

Wayne's Q&A

1. *What made you decide to self-publish?*

The publishing industry has changed over recent years. While you can still buy great books traditionally published, the cold facts are it's an extremely competitive industry, and the barest fraction of books submitted see the light of day. I did try to find an agent and publisher using the traditional methods, but was unable to attract sufficient interest in what I wrote.

2. *Does that mean you wrote a bad book?*

Absolutely not! I wrote a great story that was substantially edited after being critiqued by many beta readers. Individual tastes will always vary, but I'm very proud of what I published, and many people who read VISITOR enjoyed the story.

3. *What are some of the challenges of going the self-publishing route?*

Independent authors, or indie authors, have a tough job, and I have a great deal of respect for indies after going through this process myself. You handle all aspects of publishing yourself, or sub-contract specific tasks such as cover design, editing, and publicity. The catch is you need money to do these things, but first need a product to make money. In short, like any business, it requires an investment and great deal of work to excel. Anyone who tells you it's easy to publish a book is gravely misinformed.

Many indie authors produce low-quality books that have not been properly edited or critiqued, and this glut of inferior product taints the market for those of us who do. I have to rise above so frustrated readers looking for traditional-quality material are able to find me, and then decide if the book description is something that appeals to them.

4. *Tell us a little bit about yourself.*

A Brooklyn native, I've lived in northeastern Pennsylvania since 1999. A networking systems engineer by day, I write at night and on weekends around house chores and family time. I enjoy walking, cooking, and when possible, reading. I like to be active in my community, and in the past have served on the Board of Directors of my residential community, and founded and served as President of a non-profit called Pocono Commuter, Inc.

5. *Tell us more about Pocono Commuter.*

Pocono Commuter, Inc. supported the growing commuter population in our region, helping them find friends and support during the economic boom that offered home ownership via extreme commute, and winding down after the real estate crisis forced many commuters to leave the region. We also adopted a highway where we picked up trash, and held annual picnics and holiday parties.

When the real estate crisis began, many commuters had to move away. Other factors such as a stronger local support structure by various media entities, and the meteoric rise of Facebook, pulled people away from our website, which was the cornerstone of our organization. After many successful years of helping people in our community, the Board of Directors decided it was time to go dormant and pursue other interests. For me, that was writing.

I maintain a Pocono Commuter Facebook group for commuters who would still like to connect.

6. *How did your work with Pocono Commuter help you as a writer?*

I've always been a bit of an introvert, and things like public speaking and interacting with strangers were outside my comfort zone. These are very important skills to have as an author, because marketing yourself is critical to success, and meeting fans an exciting prospect. The leadership role as President of a non-profit organization taught me how enjoyable these types of activities can be, and as a result I made many new friends.

I also did a great deal of writing, from drafting our Articles of Incorporation to press releases to business correspondences. As an author, it's important to always write as much as you can, no matter what it is.

Finally, I learned a great deal about running a business, and non-profit organizations. These are valuable skills that help me as a writer, and as an active member of my community.

7. *Your first published book, VISITOR, is science-fiction. Is that all you write?*

I love to write both science-fiction and fantasy material. Currently, I have no plans to write outside these genres, but down the road, who knows. I have many stories to tell.

8. *Do you plan to publish anything else?*

During the past 20 years or so, I had written 5 stories that required additional work before they would be ready for publication. VISITOR was one of those. A second, MYTHIKAL MAGIK, is near completion.

9. *Who are some of your favourite authors?*

I've always loved the classics in my genre, so authors such as Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Tolkien, Terry Pratchett...the list goes on for some time. I also enjoy reading other genres, so you can add many others. In general, a well-written story with interesting characters. The setting could be the future, another world, or our own world and time.

10. *What is your availability for public appearances?*

I'm generally available on the weekends, and some evenings. I plan to schedule as many book signings in my local area as possible. I'm also open to speaking at conferences and other events. I've learned a great deal about writing and publishing, and enjoy helping other aspiring authors. I'm also interested in attending activities that benefit the community.

11. *What is the best way to reach you?*

You can email me at author@WayneMeyers.com, or use the Contact form on my website at WayneMeyers.com. I also suggest you add your email address at the top of my website to join my mailing list.

I also have an author's page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WayneMeyersAuthor/>

12. *Where can we buy a copy of VISITOR?*

VISITOR is available on Amazon in both paperback and eBook formats at <https://www.amazon.com/Visitor-Wayne-Meyers/dp/1533151059/>. There is a clickable link at the top right menu of my website.