

Wynne Leon (00:02)

Welcome to How to Share, a podcast where we share what we've lived and

I'm Wynne Leon and in this episode, co-host Vicki Atkinson and I are with author, physician, and veteran U.S. Navy commander, Wayne Runde. Wayne tells us about his book, *Shadow of the Deceiver*, the third installment in his Genesis Trust series. We hear about why he was called to start writing, even with his busy schedule and fascinating set of hobbies.

We ask about the intersection of science, morality, and humanity that is a cornerstone for his writing and stories. Wayne tells us where he finds inspirations for his characters from his professional life and also his personal interactions within his church community. This is a great episode with an author that has so much informed perspective to share, along with a fantastic story.

We know you'll love it.

you

Vicki Atkinson (01:16)

you

Wynne Leon (01:17)

you

Bye. Vicki and I are really excited to talk to you today. We wanted to say congratulations on the release of your book, *Shadow of the Deceiver*, which is the third book in your Genesis Trust series. Can you give us the elevator pitch for the book and for the series?

Wayne Runde (01:45)

It's the one book of the trilogy ~ and it picks up in the year 2150 and. Basically starts off with a young married couple coming back to the husband's hometown, which is close to my hometown as it turns out, ~ and they get wrapped up into. This shadowing figure called the Falcon and.

One thing leads to another and they have to try to unravel that and I think kind of exciting journey they go on.

Wynne Leon (02:17)

Right, right. True, exciting journey. And the series overall, I mean, it's sort of, you started it out with the Genesis Trust. that, do I that right? Yeah. And you bring back the city of Atlantis. I don't want to give too much away here, so I'll just sort of roll it out. But it's just an incredible... ~

premise of technology and how to apply it. think that would be a fair statement.

Wayne Runde (02:57)

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson (02:59)

Yeah, it's this really cool intersection, I think that in a way where when I've never read anything like Wayne's work, where it is that intersection of kind of sci fi and fantasy. But there's also like a moral undertone, you know, a calling to lean into faith, which is so contemporary. And I think readership for the storyline, I think, you know, folks will really enjoy the uplifting.

opportunity that reading it presents, you know, because there is conflict and there are battles all around, but leaning into what people know best, you know, sort of encouragement throughout and we see the struggle and we see the strife, but the parallels to kind of present day dilemmas that I think society is facing was not lost on this reader. It kept me.

kept me reading because it felt very timely.

Wynne Leon (03:58)

Great. Well said, Vicki. Well said.

Vicki Atkinson (04:02)

Yeah, no, but it was just, it felt like it was written for right now. And I don't know how long ago you started writing this last one, but when it felt like it was well-timed for readers right now.

Wynne Leon (04:17)

Yeah, that's very, very true. So Wayne, you are a veteran US Navy commander as well as a physician. What called you to add author to that list of credentials?

Wayne Runde (04:33)

I grew up with science fiction basically, ~ and I just was always fascinated by that. then over the years started thinking it'd be nice to one, basically the Foundation Trilogy, if I could read, somebody could rewrite that with more of a Christian viewpoint. And without being preachy, obviously, I don't want to do that. But I just thought, well, I guess I can do that.

Wynne Leon (04:57)

No

Wayne Runde (04:57)

I thought about it for probably about 10, 15, probably close to 20 years. And then finally I thought, well, it's time to just do it.

Wynne Leon (05:05)

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. It's funny how long things have to bake sometimes.

Vicki Atkinson (05:06)

So good.

Wayne Runde (05:11)

Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson (05:13)

Yeah, that's true. But it's really interesting to learn where the inspiration sat, you know, and it's not a small thing to be inspired by someone like Asimov, but then also sit back and go, but I I could do it differently. It's a little humbling, I'm sure, right? And probably made you a little extra deliberate about what you were about to do.

Wayne Runde (05:33)

Yeah.

Wynne Leon (05:34)

Yeah. Ow. So good. So hobbies are so interesting because I mean just thinking about this list gardening beekeeping developing management software from a medical clinic genealogy what's the underlying thread that pulled you into all these hobbies as you know as well as writing and and all the other stuff that you do.

Wayne Runde (05:58)

Sure, what common thread to all of those, but I don't when my son was younger. I said, do you see anything common about the woodworking and the gardening and the writing software? And of course he says no. I said, well, because it's creating something. It's making something and I don't know if that's fits for all the things I do, but that's probably the common thread there.

Wynne Leon (06:24)

Right, right. that's such a great observation about creation and and and

Vicki Atkinson (06:32)

And also I think a little bit about service. Thank you for your service, but you are a well-traveled man too. So maybe having a world perspective, having served in Okinawa, right? And I joked when I had heard that when Wayne described himself as having lived in the four corners of the United States, Seattle, Maine.

the heartland, right, and then like down in Florida. So do you think having traveled a lot contributes to your writer's heart?

Wayne Runde (07:08)

What you see anyway is, yeah, think there's tons of people. different cultures within the United States, even outside, I think just trying to put all that together and trying to do justice to them rather than doing just, you know, a caricature of them, just something that's more realistic, but still fictional.

Vicki Atkinson (07:32)

Right. But it makes the characters, I think, and very readable. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (07:32)

Right.

You know, I'd say, I'm building on Vicki's comment from before, but you excel at exploring that intersection of science and morality and humanity. And it seems, really does seem so relevant to our world today. and I'm going to just, quote a small passage, from early on in the book. Her father's voice echoed in the memory. Atlantis is more than a place. It's a purpose.

The Genesis Trust was built to safeguard knowledge, science and the Bible. One without the other leaves people blind. So how do you think that writing and reading fiction and those stories help us puzzle out the issues?

Wayne Runde (08:27)

We've go for entertainment first and meaning second, and so I think by putting together the science fiction and the the morality of the meaning brings people in to just read for enjoyment and then while they're reading it, they also pick up on these other other things. That kind of answer your question or.

Wynne Leon (08:46)

Right, right. mean, I think what's interesting about that is that storytelling nature, right? You know, we understand things by story. Yeah.

Vicki Atkinson (09:00)

You do a really nice job, Wayne. I always like an invitational kind of chapter opening and you do a beautiful job of bringing scripture forward to open every chapter. know, as Wayne is saying, it's kind of a subtle touch, but there's one that I really appreciate right before chapter 15. And it's the Martin Luther King quote, the arc of the moral universe is long.

but it bends toward justice. So I'm sure that that was probably painstaking for you to do, but boy, it sets a tone beautifully, I think, for the reader. So well done.

Wayne Runde (09:42)

those chapters with scripture or with quotes ~ that seem like they would fit with the chapter. So I wrote the chapter first and then got the quotes later.

Wynne Leon (09:53)

It's good.

It's a great part of the process. ~ You know, of course, you said that you found your inspiration for your characters in the four corners, you know, both in and in your life, you know, the individuals you encounter both in your professional capacity and within your church community. Can you say a little bit more about how the real world feeds your fabulous writing style and capabilities?

Wayne Runde (10:20)

Just that one thing you mentioned about how it seems to be relevant to today and in part, of I'm living today and trying to pay attention to what's going on in the world. ~ And so I draw upon that and then to some extent also just the interactions I see among people, of course, as a doctor, but also as having traveled and all that. It's had the opportunity to meet a lot of different people and their perspectives and

I should try to bring that all into the books the best I can.

Wynne Leon (10:52)

Yeah, yeah. Well, we'd love your storytelling heart. And I'm going to quote another a little bit from your book. ~

It's best if I start from the beginning, Harrison said. Your grandmother, my mom, told me stories. Old men love telling stories, Chris thought. Maybe it's because they've told so many, they have so many memories to share and can't always remember who they've already told. Do you have a particular inspiration behind, you know, either Harrison or Chris?

Wayne Runde (11:29)

Yeah, to tell my patients that I start talking I said, oh man like telling stories. So that part of this based on me. But yeah, we've seen that a lot of times where old people not just old men, but old people like to tell stories. And I had a doctor that was older that worked for me a few years ago. And he told me the same story two or three times. I'm like, yeah, I've already heard that. But can all that kind of feeds together into this character.

Wynne Leon (11:55)

Yeah, yeah, it's true. And especially when you can't remember what you've told. And it's funny when you start to build in those little phrases like, I better start at the beginning. or maybe, I don't know if I've mentioned, you know, all those things that you start to build in.

Vicki Atkinson (12:15)

Mm-hmm. Yeah, you could, I think, identify, right? And I found that to be true when with the relationship between the young married couple, Chris and Brianna, they felt like real people and some of the bantering between the two of them about decision making and the high stakes. Don't want to give away too much, but there was a lot that they were.

in pursuit of and really kind of heroes in the story, know, stepping into some really important roles. Yeah. And I have to call out there's one sentence, a lot of sentences that I really love, but kind of like when some things just jump out, there's an opening sentence for chapter 13 where Wayne, wrote, the air seemed heavier than usual, charged with an unspoken tension that seeped into

every conversation and every movement. mean, all of that kind of artistry and then weaving tension into is that's really a skill, but that was, ooh, chef's kiss, good one.

Wynne Leon (13:22)

Definitely. Definitely.

Vicki Atkinson (13:25)

~ What is it like to get that feedback from readers? Is that propulsion for you to get back to writing again? Or is it just sort of like, shucks.

Wayne Runde (13:39)

I am more of a shy person, believe it or not, and so when I hear that it's it, it is kind of an oh shucks X in a sense, but yeah, it's also an inspiration thing. Well, OK, well, if they like that, let's see what else I can do.

Wynne Leon (13:51)

Yeah, right. Yay. Speaking of what else can you do, what's next on your creative radar?

Wayne Runde (13:58)

Well, I've already started on another series and again similar, but different and maybe at some point try to weave that together to kind of bridge with the Genesis Trust series. Somehow haven't figured out how I'm going to do that yet, but it's either going to be a trilogy or. If I can make it work, I thought a trilogy of trilogies be kind of cool, but nine books a lot of books, so I probably won't do that.

Wynne Leon (14:24)

Hahaha!

Vicki Atkinson (14:25)

That's epic.

Wayne Runde (14:27)

You know

Wynne Leon (14:27)

Right, right. Three at a time. Just do it three at a time. That makes it smaller.

Vicki Atkinson (14:32)

Wow, that's amazing. That's amazing.

Wynne Leon (14:37)

I think I read this some statistic that you know, maybe like 98 % people think that they're gonna write a book but only 2 % actually do and get it published. But I'm not sure how many people actually think about writing trilogies and then actually get it published. So hats off to you, Wayne.

Vicki Atkinson (15:00)

Yeah, mean, go big, right? ~ Go big. Amazing. I also have to say that I loved, there's, again, without giving away too much, there's a really nice nuance about, ~ gosh, how do we want to say this, about how people can be influenced and

Wynne Leon (15:02)

Right? Yeah.

Amazing.

Vicki Atkinson (15:22)

controlled by music and the company they keep and how insidious that is. And there are some things that you've done that are, I think, downright poetic ~ in how you thread that through with the main evil influence in the book. I think it's for people that have an admiration for poetry.

and music and how that lyricism I think can be really kind of seductive and nicely done.

Wayne Runde (16:00)

I think music is probably the one thing that would intersect with all of that. So that's why I chose that as a strong point on the bad guys.

Vicki Atkinson (16:09)

Yeah, yeah, but it's so, I mean, it really fits with the title of the book because it is so deceptive. You don't realize as you're drinking it in and taking it all in that it is on a deep kind of emotional subconscious level. It's a control means. Yeah. But I thought that was really something unique that I haven't read before. So I appreciated that too.

Wynne Leon (16:33)

~ it's all so well done. Also well done. Well, we appreciate you so much coming on and talking about it and and it's just lovely to both read you and be able to talk to you. Thanks for your time.

Wayne Runde (16:47)

Thanks.

Vicki Atkinson (16:49)

Thank you.

Wayne Runde (16:50)

You're welcome.

Wynne Leon (16:59)

Thank for listening. Our music was written for us by the incredible duo of Jack Canfora and Rob Koenig. For show notes and more great inspiration see [avitiva.com](http://avitiva.com) ~

Vicki Atkinson (17:16)

you

Wynne Leon (17:16)

you