

At 17, Hurricane teen turns childhood imagination into first published novel

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Photo courtesy of Cory Kimber

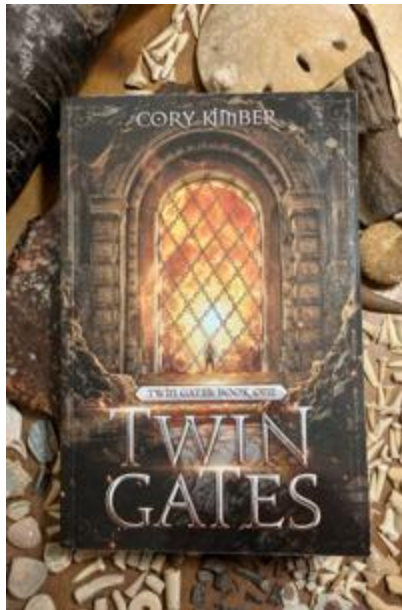
Cory Kimber is the author of "Twin Gates," the first installment in what he said he hopes will become a seven-book portal fantasy series, location and date not specified.

What started as an idea in a young teenager's imagination eventually became hand-drawn maps, classroom writing assignments and four years of late nights spent building an entirely new world.

Now, that world exists between the covers of a published book.

At 17, Hurricane resident Cory Kimber, has published "Twin Gates," the first installment in what he said he hopes will become a seven-book portal fantasy series, he told St. George News.

Published July 25, the novel follows a group of characters who are transported to another world, where they must navigate an unfamiliar place while uncovering the mysteries of their past and discovering who they really are.



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Photo courtesy of Cory Kimber

For Kimber, seeing the story finally become a published book was the payoff for years of work.

“It was really, really nice,” Kimber said about seeing the book officially published. “I’ve been working on it on and off for about four years. So for that to finally actually pay off is really nice.”

From maps to manuscript

The story began before Kimber ever intended to turn it into a book.

As a young teenager, he said he had already begun imagining the fictional world that would become “Twin Gates.” He drew maps of the world he was creating, including one that eventually made its way into the published book.

Then, while attending a creative-writing class in middle school, Kimber found an opportunity to put some of those ideas on paper.

Rather than create an entirely new story for each assignment, he began using pieces of the world he had already created.

By the time the class ended, however, Kimber had become invested in the story and didn’t want to leave it unfinished.

“I have to keep going now,” he said.

What began as classroom assignments became a long-term writing project that Kimber continued to develop over the next several years.



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Photo courtesy of Cory Kimber

The story centers on characters who have been transported to another world. One of the central mysteries is that they don't know their own histories or where they came from.

“Throughout the series, you get to follow along with them as they discover who they are and where they came from,” Kimber said.

Kimber said the characters themselves are one of his favorite parts of writing the series. One character, Tolan, was among the earliest characters he created and remains one he particularly likes.

Kimber said he doesn't necessarily see himself in any one character. Instead, some of his ideas have come from conversations with other people about what they would want to be like if they found themselves in a fantasy world.

Finding time for fiction

Writing a novel while attending high school hasn't always been easy, Kimber said.

With a demanding school workload, he said much of his writing happened during summer breaks or after he finished his homework.

He initially hoped to publish the book the previous summer, but other opportunities took priority. One of those opportunities was connected to another interest Kimber said he hopes to pursue as a career: paleontology.

Kimber worked at the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site, which kept him busy and temporarily pushed the book project aside.

When he had more time this summer, he returned to the manuscript, finished it and uploaded it through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing platform.



Cory Kimber works at a dinosaur museum in St. George, Utah, date not specified.
Photo courtesy of Cory Kimber

The book is self-published, and Kimber worked with an illustrator and editor to prepare it for publication.

Confidential creation

Kimber also kept the project relatively quiet while he worked on it.

He said he deliberately didn't tell many of his friends about the book over the summer because he wanted to wait until school started to reveal that he had actually finished and published it.

Once classes resumed, friends began discovering the book through social media and word of mouth.

"They're all like, 'I can't believe that you actually did that. And why didn't you tell me?'" Kimber said. "And I'm like, 'To get this reaction.' It's funny."

Now, Kimber is beginning to introduce "Twin Gates" to the broader community. He has submitted the book to the Hurricane library for review and hopes it will eventually be added to the Washington County Library System.

He is also in contact with Happy Trails Bookshop in Hurricane about possible opportunities to feature the book.

What's next

Although writing is not currently Kimber's primary career goal, he plans to finish the "Twin Gates" series. He said he is already nearly halfway through the second book.



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Photo courtesy of Cory Kimber

“I definitely want to finish off the series,” he said. “But other than that, I might have some more ideas in my head. But the paleontology is definitely at the center of attention for me.”

For other young people who have stories they want to tell, Kimber said the best place to begin is simply putting the idea on paper.

“For me, I just opened a Google Doc and just started typing,” he said. “You just have to start somewhere.”

He recommends finding a quiet place, brainstorming ideas and beginning the writing process rather than getting caught up in trying to make everything perfect immediately.

Kimber said writing a book requires patience, but the time invested makes publication that much more meaningful.

“It will take a lot of time, but that’s when it actually gets published,” he said. “It makes it feel all the better because all that time actually went into something that you care about.”

For Kimber, the journey from a teenager drawing maps of an imaginary world to becoming a published author began with something as simple as a creative writing assignment.

Four years later, “Twin Gates” is no longer just a story in his head. It is a published novel, the beginning of a planned seven-book series and, if Kimber has his way, only the first of many stories he will tell.

“Twin Gates” is for sale [on Amazon](#). For more information about Kimber and his work, follow him on [Instagram](#).