

# L.D. Beyer

## Author

### ***AUTHOR Q&A***

#### **What genre do you write?**

Political and Historic Thrillers

#### **Have you always wanted to be a writer?**

I get this question a lot. My initial urge is to paraphrase George Carlin and say, "Well, not in the womb; but shortly after, yes!"

When I was 12 or 13, I remember seeing an ad that said something like, "Get Paid to Write Children's Books." I was intrigued and actually wrote a few things but I never did submit them. A few years later, I wrote a short story for a high school English assignment. My story was well received and was published in a school anthology. In college, I wrote another short story, again for a literature class, and it too was well received and published in a school anthology. But after graduating, I guess I did the expected thing and followed a more traditional career path. I met my wife a few years later and we got married. A few years after that, we started a family. Frankly, between career and family, I forgot all about writing for a while. It wasn't until several years ago that I finally muscled up enough courage to make a drastic change in my life: to give up my corporate career, to spend more time with my family and to pursue my dream of being a writer.

There's something cathartic about writing. It's really cool to start with a blank page and watch as the story unfolds, sometimes taking twists and turns I never expected. I know that sounds like I'm not in control when I write but after giving them a nudge, the characters and the plot tend to evolve on their own and go in directions I never envisioned when I first began typing. As a writer, I'm finally getting a chance to be creative, something I was not really able to do during my more traditional life.

You know, I wish I could find some of my early writings! That would be really cool!

#### **Where do you draw your inspiration from?**

I write what I like to read. I love thriller and suspense novels--medical thrillers, legal thrillers, historical thrillers, political thrillers—particularly ones that are full of intrigue and ones that are fast-paced, with lots of action & adventure. Brad Meltzer, Vince Flynn, Steve Berry, David Baldacci, Brad Thor—these are some of my favorite writers and they are a great source of inspiration. My taste in movies is the same. Intrigue, suspense and action & adventure—I'll take that any day! When I read or watch movies, I want to escape and to live vicariously

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through the characters, even if only for a short while. I want to root for the good guy and hate the bad guy. I can only hope readers are able to experience that with my books!

### **What interested me to write in the Thriller genre?**

I really enjoy political and historical thrillers and, like many writers, I write what I like to read. There are a lot of great authors out there and, by being an avid reader in this genre, I've learned from the best in how to craft a good thriller.

### **What is the best thing about being a writer?**

The two best things about being a writer are the commute and the office dress policy! All kidding aside, I think the coolest thing about being a writer is the way the story seems to take on a life of its own. Often times, the characters and the plot itself seem to develop and evolve over time and in ways that I never imagined when I first sat down and began typing. More than once, I've found myself reflecting on something a character just did and thinking that I hadn't envisioned that the character would do something like that when I first created him or her a dozen chapters earlier. Sometimes, a minor character who I created for one scene comes back to play a much more prominent role later on. At times, it feels like the characters and the plot tend to go in their own directions and often I'm left following along as the scribe. Then there are the reviews. There's nothing better than hearing a reader say, "Wow! That was great! When is your next book coming out?"

### **Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Are you still writing?**

I hope I'm still writing! I hope readers will still find what I have to say worth reading! Writers are always looking for validation! In the current publishing environment, what's hot one day can very quickly drop to the bottom of the list. My goal is to continue to write and hopefully continue to build an audience and to bring readers great fiction. I hope my readers will stick with me for the ride!

### **What is your newest release? What would you like readers to know about it?**

My newest release, my first book actually, is a political thriller titled *In Sheep's Clothing*. One man holds the reins of power. One man vows to protect him. One man vows to destroy him. Secret Service Agent Matthew Richter already lost one president. Now he's fighting to save another from the deadly forces he has unwittingly unleashed!

"This is a fast-paced, action-packed story that will leave you on the edge of your seat! It's a Must Read!" Or at least that's my opinion and I'll admit I might be a little biased!

You can find it now on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

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### **What's the origin of *In Sheep's Clothing*?**

I write what I enjoy reading. I am an avid reader of thrillers and suspense novels, from authors such as David Baldacci, Vince Flynn, Steve Berry, Michael Connolly, Mike Lawson and Brad Thor. My first novel, *In Sheep's Clothing*, is a political thriller and I'm certain that it was influenced by the works of these and many other fine writers. It's interesting; this book was over 20 years in the making. I actually began writing this book before my daughter was born—and she's in college now. But as often happens, life, family, career and a host of other things got in the way and the book sat dormant for a long, long time. It wasn't until several years ago when I had the opportunity to focus on finishing the story. I'm sure all those years I spent away from the keyboard—traveling extensively, relocating multiple times, and even living and working abroad for several years—had a subtle influence on the final story.

### **Without giving away too much, tell us a little about the main conflict in this book.**

*In Sheep's Clothing* is the story of three men. One man holds the reins of power. One man vows to protect him. One man vows to destroy him.

Caught in a game of chess he didn't know he was playing until it was too late, the President makes the only move he can, plunging Washington and the nation into chaos. Stunned and reeling, Vice President David Kendall takes the oath of office and tries to heal a nation in mourning. But what the new president doesn't realize is that things in the White House aren't always what they appear to be, and sometimes what looks like the best option may turn out to be the worst. When one fatal decision triggers consequences he never envisioned, President Kendall finds himself caught up in the same game that cost his predecessor his life.

Although there was nothing he could have done, Secret Service Agent Matthew Richter is haunted by the death of the man he had vowed to protect. When his girlfriend leaves him and his boss tells him that his job is on the line, he thinks his life cannot get any worse. He soon realizes how wrong he is when he finds himself fighting to save another president from the deadly forces that he has unwittingly unleashed.

### **Can you tell us a little about your main character?**

Matthew Richter is 30 years old and single. He is a competent and dedicated Secret Service Agent. He is the classic Type A personality: driven, always in control. But when the President suddenly dies on his watch, Richter's world is turned upside down. Although there was nothing he could have done, he is haunted by the death of the man he had vowed to protect. The burden of failure weighs heavily on him and he wrestles with resigning from the only job he ever wanted. His crazy work schedule and his internal demons takes a toll on his love life and his girlfriend finally says enough is enough. As his world crumbles, he finds the only escape is

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the gym, where he punishes himself until he's too tired to think. And just when things seem like they couldn't get any worse, he realizes he has a growing attraction to the only other person who understands his world: another Secret Service agent.

### **What do you hope readers take away from your book?**

My books are pure escapism. If I've done my job right, you will escape, for a short while anyway, into the lives of my characters, vicariously sharing their thoughts, their challenges, their struggles, their dark moments, as well as their triumphs. Hopefully you'll root for the good guys and loathe the bad guys. Ideally, I'll keep you up well past bed time because you want to find out what happens next! At the end, I want you to close the book with a satisfied smile.

### **What else have you written? What are you currently working on?**

I have written a sequel to *In Sheep's Clothing*, titled *An Eye for An Eye*. Matthew Richter is back once again, this time fighting to prevent a Mexican cartel boss from unleashing his campaign of terror on the US! This is set to release later this year or early next year.

My current project is a historical thriller titled *The Devil's Due*, which is based loosely on my mother's father. Family legend held that my grandfather fled Ireland in 1920 with a price on his head by both the British and by the IRA. I spent some time in Dublin and in Limerick researching military archives and the War for Independence, meeting with historians, tracing my roots, and, of course, enjoying a pint or two because, after all, I was in Ireland! The cool thing is that the Irish Army was able to locate my grandfather's military records and I was able to confirm that he did indeed serve in the IRA during the war. It's there that the history gets a little murky. He does appear to have left Ireland in a hurry, but as to why, I can only speculate. Still my research paints a picture of a very tenuous time where the temporary alliance cobbled together to defeat the British crumbled easily under the weight of ancient divisions; where suspicion of disloyalty often resulted in death; and where past sins were rarely forgiven. It's in this context that the story of my protagonist, Frank Kelleher, comes to life...and almost to his death.

### **Would you classify your writing more as plot driven or character driven?**

Although I believe my main character is fairly compelling, I think my writing is more plot driven.

### **What do you do when you're not writing?**

I enjoy working out, cooking, fixing way too many broken things in my house—okay, maybe not so much, but it comes with the territory—lawn work, biking and hiking—I took my two boys on a 5 day, 50 mile hike in Isle Royal National Park in July. And to top it off, a nice glass of wine now and then.

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### **Are you a Night Owl or Early Bird?**

I'm definitely an early bird. My kids laugh at me because I often go to bed before 10.

### **Who are your favorite authors?**

I tend to cycle through authors and my favorite is usually the one I'm reading at the moment. I'll get hooked on a particular author and I'll spend several months or more reading every book they've written. David Baldacci, Steve Berry, Michael Connolly, Mike Lawson, Vince Flynn, Brad Meltzer, Brad Thor—they've each been my favorite at one point in time. Patricia Cornwell is another great writer; I really like her Kay Scarpetta character.

Although I usually read thrillers, every now and then, I'll pick up something different for a change of pace. JK Rowling's Harry Potter series was fun. So was The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins. Right now, I'm in the middle of George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones series. Ask me tomorrow and I'll probably give you a different answer!

### **Can you tell us about your future projects?**

Sure. My next book is *An Eye for An Eye*. This is the sequel to *In Sheep's Clothing* and was just released in January 2016. A powerful drug lord threatens to bring America to its knees. Only one man can stop him. This is the second book in my Matthew Richter Thriller series.

I also have a historical thriller titled *The Devil's Due*, which is based loosely on my grandfather. He served in the IRA at the time Ireland was fighting for independence from Britain, in 1919-1921. I spent some time in Dublin and Limerick researching military archives and the War for Independence, meeting with historians, tracing my roots, and, of course, enjoying a pint or two because, after all, I was in Ireland! The cool thing is that the Irish Army was able to locate my grandfather's military records and I was able to confirm that he did indeed serve in the IRA during the war. It's there that the history gets a little murky. He does appear to have left Ireland in a hurry, but as to why, I can only speculate. Still my research paints a picture of a very tenuous time where the temporary alliance cobbled together to defeat the British crumbled easily under the weight of ancient divisions; where suspicion of disloyalty often resulted in death; and where past sins were rarely forgiven. It's in this context that the story of my protagonist, Frank Kelleher, comes to life...and almost to his death!

### **Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?**

The advice I heard most often when I started writing was to write every day, for as long as you can, even if it's only for fifteen minutes. While I'll admit that I don't always follow that advice, like any skill, writing takes practice and you will become better over time. The second thing is

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to read everything you can within your genre or chosen field. Learn how writers approach their craft and along the way you'll learn what an intriguing protagonist, a compelling plot, or engaging dialogue look and sound like. It's also good to network with other writers. We tend to think alike and, even if it's to commiserate on the rapid changes taking place within the publishing industry, writers tend to be very supportive of each other. At the same time, I would learn as much as I could about publishing, whether it's traditional or self-publishing. Most importantly: get feedback. Find a handful of people who will give you objective advice about your writing. You can't get better unless you know where you need to improve. Finally, hang on to the dream! Perseverance is as much a part of being a writer as a computer and a dictionary are!

### **How do you deal with writer's block?**

I wish I had a simple answer—a formula—that every aspiring writer could follow when they face a bout of writer's block. But the reasons for reaching what appears to be a dead end vary and, for me at least, the solution does to. Often taking a break and doing something completely different—like going a walk, running an errand or even “sleeping on it”—will clear my mind and allow it to generate that creative spark and the words soon begin to flow again. It's strange but the answer to what happens next will often pop into my mind at the oddest times—when I'm at the gym, when I'm in my car or even in the middle of the night—especially when I'm not actively thinking about my predicament.

The second thing I would recommend is to take a break from writing and do some research. Often times, the block comes from not knowing the technical aspects of the scene, or the character's profession, or the physical attributes of a particular location. The research often sparks a number of ideas. I jot them down one by one and in the process, something will click and I've found a path forward. It also helps, I think if you know where your story is going—not that it won't take many twists and turns along the way. But having the big picture in mind allows you to put a problem scene to the side and to focus on a different scene or on a different character for a while. You can always come back to the road block later.

Finally, when all else fails, take a deep breath, pour a glass of wine, sit back, take a sip, relax and remember the medieval proverb that this too shall pass. Most importantly, save a glass of wine for me!

### **Where can people find your books?**

- In Sheep's Clothing [Amazon](#)
- An Eye For An Eye [Amazon](#)