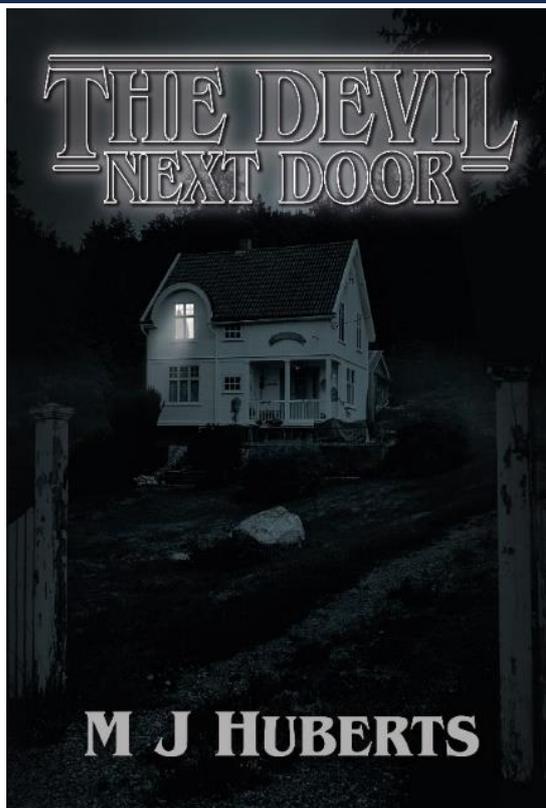


THE DEVIL NEXT DOOR

M J HUBERTS



WHEN NOT TRYING TO CATCH A CRAZED KILLER, LUKE'S MAIN INTERESTS ARE GIRLS AND GETTING WASTED...

Living in the mountains on the outskirts of Melbourne during the mid-'90s, Luke and his grunge bandmates find themselves caught in the middle of a series of murders that shock their quiet hillside town.

And when a suspicious stranger moves into the house next door, one with a secret in the back shed that may hold the key to the next possible victim, the boys must match wits with an insidious and uncanny evil that puts them all at risk...

AUTHOR BIO

Michael has been a fan of horror fiction since he was a boy and enjoys stories full of kills, thrills and twists. Michael grew up in the Dandenong Ranges and has lived for the past two decades in Japan and the UK. After recently returning to Australia with his family, he wanted to write a horror story set in his hometown. Michael holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Monash University and an MBA from the University of Oxford.

ISBN	9781922751607
Publication Date	JULY 28 2022
Genre	Fiction, Horror, Thriller
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Location	Melbourne, VIC

Price available on our site

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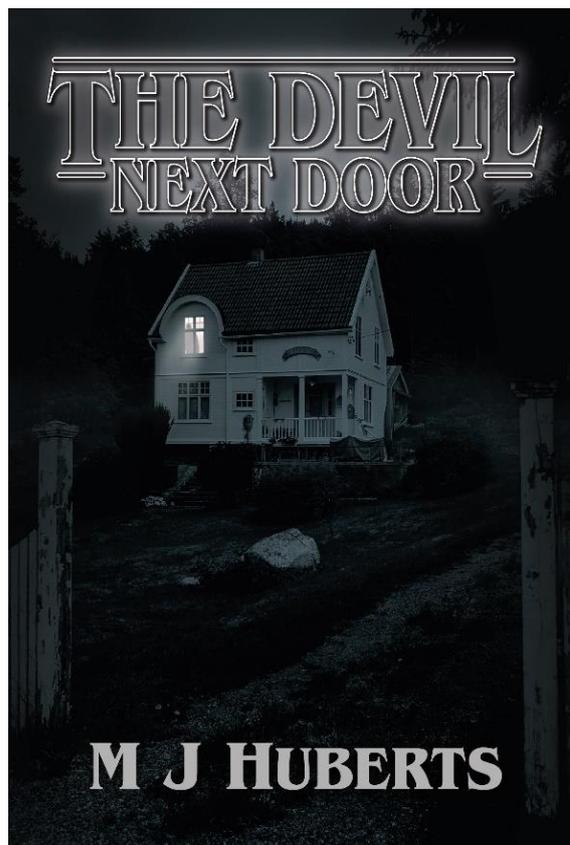
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'THE DEVIL NEXT DOOR'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

A challenging time in my professional life brought about some soul searching about what I want to be and what I'd like to achieve. I've always wanted to write a book; I've always felt I have a writing style that could be enjoyable, and I think (hope) I can come up with interesting concepts. I realized that to keep myself sane over a difficult time where I was stuck in the house that I should try and do something creative (as therapy) and, once started, it became an obsession to see it through to the finish (a bit like deciding to do a marathon).

HOW HAD YOU DECIDED ON THE BEST CHARACTERS FOR 'THE DEVIL NEXT DOOR'?

Luke and Max are two sides of my own personality and Will and Dianne are fairly tied to people I know in my life. I think I write Max the best (if I had to choose).

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND ALSO THE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

The characters were familiar to me, and the subject matter was just a fun concept that came into my brain. I played around with it until it felt like it had a fun structure.

DO YOU WANT EACH BOOK TO STAND ON ITS OWN, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO BUILD A BODY OF WORK WITH CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EACH BOOK?

Ideally, I'd like to create a 3-part series that tracks the development of Luke and his friends, and gradually reveal a broader conspiracy that underpins the town they live in. I have a sketch of where the story goes but haven't really made a push into writing the second novel as yet.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE BOOKS?

I'd like to complete the trilogy. I'd like to also have a mini campaign around the hills where I play music and where the book and the show complement one another and can create a small little community of like-minded folks.

HOW DO YOU SELECT THE NAMES OF YOUR CHARACTERS?

Generally, I select random names that were common growing up. Several characters who are specific to my childhood have been given their middle names as a wink and nod.

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