

Interview with BloggerNews.net

Bio:

Arnaldo Lopez Jr. was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and now resides in the borough of Queens. He is an avid fan of all things science-fiction, fantasy, historical and military. As well as writing, Mr. Lopez is also an artist and photographer, having sold several of his works over the years.

Book description:

Chickenhawk is an urban crime thriller that showcases New York City's diversity, as well as the dark side of race relations, politics, sexuality, illness, madness, and infidelity. Eddie Ramos and Tommy Cucitti are homicide detectives after a serial killer that manages to stay below their radar while the body count keeps climbing in a city that's turning into a powder keg.

Why don't you begin by telling us a little about your writing background?

Well, I've sold articles to Railway Age magazine, The Daily News magazine, Homeland Defense Journal, and Reptile & Amphibian magazine; scripts to Little Archie and Personality Comics; and short stories to Neo-Opis magazine, Lost Souls e-zine, Nth Online magazine, Blood Moon magazine, and various other Sci-Fi and/or horror newsletters and fanzines. I was also editor of Offworld, a small science fiction magazine that was once chosen as a "Best Bet" by Sci-Fi television. Chickenhawk is my first novel.

When did you decide you wanted to become an author?

Pretty early on actually! I've always loved story-telling and using my imagination. Books and writing fascinated me and I naturally fell in love with the written word. Becoming an author was just a normal extension of that love and fascination.

Do you have another job besides writing?

I was employed by New York City Transit for almost 30 years, but I'm retired now. Before that I was formerly employed as a dispatcher with the NYPD. I'm also a speaker and trainer, speaking on subjects as diverse as terrorism and customer service. I created the civilian counter-terrorism training program currently in use by New York City Transit and many other major public transportation agencies around the country.

Were you an avid reader as a child? What type of books did you enjoy reading?

I was a voracious reader as a child, my favorite genres being science-fiction, fantasy, and non-fiction books about nature and animals.

Tell us a bit about your latest book, and what inspired you to write such a story.

Chickenhawk is a thriller/crime novel about two homicide detectives trying to stop a serial killer that is targeting young, male prostitutes in New York City. I was inspired to write this novel after observing the comings and goings of the young, male prostitutes that plied their trade in and around the subway station I was working in at the time.

How would you describe your creative process while writing this book? Was it stream-of-consciousness writing, or did you first write an outline?

I first did a general outline of the story that I wanted to tell, then I did detailed outlines of all of the major characters. The creative process after that was pretty basic as the characters practically wrote the novel themselves as they interacted.

Did your book require a lot of research?

It certainly did! Hours and hours of sitting in police precincts, talking to cops, detectives and assistant district attorneys. Not to mention learning about rare guns from gun experts, procedure from medical examiners and emergency medical technicians ... yes, a lot of research. But it was all worth it!

What was your goal when writing this book?

My short-term goal was just to finish it, but my overall goal was to create something entertaining and thought-provoking.

What type of writer are you—the one who *experiences* before writing, like Hemingway, or the one who mostly daydreams and fantasizes?

Oh, I'm definitely the daydreamer and fantasizer! It's who I am and it's what I do.