



CRAIG SPENCE

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"Writing and storytelling in one form or another has been my passion, and I have pursued that vocation as a novelist, journalist and communications specialist through various phases of my life."

BIOGRAPHY

Family

My partner in life, Diana Durrand, is an artist. Our sons Daniel and Ian have put up with us for 26 and 22 years respectively. Daniel plays hockey, most recently in Joensuu, Finland; Ian has been mastering the skills of a drywaller in Langley, BC, but is planning on returning to school. They are both great guys.

Career

Presently I am Communications Officer with the Federation of BC Writers. Writing and storytelling in one form or another has been my passion, and I have pursued that vocation as a novelist, journalist and communications specialist through various phases of my life. Now I am giving myself more time to be a Personal Narrator (or memoirist) and creative writer. Career markers include:

- Community Journalist – 1981 to 1996
- Communications Manager – 1996 to Present
- Published Novelist – Since 2006

Beliefs

I believe living things are connected as expressions of an underlying, shared consciousness. We experience the life urge as individuals, but our individuality is an illusion too. When we come to understand ourselves deeply, we come to the amazing realization that we are facets of a world getting to know itself. I live for a time, but the greater consciousness I am part of exists forever.

Likes & Activities

In no particular order: the ocean, dogs (and just about every living species); kayaking on the ocean, soccer, philosophizing, fishing from my kayak on the ocean (and occasionally even catching something), reading, walking by the ocean... living (near the ocean)!

Volunteer & Social Action

The notion of 'contribution' is important to me. Except in my more desperate phases I have never worked for money; rather, I have looked for contributions I could make that would be valued, and for which I would be paid in order that I could continue making them. For the most part I have been fortunate to have worked at things I believe in and have enjoyed doing. More recently I am devoting more time to volunteering for:

- Green Party of BC: Mostly doing media relations
- Cool Aid: Writing and Photography for campaign & fundraiser to end homelessness
- Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria: Interested in building literary presence and encouraging collaboration between art forms.

WORKS



The Boy From Under (Smashwords, 2014) - Victor Daly, a successful family court lawyer in Vancouver, BC, finds himself on the hunt for his biological mother after he recognizes the victim of an unsolved missing-person case on the evening news. When DNA analysis confirms Crystal Doer was his mother, he follows a forensic trail back to his own birthplace – and into a horrifying world of imprisonment, perversion and abuse

Blowdown (Published, Cover to Cover, 2013) - Blowdown was written shortly after a devastating storm that struck Stanley Park in December 2006, knocking over gigantic Douglas firs as if they were bowling pins. It's the story of the relationship between a boy and Spirit Bird, an old woman who inhabited the park for centuries and knew everything there was to know about the creatures, plants and trees of 'The Place Between the Waters'.

Josh & the Magic Vial (Published, ThistleDown Press, 2006) - Josh Dempster, his friend Millie Epp and a streetwise kid named Ian Lytle find themselves at the center of an adventure that pits them against a subterranean power named Vortigen, ruler of the Sydean dimension. With the help of 19th Century Inspector Horace Puddifant and a reformed witch named Endorathlil, the three kids set out to save the world.

Einstein Dog (Published, ThistleDown Press, 2009) - Bertrand Smith's father, Alex, thinks he's making the world a better place by developing a breed of super-intelligent canines. But SMART Dogs turn out not to be such a good idea when a global arms dealer decides to 'dognap' the experimental litter to market as his next secret weapon.

SERVICES & WORKSHOPS

News Service - An independent journalist and communications manager with 30 plus years experience, I have the creative and technical skills individuals and organizations need to tell their stories in print, video or audio formats. If you are looking for someone to cover an event, do a feature, or to work with you on media relations.

Blog Content Provider - As a content provider for your blog or eNewsletter my commitment is to:

- Continuously improve the targeting and content of your blog based on your evaluation of any advice I have to offer.
- Adapt to your needs and style, building a client-provider relationship that keeps you on top of all aspects of the creative process.
- Offer a service that is affordable. My basic rate for a monthly 400 word post is \$200. That includes photos or graphic elements, interviewing, event coverage, writing, formatting and all other aspects of the work.
- Always work to your satisfaction.

Personal Narrative - Favorite family stories, complete memoir projects, corporate histories or themed recollections explored by a group... I bring my thirty-plus years of experience as a writer-editor plus a collaborative approach to each project. My job is to guide and support you through the process of telling YOUR story.

Celebrate Your Story - Personal stories in the form of narrative or memoir are a source of inspiration, fascination and joy. Personal Narrative captures all that wonderful energy and presents it in ways that resonate, bringing new perspectives about you to family, friends and communities. This hands-on activity or workshop gives up to ten participants the experience of exploring and sharing stories, sometimes on a common theme.

Get Into Real Fiction - RealFiction brings ten people who are not professional writers or actors together to create a genuine work of dramatic fiction and have some fun! The outcome is a graphic novella that literally brings you into the story. Facilitator/Author Craig Spence tailors each workshop to participants' goals. Workshops can be: based on age; deal with a specific theme; or be designed for selected groups and settings. The objective is Creative Fun in a supportive environment.