1. You have an extensive resume, filled with amazing screenplays, informative self-help books, cozy mysteries and so much more. If you had to pick, which genre is your favorite to write?

Thank you, Nico from SciFi and Scary for this opportunity to connect with your audience.

Hands down, science fiction and fantasy are my favorite. The very first book I wrote was [*Prophecy of Thol*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/) (POT), but back in the late 70s when I first started writing, the title was Second Chance.

I love creating worlds. Doesn’t matter if it’s dystopian ([*The Last Dog*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/)), a parallel world ([*Prophecy of Thol*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/)), or planets in deep space ([*Forced Dreams*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/)).

But, honestly, I love each genre that I’ve written.

The cozy mystery series about the [Alcott Family Adventures](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/alcott-chocolate-books/) I’ve created was a riot to write. I get to kill people in unique ways ☺ These wealthy eccentric older women and the large extended family have so many quirks. I get to think up all sorts of goofy settings and situations. Everyone loves the family tree they can download for free from my [website](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/) to keep track of the extensive cast of characters. There’s a lot of them! The series is as follows: [*Hot Chocolate, Bitter Chocolate, Spicy Chocolate*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/alcott-chocolate-books/)*,* and soon *Nutty Chocolate* (2019).

My self-help books are side-steps from my lengthy career as a technical writer*.* [*Mastering Your Money*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/other-books/) won the New England Book Festival eBook competition several years ago. The funny thing about it is two literary agents rejected it stating that no one used checkbooks, everyone did online banking. Well folks, unless you understand the concept of a check register, you are doomed to fail. Glad the competition people saw the wisdom in the pages. I was wicked. I wrote to the two agents and told them the book no one wanted just won a competition.

[*What’s Breaking Your Budget*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/other-books/) stemmed from what I determined was missing information from many of the popular budget books and courses. In my book, I delve into some pretty ugly things that people just do not want to admit to. In the end, you’ll know exactly what’s breaking your budget and how to fix it. [*What’s Breaking Your Budget*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/other-books/)recently won an eLit award.

I also have a tiny book called [*Writers Preparation Handbook*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/other-books/). This guide prepares you to get organized so you can sit down and write and not make a mess of things.

1. I love your Puppy Baby Book! What inspired that project?

Quite frankly, I was having a meltdown at the kitchen table while looking at my son’s baby books.

My doggie-daughter, Shasta Annie Ireland, was on her dog bed and I turned to her and said, “Oh, Shasta. I wish I had a baby book for you!”

Well, needless to say, the proverbial lightbulb went off. I grabbed the baby books, ran into my home office and started the process. I actually went out and bought several baby books to see what each contained and then translated those concepts into [*The Puppy Baby Book*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/puppy-baby-book-2/).

I could not find an agent or publisher that deemed the puppy book worthy of publishing so I created my own company, Artistic Origins, and self-published it.

The **20th anniversary** of the IPPY award-winning book is approaching (2020). It has been a steady seller all these years.

1. What challenges did you face when you decided to begin writing novels as well as screenplays? How is your process similar or different between the two?

This is going to be a very long response to your question!

When I first started writing I literally didn’t know what I was doing. I had never written anything before with even a hint at publishing. I figured that was way out of my scope. POT was started in 1979 and I finished it in the mid 1980s.

Dick Perry, author of *One Way to Write Your Novel* (now out of print), was my mentor in those early days. I read his book hoping to understand how to write certain things in POT. His publisher was kind enough to forward my letter to him. He called me one night. I practically broke out in hives, I was so excited.

Dick and I communicated over a long period of time and he explained how to write certain passages in the novel.

The literary agent I had back in the mid 80s sent POT to Amblin Entertainment, Stephen Spielberg’s company. We flew out to LA and had a meeting with his Director of Development. While they didn’t buy it, the woman liked my writing and encouraged me to adapt the novel into a screenplay. She’s read practically everything I’ve ever written.

That was the beginning of my love affair with screenplays. I adapted [*Forced Dreams*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/) into a script, plus two other science fiction novels. Then I went on to write original screenplays. I loved the form of the screenplay. I met Richard Walter, the screenwriting chair of UCLA, and studied with him over the years and he helped hone my screenplay craft.

My very dark comedy, *Plan B*, is one of Richard’s favorites of all my work.

It is a challenge to adapt a novel into a script. Think about smushing 400 pages down to less than 120. Focusing on the main points can practically wreck your brain, but I’ve done it several times and have been satisfied with the results.

My fourth novel, *The Crowd*, is my crowning glory, so to speak. It has done very well in script competitions. I changed the title last year to [*The Far Corner*.](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/) It was a finalist in the 13Horror.com screenplay competition (2017), Reel Writers Script Competition (2015) and a semifinalist in the Screencraft Horror Competition (2015).

The feedback was sensational. I’m disappointed no one optioned it.

The judge from Reel Writers wrote: Jim Henson's Creature Shop could go wild with this. The slimy excretions of the creatures are so wonderfully disgusting that each time a creature touches Jenna with its be-gooed finger, it evokes an intense and -immediate- desire for soap and hot water.

This script presents a world in which these incredible, paranormal events can happen. And happen often enough that people can make a living solving the mysteries created by these circumstances. This fictitious world has tremendous potential for expansion into a series.

The feedback from Screencraft is quite delicious, as follows:

THE CROWD is an intense psychological horror narrative with some appealing, fresh elements. Tonally it’s reminiscent of movies like THE SIXTH SENSE or GOTHIKA or even JACOB’S LADDER, but here, the protagonist isn’t seeing ghosts, but she’s seeing bizarre animal-like creatures, one of which is a half-man, half-lion terror bent on making her his bride, mating with her, and then killing her after she’s given birth.

It’s a highly new, disturbing, and original idea that certainly has the potential to captivate horror purists and studio readers. It’s just one of those scripts that you can’t stop reading simply because it’s so distinctive.

Now, if I could just find someone to take this project on!

1. *Prophecy of Thol* features a seventeen-year-old heroine, but do you consider this exclusively a young adult novel or does the premise qualify the book as a crossover into other genres?

The audience for [POT](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/) is very broad as far as I’m concerned. Teens love [*Prophecy of Thol*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/science-fiction/) as well as their parents. They love the world I have created that contains many different creatures and concepts. I’d call it sci-fi fantasy with a lot of adventure. There’s nothing boring about the story that starts off in Katy, TX, just west of Houston on I-10.

The good news is, I’m about two months from launching *Gifts from Thol*, book 2 in the series. GFT is in the editing phase, then it will go off to several beta readers. If you sign up for my [newsletter](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/), you’ll find out when it debuts.

1. Were there any scenes in *Prophecy of Thol* you found difficult to write?

Here’s the deal. Way back in the 70s and 80s, the main character, D’laine Jackson, was a woman in her late 20s. Her love interest, Trakon, was around 32. During a chat with an editor from NYC at a writer’s conference a decade ago, she suggested taking the characters ages down to their teens so I could capture a broader audience.

I got right on board with that idea. There’s nothing better than a broader audience! Then, to my horror, I discovered what that meant in terms of the whole story. Everything had to change. Every bit of dialog. Every response—everything you can wrap your head around had to change for these younger people. It was a nightmare at first until I found my rhythm.

But, I did a high-dive into it and started from page one, first word. The version alive today is much stronger than what I ever had created back in my early dinosaur writing days. The backstory I created is very compelling. I wanted to use a narrator to explain how the whole story came to be, making it seem as if Victor, the scientist, is actually telling his young son Darren the story which wasn’t make believe. That it was factual and he was a part of it and the experience forever changed his life.

It’s one of my favorite stories. In the second book, Gifts from Thol, I have added a prolog that brings the reader up to date.

1. You classify yourself as “author/publisher/box packer/shipper/stand-in-line-at-the-post office gal.” As a writer who wears many hats, what tips can you give aspiring self-published writers?

Get good insurance to support your nervous breakdown! Seriously, I wear so many hats my head practically implodes on a daily basis. I’ve given up on trying to schedule times to write, market, research, etc. It just all falls into a mental pot and I do what I do on a daily basis as best I can.

If you can afford help, hire them. I dream of the day where I have a team in place: a personal assistant, book marketing expert, website manager, tax person.

But, the writing should always come first. Unless you complete a project, there’s nothing else to do. Plan out your project. Make sure you know where your story is going and how you’re going to get it there. Outlining is the easiest form to keep a writer on task.

Just understand that your outline will always change because your characters will let you know where they want to go. Give them the keys and let them take over the driving.

Also, keep track of everything and everyone. This is why I like to create either a list of characters/creatures, or a family tree. You’d be surprised how easy it is to lose track of someone or something.

1. You’ve written over twenty screenplays, but what if someone wrote a screenplay of your life? Who would you want cast in the role of yourself?

I’ve never thought of that, and quite frankly, I’m drawing a blank. I think my life is sort of boring, so who would want to take on my persona and try to make it look exciting or interesting? I haven’t gone through the portal to Thol, so what’s here to script?

Over the past five years I’ve turned into more of a recluse than anything else. Writing is my life. If I’m not writing, I’m reading or watching Netflix or Amazon Prime. Which reminds me, I want to subscribe to Acorn—I love British series and films.

1. Looking back, what book or screenplay do you feel most defines you as an author?

Man, you’re really knocking me to the floor with these last two questions! I can’t think of any one project that I’d say *defines me*. I get into a story concept and I’m gone. Forget sleeping through the night. I sometimes wake up and have to write down a scene, idea, or a nugget of information.

Even when I do my daily meditation, I have to have paper and pen handy to scrawl something so I don’t lose it.

I am quick to tell people that the difference between me and someone off the street is that I write down my fantasies and daydreams. I let them take off in my noggin and expand. I absolutely love what I do.

1. What’s next for you?

I’m definitely poking the hornet’s nest with my next project. I’m in the process of releasing [*Bonded*](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/books-by-dg-ireland/). This is a steamy shifter romance adventure with a gorgeous cover.

And I mean steamy.

There’s sex and violence in those pages. For this book, the first in this series, I’m using the moniker DG Ireland to distance Bonded from the young adult readers.

Don’t worry, I’ve added a warning prior to Chapter 1 that tells youngsters they have to be 18 or older to proceed. I have a separate tab for this genre on my [website](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/).

I’ve already started the second book in the [Bonded](https://dawngreenfieldireland.com/books-by-dg-ireland/) series (Tothars). I love the concept of a man shifting into an animal.

1. Is there something you wish we had asked, but didn’t? Now is your chance to talk about it here.

Many of my novels and screenplays have won awards. Two of my screenplays have been optioned, but not produced.

If any of you have connections in Hollywood, NY—or anywhere film producers reside, let them know about all my projects. Help me get these stories off the shelf and onto a screen! (Thank you for my self-promotion ☺, but honestly, spread the word.)

Thanks so much for not asking me, “Where do your ideas come from?” Honestly, folks, I’ve always had an active imagination. Maybe it was from all that pot I smoked back in the day? Maybe I’ve just got a direct connect to my higher self and let it flow? I don’t care where the ideas come from, I’m just glad I can run with a concept. I’m not afraid of failure. There are many ways a NO can be morphed into a YES!

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