

RANSOM'S VOICE

Q&A WITH GARY DVORKIN

1. **Is *Ransom's Voice* your debut book as a fiction writer? Why did you choose to write a psychological/crime thriller?**

Yes, it is my foray into fiction. The book rather wrote me, and I responded!

2. **Where did you get your inspiration for the main character, a beautiful, young, Jewish-American woman named Dominique Stein?**

Dominique simply appeared, auditioned for the role, and the deal was done.

3. **Is your book based on a true story or is it strictly fantasy? Did you put some of yourself into any of the book's characters?**

Ransom's Voice is strictly fiction. There is a little bit of me in most of the characters (but not all!), which is a bit frightening.

4. **Are you Canadian born and raised?**

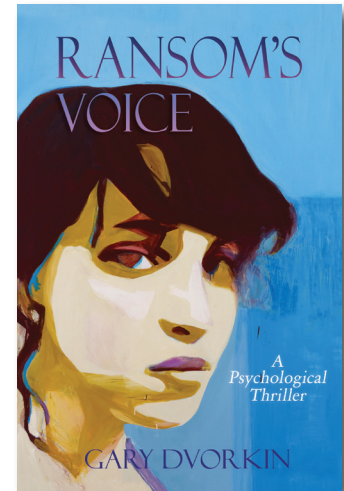
Yes, I was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. I currently live in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

5. **Did your upbringing or career as a neurologist influence the content of your book in any way?**

Not really. There are moments where my understanding of neuropsychiatry certainly helped, but it was never the main driving force of the narrative.

6. **Your descriptive novel is visually stimulating. Were you always a creative writer and aspiring screenwriter?**

I've always loved writing, and ideas for stories seemed to be demanding to be heard. For years I lived with that inner voice and was less than happy with myself for not just sitting down and pounding out a novel. I am grateful that this voice has now been dealt with!



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7. Who are your most admired authors and influencers?

Leo Tolstoy, Philip Roth, Tom Wolfe, Stephen King and Edward St Aubyn.

8. Is your narrative an analysis of psychiatry, as your two psychiatrist characters are polar opposites with different motives?

No. It is more an exploration of the spectrum of egos that one may encounter in the professional world of medicine, or anywhere for that matter.

9. What makes your book different than other psychological thrillers?

Well, how is this for starters? Dominique Stein is beautiful, young, and Jewish. Her sanity is overly dependent on external cues: chameleon-like. It all explodes. She desperately searches to find her way back inside that cozy bubble of sanity she had constructed. Lost, her bearings off and wobbly, her instincts are not functioning. Horrific crimes are committed. Not everyone survives. Dominique is found not guilty by virtue of temporary insanity and is sent to a psychiatric prison for women. There she is caught between the kind, serene, Freudian analyst, Dr. Haddad, and the head of the institute, the manic, megalomaniacal Dr. du Chevre, who offers her the Faustian contract; be the subject for his secretive, odd research, and he will get her out of prison earlier. Dominique has to navigate her way out of this maze of institutional insanity. Which shrink is telling her the truth? Or, are they both lying to her, manipulating her for their own strange motives? She must figure this out while trying to survive the random explosive violence of the women's prison. I think this book is different.

10. Is there a high concept premise to your book? Key plot points?

No. It is meant to be phenomenally entertaining, keeping the readers on their toes.

11. What are your hobbies and interests outside of writing fiction novels?

Golf, tennis, and travel. Three addictions for which there is (thankfully) no cure!

12. Do you foresee your book being made into a film?

Everyone who has read my book immediately mentions that they see it as a film. I don't want to get ahead of myself. Tell your agent to call my agent.