



About the author: Josh Berk

EDUCATION

- Freedom High School, Bethlehem PA, 1994
- Drew University (BS, Political Science) Madison NJ, 1998
- University of Pittsburgh (Masters in Library Science), 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Librarian, Allentown Public Library, 1998-present
- Freelance writer for *The Morning Call*, *The Allentown Times*, *Lehigh Valley Marketplace*

FAMILY

- Josh's parents were both librarians until they recently retired. His father, Jack Berk, was the director of the Bethlehem Area Public Library for 34 years. Josh lives just outside of Allentown, PA with his wife and two small children.

DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE AN AUTHOR?

I am the child of two librarians! I didn't really ever think I'd be an author, but I always loved books. Some of my favorite authors as a kid were C.S. Lewis and Lloyd Alexander. In high school I discovered Kurt Vonnegut who remains one of my favorites. Later I became fascinated with authors like Jack Kerouac, Hunter S. Thompson, Charles Bukowski, and Tom Robbins. I didn't study literature in school, but I did (of course) take a job as a librarian after college. In 2003 I went to grad school and studied young adult literature at the University of Pittsburgh. I got really excited about all the fantastic things going on in YA and started writing my own. A few years of blood, sweat, and tears later, I now am able to see the first of these books on the shelves! I have also published poems and written for newspapers, but I love fiction best of all! Making stuff up is clearly what I was born to do.



THE DARK DAYS OF HAMBURGER HALPIN by Josh Berk

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