

## **Biography**

---

Steve Libbey was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, a few months before mankind landed on the moon, and ever since his head has been elsewhere. Childhood was a blur of superheroes, reruns of Star Trek, science fiction book club hardcovers "accidentally" received, and early exposure to punk rock. Legend has it that he taught himself to read at age two because his parents had gotten bored rereading the same Black Panther comic book to him. He resolved to become a writer when he grew up – then ran outdoors to play with action figures.

As a teenager he discovered what punk rock entailed, which fortunately gave him an escape from escapism, and he acquired social skills. Steve attended an accelerated public school and fared well, while scrawling punk rock logos on his clothes. He flunked out of the University of Colorado (which he attended unknowingly with a future collaborator, artist Douglas Shuler). He tricked the University of Cincinnati into giving him an English degree (cum laude, according to those who bothered to attend the graduation ceremony; this remains unsubstantiated) while he played guitar in manifold rock bands.

In the early nineties, he published short fiction and journalism in magazines, newspapers and journals. Then he decided that rock and roll guitars offered more feedback than fiction. The writing career was put on hold while he spent a decade writing and performing various sorts of rock: punk, jangly punk, shoegazer, grunge, indie noise pop, and finally new wave with an Atlanta band, the Shut-Ups. In quiet moments (daylight hours), he made a living as a web developer, and squandered his money on running an independent record label.

It was during this final flirtation with the music industry that Steve befriended Mercedes Lackey, and the two began to collaborate casually on some superheroic fiction, which eventually evolved into *The Secret World Chronicle* novel series. As the Shut-Ups were on the verge of securing a major label record contract, an epiphany helped him realize that he had no taste for a life on the road, so he quit the band and moved to Portland, Oregon, to focus on writing at last.

Steve's solo novel publication career opens with the first volume in the Aqua Pura Trilogy: *The Bloodbaths*. Available in October, it's a story of a plumber in dark times who seeks redemption for his mistakes. The second volume in the series, *The Quartz Odalisque*, is due out in 2008. Also forthcoming is *The Inspector*, an attempt at a literal depiction of a Richard M. Powers cover painting.

Unable to escape his musical past, Steve plays guitar with a seven piece funk band known as The Golden Greats (featuring fellow author Mykle Hansen). He has been spotted around Portland with a famous one-eyed pug.

## **Websites**

---

[www.stevelibbey.com](http://www.stevelibbey.com)  
[www.aquapuratrilogy.com](http://www.aquapuratrilogy.com)  
[www.secretworldchronicle.com](http://www.secretworldchronicle.com)

## Official Press Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Charity Heller Hogge,  
503.201.7782

### ***THE BLOODBATHS* IS “A KICK IN THE TUNIC” FOR THE SWORD AND SANDAL GENRE;**

BOOK ONE OF STEVE LIBBEY’S AQUA PURA TRILOGY RELEASED;

“Steve Libbey gives the ‘sword-and-sandal’ epic a kick in the tunic and propels it into the gestalt of the 21st century, with an everyman hero whose brains triumph over brawn,” says author Mercedes Lackey. She should know; Lackey and Libbey have been co-writing the upcoming *The Secret World Chronicle* novel series. Libbey’s first solo foray into novels has all the marks of a landmark debut: a fresh perspective, an evocative-yet-familiar world, and a protagonist to whom readers can relate.

Crixus Oraan is an ambitious plumber in Rond, a Romanesque world of spoiled nobility and thriving trade. In the hopes of financing the dreams of him and his fiancée, he wagers his guild’s money on a sure win—and loses. Crixus escapes as a fugitive to the ancient and mysterious continent of Minq, where he hopes to regain his status and return to his beloved.

In the first book, *The Bloodbaths*, Crixus hires out to the Lamiae of Nistru, a literally bloodthirsty aristocracy. Though desperate, he is a man of conscience who cannot long tolerate their parasitic reign of terror. But what can one plumber do?

“The *Citizen Kane* of medieval plumber novels.”  
—Mykle Hansen, author of *Help! A Bear Is Eating Me!*

A different kind of fantasy epic, the Aqua Pura Trilogy—which will include *The Quartz Odalisque* and *The Good King’s Tomb*—forsakes magic, evil supernatural overlords, and talking animals. The world of Rond is imaginary, but the denizens are not; they are plumbers and printers, farmers and mercenaries, courtesans and crooks. “I had become disenchanted, so to speak, with the fantasy genre,” says the author. “So much of it seemed to be concerned with earth-shaking dilemmas—the ‘shadow across the land’ books, as it were. When I realized I was subconsciously hunting for stories that presented human-sized conflicts, I knew I had found a niche to write in.”

Libbey draws from a variety of sources to bring the world of Rond and Minq to life. “European, medieval fantasy in the vein of Tolkien has become so common it’s nearly transparent. I wanted Rond to be lush and vital, so I looked to ancient Rome for inspiration. Minq is what the Romans would have considered ‘barbaric’—wild city-states vying for the resources abandoned by a long-lost civilization. As Crixus and his friends journey across Minq, they will encounter legendary cannibals and advanced cities populated with steam-driven automatons.”

“The Bloodbaths is a journey to a place where both blood and water run sacred. Libbey’s writing is startling, inviting the reader to a world rife with brigands, pirates and civil engineers—a book destined to find a place in the common mythology.”  
—Sou MacMillan, author of *Chrysanthemum* and *Shallow Empire*

Thousands of fans of *The Secret World Chronicle* who have thrilled to Libbey’s skewed, sleek and gritty approach to action literature have been eagerly awaiting this book. Now the rest of the world can discover what his readers already know about this rising star.

### **About the Author**

Although he always knew he would end up a writer, Steve Libbey did not become serious about writing until after he had spent over a decade getting rock and roll guitar out of his system. By this time he had moved from his native Cincinnati to Atlanta and quit a band on the verge of signing to a major label. His next stop was Portland, Oregon, where he has settled into novel writing and collaborating with famed author Mercedes Lackey on *The Secret World Chronicle* novel series. He is currently at work on yet another novel series as well as the sequel to *The Bloodbaths*.

*The Bloodbaths* by Steve Libbey

Subatomic Books, October 6, 2007, trade paperback/\$16.95

ISBN: 978-0-9793915-0-7

[www.subatomicbooks.com](http://www.subatomicbooks.com)

[www.aquapuratrilogy.com](http://www.aquapuratrilogy.com)

## Suggested Interview Questions

---

1. Why did you start writing novels after years of focusing on music?
2. What was the inspiration for Crixus in the Aqua Pura Trilogy?
3. What themes compel you?
4. Who would you describe as literary influences?
5. Why do you have such a disparate list of projects: sword-and-sandal fantasy, pulp superheroes, surrealist science fiction, post-apocalyptic western?
6. Is it true that David Morrell (creator of Rambo) once chided you for not owning a television?
7. How did you come to collaborate with Mercedes Lackey?
8. In the past you have ranted against consumerism – *The Bloodbaths* can be seen as a meditation on the evils of exploitative consumerism. What do you have against consumerism, and how can you justify selling books in light of your stance?
9. What connection do you make with music and writing in your life?
10. You offer your books as free downloads, ebook or audiobook. What do you gain from this strategy?
11. You quit a band on the verge of signing with a major label. Why?
12. You have been described as a New Fantastic writer, as well as a fantasy writer, a science fiction writer, and a speculative fiction writer. What do you think of this new label?

## Further Material

---

1. Email [info@subatomicbooks.com](mailto:info@subatomicbooks.com) for a synopsis of the book.
2. Photos (high and low res) are available at [www.subatomicbooks.com/media.php](http://www.subatomicbooks.com/media.php).
3. Visit [www.thegoldengreats.com](http://www.thegoldengreats.com) for information about the Portland-based funk band for which Steve plays guitar.
4. Steve co-writes and co-edits a braided novel series with famed fantasist Mercedes Lackey: *The Secret World Chronicle*. It is available as a free podcast at [www.secretworldchronicle.com](http://www.secretworldchronicle.com).
5. Steve can be reached at [stevelibbey@subatomicbooks.com](mailto:stevelibbey@subatomicbooks.com). He is available for interviews (radio, tv, phone, chat or email) and appearances (depending on location).