



“Bob’s Interview”



By Crime Writers of Canada Associate Bob Harris
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Meet Tony Ollivier

WINNER
of the
CANADIAN
BOOK CLUB
AWARDS

TONY
OLLIVIER

THE
AMSTERDAM
DECEPTION

BOOK ONE IN THE DAVID KNIGHT SERIES

www.tonyollivier.com

Bob Harris resides in Vancouver's West End. He is a writer, book promoter, publicist, and event producer.

His background is in the music industry, professional sports entertainment technology (televised baseball pitch tracking analyzer), and corporate governance of private and public companies.

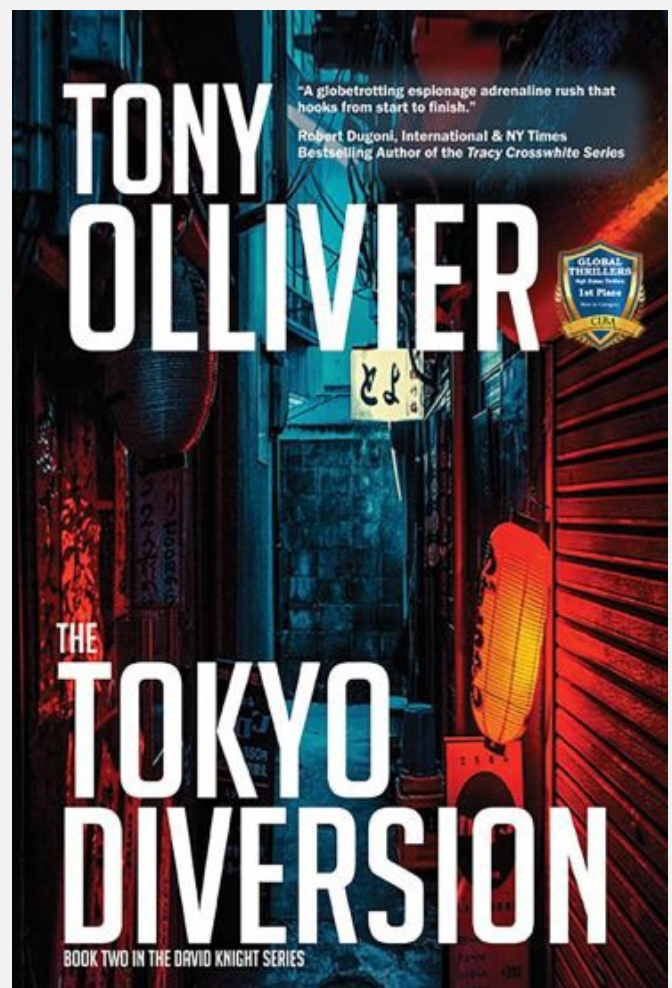
Tony Ollivier is the author of two mystery thrillers: *The Amsterdam Deception* and *The Tokyo Deception*. He has won a Canadian Book Club Award, a Reader's Favorite Award, and a Chanticleer International Book Award.

Tony is a technologist and resides in Vancouver with his wife and two children.

THE AMSTERDAM DECEPTION

"International intrigue at the highest level, and with grave stakes...Wildly entertaining."

- Robert Dugoni, #1 Bestselling Author of THE LAST AGENT



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My conversation with Tony Ollivier:

Hello Tony, thank you for making time to chat with me today. Let's begin by giving me a brief overview of your background.

By day, I'm a technologist at one of the world's most innovative software companies. By night I write snarky action thrillers with unusual protagonists (that still kick ass!)

As a child, science fiction propelled me to electronics and then computers. I've held positions with Xerox, Apple, Lotus, Microsoft and IBM. Adventure tales graduated to spy stories and I've been blessed with the opportunity to travel and explore places I'd only read about.

The Writer and Technologist

What led you to writing crime fiction?

I've always been drawn to stories where the hero wins against all odds. When I first learned about Joseph Campbell codifying the hero's journey, it gave me a framework for my ideas. The writers I consider my mentors – Jack Remick and Robert Ray – talk much about the role of mythology in good stories. All crime fiction is under the covers, mythological quests.

How has your career as a globetrotting technologist played a role in your novels?

Funny to hear that out loud! I started writing in my late thirties and counted myself extremely lucky to have roles that included travel around the world. As I visited places in Europe and Asia, I saw how I could leverage my time in each city in my writing. I'd usually arrange extra time in each city to round out my knowledge. For example, while visiting Berlin when I worked for Microsoft, I joined a Cold War walking tour led by a Brit that had been stationed there by the British army while the wall was still up. Those kinds of experiences have been invaluable to my writing.

As a writer, who and what are your influences and why? And mentors? Past and Present.

Years ago, I took several classes with Jack Remick www.jackremick.com and Robert Ray <https://robertjraywrites.com/>. They taught me about myth and symbolism in writing and how action and images make the writing concrete. Lee Child's early Jack Reacher novels blew me away with his narrative style and how he builds scenes and suspense. I read now primarily to see how the author has structured their stories and their sentences and I love it when a story surprises me and I don't see a twist coming. I recently discovered Blake Crouch. He's written several techno thrillers and one is a series on Apple TV. Lucky guy!

What inspired The David Knight series?

My wife attended the teachers program with the National Ballet School when we lived in Toronto and I met many of the male and female dancers in the company. I remember watching an all-male piece during that time and realized all male dancers were Olympic level athletes. I imagined a ballet dancer could pull off close quarters fighting without breaking a sweat. If they had the additional training.

Describe the setting, lifestyle, ethnic and personality profile of your main character David Knight.

David Knight grew up in Toronto and his mother died at an early age. His gruff father did his best to raise him, but David chose not to follow in his father's blue-collar footsteps.

He attended the National Ballet School in downtown Toronto and took a role with the company (The National Ballet of Canada). He's white, good looking and a bit of a smart ass both with his friends and his teachers.

But the book takes place on his first time traveling outside of Canada.

How are your book titles determined? By you or your publishers?

I had a few other names kicking around and we started talking about a place-based title. I found it worked well and we continued to the next book.

***The Amsterdam Deception* won the Canadian Book Club Award for Best Thriller in 2022 and the Bronze Medal in the Suspense, Thriller, Espionage category at the 2023 Reader's Favorite Awards. How long did it take to complete the book from concept to publication?**

The date is a bit fuzzy but I think it took me a good ten years from start to finish. Finish is the important word here. I'd dabbled around the story for a while but the "how" challenged me. I had two young kids and a full-time job so my initial writing was more an exploration at the start. But when I first attended the Surrey Writers Conference (www.siwc.ca) in BC, I made connections with other writers and realized I could both complete the work and get it published.

***The Tokyo Deception* won 1st Place in the Thriller category at the 2024 Chanticleer International Book Awards. Please give me a brief overview of the research involved in writing Book Two of the series.**

I started writing Book Two a couple of years before the pandemic. The first book had been accepted by my publisher, but it took a while to schedule it into their calendar. I'd always wanted to revisit David a year after the first book ended to see how his life had progressed. I'd travelled to Japan around that time and knew it could be a great setting for a Canadian boy to be yet again, a fish out of water. I'd spent extra time in Tokyo and visited areas I'd only read about. Walking the streets makes a huge difference in the narrative because I can get not only what the streets look like but how they sound and smell.

Is there a Book Three forthcoming?

I'm partway through a draft of my third David Knight book that finds him pulled to Portugal. For the last five years, I'd worked for a company based in Lisbon and had the opportunity to travel there several times!

How has your Membership in Crime Writers of Canada benefitted you?

Joining this great Canadian organization has been invaluable for the professional development and opportunities to participate on panels and other public events.

What are you currently reading?

I'm writing a techno thriller that partially takes place in Bangkok. I've spent the last few months reading crime and mystery stories that take place in Thailand.

Thank you for this interview, Tony. In closing, kindly give me flash answers to:

Your favourite food and beverage: I'm a sushi lover and developed a taste for Pale Ale.

A world landmark that you have visited and inspires you: We travelled to Italy last year and I spent time staring at Michelangelo's David. It's hard to believe he created the sculpture with hand tools only.

A memorable science fiction book from the 1960s: Have Space Suit Will Travel – Issac Asimov

An unexpected and thrilling moment you experienced as a technologist: This is back when we rode dinosaurs, but writing my first BASIC program on a Commodore PET computer seemed like an earthquake to me!

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Tony's novels are available at:

Ebook | Amazon CA, US, UK, KOBO, Indigo

Paperback | Amazon CA, US, UK, Barnes and Noble

Writing professionally as Robert H. Harris and working as a consultant to writers, Bob accepts email inquiries at: harrisbobh@hotmail.com (Profile and publicity photos available on request).