

[Books In Sync Author Spotlight Interview With Heath D. Alberts](#)

[Books In Sync Modern Fantasy Author Heath D. Alberts Releases *Terminal Beginning*](#)



[Heath D. Alberts](#) is the Operations Manager of a contract manufacturing firm in Illinois. He lives with his wife, Wanda, and his cat in Rockton, IL. ['Terminal Beginning'](#) is his first novel, and he is currently at work on his second, 'Time & Time Again'.

Q: What makes you proud to be a writer from (Rockton, IL)?

A: I'm cynical, smarmy, sarcastic, sardonic, and all sorts of unpleasant things when I'm not bringing individuals to tears with laughter. Does that make me a quintchotomy? Is that even a word?

Sorry, off topic - back to pride: Hang on just a moment... Nope. Pride isn't even in the lexicon.

Q: What or who inspired you to become a writer?

A: I believe that I've always had a desire to tell a story. Whether humorous, anecdotal, serious, etc. I always seemed to find myself captivating an audience. Being fat and poor in Catholic schools for most of my juvenile life probably had a great deal to do with that defense mechanism.

That being said, I know for certain that the moment I realized that I could potentially write something marketable was Junior year in high school. My creative writing teacher took me aside after class one afternoon, and asked why I had elected not to send any of my work for consideration to *The National High School Writer*. I explained that I didn't feel that it was anything special, and that I had no desire nor expectation to the contrary.

Imagine my surprise, weeks later, when I was published. I inquired why he had sent one of my works without my knowing, and he responded genuinely, "Because it was good; and it was different. And I was fairly certain that they would publish it."

That moment changed my mindset – changed my considerations of self-worth as an author. And I could probably never express how grateful I am to him to this day for that one simple act of kindness and faith.

Q: When did you begin writing with the intention of becoming published?

A: I used to take time on the evenings when I needed to unwind, and just write what was on my mind: Hypothetical situations, random thoughts, conspiracy theories, jokes – even a random smattering and commingling of all of the afore-mentioned.

I also wrote for a local BBS newsletter, and was heavily into the real-time online community long before modems broke the 2400-baud barrier and people knew what the Internet had done for them lately. This was all before the advent of the blog, so I think in some sense my mind was already wired for them by the time they came along.

Here's the rest of the answer:

One night I had a dream. Blessing or curse, mine have always been extremely vivid, well cast, able to be manipulated, and interesting. I dreamt what eventually became the first sequence of this book. I found myself compelled to write it down for posterity, and there it sat for several years.

On one of my many PC migrations, I stumbled across it again and felt the niggling sensation that this work needed finishing. So I kept it for another few years, poking at it on rare occasion with no real vigor.

I don't specifically recall the date, but it was about ten years ago that I sat down in front of this work in earnest. I scrapped everything but the premise, and within eight months had completed what was to be the first draft of what would later become seven major revisions.

Q: Did your environment or upbringing play a major role in your writing and why?

A: As a child, I was encouraged to read. I read voraciously, and eventually moved on to whatever I could find in the deep recesses of our house. I read books that, in hindsight, were probably too advanced for someone of my age and yet I think that that unspoken challenge was what drove me to push on.

Q: Do you come up with your title (s) before or after you write the manuscript (s)?

A: I was better than halfway through with the original draft, and I still had no notion of what to call the thing. It almost seemed like an annoying symptom to contend with, rather than an occasion of joy. As the final components of the work fell into place, and the circularity of the work became clear, the name just became self-evident.

Q: Tell us why you write the genre (s) that you write?

A: I write what interests me. While this first work has loose religious underpinnings, my current work has exactly zero to do with religion and is very nearly a polar opposite.

My interests are varied. Probably too varied, as no one will play games of trivia with me; lots of mindless facts floating around up there.

Q: Tell us your most rewarding experience while in the writing process?

A: This was a double edged sword: The first time I felt like the drafts had come along far enough to be read by someone other than myself.

On one level, it was a frightening proposition, but I also knew that it was a necessary one. The positive feedback I received from my wife's family was astounding, while my own family received the work with little or no interest. While disappointed on one hand, I was emboldened on the other. This is why the book is dedicated to seven individuals, none of whom are related to me by blood.

Q: Tell us your most negative experience while in the writing process?

A: When my family did finally get around to reading it, their feedback was positive and negative at the same time. It was hard to hear things from individuals whose opinions you respect that you would otherwise care not to hear. Still, it improved the work and that, in the end, was what mattered.

Q: Tell us your most rewarding experience in your publishing journey?

A: Just finally holding a tangible copy of something that had been with me for the better part of a decade was gratifying. I didn't care who read it, I didn't care if I made any money. That moment was all that mattered.

Q: Tell us your most negative experience in your publishing journey?

A: Publishing is hard - exceedingly hard. For months I pored over books, online sites, and anything else I could get my hands on to discover how to be published. And the facts essentially pared themselves down to one disappointing, recurring theme: That it was all about who you knew. It appeared to be as simple as that. And that's where I fell short – I didn't know anyone who could help me on that level.

Q: What one positive piece of advice would you give to other authors?

A: Write for yourself first. Everything else is just fluffy cream filling.

Q: Who is your favorite author?

A: It really depends on the genre. I enjoy the works of Ayn Rand, Tim Dorsey, Douglas Preston & Joe Abercrombie, with the obligatory nod to Tolkien, Pratchett, Gaiman and Murakami thrown in there somewhere.

Current Book:

***“Terminal Beginning”* is the only one for sale at the moment.**

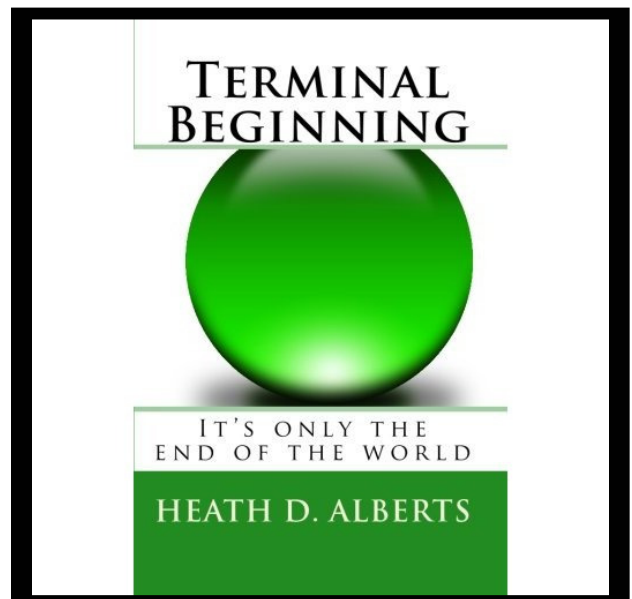
Format (s): Both print and ebook at the moment. Though expanded distribution seems to be a bit slow to blossom.

Q: What special projects are you working on now and what books do we have to look forward to in the future?

A: I'm still passively working on my second novel, "Time & Time Again", with no completion date on the horizon in the near-term. The bones of the novel can be summed up thusly: Think Terry Pratchett set in modern day Madison, and you've pretty much got the gist.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

A: Probably. Oh! I get asked about my e-mail address often. It's derived from the name of the dwarvish Hall of Records in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. As an avid bibliophile, and collector of modern and rare first editions, I needed something that rang true, with a hint of the esoteric. So now you know too. I also think that someone ought to lobby to bring back telegrams for no reason other than whimsical posterity.



[Heath D. Alberts Website](http://www.heathnwanda.com/)
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[Heath D. Alberts Blog](http://www.heathnwanda.com/blog.htm)
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Heath D. Alberts Joined Books In Sync In May 2010

[Heath D. Alberts Author's Page At Books In Sync](http://www.booksinsync.com/heathdalberts.html)
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Books In Sync/Cold Coffee Management
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