

ARA 13

Ara13.com

Author of *Drawers & Booths* & *Fiction*



email:
Publisher@CovingtonMoore.com

About Ara 13

Author of *Drawers & Booths*, *Fiction*

With more than 15 years experience as a writer—a military journalist, civilian news correspondent, columnist and now international award-winning novelist, Ara 13 is emerging as the publishing industry's "Indie Sensation." In addition to his unusual last name, 13 is garnering attention on the literary scene for his thematic metafiction writing style, recently showcased in his international award-winning book, *Drawers & Booths*.

The son of professional photographer parents, 13 was born into the arts in 1971 in Newton, N.J. He spent his childhood in Hackettstown and attended private high school outside Princeton before joining the United States Marine Corps as a combat correspondent. During his military career, 13 developed a strong passion for the written word, his skills honed by the U.S. Department of Information Services where he was trained as a journalist for print, radio and television. For his work in the military, 13 received medals from the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marines.

From 1992 to 1996, 13 served as a combat correspondent for the Marine Corps, covering Air Squad deployments to the war in Bosnia as well as Marine presence during civil unrest in Haiti. Later, as a special operations soldier for the Army, 13 covered civil affairs actions occurring in the Mideast and Africa. Between military stints, 13 co-created a literary magazine, *Sisyphus On Strike*, in Atlanta, Ga., in 1996. Never one to take life too seriously, Ara legally changed his last name from Hirsch to 13 in 1998, "mainly because it's funny," he said.

In addition to working in news media, throughout the last 10 years, 13 gained experience in a variety of writing outlets including commercial and script writing for Grey Sky Productions, freelance writing for national publications, and authoring featured book reviews for CriticsandMonsters.com, in addition to his lauded entrance into the arena of the novel.

Ara 13 moved to Galveston, Texas, in 2006, to realize his professional goal of becoming an esteemed author. While contributing a local column to *The Parrot*, which details the foibles of a New Jersey transplant to a Texas island community, 13 wrote his first work of metafiction, *Drawers & Booths* (CovingtonMoore Publishing, September 2007). The story blurs the boundary between reader and author, and explores the possibilities of narrative voice — a novel in which the characters become aware of their own role within a book.

Drawers & Booths was recently recognized as an "Outstanding Book of the Year" in the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards, the world's largest international book awards competition. 13 received a bronze medal as a "Storyteller of the Year," having exhibited "the courage and creativity to take chances, break new ground, and bring about change, not only to the world of publishing, but to our society," according to Jim Barnes of IPPY.

Ara 13 resides in Galveston, Texas, and travels throughout the states lecturing on the creative writing process with a focus on thematic metafiction. He is currently working on the release of his upcoming novel, *Fiction*, for March 2009. For more information, visit www.ara13.com. *Drawers & Booths* is available for purchase on Amazon.com, and in most bookstores.

To set up an interview with Ara 13, please contact Publisher@CovingtonMoore.com or call Ara's Lecture Line at 713-202-3708.



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