

About *The Odyssey of Jon Sinclair* Trilogy

Genre

My genre is fantasy action adventure with a touch of realism. I write primarily for ages nine to fourteen and anyone else who enjoys a fast paced, time-travel adventure. I have always liked to mix the old with the new. Eclectic, some might say. And, maybe that describes my writing style as well as any—eclectic fantasy adventure.

How I Write

I do a great deal of research before and during the writing of each novel. This series is time travel, so I do pay particular attention to staying in sync with the times. *BlackHeart's Legacy* basically takes place in the late seventeenth century—1692. The clothing, weaponry, ships and islands visited are as historically accurate as I can make them. For example, the diving bell used was invented in the late 1600's. And Captain BlackHeart commands a brigantine tall ship, the Black Opal. "She's the only ship of her kind on the high seas," BlackHeart tells Jon with pride. I fudged a little with the ship, which was not released by England until 1699 and my book is placed in the year 1692. But because BlackHeart was an English nobleman and privateer in the employ of England's King William, I envisioned that he, somewhat akin to James Bond, might have been favored with an early release of the brigantine. And since our protagonist, Jon, travels in his magical space time ship from the twenty-first century, he can always bring along anything else needed. Here again, I'm mixing the old with the new.

But the space time ship, Carousel, and the magical black opal ring worn by BlackHeart come straight off the fantasy assembly line.

What I Write

First and foremost I write to entertain tweens and young teens, and anyone else who wants to tag along. My passion is to give my readers a total escape from the real world. I use scenes, action and dialogue to pull my readers into the story so they are experiencing the same exciting journey with Jon as it unfolds. Along with the fast paced action, I try to sprinkle in a few moral lessons of good and evil behavior and to show by example why having an order of command and authority is not only important, but vital.

I also present the importance of family—thus, Jon's grandparents play somewhat heroic roles in the first book of the series. I brought them into the story because so many seniors of today are the sole support for the care of their grandchildren. They're part of the unsung heroes of our generation. The absence of one or both parents in American homes is on the rise and having an effect on our culture as is evidenced by the latest U.S. Census data. I understand the situation

these children and grandparents are in. I was raised by two loving grandparents who gave up their well-earned life of ease in semi-retirement to take on the job and expense of raising two grandchildren—my brother and me.

In book two, *Keys to Atlantis*, due for release in early 2015, Jon is fifteen years of age and ready to take life by the horns—almost. Readers will sail with Jon aboard an ancient ship with three decks of oars, a trireme, as they engage in a trireme battle of three hundred ships before the entrance to Atlantis. They will mingle in the city that was built according to the scale reported by Plato in his early writings of *The Critias*, complete with all the excitement, horrors and intrigues an ancient lost city can deliver.

Book three, the final book in *The Odyssey of Jon Sinclair* trilogy, will move forward to a time in the distant future. While the final adventures will have elements of future technology, there will always be magic and my genre will remain fantasy—that magical realm between growing up and reality.

If you haven't read the first book, be sure to grab a copy of *BlackHeart's Legacy* so you'll be familiar with the characters before *Keys to Atlantis* comes out in the first quarter, 2015.

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