope – Episode 126](#)

[May 9, 2017, - Nerd Cubed Podcast – Starfest \(Part 2\)](#)

[May 20, 2017 – Writers Talk – KYGT FM Radio](#)

Audio Fiction

[March 25, 2014 – Protecting Project Pulp - Episode 85](#)

Video

[March 9, 2015 – Colorado Author Interview Circle](#)

Bibliography

Novels

Death Wind – Trade Paperback and E-book – WordFire Press, 2016

Spirit of the Ronin – Limited Edition Hardcover, Trade Paperback and E-book – Bear Paw Publishing, 2015

Sword of the Ronin – Limited Edition Hardcover, Trade Paperback and E-book – Bear Paw Publishing, 2013

The Wild Boys – Trade Paperback and E-book – Damnation Books, 2012

Rogues of the Black Fury – Trade Paperback and E-book – Open Road Integrated Media, 2012

Heart of the Ronin – Trade Paperback and E-book – Open Road Integrated Media, 2010

Heart of the Ronin – Hardcover – Gale-Cengage/Five Star, 2009

The Ivory Star – Commonwealth, 1997

Anthologies (as Editor)

Cthulhu Passant – Trade Paperback and E-book – Bear Paw Publishing, 2014

Short Fiction

"Three Orcs in a Boat" – *Words*, Hex Publishing, 2017

"Redline" – *Pulse Pounders – Adrenaline*, Fiction River, 2017

"Death Bunnies of Toxic Island" – *Last Stand*, Fiction River, December 2016

"The Ballad of Osmosis McGuire" – *Superpowers*, Fiction River, 2017

"Demon-touched" – *Visions of the Apocalypse*, Fiction River, August 2016

"Screaming Without a Mouth" – *Apex Magazine*, March 2016

"The Metal of a Man" – *Electric Spec Magazine*, September, 2015

"The Sharpest Horn" – *A Game of Horns*, WordFire Press, September, 2015

"Aisa's Beast" – *Legends of the Dragon, Volume 1* – Gilded Dragonfly Books, 2015

"Athena's Children" – *Perihelion SF*, 2015

"The Girl with No Name" – *New Myths* magazine, 2015.

"The Girl with No Name" – Second Runner Up, Baen Fantasy Award, 2014

"Patterns of Threat" – *Cthulhu Passant*, Bear Paw Publishing, June 2014

"Shadows of the Deep" – *New Myths* magazine, June 2014

"Shadows of the Deep" – Protecting Project Pulp Podcast, March 2014

"Deus Ex Machina" – *How to Save the World*, Fiction River, June 2013

"Legs" – Bear Paw Publishing, March, 2013

"That Long Black Train" - *Shivers Vol. VII*, Cemetery Dance, 2013

"Snakes" - *Damnation Books*, June, 2011

"An Idol for Emiko" - *Historical Lovecraft*, Innsmouth Free Press, 2011

"The Song" - **Runner-up British Fantasy Society Short Story Contest, 2010**

"Punishment" - *Malicious Deviance*, Library of Horror Press, April 2011

"An Incident in a Small Town" - *Pulp Empire, Volume III*, Pulp Empire, September 2010

"The Hammer" - *OG's Speculative Fiction*, May, 2010

"Fragile" - *On the Premises*, 2008

"Zombies on a Plane" - *The Harrow*, 2008

"Forever Dead" - *The Harrow*, 2007

"Uncle Frank" - *Redbridge Review*, 2006

Creative Nonfiction

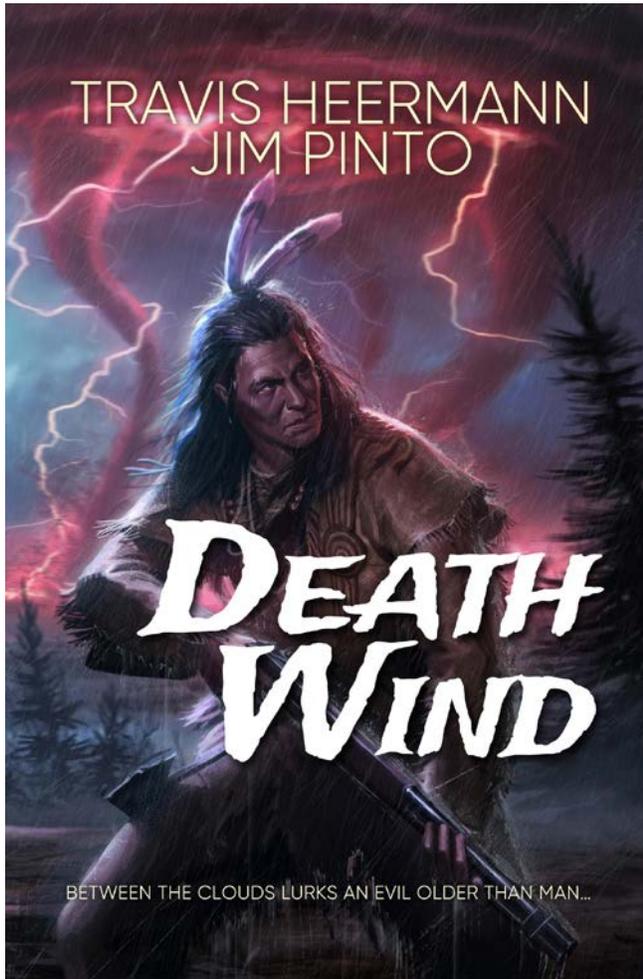
"A Haiku Pilgrimage" - *Healing Waves*, Sky Warrior Books, 2011

Screenplays

Death Wind (in collaboration with Jim Pinto, unproduced) - Screenwriting Contest 1st Place - **Cinequest Film Festival, 2012**

Stage Plays

The Nightshade Tapes (in collaboration with C.B. Davis, Katie F-S, Shayne Kennedy, Timothy Schaffert, and Scott Working) - **The Witching Hour, Blue Barn Theater, June 7-July 10, 2010**



Book Information – *Death Wind*

Genre: Horror-western

- **Trade Paperback** - \$15.99, 249 pages, 5½ x 8½”, September, 2016, ISBN: 978-1-61475-470-1, WordFire Press

- **E-Book** - \$5.99, (Kindle ASIN B01L2EYKK8), September, 2016, ISBN: 978-1-61475-471-8, WordFire Press

In 1891, in the aftermath of the Wounded Knee massacre, awful nightmares and bizarre killing sprees shake the uneasy peace between the frontier town of White Pine and the Lakota on the nearby reservation.

Pioneer doctor Charles Zimmerman finds himself at the forefront of the investigation and uncovers a crawling horror the likes of which he could not imagine.

With the help of an orphaned farm girl, a smart-mouth stage robber, a beaten-down Lakota warrior, a widowed medicine woman, and Charles' estranged father--the aging town marshal--Charles must save not only the town of White Pine but also the starving Lakota from an ancient, hungry evil.

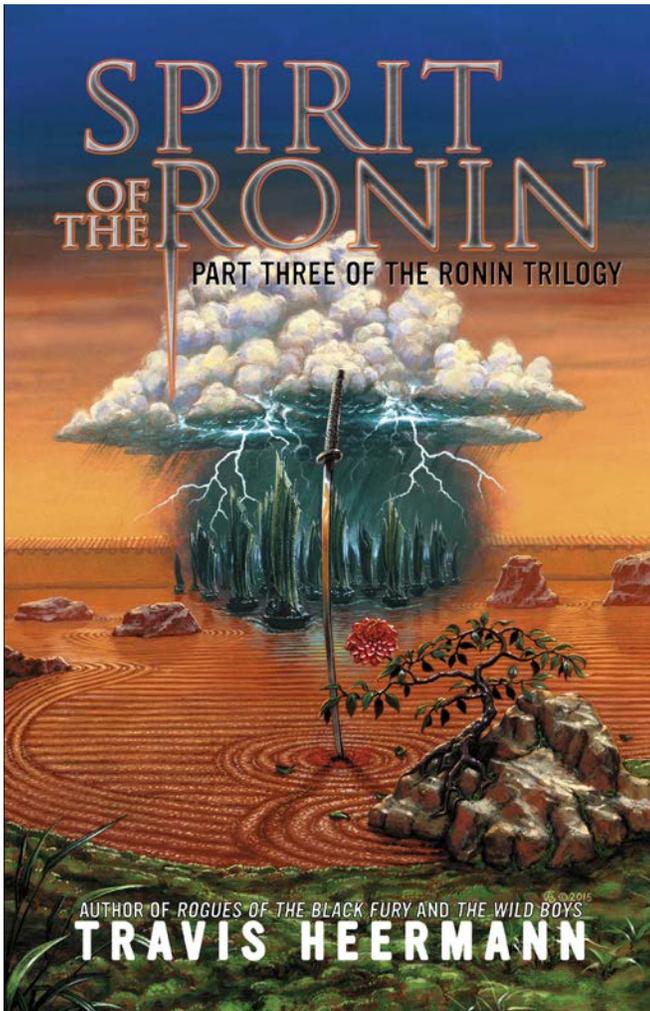
Online Sales Links:

[Amazon](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[Kobo](#)

[Apple](#)



Book Information – *Spirit of the Ronin*

Genre: Historical Fantasy

- **Trade Paperback** - \$16.99, 442 pages, 5½ x 8½”, July, 2015, ISBN: 978-1-62225-414-9, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **E-Book** - \$7.99, (Kindle ASIN B00XLCDF9M), June, 2015, ISBN: 978-1-62225-412-5, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **Limited Edition Hardcover** - \$40.00, 448 pages, 5½ x 8½”, July, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-62225-413-2, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)

“As in the previous two volumes (good as *Spirit of the Ronin* is, it is best to read the whole series in order), Heermann mixes [action, romance, and history] together with a great deal of skill, giving us tense action scenes, extremely well-drawn characters, and an intelligently-handled touch of sorcery. Fantasy and action fans will be every bit as satisfied as fans of historical fiction.” – Historical Novel Society

"If you watch Japanese movies or read Japanese literature, three of the most powerful forces in their

culture are loyalty, duty and love. The way Heermann pits these forces against one another in the minds of the protagonists is masterful.... In Heermann's Japan, the spirits and gods interact with the world on a daily basis, making for a 'magic system' rarely seen in literature. If you want to read something with a Japanese flavor both accessible and unique, *Spirit of the Ronin* is as good as you will find.... My only regret was that the story ended." - [New Myths](#)

"When you actively watch out for new writers with potential, every so often you're pleasantly surprised by one who has simply Got It, whose work is ready to push up to the next level. Travis Heermann has simply Got It." – James A. Owen, author of *Here, There Be Dragons*

“Lovely details, an honorable character, and great action... Travis Heermann’s *Spirit of the Ronin* is a rich and entertaining story.” – Kevin J. Anderson, NYT bestselling author of *Blood of the Cosmos*

A CLASH OF HONOR, LOVE, AND AMBITION

In thirteenth-century Japan, the *ronin* Ken’ishi’s fondest wish has been granted—he has found service with a powerful samurai lord.

But the underworld crime boss known as Green Tiger lurks in the shadows of Lord Tsunetomo’s retinue, and Ken’ishi’s honor is tested when learns his new master is married to Kazuko, the only woman he has ever loved. His unknown lineage holds dangerous secrets that could destroy him, and his sword, the magical relic called Silver Crane, holds the key to his past...and his future.

With enemies, temptation, and strife assailing him on all sides, Ken’ishi’s very soul falls into jeopardy—even as Khubilai Khan’s Mongol hordes plot their next attack.

Can Ken'ishi defeat Green Tiger, defend his homeland from the barbarian invaders, and remain true to his heart, his lord, and his honor?

If you love romance, intrigue and action on an epic scale, don't miss this stunning climax to the Ronin Trilogy.

Online Sales Links:

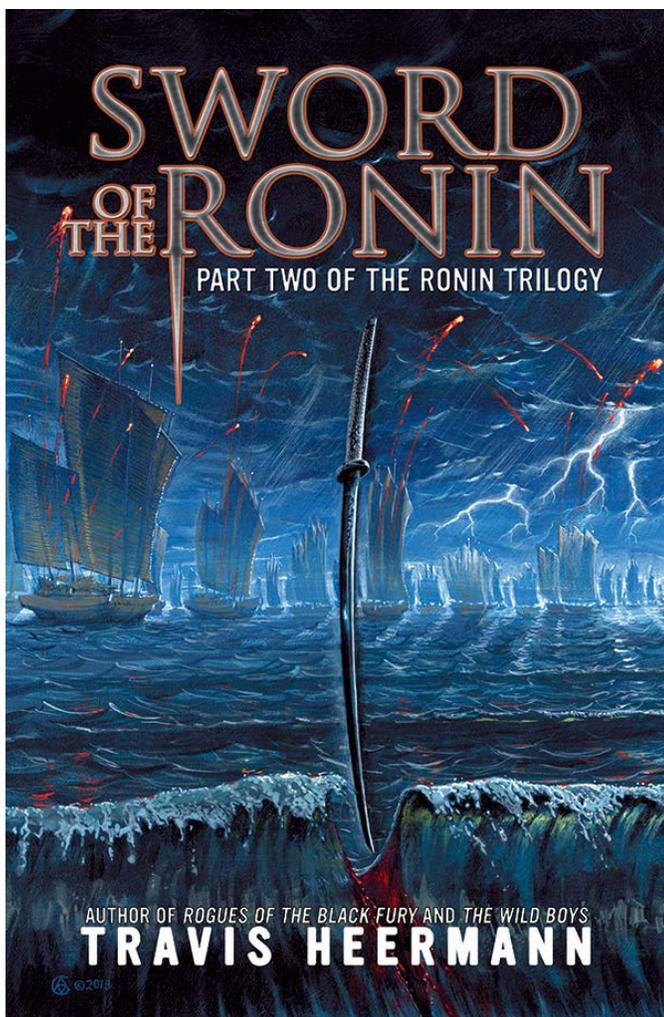
[Apple](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[Kobo](#)



Book Information – *Sword of the Ronin*

Genre: Historical Fantasy

- **Trade Paperback** - \$16.99, 416 pages, 5½ x 8½", July, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-62225-407-1, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **E-Book** - \$7.99, (Kindle ASIN B00JDWEHM8), July, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-62225-408-8, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **Limited Edition Hardcover** - \$40.00, 416 pages, 5½ x 8½", July, 2013, ISBN: 978-1-62225-400-2, [Red Bear Publishing](#)
- **Audio Book** - \$24.95 ([Audible](#), [iTunes](#))

"From the first sentence, Travis Heermann weaves a tale that sucked this reader into a rich Japanese tapestry full of ronin, samurai and magic. It was hard to put this book down to sleep." – Patrick Hester, Hugo-Award Winning SFSignal.com and the Functional Nerds Podcast

"Travis Heermann takes everything I loved about *Heart of the Ronin* (adventure, intrigue, sympathetic characters), puts it in a pressure cooker and serves it with a side of Awesome. *Sword of the Ronin* is his best novel yet and won't disappoint." – Shaun Farrell, Adventures in Sci-Fi Publishing

"*Sword of the Ronin* is a raw and energetic adventure that explores deep and eternal themes such as honor, love, and betrayal while maintaining an engaging, humorous, living world. It also has an awesome ronin hero who hacks lots of bad people to bits, if you're into that sort of thing. Which you definitely should be." – Rich Wulf, former lead writer for Legend of the Five Rings and author of The Heirs of Ash Trilogy.

"A rich, engaging, morally complex historical fantasy, deeply embedded in Japanese culture.... *Sword of the Ronin* balances action with more intimate drama as both reader and hero question the way forward, and move through a landscape of war and legends to just the right moment of balance before the third volume. I, for one, will be looking forward to it." - E.C. Ambrose, author of *Elisha Barber*, The Dark Apostle series

"Those interested in Japan's culture and history, including ancient mythology will find this book an extraordinary read. It is certainly not a story for the fainthearted, but which touches you with its truth-drawing and starkly poignant meaning. As a work of fantasy I enjoyed it very much, although at times it did cause shivers to run down my spine and turned my blood cold." - Goodreads Reviewer

In 13th-Century Japan, a land of ancient spirits, shapeshifting animals, and demons, Ken'ishi is a warrior without a master. Orphaned in infancy, he has only one link to his past—Silver Crane, his father's sword. When Silver Crane is stolen, Ken'ishi must go on a quest to recover his very identity.

The crime lord known as Green Tiger knows of Silver Crane and dreams of the day when he can destroy the shogunate and restore his shattered clan, with intrigues stretching to China, where the Mongol emperor Khubilai Khan builds an invasion fleet.

With his only weapon a wooden sword, Ken'ishi enters the shadowy world of flesh houses, Chinese smugglers, and Mongol spies.

To succeed and unleash Silver Crane's power, he must face the darkness in his own soul.

Online Sales Links:

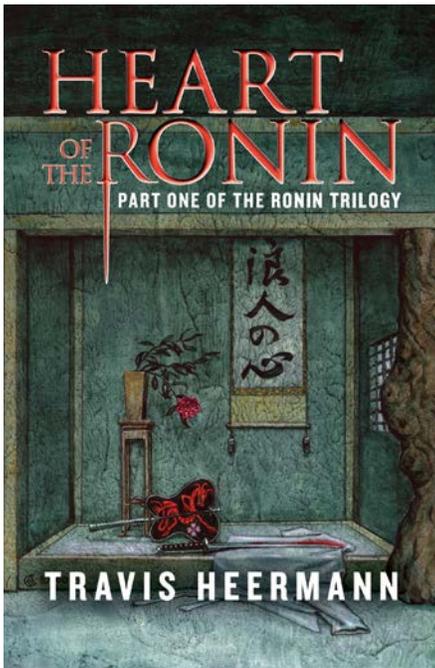
[Apple](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[Kobo](#)



Book Information - *Heart of the Ronin*

Genre: Historical fantasy

- **Trade Paperback** - \$15.95, 386 pages, 5½ x 8½", December 16, 2010, ISBN: 1617560758, [Open Road Media](#)
- **E-Book** - \$4.99, (Kindle, Sony, Nook, iPad), December 16, 2010, ASIN: B004HZYGOA, [Open Road Media](#)
- **Library Edition Hardcover** - \$25.95, 442 pages, 5 x 8½", February 18, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-59414-779-1, [Five Star Publishing](#), a division of [Gale-Cengage Learning](#)

"A fusion of historical fiction and adventure fantasy, the first volume of Heermann's Ronin Trilogy is a page-turning folkloric narrative of epic proportions. . . . [His] writing style is confident and fluid, his characters well developed and his serpentine story line anything but predictable. Numerous tantalizingly unresolved plot threads will have readers anxiously awaiting the second installment in this gripping tale of ill-fated love, betrayal and destiny." – *Publishers Weekly*

"Full of sword battles, intrigue, romance and fantastic elements blending well with historical ones, *Heart of the Ronin* is a very impressive opening in the Ronin Trilogy. It's also a page turner that you can't put down and will leave readers begging for more." – *Fantasy Book Critic*

"*Heart of a Ronin* is a solid, likeable adventure story, sure to please fans of Japanese culture and fantasy readers alike." – *Adventures in Sci-Fi Publishing*

Thirteenth-century Japan is a dangerous place, even in a time of peace. Capricious gods, shape-changing animals, and bloodthirsty demons are as real and unpleasant as a gang of vicious bandits. From the wilderness emerges a young, idealistic warrior with his father's mysterious sword on his hip, a wise, sarcastic dog at his side, and a yearning in his heart to find a worthy master. He dreams only of being samurai.

Finding a master should be easy for a warrior as skilled as Ken'ishi, but the land has settled into an uneasy peace and cast multitudes of proud, powerful warriors to the four winds. These masterless warriors, ronin, often must stoop to crime and banditry to feed themselves. Ken'ishi finds himself plagued by the hatred and mistrust of peasants and samurai alike.

When he saves a noble maiden from a pack of bandits, he and his faithful dog become enmeshed in the intrigues of samurai lords, vengeful constables, Mongol spies, and a shadowy underworld crime boss known as Green Tiger. But Ken'ishi has a few secret weapons of his own, granted to him by his mysterious past and his magical upbringing. If only he knew more about his mysterious past, his parents' murder, and the sword that seems to want to talk to him. . . .

Heart of the Ronin is an action-packed historical fantasy, set against the backdrop of ancient intrigue and impending war, the first of a sweeping three-part epic filled with deadly duels and climactic battles. Creatures of folklore and myth are as real as the katana in one's hand. And just as deadly.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 10, 2008
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Web: www.travisheermann.com

Local Author Launches Free Fiction Podcast

OMAHA, NE — November 10, 2008 — A new historical fantasy novel offers a glimpse of a world seldom seen in American fiction, ancient Japan. It is now available as a free audio fiction podcast for fiction listeners and readers worldwide.

Travis Heermann, a native of Naper, Nebraska, launched his upcoming hardcover novel, *Heart of the Ronin* (\$25.95, Five Star Publishing, February 2006), in free audio podcast format. The novel's setting in 13th-Century Japan is unique in American fiction and draws upon the author's extensive research and experiences living in Japan. The book tells the story of a young ronin samurai, a masterless warrior, and his quest to learn the truth about his father's mysterious magical sword and to save himself from the devilish machinations of an underworld crime boss known only as Green Tiger.

Heermann produces the podcast on his own time and budget, employing the voice talents of UNO student Danielle Steen to read the text. The podcast is being released in serialized weekly installments and is available through iTunes, Podcast Alley, Podiobooks.com, and RSS feed from the author's website, www.travisheermann.com/podcast/.

Heermann conceived the idea to release this novel in podcast form because of his strong belief in the explosion of "new media" publishing. "The internet is producing a tremendous shift in the way readers enjoy books and how publishing works," Heermann says. "The tremendous success of podcast fiction authors such as Scott Sigler, Mur Lafferty, and J.C. Hutchins proves that tens of thousands of readers and listeners are subscribing, downloading, and enjoying fiction podcasts. Short fiction podcasts like the sci-fi-based Escape Pod have been noticed by mainstream publishing and sci-fi readers alike. And it's about time. I created this podcast to reach readers, and I have to say I enjoy the learning and creative aspects of it tremendously. It's a unique opportunity for authors to connect with their audience."

Travis Heermann is a freelance writer/author and a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the English Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He spent three years living in Japan and teaching English there in public schools, during which time he also researched and produced *Heart of the Ronin*. His goal with this novel was to harness his passion for Japanese history and culture and introduce a largely overlooked milieu to Western readers.

Heart of the Ronin (\$25.95, 442 pages, 5 x 8½, hardcover, ISBN: 978-1-59414-779-1) is available at neighborhood and online booksellers or by calling 1-800-223-1244. This historical fantasy novel draws on not only the history but also the myths and folklore of ancient Japan. Published by Five Star Publishing, a division of Gale-Cengage Learning. For more information, go to www.travisheermann.com.

Gale-Cengage Learning is a world leader in educational publishing for libraries, schools and businesses. Five Star Publishing, the fiction imprint of Gale-Cengage, debuted in 1995 with several successful titles and has since expanded into Western, Mystery, Romance, and Science Fiction and Fantasy, featuring original novels from established masters as well as the most promising emerging authors.

For more information, please visit www.gale.cengage.com/fivestar/.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 1, 2009
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Web: www.travisheermann.com

4 Tips for Historical Research in Fiction Writing

OMAHA, NE – April 1, 2009 – Writing fiction that is not set in the modern neighborhood next door requires extensive front-end work, using research tools and techniques beyond just reading other novels set in the same milieu. Published novels do get things wrong sometimes.

“America’s two-hundred-odd years of history can be a lot of background information to cover for a writer bent on historical research,” says Travis Heermann, author of *Heart of the Ronin*, an historical fantasy novel set in medieval Japan. “And it’s even worse if your story is set in an ancient land like Japan or China. You have to become an ‘expert’ on your story’s time and place. If you don’t, you’ll lose credibility—and readers—fast.”

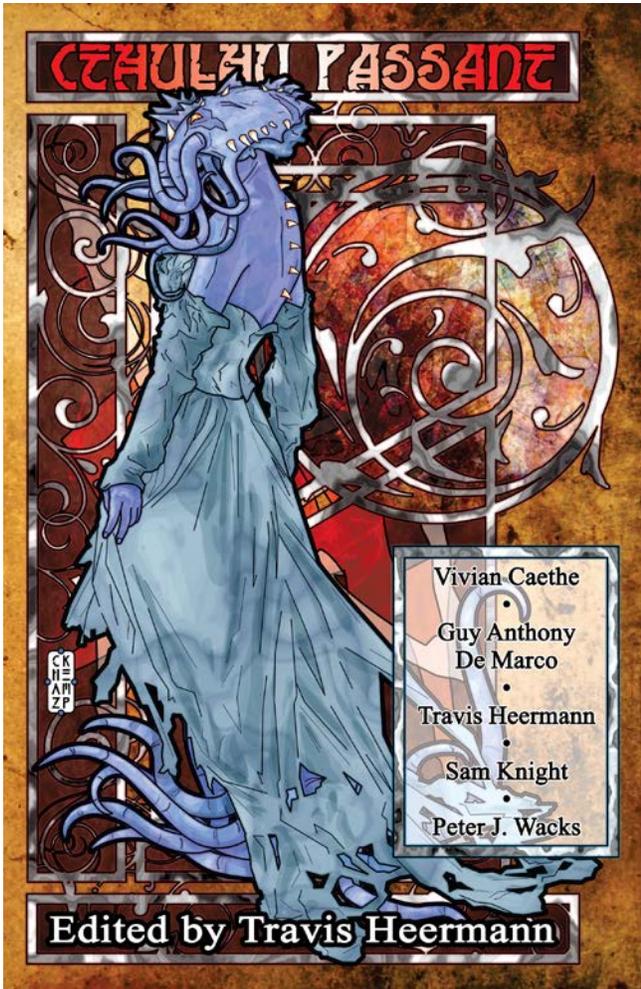
Heermann offers the following tips for becoming an ‘expert’:

1. Get a library card. Unless you’re prepared to spend hundreds of dollars on research materials, the library is your best source for historical and cultural information about your chosen time and place. The bigger the library, the better. Even if you live in a small town, you can get hard-to-find books from far-flung distant libraries on inter-library loan, and all you have to pay is the cost for them to ship the book to you.
2. If you want to set a story in a particular period, it is best to start with more easy-reading general books on that period’s history, rather than jumping neck-deep into a pile of dusty scholarly tomes. The general books make it easier to digest the waves of unfamiliar names and places, and provide a background knowledge that you can hone to a sharp point by delving into the more complex scholarly works later. The longer and deeper you conduct your research, the more you will absorb the little details that will give your story the sense of verisimilitude that it needs.
3. Go there. If you know where your story takes place and your budget permits, there is no substitute for taking your own eyeballs and perceptions to the places where Billy the Kid, Genghis Khan, and Elliott Ness lived and breathed. You will get an instantly clearer feel for an astonishing number of small details, such as climate, vegetation, the lay of the land, the greater feeling of the place. And this knowledge will come through in your story.
4. Make the *Oxford English Dictionary* your new best friend. English usage changes astonishingly fast over the decades and centuries. Whether you are writing an homage to Jane Austen or an Elizabethan epic, the *O.E.D.* can be an invaluable resource to help you determine whether a particular word is anachronistic. With about five million entries, the omnibus *O.E.D.* is *the* definitive history of the English language, consisting of dozens of volumes containing the complete history of every word ever used in English. At this writing, you can only find it in larger libraries, but there are rumors that it will appear online in the future.

Heart of the Ronin is an historical novel that draws on not only the history but the myths and folklore of ancient Japan. Published by Five Star Publishing, a division of Gale-Cengage Learning, *Heart of the Ronin* is available in hardcover for \$25.95. For more information, go to www.travisheermann.com.

Gale-Cengage Learning

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Book Information – *Cthulhu Passant*

Genre: Horror

- **Trade Paperback** - \$7.99, 82 pages, 5½ x 8½”, May, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-62225-410-1, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **E-Book** - \$4.99, (Kindle ASIN B00DTJSM6I), May, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-62225-409-5, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)

The intricacies of chess meet the matchless Mythos of H.P. Lovecraft. Stories of doors, of passages, of patterns. Squares and threats, moves and counter-moves. Forbidden knowledge and cosmic horrors.

... Two young lovers and the hand that plays them

... A man trapped with an unwholesome companion uncovers the secret of a cosmic struggle

... A professor and his protégé find themselves

pawns on an ancient chessboard

... A young Soviet boy's chess match holds the fate of his nation in the balance

... A battered woman seeks safety in a shelter, only to find there might be no safety anywhere

Let these five guides to the grotesque lead you into the dank depths of their imagination ... where the monsters lurk.

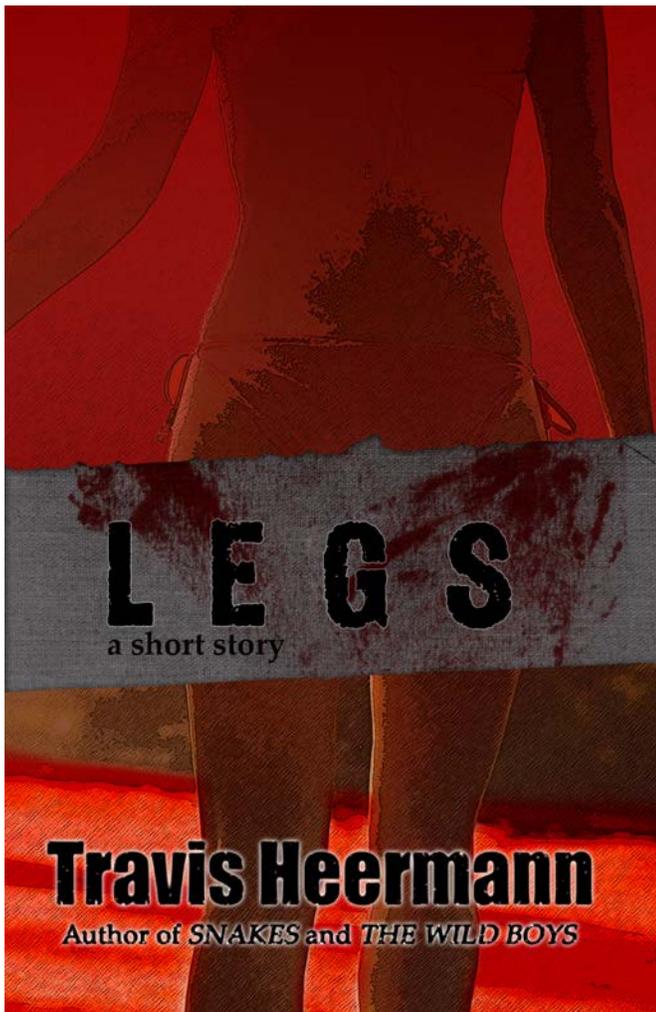
Online Sales Links:

[Apple](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[Kobo](#)



Book Information – *Legs*

Genre: Erotic Horror

- **Trade Paperback** - \$5.99, 36 pages, 5½ x 8½”, May, 2014, ISBN: 978-1622254460, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)
- **E-Book** - \$0.99, (Kindle ASIN B00JDXG5WW), May, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-62225-445-3, [Bear Paw Publishing](#)

JUST AN INNOCENT LITTLE CAMPING TRIP...

Andy and Joe became friends in junior high. Ever since, they have been an inseparable duo, until they both fell for Jackie. And Joe got her.

Andy has been nursing a secret, desperate obsession with Jackie from the moment she walked into his life.

When a mysterious stranger appears, promising the fulfillment of Andy’s deepest, darkest desires, Andy is faced with an impossible choice.

A choice he cannot refuse.

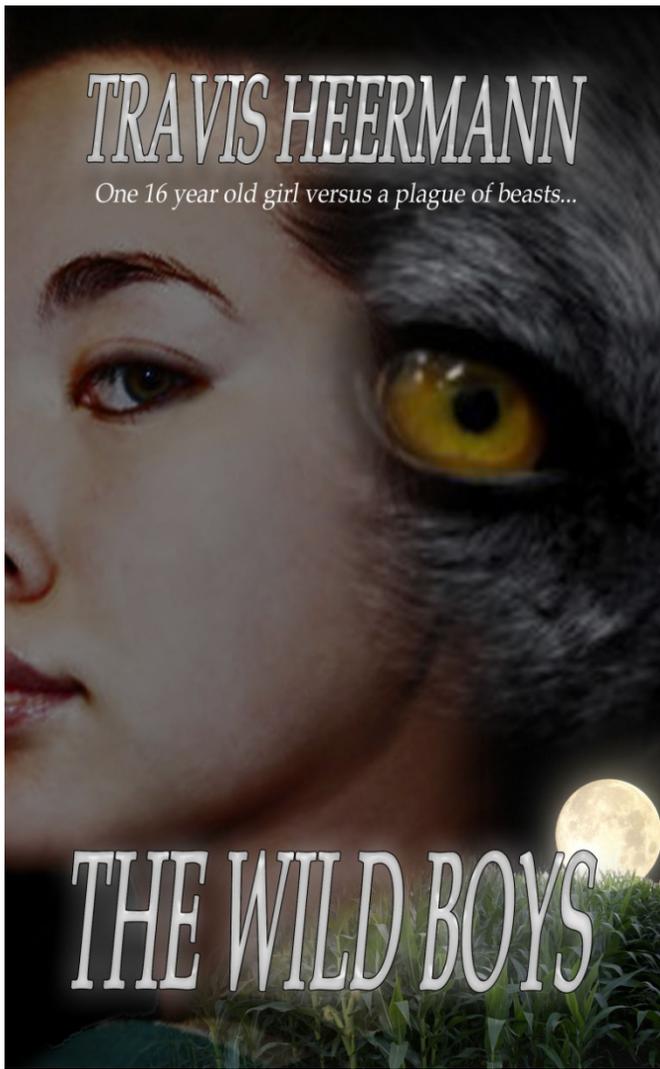
Online Sales Links:

[Apple](#)

[Amazon](#)

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Book Information - *The Wild Boys*

Genre: Young Adult horror-thriller

- **Trade Paperback** - \$19.99, 286 pages, 6 x 9", December 1, 2012, ISBN: 978-1-61572-825-1, [Damnation Books](#)
- **E-Book** - \$5.95, (Kindle, Sony, Nook, iPad), May 20, 2012, ISBN: 978-1-61572-824-4 [Damnation Books](#)
- **Audio Book** - \$24.95 ([Audible](#), [iTunes](#))

"I was really impressed by the quality of Travis' book and the way he uses the werewolf genre to cover some timeless issues of what it's like being a teenager, with the challenges of becoming independent from parents, dealing with grief and loss, developing self-confidence, sexuality and restraint. He manages to touch on so many pertinent themes all in the context of an adventurous fantasy sci-fi werewolf story. Well done!" – Becky Parker, Pro Audio Voices

"It's like a supernatural action movie. Think *Supernatural* plus some *Teen Wolf*. There are werewolves and secret agents and deadly viruses and cool fighting scenes. I loved it! ... *The Wild Boys* was definitely one of my top werewolf books of the year (maybe even ever)." – YA Book Season

"A fast-paced novel about love, loss, and the unforgettable scent of once being human, *The Wild Boys* is impossible to put down." - Shelly Li, Scholastic Award-winning author of *The Royal Hunter: Throne Under Siege*

"I recommend *The Wild Boys* for people who like thrillers, people who like horror, and people who want to read wild chase scenes with plucky heroines (and a dog)." - Kater Cheek, author of the *Kit Melbourne* series

"The Wild Boys was a fun read, which read easily and quickly, both due to the writing and Mia's voice." – A Fantastical Librarian

"I'm glad I pushed past my 'no more werewolves' mindset and gave this book a chance! I really enjoyed it!" – The (YA) Bookcase

Can a 16-year-old girl stem the tide of a lycanthro-pocalypse?

When three younger boys show up on the doorstep of Mia's everyday suburban existence, naked and on the run, she is drawn into a shadow world where a series of strange disappearances heralds a

slowly spreading plague of lycanthropy. Mia must save the three orphaned boys from their brutal Alpha, a man-beast who believes humans are food.

A war is brewing for the top of the food chain.

Mia doesn't know it yet, but she holds the key to the future of the human race.

Online Sales Links:

[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 4, 2012
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4 Must-Haves to Survive a Werewolf Apocalypse

DENVER, CO – December 4, 2012 – Even the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now has a website devoted to preparedness for a zombie apocalypse. Books like *The Zombie Survival Guide* have also kept the public well-educated in what to do in the event of a zombie outbreak. However, zombie-ism is not the only type of world-changing virus out there. What if a virulent strain of bioengineered lycanthropy was released into the world population?

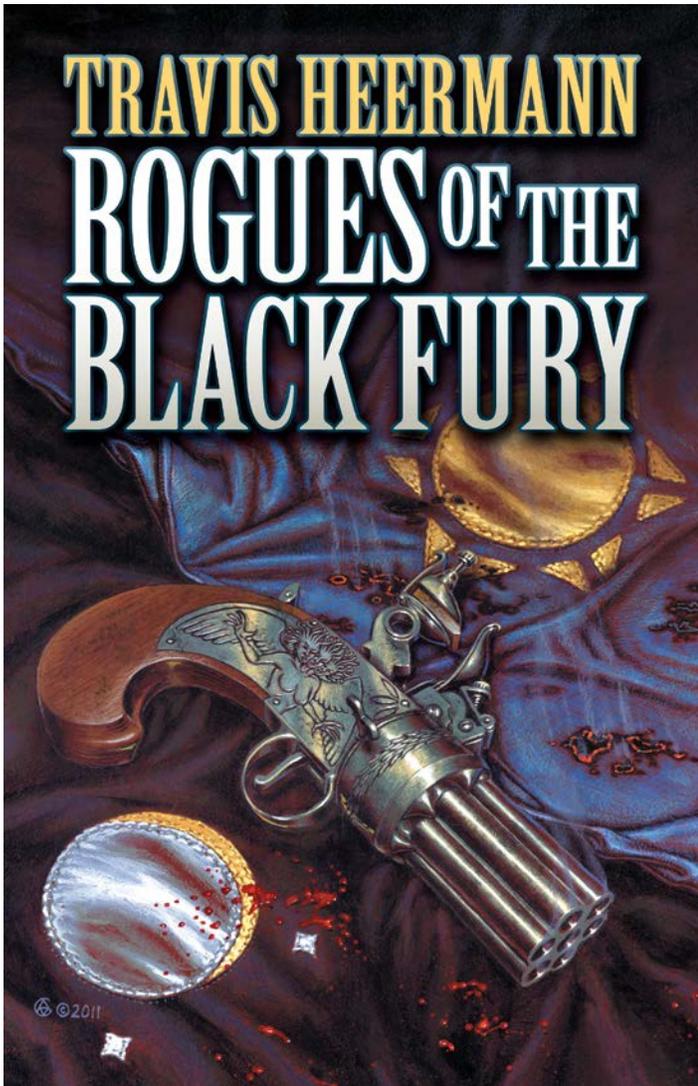
“People have given a lot of thought in recent years about what would happen during a zombie outbreak, what kind of weapons would be most effective, what supplies to carry, how to zombie-proof your home, etc.,” says Travis Heermann, author of *The Wild Boys*, a Young Adult horror-thriller novel set in contemporary Omaha. “But what if the monsters outside were not only stronger and faster than humans, but just as intelligent, just as capable of complex social structures and cooperation? Who then has the right to the top of the food chain?”

Heermann recommends the following items for protecting yourself and your family in the event of an outbreak of lycanthropy in your area:

1. Bear Spray. Basically this is industrial strength pepper spray in a can the size of a small fire extinguisher, used primarily by backwoods hikers to protect themselves from bear attacks. With up to 35-ft. range, this stuff can stop a charging grizzly bear, or a werewolf, in its tracks.
2. Ultrasonic Dog Repellent. A little black box that emits a powerful ultrasonic sound wave, inaudible to humans, an ultrasonic dog repellent makes dogs and other animals extremely uncomfortable. They come in various models and decibel ranges, and some include flashing strobe lights to confuse/disorient the animal(s). This might not work for long against a monster with human-like problem-solving ability, but it might give you the few seconds you need to get away.
3. Firearms. There is some serious defense here, but werewolves are known for their hardiness and regenerative capabilities, so if you are going to go this route, as with zombies, you must aim for the head. A 12-ga. shotgun blast will slow a werewolf down, but a headshot is the only way to be sure. Long-distance shots with a high-powered rifle have the same limitations. The downside is that this is not only an expensive option, but you also might not be certain if your target is someone you know. Unlike zombies, werewolves retain their intellect and are quite capable of changing back to human form and hiding among the normal population. Even in an incipient outbreak of lycanthropy, the authorities still frown on homicide.
4. Basic supplies. Food (non-perishable preferably; werewolves usually prefer to keep their meat "on the hoof"), water (1 gallon per person per day), medications (this includes prescription and non-prescription meds), tools and supplies (utility knife, duct tape, battery powered radio, etc.), hygiene products (soap, towels, toothbrushes, etc.), changes of clothes and blankets, important documents (driver's license, passport, birth certificates), and first aid supplies (although you're likely to switch teams if a werewolf bites you, you might be able to escape with just a few claw lacerations, which are not contagious, and you can use these supplies to treat basic cuts and lacerations that you might get during a tornado, hurricane, or wild, panicked flight).

The Wild Boys is a Young Adult horror-thriller novel that takes the idea of a civilization-changing viral outbreak in a radically new direction. Published by Damnation Books, *The Wild Boys* is available in trade paperback for \$19.95 and e-book for \$5.95. For more information, go to www.travisheermann.com.

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Book Information - *Rogues of the Black Fury*

Genre: Adventure fantasy

- **Trade Paperback** - \$15.95, 392 pages, 5½ x 8½", May 20, 2012, ISBN: 1617566977, [Open Road Media](#)

- **E-Book** - \$4.99, (Kindle, Sony, Nook, iPad), May 20, 2012, ASIN: B0082D2EWE, [Open Road Media](#)

"Bold, colorful characters pull the reader into an unforgettable adventure with the perfect mix of suspense, intrigue, and action." –Jeanne Cavelos, author of *The Passing of the Techno-mages*

"*Rogues of the Black Fury* mixes a berserk action thriller sharp as a mercenary's sword with hard-bitten fantasy so gritty it might scour your bones clean by the time you're done." – Matt Forbeck, author of *The Amortals* and *Carpathia*

"Heermann's *Rogues* is epic, exciting, and a hell of a lot of fun! From the very beginning, the world he crafts feels alive and real. By the last page, I didn't want to leave. Adventure at its finest, honed to a gleaming bloody edge." – Marcus

Pelegrimas, author of the *Skinnners* series

"A rollicking read choc-a-bloc with pace, action, and adventure." – *Fantasy Book Critic*

"A very entertaining read ... For fans of Glen Cook or Jeff Salyards, *Rogues of the Black Fury* could be a great read for a dark winter afternoon." – *A Fantastical Librarian*

When a band of shadowy fanatics abducts Javin Wollstone's little sister, Bella, from his care, his only hope to bring her home is turning to a hard-bitten band of special warriors, the Black Furies, led by Commander Rusk. Javin follows Rusk and his men through a maze of political intrigues, religious fanaticism, and centuries of distrust. Little do they know that little Bella Wollstone could be the spark that sets off a war of Armageddon.

The investigation unfolds into a frantic chase that leads Javin, Rusk, and the Black Furies across trackless, pirate-infested seas into the ancient heart of Fartha, the religion-steeped land of prophets and priest-kings. Using stealth, guile, and sheer audacity, the Furies fling themselves into the teeth of the serpent, trying to snatch Bella back before she is swallowed forever. Javin finds himself torn between his genteel, noble upbringing and the raw, brutal necessity of what he must do to save her life.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 6, 2012

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Local Author Completes the Podcast for Third Novel

"New Media" Generation Hungers for Free Fiction

DENVER, CO — September 6, 2012 — A new military fantasy novel offers a fresh examination of the conflict between religion and secularism. It is now available as a free audio podcast for fiction listeners and readers worldwide.

Travis Heermann launched his novel, *Rogues of the Black Fury* (\$20.95, Open Road Integrated Media Publishing, 2012), in free audio podcast format, and recently released the final serial episode. The novel's setting is a world that is not quite Earth, a world embroiled in a centuries-long war between a devout theocracy and a secular military autocracy. The book tells the story of the abduction of a young woman and the quest to save her by her brother and a band of hard-bitten, mercenary special warriors, the Black Furies. Heermann calls this novel "an examination of the post-9/11 world through a fantastical lens."

Heermann produces the podcast on his own time and budget, and the book is available in serialized installments through iTunes, Podiobooks.com, and RSS feed from the author's website, www.travisheermann.com/rogues/.

Heermann chose to release *Rogues* in podcast form because of his belief in the explosion of "new media" publishing, and the success of his first podcast novel *Heart of the Ronin*, which has thus far gathered almost 10,000 listeners.

"The rise of e-books and alternatives to traditional publishing has produced a tremendous shift in the way readers enjoy books and how publishing works," Heermann says. "It's a unique opportunity for authors to connect with their audience. I tremendously enjoy the creative aspect of putting episodes together and stretching my boundaries. This is the first podcast where I used primarily my own voice."

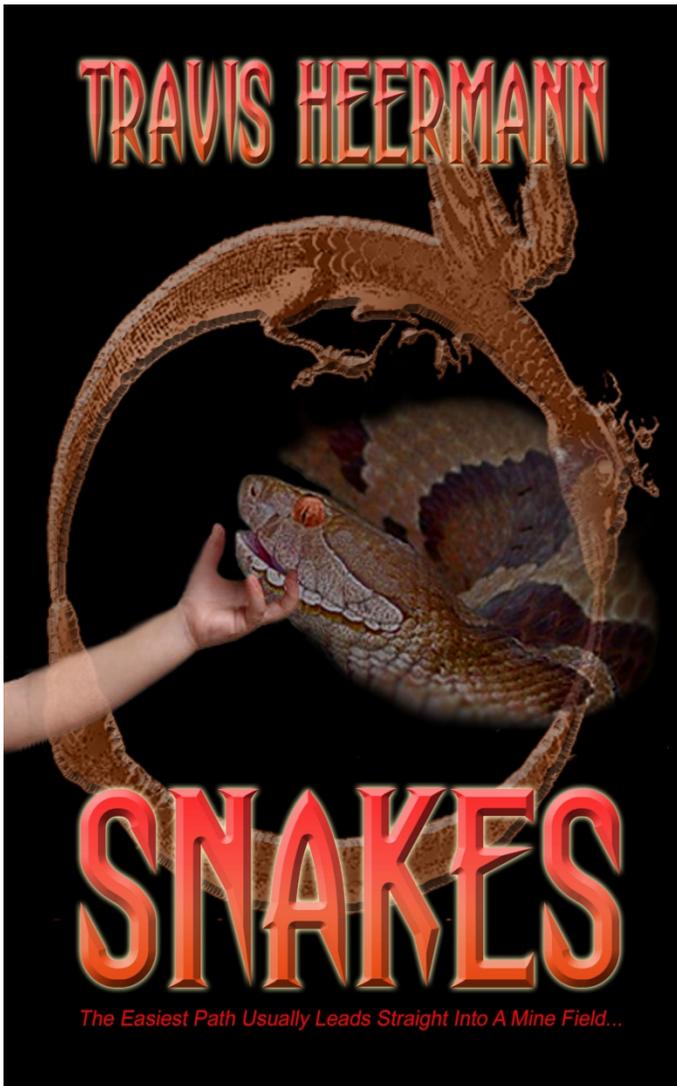
Travis Heermann is a freelance writer, author, and award-winning screenwriter, formerly of north central Nebraska. Until recently he was an instructor in the English Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, but now writes full-time from the Denver area. He is the author of the historical fantasy novel *Heart of the Ronin*, plus several works of short fiction sold to *Weird Tales* and *Cemetery Dance* magazines and others. His goal with this novel was to examine the events of the post-9/11 world in a way that both illuminates and entertains.

Rogues of the Black Fury (\$20.95, 362 pages, 5.4 x 8.4 inches, trade paper, ISBN: 978-1617566974) is available at neighborhood and online booksellers, published by Open Road Integrated Media. For more information, go to www.travisheermann.com.

Open Road Integrated Media is an innovator in publishing both electronic books and trade paperbacks, specializing in making out-of-print works available again, and now, with *Rogues of the Black Fury* and other titles, venturing into original fiction publications across all genres.

For more information, please visit www.ereads.com.

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Book Information - *Snakes*

Genre: Horror

- **Trade Paperback** - \$12.89, 40 pages (novella), 5 x 8", June 1, 2011, ISBN: 978-1615724048, [Damnation Books](#)

- **E-Book** - \$4.50, (Kindle, Sony, Nook, iPad), June 1, 2011, ASIN: B005341Z84 [Damnation Books](#)

"*Snakes* provokes a gut-wrenching emotional response, perhaps because by using snakes as a motif, it speaks to one of our most primitive fears. ... For a 30-page story to have such a deep, powerful and abiding effect shows that Travis Heermann is a master, ranking up there with Aesop and the Greek myth writers."— [Rose Cimarron, Goodreads Reviewer](#)

The easiest path usually leads straight into a minefield.

Eddie, a young, pretty single mom, is trying to do the right thing by her three-year-old daughter. She really is. With no education, no job, and a string of loser boyfriends behind her, she faces hard decisions every day. Gas for the car, or food for Joy? She's already been forced to move back into her mother's decrepit old trailer in Shady Acres Trailer Court in rural Arkansas.

Should she get a normal job working long hours for minimum wage, or should she put on her stiletto heels, bikini bra and micro-skirt and go back to exotic dancing so she can bring home fistfuls of cash for a few hours' work? When she catches her daughter playing with handfuls of baby copperhead snakes behind the trailer, the choice gets a lot easier: get out of there by the quickest means possible.

But at what cost? And is that strange man the devil or her knight in shining armor?