

FAQ

KEN ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Where did you get the idea for *Xavier: A Hero No More*?

The idea started from a simple concept I had a long time ago when I was playing football. I use to autograph collectors' cards all the time and I remember licking the envelopes until my tongue went dry. I wondered if someone could put arsenic or poison on it, and from that the idea was born. That was some 16 years ago but I always kept that idea and a friend of mine challenged me to write something so I started out with that concept in mind.

Is the character, Xavier, modeled after any one football player or athlete?

No particular football player but a lot of retired players. Most players are good people although we sometimes make bad investments (myself included) so when I write, I write for a whole.

What part of Xavier is you?

The good part, I hope. The part about the bad knee is definitely me.

Former NFL player, entrepreneur and now author. How did that happen? Have you always been a writer?

Believe it or not, I use to be really shy and I tried writing to express myself better. I've always had an active imagination but putting it on paper was hard. I started off learning how to type with a program called *Mavis Beacon*. I then took a shot at writing.

Who are your favorite authors?

James Patterson and Dean Koontz. You can tell that my books have a lot of James Patterson's style although he is the master. I am just trying to create something and hopefully go to his level. It is like I am in high school playing and he is a pro. I want to get to where he is at one day.

What are you most passionate about?

I enjoy helping people. I never thought that I would make it to the pros coming from high school as a dropout. I am doing things that I never thought I would be able to do and so I want to develop my company, create some success with my books and then be able to go out and tell people how it happened. Create a road map that they can follow. It is not enough to just believe in your dreams, sometimes you have to be given a path or outline to follow.

Do you have a mentor who helps you as a writer?

I have a lot of people supporting my writing but in the very beginning, there was a lady named Cynthia Rush who was a school teacher and an all-around good person. She would always encourage me and believe in me even when my writing was horrible.

What do you hope readers get out of Xavier: A Hero No More?

There is no real goal other than to have a fun time reading it. The test for me was completion. I have so many manuscripts lying around that are 50 pages into it or halfway finished but not completed. My goal was to complete this book, see it all the way through and for people to say, good for you, good book. Not because I was a football player but because the book was good. The coolest things would be to have as many, if not more, fans of my books than I had in football.

Who is your favorite character in the book?

I think I like Xavier, I have always loved that name and so he is the one, plus he is the most like me.

Will this be a series?

Yes, if people enjoy this one, I already have the other one in mind.

Any advice for new writers?

Yes, just do it. Start with something. Decide why you are doing it also. If you are doing it for fun, do it for fun. Enjoy yourself. Book writing is hard but I guess it is like everything else. You have to take that first step and then move from there. Gather people around you that are honest and want to help. They will push you and also gently correct you. Just remember, enjoy, enjoy. You are taking a blank sheet of paper and creating life. How cool is that?