

NEWS Jeff Savage

CANDI HIGLEY - SPANISH FORK Press
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If you have read the first book in the Shandra Covington mystery series, then you definitely won't want to miss the second book, "Dead on Arrival," which was released the first week in October. "Dead on Arrival," is the second book in the series written by local author, Jeffrey S. Savage.

Savage has been writing practically forever. In fact his first memory of writing his own book was when he was three years old. He recalls copying letters onto paper from a picture book.

"It was funny because I remember thinking to myself that I was writing my own book," said Savage. "Ever since then I have always enjoyed writing."

Savage had his first book, "Cutting Edge," published six years ago. And after talking to readers about what they wanted to read, Savage narrowed it down to mysteries leaving out all the bad language and sex scenes that made many of the people he spoke with uncomfortable.

"I approached Covenant with the idea for a mystery series and they thought it was an idea to try," said Savage. "We received very positive feedback and so I began the series."

Savage introduced his readers to Shandra Covington, a newspaper reporter in his first book, "House of Secrets." The ideas for the second book came from an initial idea of a person who dies over and over. Then after watching the history channel and learning about a World War II conspiracy, Savage put the two ideas together to create some of the basis for the second book.

"Dead on Arrival," gave Savage the opportunity to spend more time on his secondary characters and create more events with lots of action, since the focus of introducing Shandra to the readers was accomplished in the first book. In the book, readers are introduced to Pinky Templeton who claims to be dead. Shandra wants to ignore him as just another nutcase but life-threatening events start happening to people she is close to. Shandra feels she must find out the truth, even if her police officer friend, Bobby Richter, who readers met in the first book, doesn't want to help. After all, how many times can one man die and with Pinky, it is hard to tell.

Readers who like lots of action and mystery will definitely enjoy the series as Savage throws in a cliffhanger near the end of every book.

"My favorite part of every book is the ending," said Savage. "When I write a book my goal is that everyone will finish the book. I don't want my endings to disappoint the reader."

And the ending is definitely not disappointing. In fact, the cliffhanger leads you into the third book in the series which is expected out in late spring or early summer.

Savage already has the ideas for possibly three or four more books in the series, but isn't quite sure how many he will write.

"As long as the readers are enjoying the books I will continue writing them," said Savage. "And as long as I am enjoying the writing and not hearing from people that they liked the first books better than the newer ones the series will continue."

Savage will be holding various book signings at Seagull Book Stores throughout Utah on Friday's and Saturday's through Thanksgiving. Seagull Book in Spanish Fork is also hosting a book signing on Friday, November 24th.

Savage is also happy to meet with book club groups and speak at events. He will also be teaching a writing class for local residents. The class will last for six weeks and will begin in January. In the class, Savage will teach students about mistakes to avoid when writing, key things to make a plot stronger and many other skills necessary in creative writing.

For more information or to contact Savage, visit his website at www.jeffreysavage.com
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