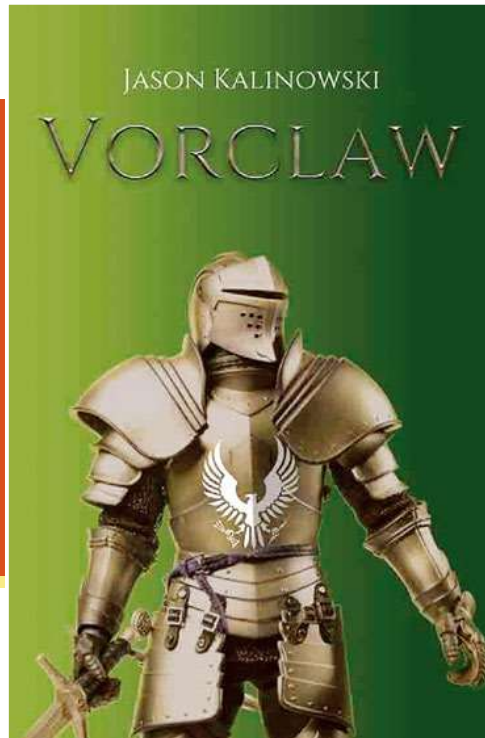


Becoming a Writer - The Journey of Making Fantasy Reality

By Jason Kalinowski
US Air Force Veteran



About the Author:
Jason was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1974. Since he was eight years old, he delved into science fiction and fantasy, following the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and Gary Gygax. His favorite book is Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. Jason began writing during his deployments and trips as a member of the United States Air Force. After travelling across Europe and the Middle East for over 24 years in the military, he is putting writing at the forefront of his life. Jason's true motivations are his daughters Eve and Ella who are avid readers!



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writing was never really meant to be a business, it was more of a dream I developed back in 1991 as I entered 12th grade — I am aging myself. At the end of high school, some people know what they want to be when they grow up. I wanted to be a writer — a Dungeons and Dragons, Lord of the Rings, fantasy writer — but it took a long time to get there! I was not a great writer when I started out. I could spin a tale or two from my experiences

with fantasy role playing games, but when it came to writing, my grammar was atrocious. But I was really good at electronics. With no known prospects after high school, and zero clue on how to become a writer, I joined the US Air Force and became an avionics technician on fighter jets. My job was a thrilling experience that I genuinely loved. However, the most wonderful part of my service experience was the day-to-day exposure to various cultures, languages, dialects, foods, values, and beliefs and appreciating the different perspec-

tives and talents each individual soldier brings to our community. The wonderful variety of cultures, languages, dialects, foods, values and beliefs in our military and day to day experiences, make it possible to truly experience and learn how much diversity there is in the United States. The military gave me the opportunity to go to different countries. Whether deploying for months or short temporary duty assignments, I often immersed myself in the cultures while also crafting my passion for writing. I would wordsmith stories and

develop characters during my deployments and TDYs. Inspired by the locations I was sent to, I created cities, towns, and countries that enriched my stories (and kept me out of trouble). After 24 years of military service and much editing, I drafted four different manuscripts comprising a series. I originally submitted them to two different publishers. One publisher declined, explaining they were not taking on new writers. The other company, Austin Macaulay Publishing, replied on 20 March 2020:

“Your manuscripts were brought to our attention at the latest Editorial Board meeting where we discussed the potential for publication. Having read the reports and taken notes of the Editors’ opinions, we can confidently state that your works were found imaginative and immersive reads that will undoubtedly captivate a wide audience.”
Two years later, I published two books with them: Vorclaw and Sojourns in Vana. I am sharing my experience with you to tell you that I did not become a published au-

thor overnight. While some can achieve success overnight, my success was hard fought. My dreams and aspirations developed over time through experiences and mentorship. Through my military service, I became a good writer and over the years I had great mentors. The point of my tale is to remind you to never quit chasing your dreams, even if they seem so far away. You can learn more about me and my books at my website: <https://jasonkalinowski.ampbk.com/>