



AVENGARDE

Coming November 15th, 2016

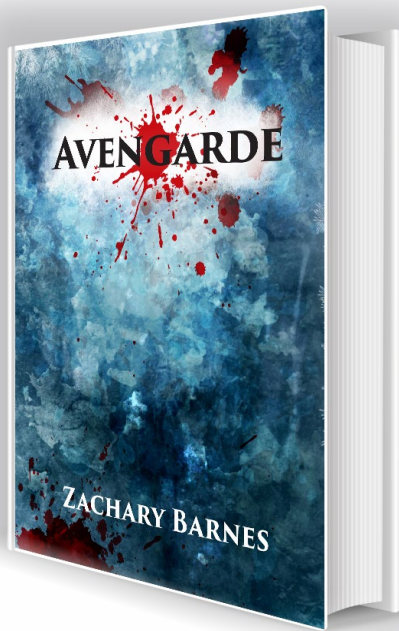
From PandaMonk Publishers

2016 MEDIA KIT

ZACHARY BARNES

Available for Interviews

ABOUT THE BOOK



*TWO OUTCASTS,
TWO GENOCIDAL ARMIES,
ONE ANCIENT WAR-TORN CITY*

This is the tale of Taveol, the maimed and clever mercenary who has found one final place of refuge: a city of ice and blood, perched on the frozen edge of the known world. Here, in the city of Avengarde, he believes he is safe from the ghosts of his mercenary past.

But when Taveol harbors Aerwyn—a wounded Fae fugitive—on the eve of an oncoming ethnic cleansing, the two exiles are caught in the middle of a vast racial conflict that is tearing their city apart, stone by stone. And when Taveol's nemesis arrives at the head of a genocidal warband, the paths to survival and to revenge become that much harder to differentiate.

Encircled by enemies old and new, Taveol must choose to either save himself or risk everything for the culture and people he has grown to love.

Avengarde will be available for purchase on Amazon and Barnes & Noble online on November 15th, 2016, and will retail for \$29.99 USD. Presale begins November 7th.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



A Pennsylvania transplant, Zachary Barnes is a fantasy author who has been self-publishing since 2007. Barnes, an avid reader and artist all his life, first ventured into the world of storytelling by competitively co-writing short stories with his equally-bored sister, Rachael. Only in 2005 did Barnes' interest in writing become serious when the substantive worlds of Robert Jordan and George R. R. Martin inspired him to create his own version.

Barnes' next development as a writer came during his senior year of high school, after a sports-related injury ended his wrestling season two months early. Finding an abundance of structured free time that had once been taken up by practice, Barnes was able to focus his energy on fleshing out a story that began as a Scholastic Writing Competition piece but quickly evolved into something much lengthier. Over a feverish six months, this piece became Barnes' most recently published novel, *Winter's Throne*, which debuted just before his 2010 graduation and received high accolades from his school friends and, of course, his mother.

Although Barnes went to college at James Madison University for Music Education, he was eventually called back to writing in the form of a student-taught class on novel writing, which Barnes proposed, developed, and then facilitated with the guidance of his education professors. Both buoyed by the zeal of his writing peers and caught within the social upheaval of an impending graduation and the subsequent move and job search, Barnes found inspiration for *Avengarde* in his final weeks at JMU.

Over the following three years, Barnes secured a position at the Annandale Reading and Writing Center within the Virginia Community College System. It was through this opportunity that Barnes met his publishers at PandaMonk and began the publication process of *Avengarde*. This novel marks Barnes' debut in traditional publishing and will be released on November 15, 2016. Currently, Barnes is the assistant manager and lead tutor at the Reading and Writing Center at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale.

When he's not writing or tutoring, you might find Zachary and his girlfriend Lani trying new recipes and restaurants, backpacking through National Parks, and dreaming big dreams, in that order.

Photo credit: Kassandra Hoffmeister

Chapter 7: Shadows and Portents

Though my burning inn lay behind us, I could still feel its phantom heat warming my back. We would overnight in a Clan-side warehouse, *if I could find the damn thing, that is*. I tried my best to keep my bearings as we fled through the twisting streets. Avengarde was the oldest city in the north—in the world, some would claim—and she was accordingly scarred. After countless years of construction and collapse, conquests, floods, fires, and pogroms, the visible city was in fact built upon seven other buried cities, each collapsed and dead with only a breathless hint of ancient memory remaining. Our escape route through this cacophony of new and old swirled in my head and every turn felt wrong.

We had one thing going for us: Avengarde's residents had unanimously elected to respect the coming cold of winter, and for a blessed while, the streets were empty. But luck like that can never last.

Snow-muffled footfalls, *crunching* from the road ahead, set my heart racing. After running through a mental list of people most likely to be roaming the streets on an evening as cold as this one, I concluded that those footfalls belonged to someone either dangerous or so mad I wouldn't want to meet them in an alley anyway. We took shelter in a clever little pocket of shadow and waited for the owners of those footsteps to appear.

Not a moment later, a column of white-armored men appeared from the mouth of the alley. Aerwyn and I exchanged quick glances, shivering against the ice-pocked stone. We waited until they had marched far out of sight before cautiously regaining the street.

"They know," Aerwyn whispered, lips blue from the cold. She stomped her rag-wrapped feet in the dirty snow.

"They can't have heard about the inn already," I muttered, shaking my head. "It's too soon."

"Then why are they here?"

I walked in worried silence. "I don't know."

SAMPLE INTERVIEW

QUESTIONS

1. Why write speculative fiction, specifically fantasy?
 2. What have authors like George R.R. Martin done for fantasy?
 3. What direction is the fantasy genre headed?
 4. Where would you like to see fantasy go, as a genre?
 5. How does *Avengarde* fit into the genre?
 6. What makes *Avengarde* particularly relevant to today's society?
 7. What do you look to for inspiration as a writer?
 8. What prompted you to become an author?
 9. What is your favorite part of *Avengarde*?
 10. What do you enjoy about the writing process?
-
-



CONNECT WITH ZACHARY

For more information, please contact:


Zachary Barnes

717.903.9038

zachbarnes@me.com

 www.zacharybarnes.us

 facebook.com/zacharybarnesonwriting

 @ZacharyBarnes4

Review copies of the book, digital excerpts, headshots, and high-res graphics available upon request.

Print ISBN: 978-0990517603



Photo credit: Kassandra Hoffmeister

