



(503) 357-3181 email@commnewspapers.com



NOT ALL NEWSPAPER CONTENT IS PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE. PLEASE CALL IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR BACK ISSUES.

[<< Back to GO!/Entertainment](#)

Dreams of adventures come true for author Eldon Thompson

[Rebecca Mayer](#) - 06/15/05

In the fantasy fiction world, the age of Eldon Thompson may have just dawned. Only time will tell. Like the lead character in his book, *The Crimson Sword*, Thompson is young, hoping to fulfill his destiny. "I've just been given an entry into the race," said Thompson. "I still have to run it."

Thompson, who grew up in Forest Grove and graduated from Gaston High School in 1992, released his first book in the series *The Legend of Asahiel* just this May.

The stuff of fantasy fiction – swords, adventure and wizards – has long been a part of Thompson's world.

A born-writer, Thompson was writing "full-illustrated novellas" in second grade. "I remember dreaming of adventures," said Thompson. "I grew up on *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*."

While attending Harvey Clarke Elementary School and Tom McCall Middle School, Thompson said he was always encouraged to keep writing, a luxury not all writers have.

At Gaston High School, he received more encouragement from David Thoma and Bob Wismer, both of whom now work at Forest Grove High School.

Pages: 1 [2](#)



Courtesy



(503) 357-3181 email@commnewspapers.com

Local People.

NOT ALL NEWSPAPER CONTENT IS PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE. PLEASE CALL IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR BACK ISSUES.

[<< Back to GO!/Entertainment](#)

Dreams of adventures come true for author Eldon Thompson
[Rebecca Mayer](#) - 06/15/05

Thompson, who splits his time between Hillsboro and Los Angeles, made sure to stop by and see them both and get them copies of the book once he arrived back home in June.

Thompson's journey between high school and his new book first took him to Western Oregon University where he began studying dentistry. His heart wasn't in it, though, so he switched to English.

After graduation, technical writing seemed like the most practical application of his education, so he went that route for about four years.

During that time, however, he enrolled in UCLA's screenwriting certification program. "It teaches you a lot about storytelling," said Thompson.

He also began attending writer's conferences in Maui, where he met his favorite childhood author, Terry Brooks.

At this point the first draft of *The Crimson Sword* was already written, as were the two follow-ups penned in college, *The Obsidian Key* and *The Divine Talisman*. But, Thompson had yet to prepare any of them for publishing.

It was Brooks that gave him the direction he needed. "I was trying to be really original, esoteric," said Thompson. "He told me to write a standard, coming of age adventure



Courtesy

story.”

So, in 2002 he quit his job and began writing full-time, reworking his original high school story *The Crimson Sword*.

“I made it work as a story,” he said. “There were loose threads, plot holes and jumps in the narrative.”

“When I finished writing this, I looked for an agent,” said Thompson. He found someone who was representing another first-time fantasy author and Brooks put a good word in for him.

“Then, I did rewrites over nine months to get it into shape to take it to market.”

The book was at Harper Collins’ Eos division, the fantasy division, for only two weeks when Thompson heard back. In November 2003, they flew him to New York and he signed a contract for all three books in hardcover.

They gave him a big enough advance that with careful planning he can keep writing full-time.

“I used to say as a technical writer if I could even get half as much writing my own stuff I’d be happy,” said Thompson. “Turned out the advance was half.”

This year, Thompson will attend big fantasy fiction conventions, along with authors like Terry Brooks, to promote his book. “I’m kind of riding on their coat tails,” he said.

Thompson just finished his second book, which will be out in May 2006, and is in the outlining stages of book three.

“I am excited,” said Thompson, “but that gratification isn’t just seeing a book on the shelf, but seeing responses from readers.”

Pages: [1](#) [2](#)

Share your thoughts & opinions with our editor.

(If you don't include your address and phone number, we will not be able to publish your comments. Neither your street address or e-mail address will be published. They are only used for verification purposes.)

Submit Your Letter

Content & Images ©2002-2005 Forest Grove News Times & CNI. All rights reserved.
Site Design ©2002-2005 StateofOregon.com. All rights reserved.
All other trademarks and Registered trademarks are property of their respective owners.