

A close-up portrait of an older woman with short, white hair, wearing red-rimmed glasses and a red textured cardigan over a light blue collared shirt. She is smiling slightly. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with warm lighting.

**D. M.  
MURPHY**

**AUTHOR OF  
DOWN DOWN DOWN**

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Watching Rangers trudge through the swamps of Ft. Stewart, Ga., D.M. Murphy, an 18-year-old Army Journalist at the time, asked herself, “What wouldn’t these guys do?” The follow-up question would only enter a writer’s mind: “Would they go to hell and back to rescue someone?”

The idea percolated over decades. Murphy got married, had two kids, and lived in myriad cities. She taught college composition and became a columnist for a daily in Youngstown, Ohio. As the years passed, and the wrinkles appeared, the idea morphed from a bad-ass Ranger storming into hell to a reluctant detective looking for a hero’s journey — not all that different from the author.

# ABOUT DOWN DOWN DOWN

It's All Hallows' Eve, 1987. Tech Tycoon Richard Kihn paints his walls in blood and waits. By morning, he's vanished. His brother Dan hires high school pal Mike "Beck" Beckler - receding hairline and a few too many pounds - to find out what the cops aren't telling him. Beck, eager to leave behind his usual slate of sleazy divorce surveillances, welcomes the chance at a “real” investigation. However, the detective soon realizes this is more than a missing person case as he's drawn in by apocalyptic visions, mob hit men and a beautiful fiancée who claims Richard signed a contract with Satan. Cynic Mike Beckler is more concerned with evidence pointing to fratricide, a direct hit to his meal ticket. Even so, Beckler follows the clues to Ireland and a silver-haired gandreidh (witch), who mentors Beckler and his theological wingman Rev. James Thomas in magic, then sends them on a labyrinthine journey through hell to recover Richard's contract and Beckler's soul. Myth, Mystery and Murder combine in Down, Down, Down,



# Q&A with D.M. Murphy

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**1. Sum up *Down, Down, Down* in under 25 words for those who are new to your work.**

The book tells the story of an old detective who gets a do-over in his life. The price is a journey into hell.

**2. Where did you get the idea for *Down, Down, Down*?**

As an 18-year-old Army journalist watching infantrymen and Rangers navigate the swamps of Ft. Stewart, Ga., I got the idea of soldiers rescuing someone literally from hell.

**3. In *Down, Down, Down*, who was your most beloved character to craft, and what drew you to that character on a personal level?**

Far and away, Detective Mike Beckler. Like him, I'm searching for my holy grail – the thing that says you've given back enough. Like him, I'm disillusioned and looking for my hero's journey.

**4. Can you take us through your creative process? Do you meticulously plan your narratives or allow them to evolve organically?**

I have tried different methods of writing. For example, *Down, Down, Down* was organic. I just started writing it and workshopping it in a writer's group. That meant I ended up having to do a lot of rewriting. For Book 2 of The Beckler Trilogy, I'm front-loading all the research and planning.

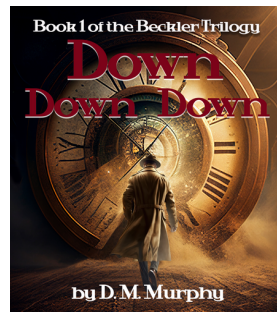
**5. What kind of research do you undertake for your projects, and how much time do you dedicate to research before commencing a new book?**

*Down, Down, Down* has a lot of references to mythology and mysticism so that took research. The next book of the trilogy has a more historical bent and so I've been laying the groundwork for months now.

**6. Could you recommend some notable books or authors that have influenced your writing and might captivate our readers/listeners?**

I'm afraid I have mostly been influenced by the classic fantasies – those by the likes of Ray Bradbury, H.G. Wells, and Tolkien.

Continued...



# Q&A continued

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## **7. What aspects of crafting fantasy stories do you find most exhilarating and fulfilling?**

Going along on the adventure and also exposing your foibles via characters. In other words, exposing yourself without really exposing yourself.

## **8. Could you share the greatest hurdles you've encountered while writing in the fantasy genre?**

Doing lots and lots of research, and before I started using Scrivener, keeping track of everything. I used to have index cards and notebooks everywhere.

## **9. Did you find yourself identifying with your main character, or did you intentionally create a character who is your complete opposite?**

I identify with Beckler. That whole sense of thinking you might have accomplished more than you have; the pragmatism that envelopes you and is rather scary as you grow older and accept you aren't going to be or do all that you expected.

## **10. Is there a specific message or feeling you hope readers take away from your book?**

I suppose I'd be lying if I said my first goal wasn't to entertain. That's certainly hard enough. If I accomplish that, then maybe getting the reader to reflect would be icing on the cake.

## **11. What made you decide to self-publish?**

It's very difficult to publish traditionally if you aren't already a successful author. The time is just right now for indie authors – all the tools exist to reach an audience. But I have to say, there's a very heady component to self-publishing as well. You are at the helm. That means you don't have to change things unless you want to.

## **12. What advice would you offer aspiring authors? What guidance would you give your younger self?**

Don't give up. If writing isn't your primary dream at any given moment, because life, kids, and jobs, intervene, don't think you can't resume the career later. You can.

## **13. When you're not writing, what activities or hobbies do you enjoy?**

I love cycling, hiking, reading (when I'm not writing), and working out to a good movie.

## **14. How does your family support your journey as a writer, and what role do they play in your creative process?**

My dedication to Down, Down, Down reads, "To my husband who let it happen, and my son who made it happen." That captures it. John, my husband, never had a cross word when I spent hours writing and now, self-publishing. He always took up the slack. My son, on the other hand, is the one who held my feet to the fire.

# IN THE NEWS

Thanks, Garfield Hts. by D.M. Murphy

Former Vindy Columnist Publishes Fantasy Novel

## EXCERPT

## DOWN DOWN DOWN

*At noon, Mike Beckler watched through binoculars as Gloria Danby, five-foot-three, green eyes, overweight, with straight black hair, held aloft an oversized pair of white panties in the underwear aisle of the Woolworths. She inspected them, and Beckler inspected her, the sixth stop since his day of voyeurism began. Parallel parked outside a downtown remnant from another era of merchant and consumer, a lone blip in an area of Phillip City where the EKG had otherwise gone flat, he leaned his head against the headrest and listened to the traffic. Another day, another dollar.*

## SAMPLE CHAPTERS

Chapters 1 and 2, Down Down, Down (epub)



D. M.  MURPHY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Two Tales of Time and Tenacity

LAS VEGAS, NV, USA, Sept. 8 — It's apropos D. M. Murphy's first novel features an anti-hero looking for a second chance. Murphy, 67, with a shock of short white hair and deep laugh lines, is in the same situation. Her crime suspense fantasy, about to launch on Halloween Eve, has been on hold for decades!

It's no coincidence **Down Down Down** also opens on All Hallows' Eve. It's 1987 and the blood-soaked penthouse of tech tycoon Richard Kihn leaves no clues as to his whereabouts. The book's protagonist, Mike Beckler, is a hard-drinking private investigator who views his PI career as "one long slide into a bucket of slime." Eager to leave behind his usual slate of sleazy divorce investigations, Beck welcomes a "real" case when he's hired by Dan Kihn, the missing man's brother. Too soon, Beck realizes this is more than a normal missing person's case. He becomes increasingly drawn in by Richard's beautiful fiancée, gruesome clues that point to fratricide, and the supernatural. Ultimately, Beckler becomes obsessed with his quest to find Richard.

The idea for the book came to Murphy when she was an 18-year-old Army Journalist stationed with the 24th Infantry Division and 1st Ranger Battalion in Georgia: What if someone literally went into hell to execute a rescue?

She married, gathered two degrees, two children, and two careers before she sat down to write the first word. Even after she did, it wasn't a priority. "You'd think teaching college writing at Youngstown State University would inspire me to buckle down and write it," Murphy said. "But it took retirement and a sense of mortality to finish what I'd started."

As a result, Murphy has been writing more now than ever before. She's writing and co-producing a podcast called "Crime Takeout" and contributing to a cybercrime series, developing a study skills guide based on a website she hosted, and even has one more novel that's ready for publication. Her books are available at [bydmmurphy.com](http://bydmmurphy.com), in addition to several online bookstores.

"As I've gotten older, I recognize time is getting shorter. I was very much influenced by my own situation in writing my main character," Murphy said. Like Beckler, she added, it feels like now or never. It's no coincidence that time figures prominently in the novel.

- MORE -

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“My main character and I aren’t exactly alike. He has slowly allowed his morals to erode for pragmatic reasons. He drinks too much. He lives alone,” Murphy said. “But as far as feeling like he’s running out of time to make a difference — I feel that way, too.”

For Beckler, the opportunity is a hero’s quest in the tradition of a Classic Greek Tale. Writing it required research into folklore, mythology, witchcraft, and the history of hell. For Murphy, the opportunity is being able to finally self-publish **Down Down Down**. She may, in fact, be overly ambitious. “I plan it as **Book 1 of The Beckler Trilogy**. One thing is for sure,” she said and laughed, “I can’t take as long to write the next two as I did this one!”

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