

[Books In Sync](#) Author Spotlight Interview With [Stephen Cheek](#)

[Books In sync Fiction Suspense Author Stephen Cheek's Books Include Cane and Able Showing His Talent For Storytelling. Stephen Cheek Just Released His Novel 'The Hunt'.](#)



Born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, in 1950, [Stephen Cheek](#) finished high school in 1968, later attended Mississippi State University and graduated in 1972 with a degree in landscape architecture. For sixteen years he was in private practice designing commercial and residential projects throughout Mississippi. In 1988, he joined his father's highway construction firm.

He lives with his wife Sherrie in their turn of the century colonial style home in the downtown historic district of Kosciusko. His handiwork is seen in the home's beautiful New Orleans style courtyard surrounded by an eight-foot brick wall. They have three grown children, Corey, Megan and Logan, all of whom live in Mississippi.

[Stephen Cheek](#) began writing when he was in a rock band during his high school years. He discretely kept a detailed diary of the band's performances and years later when the band reunited; he picked up his pen again and resumed writing. In 2000 he astonished all of the band members with a copy of the journal. With their encouragement that he should write a REAL book, he decided to try his hand at it. At that time, he had already written one children's book, a compilation of stories he had made up for his own children. That early book was Catfish Cowboy and Mr. Turtle.

Q: What makes you proud to be a writer from Kosciusko, Mississippi?

A: Kosciusko, Mississippi is a hard one to spell and say. That alone is a task for anyone who is traveling through. However, Kosciusko is small town USA located in central Mississippi, in the heart of the South. Living here and experiencing this setting is something most people will never understand. It's moving. There are good people here with deep cultural roots and moral fiber that will do anything for anyone, regardless of race or color.

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

A: Mississippi has always been a state that has grown entertainment stars, country music stars and authors. It must be in the water or better yet what I mentioned above. You have to be born and live here. Mississippi is my home and what I write about is the people and their characters. Every line I write is a scene that I have witnessed by road sign, dirt road, truck, or field. The people are beautiful in every sense of the word either by their color, class, education or stupidity. All make up this writing haven called Mississippi.

I really don't know how I was inspired to write. Maybe it started by me keeping a journal in high school and progressed from there. After having children, I began telling bedtime stories, which became popular with overnights and relatives. Later I decided to write down my stories. One day someone read my

journal and told me I should write a book. I had never thought about that but decided to give it try. Oh! What I learned from there?

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

A: After a few years and much grief of correcting errors, I seriously considered trying to get published. By now, my high school English teacher, my wife, a friend and another professional editor had all helped. Still there were errors. This was all about 2007.

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

A: Maybe. Not sure on that. For the book of Cane and Able I think my upbringing with farm ties helped tremendously. My father owned a highway construction company, as well, where I was working at a very young age. I worked with blacks a lot and they were like family to me in so many ways.

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

A: I had the title to Cane and Able within the first two lines written. It fit too well. Black and white, evil and good, and the spiritual aspect of the book made it an easy name keeper.

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

A: Fiction-suspense is the genre I choose because it's a good fit for my imagination. Too, I know that there has to be some thriller part of any book to keep the hook set.

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

A: The best experience in the process of writing was when my high school teacher told me she loved the book. My most rewarding experience after completion was when my first book signing was such a great success. I was later invited by someone to be a guest speaker in another town.

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

A: The most negative in the process, was the rejections by agents. Too, by mistake, I sent a non-edited book for review. Of course, the errors were enormous and costly.

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

A: Take my advice and throw all books with notable errors away.

Q: Who is your favorite author?

A: I think my favorite author is Greg Isles. I have not read all of his books but what I have I've enjoyed. I like his pace and genre.

Q: What Format (s) are your books in: Print Only.....E-Book Only....or Both.

A: I have my books in Print and E-book.

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

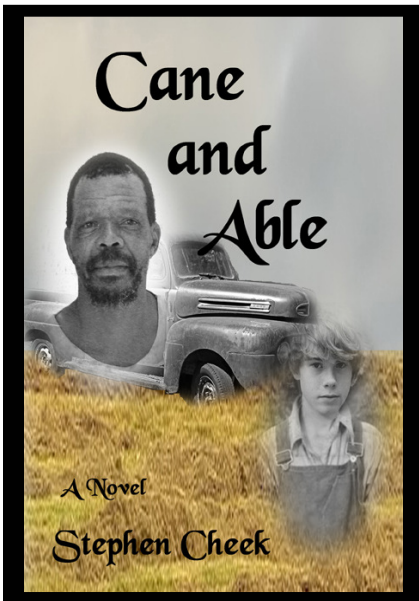
A: Another book that I am writing, which I am enjoying writing more than any will be called "Lost but Found." Not a religious book by far, but one that is very high-tech. The suspense falls within DNA testing, science and assassinations.

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

A: Learning to write is not magic. It's a gift and craft combined. I think a lot of people can write if they stay with it. It's like painting or planting a garden. The more you do, the better you get. You know it too, because you can always look back and see where you have progressed.

Current Books:

Cane and Able and The Hunt.



**Featuring: The Hunt by [Stephen Cheek](#)
From The Author Of Cane and Able...**

A defiant gangster from rural Mississippi is sentenced to prison. His twin brother maneuvers their small time business into a sophisticated drug trafficking operation. After his release from prison, they reunite. Trouble begins when they are ordered by a cartel supplier to stow a planeload of drugs for short-term storage.

On the night of the drop, the perplexity of events upturns. The plane crashes. The FBI is not far behind. Assigned to the case is one of their top special agents. This would be his last case before retiring. Burned out and on the verge of losing his family, he makes a daring move to commandeer a corporate helicopter out of Birmingham to fly into the rural setting of Zama, Mississippi. The charred remains of the plane are found, but no bodies.

Meanwhile, two more brothers are about to take a 5-hour hunting trip, a once in a lifetime adventure down the Lobucha river, a swamp with a reputation of its own. The brothers, a young black boy and a squirrel dog named Spot push-off on a floating trip that almost costs them their lives.

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[Stephen Cheek's Website](http://www.cheekbooks.com/)

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Stephen Cheek Joined Books In Sync In May 2010

<http://www.booksinsync.com/stephencheek.html>

Books In Sync/Cold Coffee Management

Submission Date: May 2011

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