

Where did TSK come from? Okay, diving back....

Late one night on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, I woke in the early hours of the morning from a dream. That dream was the following opening to where I started to write. This is taken directly from that file, as I keep everything. (Bonkers I know, I have hundreds.)

*Int. small room. Dark.*

TALIRI (M 29) sits on a small bed, the rest of the room mucky grey and undecorated. Taliri is unshaven and his clothes torn. His left sleeve completely missing reveals a deep but healing scar.

*A door to the left opens, Taliri doesn't flinch.*

*A large man, SERGEANT GAAIB M'DOZA enters the room and stands in front of Taliri.*

The writing isn't perfect, I know I was learning. But the seed was there.

Taliri, an alien king, captured and beaten in a human military base. Oh, those possibilities. My mind was in melt down.

Over the next couple of days, unfortunately I had an accident at work and broke a long bone in my hand. In plaster, and depressed the only thing that kept me going was Taliri.

I wrote the first draft of the script in two weeks, one handed.

Of course, you're always very proud of anything you write and I noticed an advert on the internet, (I was very niece at the time) a production company seeking new ideas. I bundled the first 10 pages off as they asked and waited. The response was great. But it would be, it was a scam. Which I was very lucky and talked to some of my screenwriting friends about and they confirmed.

My first feature film needed some criticism and after being involved with a group set up by a guy I met on the BBC's writers room, I finally posted some of it for everyone to see.

The comments that came back were very hopeful, but also very tough. I cried for a week.

But, I'd been around and taken worse hits. So, I found an internet site called Zhura. It was very interesting, and seemed a better place to learn more. The BBC group was wonderful and I've still got those guys as close friends, but they were experienced writers, and I needed a little love as well as guidance.

I soon became a very valued member of the Zhura community, and where I met -K- with his elusive —

Wow, I like it already. I'm not sure what these "Aonise" are or what makes them different than humans, but you've got a great set up here. I especially love when ...  
AAUGH! FORMATTING GLITCH! THE REMAINDER OF THE MOVIE IS SCENE HEADINGS! THE WORLD IS LOST!

Tee hee, just kidding. I see you've got some technical issues to work out before this script is more readable. I'll check back!

The first real sets of constructive comments were from Gregory D Goyins, -K- (catface), George Lester, Kevin Ryan, Stripes, D.A Washington, D. Johnson, and Melvin Johnson.

These guys are the closet thing I will ever have to a writing family. Awesome, nurturing and strict. I love them. And I'm very proud to say they've all worked very hard in their screenwriting endeavors. Some with much success.

Anyway, to cut the story down some more. It was -K- that suggested I turn the feature film into a TV series. I allowed that idea to percolate some more and put it to him nicely. 'Want to collaborate?'

We formed a private group and began to hash everything out. Writing the bible, character and character arcs and then subsequently turning it into 13 episodes. Where -K- found a special place in his writing world for a young gay alien, called Rimono.

Life sometimes got in the way of our progression as it does.

I found another amazing website and area to work in, ScriptFrenzy, part of the Nanowrimo organization. This helped fuel my writing capacity and I made other contacts.

A couple of stumbling blocks later, and Zhura merged with Scripped 2010 it became a totally different website. And this prompted the move of some of us, and the un-masking of the elusive cat faced, gay alien specialist. -K- now known as Steven Kogan.

It was then I found the newly developed website by Ben Cahan, Talentville. And I continued to hone and develop my craft, with the helps of some wonderful new friends. Jaime Bengzon and Ken Lemm.

Jaime loved the concept idea of TSK and when he wanted to step back from screenwriting to go back to art, he opened the door and asked the inevitable question 'know anyone looking?' friends can be an amazing thing. I snapped his hand off for his wonderful talent.

ScriptFrenzy closed its doors and with it my mind was drawn back to my very first love of prose writing. I had some good and small successes in this area and TSK ticked over in the background for a while as a developing novel.

It wasn't until I started to receive feedback from some extremely helpful prose websites, that I made another firm friend, Cassandra Garza. She helped and guided me in many ways over the following year. She became a rock for me in the prose world. Falling for my characters as much as I had.

The final stages of the development process came when someone mention 'wouldn't the history to TSK make a fantastic novel?' and that was it, two weeks from November 2012 and I decided to do exactly that. Armed with the bios, the backstory and the bible I wrote 50k in 30 days, and went onto finish the novel for my birthday, a promise to myself. The total count fell at 84k, not bad...

But it wasn't perfect. There were many, many holes in it. And I then needed to start to edit. I passed the first 9 chapters to -K- and after he ripped it to shreds I started to reach out and look for someone who could help me on a more one to one basis. Please enter my wonderful coach EJ Runyon. Who through a mutual friend on wordpress found me a free membership on Scribophile. Where I met my next two best writing friends. Jerry Quinn and Jonathan Pepper. And then my Copy Editor, Rogena Mitchell-Jones.

TSK has developed with amazing speed this last 2 years with the input and support of all of these friends. Joining our team in 2014 our new conlang specialist Trent Pehrson and young UK assistant Patrick Bowen alongside our website developer Chris Brown, finally started to open up the world of TSK for others to witness. I am very honoured to be where I am, humbled by their support and for their talent. And hope this rather long piece of history will be something many of us will remember fondly for many, many years to come.

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