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Brief Interviews

Jared Hegwood

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Jared Hegwood

Brief Interviews

Sonny Brewer

What's the best euphemism for sex you've ever heard?

“Boink”—sounds bouncy and fun.

What literary hero is always looking over your shoulder, and why is he/she always frowning?

Richard “Long Rifle” Shackelford (see *Blue Moon Café* anthology, volume one), because he didn't sell his novel, and it's better than mine.

In your State of the Union Address, what's your opening remark?

My fellow Americans, remember the atomic bomb drills in the 50s? Google it, if you don't. Then practice assuming the position.

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

Fruit of the Loom.

What is always in your fridge?

Smucker's Natural Peanut Butter.

For president, Stewart or Colbert?

William Gay as a write-in.

The last president you voted for is coming to dinner. What do you cook to impress?

Oatmeal. It's the only dish I prepare consistently well.

When writing, which is the bigger distraction: solitaire, email, snacking between meals, or “other”?

Hold on, I need to check my email....

What's your theme song?

“Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay,” by Otis Redding.

Cary Holladay

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

A few years ago, there was a man strolling around midtown Memphis who wore what appeared to be a white sheet stitched up the sides, and a pair of high-top tennis shoes. Nothing else. He looked comfortable even in the summer heat. That outfit seemed perfect to me for just about anything.

What is always in your fridge?

Unsweet iced tea. I drink it right after breakfast and keep drinking it all day.

When writing, what is a distraction?

Animals, in a good way. My home office looks out on the backyard bird feeders. Hummingbirds, red-breasted grosbeaks, and all kinds of sparrows and wrens, entertain me. If my cats want attention, they let me know by sprawling on my desk or meowing to be chased.

What's your theme song?

A ballad called "Raglan Road," sung by Roger Daltrey, is one that I love to listen to. And "Brandy," a song from the 1970s performed by a group called Looking Glass, has inspired a couple of my stories.

LeAnne Howe

What's the best euphemism for sex you've ever heard?

Nobody likes a spitter!

What literary hero is always looking over your shoulder, and why is he/she always frowning?

I know, I know. I am supposed to give the names of some heady writers. Dorothy Parker comes to mind, as does Henry Miller. William Shakespeare is always a safe bet in English departments. Of course, as an American Indian author I should choose Leslie Silko. But damn it, I confess: my two literary heroes are Edward Said and Vine Deloria, Jr. They're frowning because I am not polemic enough.

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

I have no idea, I write completely naked.

What is always in your refrigerator?

Moët and Chandon's Dom Perignon.

In 2008, Stewart or Colbert?

Stewart.

The last President you voted for is coming to dinner. What do you cook to impress?

Pinto beans. For the gas.

When writing, which is the bigger distraction: solitaire, email, snacking between meals, or "other"?

Email. The other is not a distraction.

What is your theme song?

"Thriller." The 13:33 version.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

What's your theme song?

"Xanadu," by Olivia Newton-John.

What's the best euphemism for sex you've ever heard?

"Making sweet, sweet love," when said in all seriousness, always cracks me up for some reason.

What literary hero is always looking over your shoulder, and why is he/she always frowning?

Sei Shonagon, the diva who wrote the original Pillow Book. She's always frowning because as anyone who read her Pillow Book knows, she is a very hard woman to please. Examples: "One is very sleepy and has lain down to rest when a mosquito announces itself in a reedy voice, flying and walking about one's face. One can even feel the blast of air from its wings it is so close to one's body. How one hates this! Someone who butts in to the middle of a story one is telling who wants to tell the ending. Children, as well as adults, who butt in are despicable! Someone who ruins a perfectly wonderful old story by butting in with a version of her own. Downright despicable! Almost on the level of one's hatred for rats who scamper about!" This is fine by me, because I too am a very hard woman to please, or at least—I'm very hard to please when it comes to my own writing.

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

Red boots and a calligraphy pen. Some sort of protective head gear with a lamp feature would be nice too.

What is always in your fridge?

Orange juice, skim milk, at least three different kinds of fruit, pina colada yogurt, pepperjack cheese, and this really spicy-spicy ketchup imported from India that I must have on various forms of meat.

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For president, Stewart or Colbert?

Jon Stewart, all the way. He took the time to visit my beloved alma mater, The Ohio State University for a whole week. Colbert is probably a Michigan football fan.

When writing, which is the bigger distraction: solitaire, email, snacking between meals, or “other”?

Snacking on juicy emails from my friends all over the country. I have to write on a computer that does not have the internet connected, or I will never get anything done.

Jere Hoar

What literary hero is always looking over your shoulder, and why is he/she always frowning?

My literary heroes are polite enough to stay away when I write.

In your State of the Union Address, what’s your opening remark?

Madame Speaker, I saw your slip.

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

Ear muffs to keep out sound, Velcro on trouser seat and chair to keep us there, clothespins for noses for occasions when the prose dies.

What is always in your fridge?

Other than my hands?

The last President you voted for is coming to dinner. What do you cook to impress?

A goose, but it would be to depress.

What’s your theme song?

“Don’t Fence Me In,” which goes, “Give me land, lots of land, because I can’t afford it now.”

Ace Atkins

What’s the best euphemism for sex you’ve ever heard?

The horizontal hokey pokey.

What literary hero is always looking over your shoulder, and why is he/she always frowning?

Philip Marlowe without doubt. He’s frowning because I talk too much.

Talobusha Review

In your State of the Union Address, what's your opening remark?

The White House will be fumigated.

If writing were a sport, what would the uniform be?

Blue jeans, T-shirt and a baseball cap. Shoes optional.

What is always in your fridge?

Crystal hot sauce.

In 2008, Stewart or Colbert?

Stewart.

The last President you voted for is coming to dinner. What do you cook to impress?

New England clam chowder. But I don't ask him to sit down.

When writing, which is the bigger distraction: solitaire, email, snacking between meals, or "other"?

Internet Movie Data Base. Turner Classic Movies online.

What's your theme song?

The theme to *The Rockford Files* or "Get Ya Hustle On" by Juvenile.