

From High School Assignment to Published Science Fiction Novel

As a freshman in high school, Edwards was asked to write a synopsis for a fictional book. After doing so, he and some of his friends began writing books based on that initial assignment, but while many of his friends stopped short of completing their stories, Edwards made it all the way to publishing.

“When I began working on the book, my main motivation was just enjoyment,” said Edwards. “As time went on, however, I started paying attention to the books that I was reading and taking note of what worldview they seemed to be advocating. The more that I did this, the more convicted I felt to finish my book and make something that came from a Christian worldview.”

“When I Awoke” is a science-fiction novel for middle-schoolers. The book isn’t overtly Christian, Edwards explained, but themes of self-sacrifice, compassion and redemption are woven into his book, reflecting a Christian perspective.

When Edwards finished writing his book over a year ago, he had no clue that a larger challenge still waited for him: publishing. With traditional publishing being extremely difficult, Edwards searched for alternatives. He found that he could publish his book directly through Amazon.

“The thing that surprised me most about the entire process is how much work goes into the little things when making a book,” said Edwards. “I never consciously took note of how the text was positioned in any book that I had read until I started this process, but when formatting my book, I saw how much of a difference every single setting made.”

Edwards found formatting his book for an eReader was fairly simple. It became difficult when formatting the physical book. Edwards taught himself Adobe InDesign to do the page layout and Blender for creating the cover art.

“Writing this book was definitely a lesson in perseverance,” said Edwards. “After going through edit after edit and then the entire publishing process, there were quite a few times I was tempted to just set it down and never touch it again. But even if the book does not sell well, I am still glad that I went through this process, if only for the skills that I picked up along the way.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,550 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs,

including its Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Engineering and Bachelor of Arts in English, strong graduation, and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking.

Written by <Author's Name>.