



Author Profile for K. C. Herbel

The pages below represent biographical information, stories and fun facts about K. C. Herbel. There are also some images of K. C. on the last pages. It is intended as an aid for members of the press and book bloggers interested in interviewing or writing a story about K. C.

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Bios

2-line bio:

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Short Bio:

K. C. Herbel, author of The Jester King Fantasy Series, spent the first part of his adult life building Oscar-winning robotic monsters in Hollywood, but now commits such dastardly acts with a pen. He loves Sci-Fi and Fantasy and helms the genre site Other Worlds (www.TheOtherWorlds.net). Visit him at www.KCHerbel.com.

Medium Bio:

K. C. Herbel, author of The Jester King Fantasy Series, spent the first part of his adult life building Oscar-winning robotic monsters in Hollywood, but now commits such dastardly acts with a pen. He loves Sci-Fi and Fantasy, and helms the author-centric website Other Worlds (www.TheOtherWorlds.net). K. C. has traveled extensively; living, working and studying local culture in Korea, Japan, China, Russia, Germany, Mexico, England and France, but America is home. He now lives hidden from his torch-bearing pursuers in the woods of Virginia, with his complex wife, a pack of hungry dogs, and a monster. Visit him at www.KCHerbel.com.

Long Bio:

K. C. spent most of his life with stories and monsters.

His childhood was, in his words, “idyllic,” with lots of friends and family and fun. As a boy growing up in the southwest in the 60’s, he wanted to be a cowboy or a knight or both; the two being very similar to his way of thinking. His dad was a cowboy and scientist, his mom, an artist and homemaker. Why couldn’t he be a cowboy knight? This was America after all!

Herbel’s interest in stories and monsters started at an early age. His mother told fascinating, “tricky” stories every night at bedtime. It was only later that he realized these stories were not the same stories other children heard and were from auto-biographical or biblical sources. He also heard many stories from his grandfather, who was an amazing teller of true-life adventures about “the old country” and

Texas. He was always proud to be an American, but never forgot his ties to Germany and the oral traditions of his youth. He could recite poetry and prose both ancient and modern up to his death at 92.

Somewhere, in the midst of all these family tales, K. C. began his love-hate relationship with monsters; fascinated with them in the light of day and plagued by them in his nightmares. As early as four he was trying to capture them in drawings. Later, building monster models was a way of exerting control.

By the time he reached the seventh grade, K. C. was raring to tell his own stories. However, these were not about him or even his monsters, but strangely alluring characters from another part of his imagination. His first stories were about an English detective, Locksher Semloh and his dogged sidekick, Dr. Nostaw. While the names lacked imagination, the plots did not and earned him enough praise from teachers to encourage more writing. The next stories were science fiction and influenced by some haunting apocalyptic story.

Then the writing stopped. There were sports and bikes and cars and girls in the world now and these made him want to explode. It took all his governable concentration not to.

In high school K. C. discovered fantasy in a ragged copy of *The Hobbit*, pilfered from the belongings his older sister left behind. Then came C. S. Lewis's Narnia and Tolkien's Ring trilogy, followed by Michael Moorcock and the discovery of thought provoking science fiction by Herbert, Zelazny, Dick and Asimov.

Now in college, K. C. rekindled his writing interests, penning plays under the tutelage of Mark Medoff (*Children of a Lesser God*). It was also here that he met Raymond E. Feist (*Magician, Silverthorn ...*) who was kind enough to offer writing advice and encouragement, and managed to make writing fantasy seem plausible.

After college, he went to Los Angeles with the hope of getting into a writing program at UCLA. However, before he had his California residency he was employed in the entertainment industry, making robotic monsters and working abroad for months at a time. Eventually his technical talents brought him to Hollywood where he helped create characters and "big, rubber monsters" for motion pictures. The Hollywood years were a lot of fun and K. C. got to work with some amazing and talented people on some award winning films. While K. C. may miss those crazy, creative days, he does not miss the crazy-long hours and stress. He prefers the relaxing southern lifestyle he has found in the woods of Virginia, with his books, his dogs and his very complex wife. And, of course, his monsters.

Speaker Introduction:

Our (next) speaker writes fantasy and science fiction about adventure, relationships, humor, honor, duty and patriotism. You may have read his Jester King Fantasy Series or an interview or article on the author-centric website Other Worlds. More than likely, you've seen his special effects work in films like *Jurassic Park 2 and 3*, *Terminator 3*, *Avatar*, *Eight Below*, *Lake Placid*, *Small Soldiers*, *Mousehunt*, *War of the Worlds*, and *A. I. Artificial Intelligence*. More recently, he is focusing some of his talent on building his own publishing business, Epic Books Press.

In his varied career, he has spoken with audiences from China to Washington, D.C., from technicians to members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Despite that, he still suffers from stage fright, so let's give a warm welcome to the author of adventure, KC Herbel

(Herbel sounds like herbal, but please pronounce the 'H').

5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me:

1. I hate flying! Even though I'm well-traveled, I hate flying. I didn't always. Funny, because the younger me wanted to be a pilot and an astronaut. On a recent trip with my wife, just minutes before we arrive at the airport, she shows me a picture of a plane crash on her phone and says that's the crash that took [her friend's son] and twenty others. All I could do was stare at her and then turn away as the taste of bile filled my mouth. She asked what was wrong, and I said, "Really? You're going to show that to me now?" After a long pause, she finally said, "I hadn't thought about it that way."
2. I have been mistaken for Jay Leno ... more than once! Even in L.A.! Now if I can just figure out how to get a Doritos contract.
3. I am partially colorblind, a fact I successfully hid from my teachers and parents by drawing practically everything with a black crayon and then later pencil or charcoal. My mom, the artist, said I was just expressing myself. I may have been the first and youngest emo kid on the block...any block! I only discovered I was "handicapped" when I "failed" the color-vision tests for military service. The nurse kept dragging her co-workers into the room and asking me to show them what I was saw on the charts, and then they would all laugh. Apparently, I was their funny version of Joseph (John) Merrick. This color "infidelity" is one of the reasons I never became a pilot. I still think you all are crazy. Red and green can't possibly be that different! Now people who are blue-yellow colorblind... they're a whole other kind of crazy.
4. My first paying job was as a paperboy. I saved up enough money to buy my first motor vehicle – a Yamaha Enduro motorcycle. The money I got from selling my motorcycle helped to pay for my first car, a '68 Camaro that was in pieces from the firewall forward and had no seats. I spent months putting it

together and getting it running. The neighbors hated me when I got up early in the morning and started my car, fitted with a four-barrel carburetor, radical cam and no muffler. As I recall that car passed a lot of folks on the road, but seldom passed a gas station. The trade-ins continued to a sensible Audi and finally to my all-time favorite car, a '67 Mustang – the only car I ever named. Man, I really miss Gigi.

5. I'm allergic to cat and dog dander, but will suffer with it to have a good dog.

Bonus fun fact:

6. I "made water" with Moses. No, I'm not that old. This happened when I was working in the motion picture business in Hollywood. Through various contacts and for various reasons, I received invites to a few red-carpet events (that's biz-speak for a movie premier). On this particular evening I was fortunate enough to attend such an event for Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* (a picture I did not work on). My wife and I met several lovely people there that evening and imbibed in some interesting catered food. At some point, I went to the men's room to relieve myself. Suddenly there was someone standing next to me. I glanced over to find Charlton Heston. He ignored my double take like the gentleman he was and we continued to do our business in perfect, reverent silence. I desperately wanted to take the opportunity to talk to him and tell him how much I enjoyed his performance (on the big screen), but I bit my tongue. Suddenly, out of the blue, it hit me..."I'm making water with Moses." I had to look over again. Again the gentleman. I kept this bit of biblical humor to myself, stared straight ahead as per the going custom, tried not to grin (also per custom), then washed up and left the bathroom. After the proper "cool-down" period, I approached him again, shook his hand and told him how much I enjoyed his performance. He gave me a kind smile and said "Thank you." I only hope he understood I was talking about the movie.

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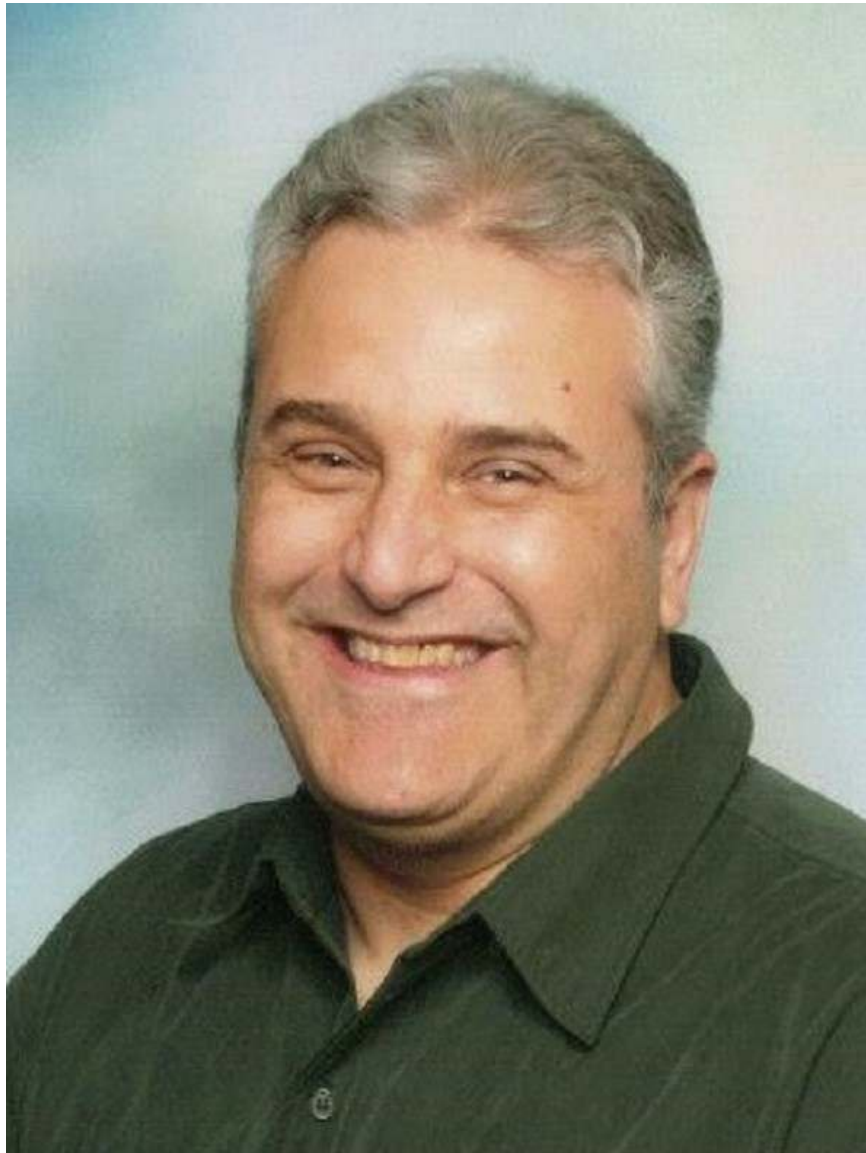
Sample Interview Questions

1. What genre is The Jest King Fantasy Series?
2. Why did you write the series?
3. Was there any one person who was your inspiration for Billy, the main character?
4. What can you tell us about Billy's mysterious past? Any hints?
5. What about Sir Hugh and Lady Myrredith? Are they based on someone you know?
6. The character, Ergyfel is interesting for such an evil villain. How big a part does he play in the overall series?
7. Sounds like you've spent a great deal of time with your characters. Anything more you'd like to tell us about them?
8. The story places a great deal of importance on relationships, like friendship and family. Is this important to you? Why?
9. What's the most important thing you'd like readers to get from reading The Jester King Fantasy Series?
10. Who's your favorite author?
11. When do you write? Is it easier to write in the morning or at night?
12. How many Jester King books are available for purchase at this time?
13. Any plans for more books?
14. Any words of advice for anyone with plans to visit the Kingdom of Lyonesse?
15. Where can we buy The Jester King Fantasy Series?

Images



1. KC Herbel Gravitar (Web)



2. KC Herbel Headshot (Web)



3. KC Herbel (300dpi - Print)



4. KC Herbel in nature (Web)