



Andy Davidson, the author of the Official 2020 Summer Scares Adult selection *In the Valley of the Sun*, answered six questions from committee member and horror author, Stephen Graham Jones. [This interview can be used by libraries with attribution to the Summer Scares program.](#)

**SGJ:** *You're fourteen years old. What posters are on your wall?*

**AD:** *JFK and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.* These were both hand-me-downs from the local video store (my Kevin Costner phase ended with *Waterworld*). And no, they're not posters, but I had two standees from that same video store that ate up lots of floorspace: *Robocop 2* and a massive *Willow* promotional. On my bedroom door: Michael Keaton was suited up and scowling in front of the Batmobile (also, above my bed, I'm ashamed to say, was a foldout poster from the movie magazine for *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*, featuring Gene Hackman and Jon Cryer as Lex Luthor's nephew, Lenny—"Oh noooo...").

**SGJ:** *What was your first encounter with a horror story, be it fiction, film, poetry, comic book, videogame, or around a campfire?*

**AD:** The first ghost story I remember was "The Man with the Golden Arm," as told by my Dad, which involved much wailing and moaning. The first book I remember reading that scared me was *Watchers* by Dean Koontz (this was 1988, mind you, back when "Dean" and "Koontz" had an "R" between them and the man actually had less hair than he does now). Mom gave me a copy and I read it and, to this day, *Watchers* remains, maybe, my favorite horror novel of all time. It's a monster book with a ton of heart.

**SGJ:** *What scares you the most?*

**AD:** Waking up at 3 a.m. next to the person you love and remembering how fragile and fleeting life is.

**SGJ:** *What's one horror novel that, when you recommend it around, always turns you into a hero, gets all your next recommendations immediately trusted?*

**AD:** Pretty much anything by Joe Lansdale is always a win, but in terms of one specific book, I've had great success with *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*.

**SGJ:** *What novel, be it horror or not, would you trade a finger to have been the one to write?*

**AD:** *The Night of the Hunter* by Davis Grubb. No. Wait. *True Grit*.

**SGJ:** *If you still had room on your wall for posters—it's all books now, I know—what would those posters be?*

**AD:** In high school, my wife drew and colored a poster-sized piece of art featuring a *D&D* character she still plays. I'd frame that and hang it in a heartbeat. Also: we have a ton of unframed art tucked away in a portfolio—Mondo prints, movie posters, *Star Wars* schematics, Sardinian maps. They're all waiting for that magical day when our house grows large enough to accommodate them. But we keep buying books, and strangely, the house keeps shrinking....