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Detailing the creation of the JHN Exclusive: APED.

AUTHOR: Writing this story was so challenging but also felt very comfortable for me. The characters started off pretty one-dimensional because I started writing the story when I was 18. Upon the release of the novel, I'm 30 years old.

The story started off as an idea for a comic book, honestly. I started illustrating the story and drawing out the characters and a world through my vivid imagination. It later progressed into small segments of releases on JHN in saga; chapter format. That would be considered the 1st Edition of APED. The official novel is the 2nd Final Edition of the novel.

It started as a comic from my love for anime and comics as a kid. As I reached adulthood, the love kind of faded because I felt there was a world of characters not portrayed for adults. Most shonen, anime and cartoons we all grew up admiring aimed directly at teen audiences. If you think of the most popular anime and cartoons out there that are not exclusively adulterated in the modern day, a lot of these shows and content are predominantly aimed at teens. I think the live-action comic "Golden Age" allowed a larger audience to finally experience what the world of anime, manga and action cartoons is like, but in a design that was large enough for various types of audiences to enjoy the genres. In honesty, this finally opened the door for stories like APED to be written.

Due to the widespread popularity of fantasy and supernatural content, this has laid the pathway for the masses to search for *more* relative content. Unfortunately, we've probably been receiving the same stories on rotation for the last 20+ years. How many remakes are we going to get?

The world we live in is dying for new characters, new stories, and authenticity not garnered and controlled by Hollywood elites. APED is exactly that.

A fresh entirely new world presented by Jacob Hollingsworth Network Corporation, and this is just the beginning.

APED follows 3 characters that are attending college in the Midwest and immediately are encountered by a supernatural world that will change their lives forever. I wanted to make these characters real by giving them dimensions and dynamics. As I progressed as a writer, especially after writing JHN Exclusive: CYRUS (2022), I was able to understand storyline, pace, and also marketing better. But Cyrus of course was not my first experience with writing.

I've been writing since the age of 8. Fun fact: Not to brag, but I actually started reading relatively early at the age of 4. As I got older, I just loved reading, but as I became a preteen, I think I was more enticed with writing over reading. Or maybe I was more enthralled with telling stories. I don't think most of my siblings noticed this about me. Either way, I knew I had a special skill when I was about 17 and there was an assignment to write a full story in my English class in the hour. Most of my classmates struggled with using the topics the teacher gave to write a full-length story. I did it in about 30 minutes. I remember a friend asking me, "*You wrote all that!? You done already!?*" I was done already.

My Sophomore year of high school, I majored in drama. That's when I knew I had a calling for acting and production beyond just dance. I'd been dancing since the age of 10 and I always wanted to be a dancer. I am still a dancer, of course, but my passion for film and production expanded at that time under the passions and leadership of the peers around me.

I remember the first time I ever saw a script when me and my classmates had to put on a classroom production of Macbeth in the 5th Grade. It was just so *easy* to read and understand, and engaging. It made you feel like you could *embody* the characters and *be* them. More than just reading in standard format. I always enjoyed reading scripts from that point on. So that's why my novels are written in screenplay format without all the technicalities that normal people wouldn't understand. I think they would if they tried, but it's a technique and a skill that can be muddling and time consuming. So I make the novels easy and fun to read. I don't care about technicalities and "You're supposed to's". No, I write for the people and for myself. Unfortunately, I didn't see another script until I was in the 10th grade, but my natural abilities shined at that time for being *in* production.

I was a member of the cast of the 1st Annual Shakespeare in the Streets Festival in St. Louis, MO. I was cast as a dancer who only had 1 moment. I remember wanting to actually get up there and act and be a major part of that production. Didn't happen. That

sucked, but I also enjoyed the experience of how the production was put together. How the adults would read their lines and how we prepped for the show. But damn, that competitive nature in me was saying, *"Damn, I can do that... I can be the star. I can write the script even better."* I was 16 at the time.

Anyway, moving into my adulthood as I wrote and illustrated these characters, I started to finally find my place in the arts away from the noise and people around me when I first started to live alone. I was able to sit back and watch the Godfather as many times as I wanted. I was able to study classical film and television. When ya' got 3 brothers and a sister, I promise, all they want to watch is basketball or something that's *not* classical film. This allowed me to see "creating a story" from an entirely different perspective.

Acting and film just isn't for the "nerds". Anime isn't just for the "nerds". Nor are your favorite cartoons. And as I said before, the Golden Age of live-action allowed the world to see this. So I was able to take my love for film: my love for Denzel Washington, Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, and mold that into this genre to present content never seen before.

It's like we tend to get drama without fantasy and vice versa today. When we do, it can come across "flat" often because we are writing for "audiences". Those who want action/fantasy don't want to sit around for the drama/romance. And vice versa again. Especially today where everything is so formulated to *sell*. Commercialized for reboot or remake. Where is the authentic— from the heart content that does not stand to represent a political agenda, a designed formula, or propaganda? Why can't we just create and *write*? As a society, have we not elevated beyond skin color? Have not elevated beyond political party? I feel like... maybe historical time pieces are the only cases in which I don't mind politics in my story. Other than that, just write about what *you've* experienced! Write about something that impacts *you* in particular. How your boss pissed you off working your first job at the pizza parlor. Write about that! Or write a story where you have **zero** personal gain from your experience. Because that's what life is about, right? Challenges? We don't always have the answers, we don't always get our way. So why are we writing this way?

Life is about lessons and experiences. And you get all of these questions answered in this story. There are no agendas— there are no sides. It's pure writing based on dynamic realities from what I have perceived in my journey.

If that doesn't sell you on APED, then I don't know what will.