

The Little Creative Interview
with Damir Salkovic

Let's Meet...

Damir Salkovic

Damir is the author of the sci-fi thriller *Kill Zone*, the upcoming supernatural mystery *Always Beside You*, and of short stories featured in multiple horror and speculative fiction magazines and anthologies, including the *Lovecraft eZine*, *Dimension6*, and the *Year's Best Transhuman SF 2017*. He lives in Virginia with his wife and his feline writing assistant. An auditor by trade and traveler by heart, he does his best writing on cruise ships, thirty-plus thousand feet in the air, and in the terminals of far-flung airports.

1) When did you first begin expressing yourself creatively and how?

I wrote stories and drew a lot as a child, but at some point, stopped completely. Even then, I never dreamed of being a writer, or artist: it was just a way to sneak away into my own world and spend some time there. In my early thirties, I found myself with a long stretch of spare time on my hands. So, I read every book I could find, and somewhere along the way started thinking about creating my own stories. I still don't think of myself as a "writer," but find the activity to be both addictive and rewarding.

2) From where do you draw inspiration for your work?

Horror and dystopia? Just turn on the TV.

Sometimes I read technology articles and try to imagine worst-case scenarios. Other times I pick up kernels from tales I read, mix them together, and see if I can germinate an idea from the mess.

Most times, all I have to do is keep my eyes open. The people you know, the places you visit, are an endless source of stories, some inspirational, some tragic, all real and compelling. These stories can inspire your writing, even if you have to throw a vampire into the mix, or a Lovecraftian horror, or set them on a planet far, far away.

3) What work are you currently most proud of?

Having my debut novel, *Kill Zone*, accepted by a publisher was a major milestone. But I'm equally proud of *Always Beside You*, coming soon from Grinning Skull Press. It was the first novel I wrote, although published second, and it went through numerous revisions over the years. Writing it was a tremendous learning experience in terms of narrative engineering, characterization, etc. I can't say I got everything right, but I'm improving.

4) What advice would you give to others about the creative side of what you do?

Write what you enjoy writing. I've never belonged to the "write what you know" school of thought. You're committing a chunk of your time to churning out those words, time that you're not getting back. So you better be getting some enjoyment out of it. Unless you're making a decent living from it, in which case write whatever keeps making you money.

5) What advice would you give to others about the business side of what you do?

One of the pros of going with a traditional publisher is that they handle the business side of things. Even so, every bit of publicity helps (thanks Scott!). I've found writing and submitting lots of short stories to be useful – you get exposed to different editorial styles, connect with readers through the publisher's established channels, and (hopefully) build a following.

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<https://darkerrealities.wordpress.com>.

<https://www.amazon.com/Kill-Zone-Damir-Salkovic-ebook/dp/B0892VGDC3>

<https://m.barnesandnoble.com/w/kill-zone-damir-salkovic/1137067812>

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1023632>