



Hoboken author has new book out for boys

Friday, February 12, 2010

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Based on Hoboken resident Aaron Starmer's career history, you'd think he was a traveler. He's worked in the travel book industry, for an Africa-based safari company and he co-wrote a book on the best places to camp in New York.

But, all the while, Starmer, a 33-year-old author, was at home in Hoboken. A resident since 1999, Starmer could be spotted around town writing in the Hoboken Public Library study room, Elysian Park and Frozen Monkey (before it closed for renovations). "The goal is to change it up enough that it keeps your creative juices going," Starmer said.

His latest book *DWEEB* published by Delacorte Press, a division of Random House, last October was aimed at 10- and 11-year-olds. Set at a middle school in Ho-Ho-Kus, a fictional small city in New Jersey, five boys must prove their innocence to a vice principal who locked them in the school's basement.

Starmer's targeting of his book audience of fifth- and sixth-grade boys started as a sort of consumer's gripe. "Why aren't there books for boys that I would've wanted to read when I was 10 or 11?" he wondered.

He said that, while books on teenage vampires and Harry Potter were monopolizing bookshelves, there was a growing need for "more intelligent books for boys that were not just action stories or potty humor." Starmer said he grew up on "The Goonies" and Roald Dahl.

In order to channel his inner child, he bounced ideas off of his nephews and reminisced about his middle school life, which consisted of going through puberty and being confused.

Since many publishers don't have the dough nowadays to send authors on a book tour, Starmer made his own attempt to get the word out.

He gave a lecture about heroes in children's literature at Texas Book Festival in Austin last November.

Starmer is currently midway through his next book a semi-comedic apocalyptic novel aimed at young adults.

Aside from Hoboken's various quiet hideaways, the key to creative inspiration for Starmer often stems from listening to music while working, preferably indie rock or Americana, whether or not said music is appropriate for the book's desired age group. For example, he recently wrote on Twitter: "Listening to Drive-By Truckers while writing a children's book. If ends up all about whiskey and muscle cars, blame Mike Cooley."

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