

April 2014

Dear Friends in Fiction--

Long time--no email. It's been nine years, in fact, since I sent out Novel Update #6, which announced the COUNTING HEADS book launch and tour. And five years since I've published anything new. You may be forgiven if you thought I must have dropped off the planet or something. Not true! I'm still living in my low-maintenance cabin outside Fairbanks, Alaska, and writing science fiction full time.

And now I have an announcement to make--I have just finished Draft 2 of my new novel!

I know that a second draft is not that much of a big deal for many writers, but for me it's a major milestone. It means that I have enough confidence in the book to finish it and not abandon it in a drawer like I did my three previous attempts. It also means that I will dictate the next draft into my computer so that my first readers can have a whack at it. And finally, it means that the finished book may be in your hands in as little as 18 months (unless my first readers drive a stake through its heart).

The book doesn't have a title yet. I was using the title CAMP TRIBULATION, but it didn't stick, and now I'm just referring to it as Novel #3. It seems to be a thick book, maybe 200K words (or about 450 pages), which is one reason why it's taking so long. I vow hereafter to write only short, 70K books.

Novel #3 is set in the southeast corner of central Alaska in the largest national park and preserve in the U.S. The action is contemporary and involves a large, troublesome family living in a remote compound within the park boundaries. This family is inspired by an actual one that's been in the news lately, but my treatment is totally fictional. Space aliens visit the family and, in good old-fashioned sci-fi style, threaten the Earth's survival. Minor characters include the reformed and redeemed former governor of Alaska, Tara Talin, and her celebrity-starved daughter, Toto.

Novel #3 also spends a lot of time exploring the biological basis of religious faith. Because of this and the political content, I doubt that mainstream science fiction publishers will be interested in publishing it. Therefore, I may need to self-publish the book, and I have been teaching myself the steps for doing so. I've conceived of Novel #3 as an ebook but plan to make it available in a print edition as well (if its size doesn't price it out of the market).

On a related matter, I have discovered in the last few years that I stink at social media. Other authors, including some of you on this list, have found ways to promote your work online. I haven't. I can't seem to bear to spend any amount of time writing to, liking, or friending the world at large. I guess I'm just not that into being social. Why else would I choose to spend my life in a cabin in Interior Alaska? Get off my lawn and all that. (Get off my melting, sub-arctic, boreal permafrost?)

I'm going to keep my various social media accounts, like Facebook and G+, for making general announcements, but I'd rather interact with you, my readers, directly through these personal updates. I encourage you to reach me at this same address with questions and comments, to put my address into your email browser's "good" list, and to keep me informed as your address changes over the years. In this regard you'll be dealing with me and not a big-data-scamming service in the cloud. The update list will reside on my computer, and I won't share it with anyone.

Of course, if you'd rather not hear from me in this manner, just let me know in a reply message. But be assured, I won't deluge you with updates. (My track record over the last ten years backs me up on this.)

I'm attaching a photo of Draft 2. It spans five 3-inch binders and another of outtakes.

Finally, I've epublished a few of my previously published short stories for sale on Amazon and B&N, and I'd like to gift you one of them in appreciation for sticking with me all these years. Check out the first four listings <[http://www.marusek.com/Cabin\\_in\\_the\\_Woods/the\\_Fiction.html](http://www.marusek.com/Cabin_in_the_Woods/the_Fiction.html)> "The Wedding Album," "She Was Good," "My Morning Glory," and "Yurek Rutz." Tell me which one you'd like and specify whether it's for Kindle or Nook or if you prefer a pdf file.

all best,  
David

