

The Little Creative Interview
with Damien Larkin

Let's Meet...

Damien Larkin

Damien's debut Sci-Fi novel 'Big Red' was published in May 2019 by Dancing Lemur Press and is currently longlisted for the BSFA award for Best Novel. He is a founding member of the British and Irish Writing Community and their online magazine 'Bard of the Isles'. When not turning terrifying nightmares into novels, he works as a Planning Analyst and currently resides in Dublin, Ireland.

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

I started writing in 2017 after my app development side-business crashed and burned. I spent most of an entire day trying to figure out if it was worth sticking with it, but deep down, I wasn't happy. After some more thinking, I realized I'd always wanted to be a writer. It was always something I just brushed off or said I'd do in the future. I decided to pull the trigger and within three months had the first draft of a 100k word novel done.

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

I draw inspiration mostly from dreams and nightmares. I've always had a bit of an overactive imagination and because of that my dreams tend to be vivid and surreal. I once had this powerful nightmare about these traumatized soldiers screaming and in pain in some strange base on Mars. After I woke up, it stayed with me so I started asking questions about who they were, why they were there etc. The first two chapters of Big Red are based loosely on that nightmare!

3) What work are you currently most proud of?

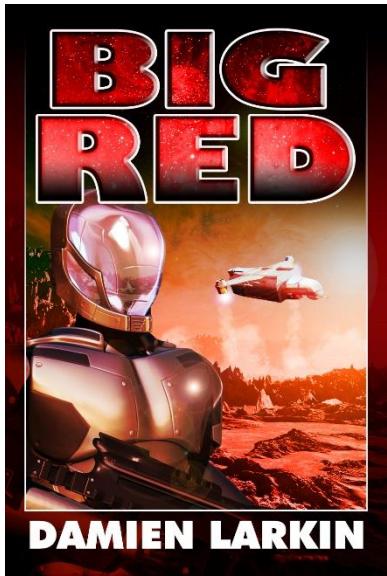
I'm definitely most proud of Big Red. It's a story that I spent a lot of time developing and really opened a lot of doors for me and my writing career. I still have a long way to go to get to where I want to be, but Big Red will always be the novel that helped start this journey.

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

Positive mindset is key. It's human to have doubts but don't be hard on yourself. Take every day as it comes and remember whether you write 400 words a day or 4000, you are a writer!

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

Hustle, hustle, hustle! If you can't find the time to write every day, try do something else. Build your social media following, connect with fellow writers and potential readers, send an email query, do some book or market research. Down time is definitely important but if you find yourself with free time, don't waste it by skimming through social media. Take one small step towards your goal. Eventually, those small steps all start to add up!



Big Red

We have always been here...

Traumatized by the effects of Compression travel, soldier Darren Loughlin holds the key to the fate of Earth's Martian colonies. With his Battalion decimated, his fractured memory holds the only clues to the colony-wide communications blackout.

With time running out, Darren pieces together his year-long tour of duty with the Mars Occupation Force. Stationed in the Nazi-founded New Berlin colony, ruled by the brutal MARSCORP, he recounts his part in the vicious, genocidal war against the hostile alien natives and all who question Terran supremacy.

But as his memories return, Darren suspects he is at the centre of a plot spanning forty years. He has one last mission to carry out. And his alien enemies may be more human than he is...

Amazon US: <https://www.amazon.com/Big-Red-Damien-Larkin/dp/1939844606>

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