

## H.D. Hunter Interview 121219

### reThink ELA: Interview with Author of Torment: A Novella

5 p.m. CST Thursday: <https://zencastr.com>

I'll be using Zencastr to record the audio. If you can't hear me, or are not sure I can hear you during the setup, you can type in the chat box on the Zencastr screen.

**AFTER RECORDING:** Please make sure you wait until after your audio uploads before you close the browser window.

**More Tips:** <https://www.rethinkela.com/how-to-be-our-podcast-guest/>

WELCOME TO THE RETHINK ELA PODCAST. I'M YOU'RE HOST MICHELLE WATERS AND MY GUEST THIS WEEK IS HUGH H.D. HUNTER, WHO IS AN AUTHOR, ACTIVIST AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

HIS LATEST BOOK, TORMENT: A NOVELLA. IS ABOUT A YOUNG MAN STRUGGLING WITH LIFELONG MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND FOLLOWS THE MAIN CHARACTER THROUGH THE WEEKEND OF HIS BROTHER'S FUNERAL. HE INTERACTS WITH SEVERAL GRIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS AND GRAPPLES WITH THE TRAGEDIES IN HIS PAST THAT HAVE LEAD TO HIS FAMILY'S CURRENT SITUATION. QUESTIONS AT THE TOP OF HIS MIND ARE WHAT IS WORTH LIVING FOR? AND WHAT LESSONS COULD I HAVE LEARNED SO THAT I DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A HARD TIME GROWING UP?

HUGH'S BOOK DEALS WITH SERIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH, RACE, CLASS AND SOCIETY, AND COMING OF AGE AND IS SUITABLE FOR BOTH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

TORMENT IS THE WINNER FOR MULTICULTURAL FICTION IN THE 2019 NEXT GENERATION INDIE BOOK AWARD CONTEST. IT WON THE 3RD PLACE GRAND PRIZE FOR FICTION IN THAT SAME CONTEST AND WAS A FINALIST IN THE NOVELLA CATEGORY.

HUGH IS A FORMER UNIVERSITY-LEVEL CAREER COACH WHO WORKED PRIMARILY WITH BUSINESS STUDENTS. BUT HIS REAL PASSION WAS WRITING. SO HE CREATED TORMENT, AS A WAY TO PROCESS HIS OWN LIFE AND REACH OUT TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE. HE NOW OFFERS VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS AND CLASSROOM VISITS TO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS

IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT HUGH AND WHAT HE AND HIS BOOK CAN DO FOR YOUR CLASSROOM. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

- 1. I briefly introduced you before my segue, but I'd love to hear your story about how your journey led to writing a book for young adults.**
- 2. I also talked about your book before my segue. What can you tell us about Torment and why it's a good choice for schools?**
- 3. What audiences did you write this book for?**
  - a. What age groups or grades do you see your book being read in mostly?
  - b. I can talk here about books being mirrors or windows depending on the life experiences of the students.
  - c. I can also talk about how studies show that reading books builds empathy.
- 4. What is the focus or message of your workshops? Your class visits?**
  - a. How are your workshops or visits structured and what is the general message you convey?
- 5. Generally speaking, what impact have you seen your author visits (virtually or in person) have on students?**
  - a. What impacts have you seen with students who want to write?
  - b. What about students who have no interest in reading or writing?
- 6. What are some effective ways you have seen your book used in classrooms?**
  - a. Do you have an idea or two that you could mention briefly?
  - b. I'll mention the unit that I'm working on and in the podcast post, I'll provide a link where those who are interested can sign up to receive updates about the unit.
- 7. How can teachers who want to invite you to their classroom, either online or in person, learn more about or contact you?**
  - a. Where can teachers learn more about you?

b. What are the best ways to contact you?

**8. [Follow up discussion as needed]**

a. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**Links:**

Website: <https://www.thesoutherndistrict.com/>

Buy the book on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2LsKH1h>

Meet the author video: <https://youtu.be/JXJWpN9f2bM>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/hd\\_tsd](https://twitter.com/hd_tsd)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/hd\\_tsd/](https://www.instagram.com/hd_tsd/)

Workshop information: <https://www.thesoutherndistrict.com/blog/2019/12/18/nisky>