

Biography

P. James Norris has an MA in Philosophy from the University of Kansas and an MS in Physics from Kansas State University.

In 2018 he started getting short stories published by the likes of [Moon Magazine](#), [Fantasia Divinity](#), [Tigershark Publishing](#) and [Rhetoric Askew](#). His "[Izzy Tells No Lies](#)", originally published in Fantasia Divinity's Feb 2018 issue, has been republished in B Cubed Press' [Alternative Theologies](#) anthology, and his "Angel of Death", originally published in Moon Magazine's online ezine, has been republished in their first anthology, [Out of this World](#). "Angel of Death" and "Izzie Tells No Lies" were Quarterfinalists and Semi-Finalists, respectively, in the ScreenCraft Short Story Contest in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and appeared in the 2022 anthology [Out of the Darkness](#).

He's also written three short films, [Michael Is Coming](#) adapted from his "Izzy Tells No Lies"—multiple producers have expressed interest in producing [Michael Is Coming](#)—and [Angel of Death](#) adapted from his short story of the same name, and [Beyond the Door](#) adapted from a short story of the same name by Phillip K. Dick which was produced in January 2023 by [Dead Wife Productions](#).

He has five novels for which he has written as little as a few thousand words and as much as several tens of thousands word. He hopes to complete [The Order of the Brotherhood](#) in the next few months, his other projects permitting.

He's also written several teleplays, including two original TV pilots, [Project Omega](#) and [Powers & Glory](#) which have and semifinalists in various screenwriting contests; [Project Omega](#) was the [Grand Prize winner in the 2019 International Faith in Film Competition](#).

He refers to a lot of his writings, both prose and screen, as "Catholic Fantasy" in which he takes the teachings and mythology of the Church as true and treats them with respect. As far as he can tell, he writes in this "genre" in hopes of someday finding God as he has been unable to find Him/Her/It/Them anywhere else.

Artist's Statement

I write speculative fiction, both prose and teleplays—I have yet to write a feature—ranging from low fantasy to hard sci-fi. I have a dozen completed short stories, two of which have been published multiple times each, five novels in various states on incompleteness, seven one-hour teleplays, four of which are *Star Trek: The Next Generation* specs (one of which I'm rewriting for a *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*), one of which was written as a back-door pilot for *Supernatural*, two original pilots, and [a produced adaptation](#) of the 1954 Phillip K. Dick short story, "Beyond the Door" that I wrote as the first assignment for [Aaron Sorkin's online Screenwriting MasterClass](#).

I think this ought to be a large enough body of work to be able to say, "This is the theme that I'm most interested in.", but I'm having trouble doing so. However, several of my writings do share a common theme: what it means to have faith. And to discover that one's faith is true.

I have tried very hard to find God, but He/She/It/They have eluded me. When I was in High School, I attended at least four services at a church of almost all Protestant denominations, a Catholic church, and even a Jewish synagogue. I'm sure there was a Muslim mosque somewhere in Denver, but it didn't occur to me at the time to seek one out and attend services there. On more than one occasion, I've invited Mormons into my home—most recently once a week for over a year—and attended numerous Mormon services if only because they are the most persistent of proselytizers.

I have read the Bible cover-to-cover at least a dozen times. I have read the Book of Mormon cover-to-cover at least twice. I can't say the same about the Talmud or Koran, though I have read large portions of each—somehow Judaism and Islam seem to me to be religions one must be born into. Perhaps this is a language issue; I can't read, write or speak the native tongues of these two religions.

In any case, I have found neither God nor faith.

So, not to sound presumptuous, I've begun looking for Him/Her/It/Them in my writings, five of which (three short stories, "Izzy Tells No Lies", "Broken Places", and "The First Commandment", and two of my TV pilots, *Project Omega* and *Powers & Glory*) are what I call "Catholic Fantasies". For me, a Catholic Fantasy is a story in which the teachings of the Catholic Church play a central role and are taken to be true and treated with respect. Though Catholicism did not bring me to God, for some reason—perhaps it is its longevity or its rich mythology—it is the faith I have "chosen" to use in my writings in which I hope to find God. Or perhaps it's more correct to say, that if I spend enough time writing about God, He/She/It/Them will finally reveal Him/Her/It/Them-self to me.

We'll have to see.

Screenplays and Awards

Powers & Glory (May 2020)

A one-hour buddy-cop meets *Supernatural* pilot teleplay.

A rookie New Orleans narcotics detective is assigned to an experienced training detective who is more than he appears to be the day the training detective plans on taking down a major drug kingpin's right-hand man. But during the take-down, the rookie is killed, resurrected, and the two are tasked by an Archangel with finding a Prince of Hell who has escaped the Pit.

Awards:

2022 Santa Barbara International Screenplay Awards – Finalist
 2023 ISA Fast Track Fellowship - 2nd Round
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 2022 Script2Comic - Semifinalist
 2021 TSL Free Screenplay Contest - Semifinalist
 2021 Fresh Voices - Semifinalist
 2021 TSL Free Screenplay Contest - Semifinalist
 2021 Spring Reno-Tahoe Screenwriting Contest - Semifinalist

Supernatural: Lucky and Gabbie (September 2018)

A one-hour backdoor pilot for *Supernatural*.

Investigating the deaths of several wealthy women, Sam and Dean discover Lucky of "All Dogs Go to Heaven" and his partner Gabbie, a witch, are working the case from a different angle. But can the Boys, a skin-walker and a witch put down the incubus responsible for the deaths of the wealthy women and several prostitutes before it kills again?

Awards:

2021 Scriptapalooza Competition - Finalist
 2021 WRPN.tv Screenplay Competition - Gold
 2021 Fresh Voices Screenplay Competition - Quarterfinalist

Beyond the Door (April 2018)

[Produced in 2023 by Dead Wife Productions](#)

A twelve-page adaptation of Philip K Dick's short story of the same name published in the January 1954 issue of *Fantastic Universe* that I wrote for Aaron Sorkin's MasterClass on television writing.

When a man buys a cuckoo clock for his wife, he discovers that there is more behind the cuckoo's door than just the cuckoo.

Awards:

2022 Fall Reno-Tahoe Screenwriting Competition – Grand Prize
 2022 Summer Reno-Tahoe Screenwriting Competition - Finalist
 2022 Spring Reno-Tahoe Screenwriting Competition - Finalist
 2021 Script to Screen - Quarterfinalist

Project Omega (April 2014)

A one-hour "Catholic fantasy"/procedural pilot teleplay

A Catholic retired U.S. Army colonel must deal with memories of his son's ritualistic murder and wife's suicide, as he, his brilliant experimental psychologist daughter, and a charismatic expert in the occult debunk paranormalists, search for the reason that his son was killed, and prevent the angel who guards Sheol from bringing about the End of Days.

Awards:

2018 Faith in Film International Screenwriting Competition - Grand Prize
 2023 Hispanic International Film Festival - Gold
 2019 Emerging Screen Writers - Semifinalist
 2020 Page Turner Screenplays - Semifinalist
 2020 Industry Next Festival – Semifinalist

A Sense of Purpose (December 1993)

A one-hour spec teleplay originally for *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, now *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*

The Enterprise encounters a Star Fleet vessel, which was reported lost while investigating a wormhole over 200 years ago, whose captain thinks his crew's sense of purpose is the only thing maintaining their ghostly existence.

Questions

1. How do I find a manager who will actually shop my work?
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