

Sample Interview Questions

Salvatore Grasso, Author of *Larceny*

Please contact the author directly at salvatore@salvatoregrasso.com with additional questions or to schedule an interview.

1: Why *Larceny* and why now?

I am a senior operations and financial executive in a technology transfer office of a major research university. Like most TT offices, we run lean and mean with limited resources and dedicated people. *Larceny* is the explosive and fictional example of what can happen in such an environment when things go terribly wrong.

2: Is this fantasy/fiction?

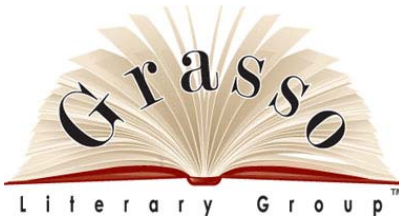
Yes and no. In my 20+ years in the venture world, I have seen examples of *Larceny* in private business. Some of the subplots in the book are based on the industrial cancers I encountered inside businesses my venture firm purchased. My role was to tear out the cancer and put the business on the road to economic recovery. It was fun but was also revealing as to how things could go so wrong so quickly.

3: Two love triangles in one book - is that part of your experience as well?

The loves and lovers emerge from the characters. They come together without direction from me. The characters find each other and dance the dance of lovers. These sensual relationships are not always borne of pure and unselfish love. Some are borne on the wings of lust and desire – the two-headed beast that clouds our reason.

4: Are any of the characters patterned after you?

That's an interesting question. My characters are patterned after real world experiences. Do I superimpose myself on the characters? Absolutely. Do I embody myself in the characters? Not really. The only character that comes close to me is Walt Hooker in *Paradise Awakens*. Walt could be construed as my alter ego. Interesting since I have not considered a sequel to *Paradise Awakens* so I don't feel any desire to memorialize myself in my work.



5: How do you decide your plot/storyline? Do you create an outline for each story?

I created an outline for my first work. I tried to follow it and discovered that I was spending more time modifying the outline to fit the direction of the book than I was spending writing the story. Now I create a sketch for each character and use it for reference only. Once I develop the character, he or she will take the lead and show me where they want to go.

A superb example of this is Danny Micheaux. Danny has supernatural powers. Believe it or not, Danny's character revealed these powers to me. I had not planned on anything cosmic or supernatural. The revelation stuck with the character and made an impact on the outcome of the first novel. Since then Danny's power has confounded him but also gives him a subliminal edge. When the supernatural power surfaces, Micheaux is powerless to stop it. Danny shows us the struggles he faces when his powers are revealed. He is one of the crossover characters. You will learn more about Danny and how his powers evolved by reading my works.

6: How difficult is it to write?

When I open the laptop the characters come to life. When I close it my mind shifts back to the external world. At times I am scared that once I will open the computer and I will hear a massive sucking sound – the sound of dead air. So I write and write.

I took a trip to Italy with my family during 2008. I wanted a mental break from life so I left the laptop home. After two days I missed writing so I grabbed a notebook and hand wrote twenty-six pages of Trapped during the trip.

I've broadened into other genres. I find that the horizontal expansion opens more mental and emotional doors. For me, the writing is about emotional expressiveness.

7: What inspires you to write?

I think inspiration is personally dependent. What I mean is that each person takes inspiration from different sources. My inspiration comes from the desire to break out of the work-a-day world of business. Writing is my creative outlet. My characters enable edginess and sarcasm they are my steam release valves.



8: Tell us about your other works.

I have completed three other manuscripts in the same genre, Murder Thriller. All of the books are based in the Philadelphia area or have a significant portion of the plot tied here. Each of the plots is markedly different. The protagonists and antagonists come at each other hard and strong. Actions trigger equally strong reactions. Subplots in each book add color, flavor and undercurrents to the main plot. Each ending is as twisted as it is unexpected.

I also have several manuscripts in various phases of production. One is a sequel to Larceny. I am writing short stories – micro murders. I publish one on my blog every Monday; it's the Murderous Monday series. Each micro story ranges between 500 and 1,500 words. You can sign up on my web site at www.salvatoregrasso.com <<http://www.salvatoregrasso.com/>> to receive these stories automatically.

9: Are there crossover characters and if so who are they?

There are three characters that have a significant presence in my novels. They are Special Agents James Duca and Danny Micheaux of the FBI and Lydia Colon-Duca, Assistant US Attorney. The difference between my crossover characters and the typical crossover character is that my characters are not the main protagonists. Mine will influence the direction and the outcome of the story. Mine may also be part of the main plot. One of the advantages to this approach is that plot twists and turns are not telegraphed. The endings are more dramatic, unpredictable and thrilling.

10: Since you have these continuing or crossover characters, do we need to read your books in order?

No, the stories unfold along with the lives of the characters in such a way that there's no logical progression that requires a chronological read. This also gives me the freedom, as I continue to write, to take you through portions of their lives that haven't yet revealed themselves to me.