

# Meet Author D.L. Jordan



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I love meeting and chatting with all authors, no matter their choice of publishing path, because I never tire of hearing about every author's personal experience. None are ever the same. And today, I'm thrilled to be joined by self-published D.L. Jordan, who has some great insight into his journey.





### **1. In a nutshell, who are you and what do you write?**

My name is Dominique Langston Jordan and I write under the name of D. L. Jordan. I write in a lot of genres, but I mostly write Fantasy. Throughout my life, people have taken notice that my middle name is Langston and that I'm named after Langston Hughes. I've grown up reading his writings, especially his poems, and he's one of my favorite African American writers of all time. My favorite poem of his is, "I, Too". It's such a powerful poem about equality and what it means to be an American.

### **2. When did you start writing? What set you off on this writing path?**

I first started writing when I was just seven-years-old when my parents gave me a journal as a gift. I had always loved to read books, so the sight of one that was completely filled with empty pages confused me. I was so perplexed about what to do with this small, empty book in my hands that I didn't know what to do. That's when they told me that I should just write down everything I saw and everything that happened. So, that's just what I did. I wrote down everything that happened around me in my neighborhood – kids playing in the street, our neighbor's dog running and barking after every car that passed by, and even the smell of the freshly cut grass under the marvelous blue sky. Everything around me was a source of inspiration.

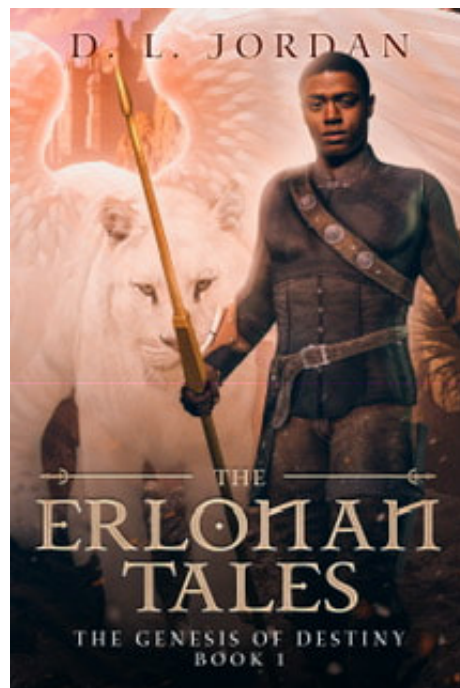
But eventually, like most kids who get something new, I eventually lost interest in writing and didn't really regain that interest until I was 14.

At the age of 14, I was in high school and my English class was given an assignment to write a story about a boy who finds a pebble. That evening, as I pondered on what to write about, my mind instantly became flooded with ideas about the boy and the pebble. I began thinking, "Could it be a magical pebble? What if someone had lost it and was desperately trying to retrieve it? Maybe it leads to a wondrous underwater metropolis completely unseen by humans?" I eventually finished my assignment, going along with the latter idea and turning it in to my teacher the next day. But I couldn't get the idea of the boy and this unrevealed metropolis out of my head. I then began to scribble ideas about the boy's background and certain things he liked to do. I would also write about the history of the civilization he would visit. Within a few months, these ideas became my first completed manuscript. I was so proud of myself and I wanted others to share in my joy. That was the defining moment for me. I knew then that I wanted to be a writer.

### **3. How many books had you written before deciding to publish? When did you feel the time had come to get your writing out there, to actually have books available for your readers?**

Before I knew I wanted to self-publish, I had written only one book. It was my first book in *The Erlonan Tales* series called [The Erlonan Tales: The Genesis of Destiny](#). It was back in 2014 and,

at that time, it was called The Erlonan Tales: The Destined Child. During that time, it had been with a small publisher called Silver Tongue Press. When the publisher was bought out by an even bigger publisher, the authors signed to the company were given the option to transfer over to the larger company or be dropped from the roster to pursue other publishing outlets. I had read a lot about self-publishing and wanted to pursue it for a while after I was dissatisfied with the ethics and processes of those who were running Silver Tongue Press. I had researched the company that had bought out Silver Tongue Press and could see that they were much like the company they had acquired. After that I had decided, I was going to do everything concerning my works on my own. Ever since that moment, I knew that I had made the right decision.



#### **4. So why self-publishing and not traditional?**

After that, I continued to work on my writing and create more stories in *The Erlonan Tales* series along with other different works in different genres. I also tried to go the traditional route and attempt to find an agent for my book. I researched on how to write the perfect query letter, how to approach agents, what agents were appropriate for the genre I was writing, what to say, what not to say, what time of year is best to send a query, and even how to pitch a query that will catch an agent's eye. There's so much information out there written by so many people on how authors can break into traditional publishing. I think I pretty much absorbed all of it. Like so many other writers out there, I wanted desperately for an agent to see the value in my work. I emailed and pitched my work to so many agents that I even have a folder in my emails of where I store both the email that was sent and even the rejections. I continued to pitch my story to no avail, so I continued to work on improving my writing. I also became dismayed

because of the long, waiting process to hear back from the agents themselves. It became frustrating waiting six weeks to six months just to receive a form letter saying that, "Though your manuscript had promise, it wasn't something we're currently interested in."

I wanted to self-publish, not out of bitterness or frustration, but because I had all these works I'd been writing since I was 14 and I didn't want them to rot in the crevices of my hard drive. After so much rejection, that is almost what happened. I pictured I would let them sit in a closet or pass them down to future generations with the story of, "...at least I tried." This may seem dramatic, and rightfully so. I was always told I had a flair for the dramatic growing up. However, I've never been one to give up without a fight. Science has proven that the key to survival is adaptation to environment. So, I adapted. I decided to take all the power into my own hands.

I like self-publishing because it allows the author to assert his/her own control over the content they publish. It enables them to reach out to audiences who possess a hunger for their content without the approval or permission of the traditional literary gatekeepers.

Self-published authors, or indie (independent) authors as we sometimes call ourselves, even have the power to develop our own imprints and create, market, and distribute our works under that publishing company. We can publish what we want, when we want, however we want. This is what I've done with my company DLJordan Books, which I founded in December of 2017.

The internet has made all this possible. Everything necessary to the publishing process such as editors, illustrators, cover artists, synopsis writers, sites to help you publish your website, and even reviewers can be found on the internet. Of course, none of these necessary processes are free, but they are both affordable and easily accessible. Social media is also a huge help when marketing books.

##### **5. How has the experience been for you so far? What have you found easy, and what not so easy?**

So far, the self-publishing process has been a lot of fun. Although, sometimes, it's not easy. Hiring freelance editors, cover artists, etc. is not only effective and easy – it's also not cheap. Paying for their services does add up. That's why it's always a great idea to find someone who can perform the services you need at an affordable price. Also, it's hard to find people who are interested in your work once it's out there. Social media does help, but it's oftentimes not enough. That would be one of the greatest challenges I've faced.





**6. For anyone thinking of self-publishing, can you give a breakdown or bullet point list of things to do? Perhaps even an idea of when and how to action each item?**

For anyone thinking of publishing, there's not a definitive outline or process that you can follow. Every author has their own experiences of what they've done to self-publish. So far, for me, I would say the most effective thing has been to find different services on Fiverr and sell your work on Amazon. I've used Amazon for years and their KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) program has been very helpful in helping authors broadcast their work to the world. Having a website or blog helps a lot, as well as having a newsletter.

**7. What's the hardest or most important lesson you've learned so far?**

The most important lesson I've learned so far is to never give up and to never be afraid to re-invent yourself. After querying agents and not being accepted into the world of traditional publishing, I almost let years of disappointment stop me from pursuing my dream. The key is to not give into any feeling that stops you from being the best person you can be.

**8. What has and hasn't worked for you?**

The one thing that has worked for me is knowing what stories I should write about based on the ideas that I have written down on paper. What hasn't worked for me is letting myself procrastinate with my writing. I try to be more disciplined with getting my writing on paper. Whether it's a page a day or a page a week, I try to dedicate myself to writing as much as I can.

**9. Give one main piece of advice for those about to embark on the self-publishing journey?**

Self-publishing is the new frontier of the publishing industry. More people who never had a chance to show their writing to the world are now getting the opportunity to display their talents. The titles that they're releasing are even competing with those that have been traditionally published. Those self-published titles are even outselling traditional titles on numerous bestseller's lists. My advice to anyone who wishes to embark on the journey of self-publishing would be to never give up. There's someone out there who is waiting to become your number one fan. Keep writing!

You can find out more about Dominique Langston Jordan (D. L. Jordan) at his website at [www.DLJordanBooks.com](http://www.DLJordanBooks.com). You can also follow him on Twitter: [@DLJordan90](https://twitter.com/DLJordan90).



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Fortunately, I got the chance to read this book entitled "Erlonan Tales" that's why I have my own insights to share. Dominique Langston Jordan is not new to me; I was able to read some of his works and I can say that he is a good author. Unlike other authors who try to stick within what is real, I am happy that he chose to explore the world of fiction by coming up with wonderful tales that he can offer. I am sure that he will succeed in publishing industry!

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