William Timothy Murray

Short Bio

William Timothy Murray was born and raised in a small town of the Deep South and now lives in the Appalachian foothills of northeast Georgia.

He enjoys stargazing, playing and repairing guitars, and listening to music (right now, he is really into the somber and lush music of Benjamin Botkin and Erich Wolfgang Korngold).

He is not sure whether his favorite author is Charles Dickens or Patrick O'Brian. His favorite wise character from a classic novel is Faria. His favorite not-so-wise character from a classic novel is Barnaby Rudge.

If he had to fight a duel and could choose the weapons, it would be trebuchets at three hundred yards.

His favorite place is sitting before a crackling fireplace with a bowl of popcorn, a glass of sweet iced tea, and a good book.

He keeps a small writing desk in an old barn. There, amid a clutter of maps, drawings, and books, his memories and experiences join with all the tales he has read to inform and disturb his pen.

Medium Bio

William Timothy Murray was kidnapped as a baby and transported to another dimension where he spent most of his life seeking a way back to his home world. Meanwhile, he fell in love and married an enchanting princess. When an evil wizard attacked his castle, William was thrown through the cosmos and back to his own world, dragging his hapless wife along with him. Ever since, William has been chronicling the history of the magical world that he and his wife miss and long for. He thinks that if enough people read about that world, a space-time portal will open, leading the way back.

William Timothy Murray enjoys falling off horses at full gallop and being dragged across rocky fields. He is also fond of blowing himself up in his mad-scientist laboratory. When it is too dark to catch rainbows in a jar, he peers through his telescope scanning the moon for signs of cheese. William suffers terrible bouts of heebie-jeebies that last for days after walking through a spider web. He knows that he should someday learn to play tic-tac-toe, but he fears it is beyond his mental faculties, so he sticks to writing epic fantasy tales instead, which he suspects may be less time-consuming.

William Timothy Murray does not believe that the sky is the limit, nor that hindsight is always twenty-twenty. He will eat cabbage only when required in order to be a polite dinner guest. His favorite drink is coffee. His favorite mixed drink is coffee with cream and sugar.

If William Timothy Murray could have dinner with his choice of any famous historical person, it would be Captain Jack Aubrey. If with any famous fictional person, it would be Winston Churchill.

William Timothy Murray

Long Bio

William Timothy Murray was born and raised in a small town of the Deep South and now lives in the Appalachian foothills of northeast Georgia. He has had a wide variety of jobs since an early age, putting him shoulder-to-shoulder with people from every walk of life, from many cultures, and from many countries. In addition to his three-plus decades working for a large research library, Murray worked as a restaurant manager, a farm laborer, factory worker, a mechanic, a radio disc jockey, a construction worker, and a Hollywood research consultant, just to name a few of his paying jobs.

Murray has had his share of adventures, too. He was almost swallowed alive by a swamp bog, nearly fell down an abandoned well, and once passed himself off as a carnival huckster to help track down a missing young girl. Along the way he learned how to fly a small plane, sail a boat, run away from bears, and fall ungracefully from a galloping horse.

For as long as he can remember, he has had a love of stories, and he has listened to countless tales told to him in person, often in private. He has never stopped listening. He has never stopped reading, either. Like many boys of his generation, grew up on a steady diet of classic adventure tales, legends, and folklore. Since a very early age, libraries have been among his favorite places to be, so it should be no wonder that libraries are important to his tales.

Those who know him best know that even his fantasy works draw upon his experiences and his love of stories and storytellers. When one of his characters is trying to handle a small sailboat all by himself during a violent storm, we catch a glimpse at Murray's own experience. When we read that another character is awed and intimidated by a great library, Murray relates his own been-there-felt-that-way experience. His stories jab at prejudice, question blind loyalty, decry child poverty and abuse, and praise friendship, honesty, and love. Above all, Murray writes about people who struggle to do the right thing in spite of the price they must pay. We come to understand, through his characters, that self-doubt and reluctance is crucial when it comes real courage and determination. And that sometimes, when you most need help, your most powerful allies emerge from the meek and the humble.

The Year of the Red Door is Murray's massive five-volume work of immersive epic fantasy. It is not only a portal into another world—one full of mystery, magic, and adventure—but it is also a window into the human heart. Readers continually say that they feel as if they really know his characters, as if they are right there with them. Among the main characters of The Year of the Red Door, none are supremely confident, none are superhuman, and none are immune to pain and sorrow. By coming along with these characters, their quest becomes our quest, their heartbreak becomes ours, and their triumphs are our own.

If you ever have a chance to corner Murray while he is in a storytelling mood, he might share similar tales from "real" life that he has heard and come across. He may be the mature author of several books, but he still delights in telling stories and sharing glimpses into the lives of others.

These days, he keeps a small writing desk in an old barn. There, amid a clutter of maps, drawings, and books, his memories and experiences join with all the tales he has read to inform and disturb his pen.