

**Ft. Lewis soldier's "wheelchair project," published after 20 years, defines a new genre.**

Joseph Malik wrote a book once. In fact, he wrote it many times.

After years of attempting to push rewrites through the slush piles at major publishers and agents, he turned his back on the intricate and detailed fantasy realm he'd built, despite it being the culmination of over a decade of hands-on research into pre-industrial societies, medieval combat, and military history.

"At one point, a major publisher had it," says Malik. "They assured me they were passing it around, asked me for a series treatment, everything. I was walking on air. Then, after 18 months, they finally passed with a form letter. After that, I just wrote for myself, and finally shelved the whole thing and moved on with my life. Writing a book was just another thing I'd done."

Years later, he was critically injured on a deployment to the Horn of Africa. Awakening from a coma at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, Malik found the manuscript and series notes on a hard drive that his wife had brought to the hospital, loaded with movies and music for his long recovery.

"You need something to keep you from going crazy," Malik says. "I read through it, and I thought, 'You know, this isn't too bad.' I had a wealth of new knowledge and a new experiential base, so I started over from a blank page. This time, the story told itself. I found myself not so much writing, as just writing it down. I felt confident sending it off to a professional editor and publishing it through a small press."

*Dragon's Trail* is a cross-worlds fantasy novel with a spy-thriller twist, owing in no small part to the author's work in strategic intelligence and Special Operations. Critics are hailing Joseph Malik as the pioneer of a new genre: the Fantasy Technothriller.

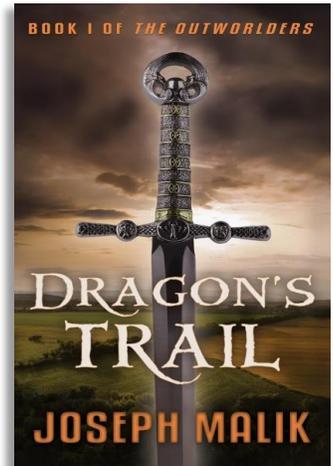
"It's much more science than fantasy," Malik says. "When I first set out, twenty years ago, I decided that I didn't want to just look this stuff up or pull it from other fantasy novels, because that's how you perpetuate inaccuracies. I visited ruins. I went camping on horseback. I learned swordfighting, and how to forge steel by hand. I even designed a working language. Apparently, nobody does this, which would explain why it got passed over so many times. I don't think the majors knew what to make of it."

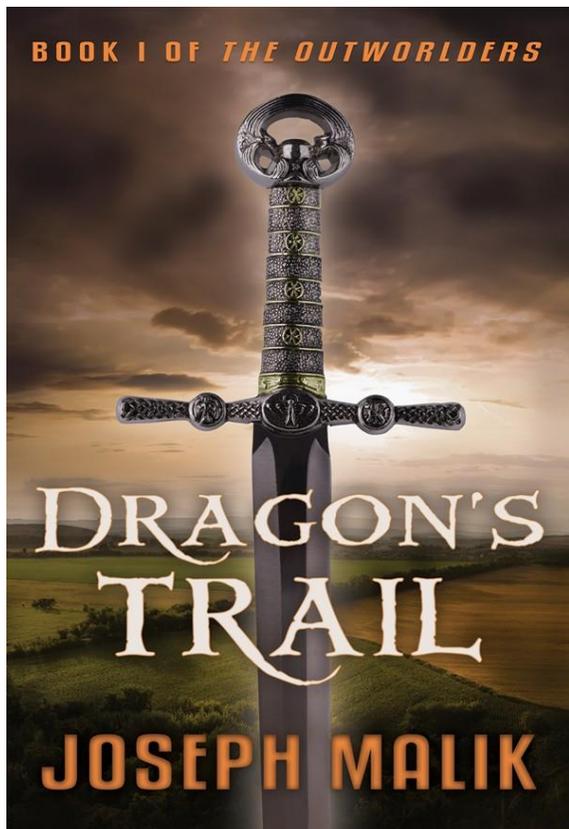
The book has received stellar reviews, with critics raving about its unprecedented realism and attention to detail. The resulting suspension of disbelief has also generated some unique fan mail. "I've had readers contact me asking how to get there," Malik laughs. "I tell them, 'If you find out, let me know.' One guy is convinced I was part of a Black Ops program guarding a magic portal."

*Dragon's Trail* launched in late 2016 on Amazon Kindle Unlimited. After reaching the top 20 in Kindle's Military Fantasy category in March 2017, it released to all major retailers this month through Oxblood Books in Gig Harbor, Washington.

A sequel is scheduled for release in late 2017. Malik plans a six-book series. He will be appearing as a panelist and moderator at Norwescon 40.

To request more information or review copy, please contact [author@josephmalik.com](mailto:author@josephmalik.com) or visit [www.josephmalik.com](http://www.josephmalik.com).





***"I didn't come here to sell my soul. I came here to buy it back."***

Once dubbed "The Deadliest Man Alive," Jarrod Torrealdy is a former Olympic saber hopeful and medieval weapons expert banned from competition for killing another fencer in a duel. He now scrapes by as a stuntman and technical consultant for low-budget fantasy films.

A young sorcerer from another world offers Jarrod the gig of a lifetime: adviser to the war council of a magical realm teetering on the edge of collapse, with a foreign army massing just beyond its borders.

Swept into a treacherous and deadly world of intrigue and conspiracy, Jarrod soon learns that the enemy mastermind is also from Earth, and has laid the foundations for a new kind of war.

*Dragon's Trail* is a fantasy technothriller, and the first book in the *Outworlders* saga.

For more information, visit the website at [www.josephmalik.com](http://www.josephmalik.com).

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### **About the Author**

**Joseph Malik** writes and lectures on asymmetric warfare and advanced intelligence theory for the U.S. military. He has worked as a stuntman, a high-rise window washer, a freelance writer, a computational linguist, a touring rock musician, and a soldier in the United States Special Operations Command. A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, he lives in the Pacific Northwest along with his wife and their two dogs, and currently serves in the Army Reserve.



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