

## **Official Apex Reviews Interview: Moses Miller (The Trifling Times Of Nathan Jones, Once Upon A Time In Harlem)**

AR: Moses, thanks for joining us for this interview. We greatly appreciate having this opportunity to learn more about your books.

Our reviewer commented on how the power of your imagination shines through in your storytelling. How long have you written?

MM: I've been writing for as long as I can remember. The first story I can recall doing in a chapter book format was back when I was like seven years old though. A teacher read it and was very impressed by my ability to articulate my thoughts in written form.

AR: Who are some of your chief writing influences?

MM: I can't say anybody has ever influenced me. When I was growing up I read thousands of books from Alex Haley, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison and Donald Goines. But, I've also read Mary Higgins Clark, Valerie Wilson Wesley, Michael Crichton, Nelson Demille and several other authors. And that's not even including my non-fiction reading. I've always loved to learn new things, so books were always by my side growing up.

AR: In Once Upon A Time In Harlem, John's quick rise to power is aided by his enemies' underestimation of his intellect. What inspired you to style him in such fashion?

MM: I didn't want John to be a physically intimidating character, but instead I chose to surround him with individuals that were definitely more cold blooded and dangerous than him. He was a leader, and most of the time those with leadership qualities and the power of influence are a lot more dangerous than they are perceived to be by their enemies. Plus, John was a craftsman that was used to building things. He understood the importance of a solid foundation and structure when organizing his crime family. I wanted those qualities to be evident in his development.

AR: On the other hand, Sam gains ground by utilizing nothing less than the force of his sheer will. Is he based on anyone you personally know?

MM: Sam wasn't necessarily based on anyone I know, but his approach is very similar to a lot of individuals. He was impatient and he wanted things on his time and on his terms. Usually those type of individuals are prone to errors that a thinker avoids.

AR: What's the story behind the title of The Trifling Times Of Nathan Jones?

MM: Good question. I've had people read that book and say, "I loved Nan. He wasn't trifling. Why'd you call Nan trifling?" Then I have to correct them and say, I never said that he was trifling, but his life and times that he experienced most definitely were. So if I titled the book, Nan: The Life and Times of Nathan Jones, I don't think I would have

completely captured the essence of this compelling story. Nan went through some things during his life.

AR: Among other things, Nan is most certainly a survivor. Where does he get his incredible internal strength from?

MM: That's just something that inherently exists within him. What's important to realize is that the event doesn't define you, it's your resiliency or lack there of that truly defines your character. Nan was a survivor, but unfortunately he had demons that haunted him daily, which he never dealt with.

AR: Are elements of the NYPD really involved in the drug game, as you depict in the book?

MM: Visit [TriflingTimes.Org](http://TriflingTimes.Org) for the answer to that question. I'd like to think that there are more good cops than bad cops out there. But, I know that they're human so there are going to be bad apples amongst the bunch. There are going to be thieves and killers amongst them. People that live in any inner city have their own Nan stories.

AR: What's the origin & significance of the phrase "WhatamIawoodorwhat"?

MM: I got that from an older cousin of mine from the south. I never really knew the origin of the phrase beyond him, but whenever he was questioned or put in a position to defend himself he'd ask, "What am I a wood or what?" Go figure. I knew when I first heard him say that when I was like eight years old, that it would end up in one of my books.

AR: We noticed that you're a native New Yorker, and your books include many references to notable New York sites & structures. What about New York life do you find most appealing?

MM: I could sit on a subway train or in any park in New York and write a book in a day. There's no place on this earth where you can be amongst a group of so many diverse individuals. The city literally never sleeps. Some times I'll just look at people and imagine what they're thinking...write down what I think their stories are. I've been to places more beautiful than New York, but no place quite like it.

AR: Please share more with our readers about your company, Mind Candy, LLC.

MM: Mind Candy, LLC is a multimedia company primarily focused on book publishing and the development of thought provoking screenplays. We're also advocates of literacy and would like to play a significant role in helping to decrease the dropout rates amongst African American and Hispanic teens.

AR: What's next for you?

MM: Definitely check out [MindCandyMedia.com](http://MindCandyMedia.com) for future events. Nan: The Game of Trife will be the next book I publish. I have several books finished, but I'm real excited about a project I'm in the process of writing right now...more to follow. Going forward, I just want to continue to establish my brand and make my mark in the literary game.

AR: Any final thoughts you'd like to share with our readers?

MM: I just want my readers both present and future to know that I'll never do them wrong. I respect my readership too much to ever publish a book that would be deemed anything less than compelling. I ask that they keep challenging themselves by reading books in all genres, and also that they challenge their favorite authors to continuously challenge them with thought provoking works.

AR: Thanks again, Moses, and best of continued success to you in all your endeavors!