

MARK SADLER

Influenced by What he Reads

By Suspense Magazine



With the introduction of so many incredible and talented new contributor's to our team—or fresh blood—as we sometimes refer to them, *Suspense Magazine* decided that our fans might like an opportunity to meet the team that helps us produce the magazine each month. And, with that in mind, the idea to create our monthly “Contributor's Corner” was born.

With a large, wide-ranging pool to choose from, where their skills and talents vary, it was a difficult decision to choose the first victim. That is, until this particular published author put my skills and personal reviewing record to shame. I am sure, after many months of getting to know Mark Sadler who comes from strong British stock, that doesn't require the same amount of sleep we normal humans survive on.

I've seen firsthand the comments from his friends and fans stating that he is a “reading machine” and we couldn't agree more.

Self-published author Mark Sadler first came to our attention when he politely requested a review of his novel and with a title like “Blood on his Hands”, how could we refuse? This mid-70's transplant to the states has the ability to paint such vivid—and on occasion terrifying—pictures in your mind that an instant friendship was born, which quickly blossomed into his role as a reviewer for *Suspense Magazine*.

We took the time to harass him—because as you all know, all authors hate free, self-promotion (especially Mark)—and were able to get him to answer a few simple questions:

Suspense Magazine (S. MAG.): What book changed your life?

Mark Sadler (MS): *This is probably the most difficult question I have been asked. I don't have a 'pat' answer for it, nothing trips off the tongue glibly because you see there have been so many at different times in my life and so this will not be a one book answer.*

Perhaps I should say it was “Aladdin”, while in kindergarten. I garnered rewards as best reader. Thanks to my mother, a pre-school teacher, I had been reading



since I was three. I was moved directly from kindergarten to 2nd grade and so endowed upon myself the honor of being the youngest, geekiest, immature person in class from then on. Life was hell in school. I escaped into books.

I traveled with Swift in “Gulliver’s Travels”, winced in pain with Tom—Thomas Hughes, “Tom Browns Schooldays”, rode tall in the saddle with the “Sackett Clan” (Louis L’Amour) and idled on the river with the Water Rat, Mole and Toad in Kenneth Grahame’s “Wind in the Willows”.

As an adolescent I explored “King Solomon’s Mines” (H Rider Haggard) fought alongside with Davey in Stevenson’s “Kidnapped”, travelled “Around the World in Eighty Days” with Jules Verne and learned to love like Paul did in “Sons and Lovers” (D.H. Lawrence).

As an adult “The Winds of War” (Herman Wouk), “H.M.S Ulysses” (Alistair MacLean) or “A Small Town in Germany” (John le Carre) all opened ideas and suggestions. I love books about relationships and all of the above I mentioned are wrought with strife, joy, sorrow and life. They bring a tear and a laugh, a fright or moment of understanding.

Two others get honorable mention for the sake of the writing of my novel, “Blood on His Hands”. If it were not for Bill Bryson’s “A Walk in the Woods”, I may never have set foot on the Appalachian Trail. That experience really changed my life because without that influence, my novel would never have been born and the Jim Crace’s “Being Dead”, inspired a scene in my book that I felt was a turning point in the novel writing process and for many months was the prologue in my book until the pages swallowed it eventually. To him also I am eternally grateful and must say I have yet to read anything he was written that is not outstanding.

There, I am sure I am missing so many more, but when you are a reader for life there so many experiences that are influenced by the musings in a good book.

S. MAG.: What are you working on now?

MS: I have developed a Tucson police detective, Nate Duarte and am forming book number one in a series of five that will see him solve a variety of sex crimes in the Old Pueblo. The character development has been interesting because as a child he was born to an illegal alien and a border guard, both who met unsavory ends at the hands of the same Mexican drug dealer, but eight years apart. Duarte became a police officer to bring his parent’s murderer to justice and this background story will be the thread that brings the series together.

S. MAG.: What’s your most embarrassing moment?

MS: As a redheaded, freckled child, I was always blushing over something. There so many to choose from.

Let me give you my most embarrassing writing moment. After reading through my finished manuscript for probably the five thousandth time and using self-help editing books, I knew I was prepared to let a publisher take a look. I realized there were a few errors that would float to the surface—primarily its or it’s—and so I sent off the finished product to my chosen POD publisher. They gave you the first forty free of charge and I figured that was all there would be at most. When I got my ARC to look at I was so excited to finally see it in print and I sat down ready to highlight the one or two errors, make up the prescribed list and send it back ready for printing. By the time I finished marking the book up—and with the generous help from a friendly co-worker who was an ardent reader and who wrote our company’s website, we found at least two hundred! I tried to save costs and not go with a professional editor. The publisher said there were so many errors they would just send me the book back in a word document and I could correct my own mistakes, and of course pay them handsomely for my effort! That’s a mistake I will not repeat.

Clearly, *Suspense Magazine* is a fan of Mark Sadler and we think if you give “Blood on his Hands” a chance, you will be too. Check out his website at www.markpsadler.com to find out more. ■