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### *Literary Arts Patron- Michael Tidemann*



Michael Tidemann is a journalist, freelance writer and adjunct English instructor living in Estherville, IA. His recent publications include a travel piece in the *Des Moines Register*, an article on writing your local history in *Writer's Journal*, a short story in *Struggle* magazine, and three short stories, "The Elk", "The Funeral" and "Seeking Sacajawea" in the last three issues of

*The Write Place At the Write Time.* His novel, *Doomsday: A tale of cyber terror*, is currently out in Kindle and in print. He is currently working on a short story collection entitled, *Letters from Elk City: And other stories*.

1) What led to your decision to become a writer? How has it affected your life?

***I decided to become a writer to figure out the world around me. Since then, writing has impacted my life as well. Let me give you an example. I dedicated my novel Doomsday to a girl I knew in high school. She died in a car accident nearly 30 years ago, and was buried in a country cemetery on land my father used to own. The further I got into the novel, the closer I felt to her. In fact, she gave me a lot of advice on how to write it - I couldn't have written it without her help. By the time I had finished the novel, I had fallen in love with her. So I bought the grave plot next to her for myself.***

2) Beyond the written word, what other creative mediums inspire you and why?

***I like to do photography, particularly of the Pacific Northwest. I've had a few exhibitions. I also just recently picked up the guitar and I'm looking forward to irritating the loons on Lake Superior in June and the gulls on the beach in Oregon in July.***

3) Why do you feel the arts (written, visual, performance, etc...) are such an important part of our past, present and future?

***Without art, we have no humanity. Picasso drew inspiration from cave paintings in France. As Jung said, we're all connected. I feel that when we fully engage in the artistic process, all barriers of space and time shatter. That's how a girl who died nearly thirty years ago helped me write my novel.***