

[Books In Sync Author Spotlight Interview With Norwood Holland](#)

[Books In Sync Author Norwood Holland](#) Releases ['Sleepless Nights'](#) His Novel In [The Drew Smith Series](#).



Author Norwood Holland Is A Lawyer And Freelance Writer.

Washington, DC (May 3, 2011) -- Sleepless Nights, the first released of the four volume Drew Smith Series, is loosely based on DC's infamous 2003 Colonel Brooks Tavern murders. The protagonist in Norwood Holland's new novel is like no other before. An African American attorney managing a successful solo practice finds himself enmeshed in complicated relationships and complicated cases. A stark difference from other fictional detectives Drew Smith is a distinctly new type, professional, single, urbane, a good looking playa charming the ladies, clients and Judges alike all in the pursuit of justice.

Drew Smith takes on shady clients solving cases fraught with danger and romantic intrigue. The legal wizard, while frolicking with an exotic dancer succumbs to a midlife crisis. Haunted by nightmares foreshadowing an awakening reveals an empty life prodding Smith

to find solace in the arms of therapist Zoe Settles.

Life gets more complicated when the attorney is pressed into service solving a vicious robbery that leaves three dead and the city enraged. Drew Smith and his devoted sidekick Julio Mejia work to free his young client on the trail of a crazed gunman responsible for a growing body count. In the end, the gunman and the dancer combine forces to bring Smith down. When death comes knocking Drew Smith faces the fight of his life.

A break out novel, Sleepless Nights abounds with despicable and lovable characters plus all the universal elements: love, sex, jealousy, betrayal, murder and revenge. It has a narrative depth that sets it apart from the current flood of Urban Fiction. The author conveys a dark hard-boiled view of the underside, sprinkled with sex and violence, elements that make the contemporary genre popular among the teen and 20 something as well as the mature readers looking for a well written hardboiled yarn with compelling characters.

Q: What makes you proud to be a writer from (Country) the United States?

A: The African American experience has much to teach the world as do other American heritage experiences, i.e. Asian, Native, and Arab etc.) Each has it distinctive stories of struggle, survival, hardship and triumph. I am proud to have the freedom to be able to relay my stories as experienced from an African-American perspective.

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

A: At an early age I discovered reading could take me far away my provincial existence. I marveled at how writers could evoke strong emotions and paint vivid pictures. I remember reading authors like Harold Robbins and Langston Hughes and being left with the desire to do what they did: tell good stories.

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

A: The summer between high school and college. I signed up for the Writer's School correspondence course. Unfortunately at the time I was not ready for independent study.

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

A: It did I felt disadvantaged being a black child in a white suburban environment. I came of age during the sixties and saw a great deal of racial injustice. I wanted to address the issues of racial injustice not so much for the elevation of Blacks as for the education of Whites.

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

A: Somewhere in between.

Q: Why do you write in the genre(s) that you've chosen?

A: Fiction provides a great platform for escape to other worlds offering rich vicarious experiences without leaving your chair.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience while in the writing process?

A: The decision to set out and write a book and actually doing it was a huge accomplishment. But sticking with it right through publication provided a great deal of reward and satisfaction. The most rewarding experience is in realizing a good book can be a gift that keeps on giving opening doors and providing new opportunities as well as additional challenges.

Q: What has been your most negative experience while in the writing process?

A: Rejection by agents and editors particularly the insensitive ones who reject without a hint or reason why. I believe if a writer takes the time and effort to make a submission I believe an agent or editor should at least offer a few comments on their rejection. Many want to be writers give up and abandon their dreams because of rejection when a few words of advice would encourage them to keep trying.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience in your publishing journey?

A: The learning curve has been steep, but I enjoy learning trade and making my own executive decisions. I know this project rests on one pair of shoulders and that's mine.

Q: What has been your most negative experience in your publishing journey?

A: The literary agent whom I had met at a writing conference--a supposedly publishing industry shaker and mover--who refused to respond to my submission query and several follow-ups. What I later came to see as arrogance left an indelible impression on how some agents operate.

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

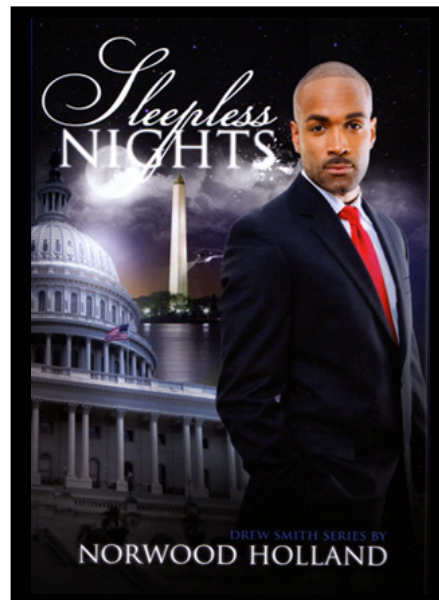
A: Stick with it, get professional help particularly an editor/writing coach. Attend writing conferences to network, and subscribe writing magazines. Learn as much about the publishing profession as possible.

Q: Who is your favorite author and why?

A: It depends on what day it is. I have so many favorite authors. It would be unfair and untrue to name just one, but I'll give you four that come to mind, Charles Chesnutt, Langton Hughes, Chester Himes and James Weldon Johnson. All were African American who overcame great obstacles to publish and did so with great success.

Current Book: [Sleepless Nights: The Drew Smith Series](#)

Sleepless Nights abounds with despicable and lovable characters. Trial attorney Drew Smith, a solo practitioner, takes on shady clients solving cases fraught with danger and romantic intrigue. Through Sleepless Nights the urban legal wizard, while frolicking with an exotic dancer, succumbs to a midlife crisis. Haunted by nightmares foreshadowing an awakening reveals an empty life but Smith finds solace with therapist Zöe Settles. In an already complicated life Smith is pressed into service when a vicious robbery leaves three dead and the city enraged. Drew Smith and his devoted sidekick Julio Mejia work to free his young client on the trail of a crazed gunman responsible for a growing body count. In the end, the gunman and the dancer combine forces to bring Smith down. When death comes knocking Drew Smith faces the fight of his life.



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[Amazon Purchase Link](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Sleepless-Nights-Smith-Norwood-Holland/dp/0983165602/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1309660683&sr=1-1

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

A: The Drew Smith Series has 4 volumes. I'm working on the second which I hope to release in December.

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

A: My writing has been compared to Walter Mosely and George Pelacanos, both have wide appeal. The reception Sleepless Nights has so been overwhelmingly positive. It should do well, but as a self-publisher marketing can be more than just a notion. I hope the readers who read and enjoy Sleepless Nights will spread the word and help to make it an even greater success.

Author Norwood Holland's Blog: <http://www.EditorialIndependence.com>
Author Norwood Holland's Website: <http://www.SleeplessNightsNovel.com>

Norwood Holland Joined Books In Sync On July 1, 2011
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