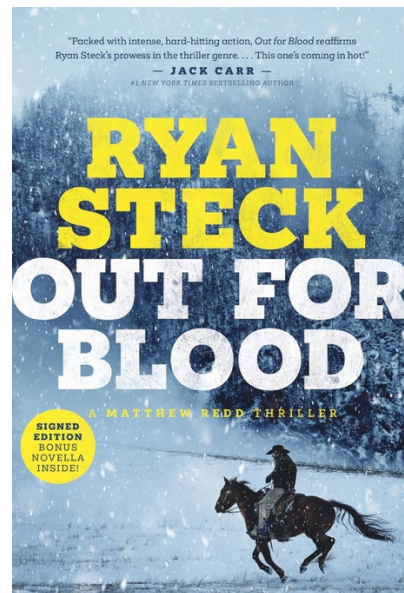


# HAWKE WORLD

**ALEX HAWKE IS BACK!**

**Author Ryan Steck Signs Two-Book Deal  
to Takeover Ted Bell's Beloved New York  
Times Bestselling Alex Hawke Series**



# Who Is Ryan Steck?



Ryan Steck (pictured above wearing Ted Bell's yellow watch, the same watch Bell wore in his author photo for his last novel, *Sea Hawke*) is an author, freelance editor, and founder of *The Real Book Spy*. His debut novel, ***Fields of Fire***, the first book in his Matthew Redd thriller series, was released in 2021. His second book, ***Lethal Range*** came out earlier this year. His third novel, ***Out of Blood***, is scheduled to hit bookstores on June 4th, 2024, and is currently available for pre-order wherever books are sold.

Readers who want to get to know Ryan's work can start with any of his full-length novels. He also has a brand new novella that came out today, just in time for the Holiday season, called ***Redd Christmas***.

As a novelist, Ryan's work has been endorsed by #1 *New York Times* bestselling authors such as Jack Carr, Nelson DeMille, C.J. Box, Mark Greaney, James Rollins, Kyle Mills, and more. As the Real Book Spy, an industry insider and literary critic, Steck—who was also named an "online influencer" by Amazon in 2018—has received praise from Lisa Scottoline, Brad Thor, Daniel Silva, Janet Evanovich, Steve Berry, Don Winslow, and many more.

But more importantly, and what Alex Hawke fans should know, is that for the last decade, Ryan has worked with Ted behind the scenes in various roles. Moreover, Ted singled Steck out in the acknowledgments of his 2020 novel *Dragonfire*, writing:

**"Ryan Steck. A Name known by any and all who labor in the vineyards of the thriller novel. Besides his encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, Ryan is a book doctor extraordinaire, an editor, and a huge promoter of us pencil pushers. More importantly, I will acknowledge his huge contribution to all of us. When I came of age in this thriller game, there was a pervasive air of competition between all of us writers. A given. But Ryan changed all that single-handedly. He took it upon himself to turn us into a community. A group of people who became friends, not competitors, people who support the work of their fellow authors, and cheered their success. This is no small thing. It has made our profession much more satisfying and rewarding." – Ted Bell, *Dragonfire*.**

## **STATEMENTS ON TODAY'S NEWS**

**From Tom Colgan, Vice President, Editorial Director at Berkley, an imprint at Penguin Random House:**

"Working with Ted was one of the highlights of my career. He was Alex Hawke...sans the mayhem and the epic world saving. He was also always very vocal to me about his admiration of Ryan Steck. I have no doubt that Ted would be pleased to know that Hawke's further adventures are in Ryan's capable hands."

**From Ted's Daughter, Byrdie Bell:**

"My father was most definitely the real Alex Hawke. Life with Dad was truly an adventure and I treasure my memories of travel and research for his books. His gift for storytelling continues to fill my life with tremendous joy. I am so grateful to my friend Ryan Steck for stepping in to keep these beloved characters and this universe that Dad called Hawke World alive. I know my dad was a huge fan of Ryan as am I. He is ready and able to take on this mission. I am also grateful to our agent John Talbot and Tom Colgan at Penguin for putting this team together. I know this is exactly what my father would have wanted for the series and in my grief it is a tremendous comfort. I am so excited for myself and countless fans that we will continue the adventure together."

**From Literary Agent John Talbot of the Talbot and Fortune Agency, who represents both Byrdie Bell & the Ted Bell estate and Ryan Steck:**

"Ted Bell was a master storyteller who approached the craft of writing with flair and a sense of adventure. Having represented both Ted and his close friend of eleven years, suspense author and "Real Book Spy" founder Ryan Steck, continuing with Ted's legendary editor at Berkley, Tom Colgan, and, most importantly, having Ted's amazing daughter Byrdie Bell lead our team, it is exciting and truly an honor to bring new Alex Hawke novels to Ted's legions of fans around the world."

**From Ryan Steck:**

"Ten years ago, I met Ted Bell through mutual acquaintances and we became fast friends. He was a mentor to me over the years and someone I worked with in various roles for nearly a decade. Like the rest of his fans, I was devastated when he passed away. The thought of never being able to hang out with Alex Hawke again was another painful blow. And while I'd give anything to have Ted back, it's the honor of a lifetime for me to step in and continue his legacy by writing MONARCH.

A longtime fan of the series, I've been privileged to regularly peek behind the curtain and see Ted's process, and some of my most treasured memories are of him calling to read me freshly written pages over the phone. Although I desperately miss his friendship and the many laughs we shared together, channeling Hawke has helped fill that void, and in typical Ted Bell fashion, I plan to go big with these two books in hopes of delivering the kind of over-the-top, fun, action-packed adventures that Ted's fans have loved and devoured since Hawke first set sail in 2003.

While I don't want to give too much of the story away just yet, I am already hard at work on MONARCH, a high-flying tale that pulls Hawke—who has only recently started to settle down and try his hand at being a family man—back into the life of action, while also testing him in ways he never could have imagined. The plot, which I constructed from many past conversations with Ted, is something I believe he would have loved and probably written himself. "A good story needs the three Bs," Ted would

often tell me, “bullets, babes, and bad guys,” and his readers can rest assured that they’ll find plenty of all three in MONARCH when it hits store shelves in 2025.”

## More Fun on the Way!

Today’s announcement is just the beginning of many, *many* new things on the way for Lord Alexander Hawke and Ted’s readers. Soon we’ll announce an interactive Alex Hawke book club kicking off in January, hosted by Ryan Steck, where readers can revisit all twelve Hawke adventures together and join Ryan in conversation online.

In addition to the book club, readers will have plenty of time to get to know both Ryan Steck and Byrdie Bell, as they’ll both appear together in interviews and fan videos to further discuss the future of Alex Hawke and remember the one and only Ted Bell.

We’ll also start monthly giveaways in December, exclusive to the HAWKE WORLD newsletter, so make sure to stay tuned for that and everything else coming soon!



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