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Genre-bending novel explores life, death and dreams

*Wisconsin author kicks off strange new book series on Jan. 30*

FOND DU LAC, Wis. – After years of being haunted by the day his daughter drowned, Vincent faces a new nightmare—one that reaches into the real world and beyond the grave.

“If Souls Can Sleep,” a new novel by Fond du Lac fiction writer David Michael Williams, introduces a hidden world where gifted individuals possess the power to invade the dreams of others. Two rival factions have transformed the dreamscape into a war zone where all reality is relative and even the dead can’t rest in peace.

The 350-page paperback captures elements of science fiction, fantasy, suspense, and metafiction, covering such disparate topics as Norse mythology and neuroscience.

“After years of focusing exclusively on sword-and-sorcery fantasy, as both a writer and a reader, I made it my goal to write something very different. I wanted to create a book I had never read before, something very unusual and unique,” Williams said.

“It was time to take a risk,” he added.

While categorizing “If Souls Can Sleep” can be tricky, Williams sees the mashup of genres as a strength because the story has something for readers of many backgrounds. He describes the narrative as complex yet accessible, peculiar yet relatable.

“This book has no shortage of paradoxes. I tried to break the rules without ending up with a broken story,” Williams said. “Fortunately, early feedback suggests the experiment was successful.”

“If Souls Can Sleep” will be published through Williams’ indie publishing company, One Million Words, on Jan. 30. The book is currently available for preorder as a paperback at Amazon.com and as an e-book through the Kindle Store. Other e-book formats will follow at various online retailers starting in May.

“If Souls Can Sleep” serves as the first book of The Soul Sleep Cycle. The sequel, “If Sin Dwells Deep,” is scheduled for a fall 2018 release, with a third installment, “If Dreams Can Die,” slated for spring 2019.

Williams is also the author of The Renegade Chronicles, a fantasy trilogy comprised of “Rebels and Fools,” “Heroes and Liars,” and “Martyrs and Monsters.” He is a 1999 graduate of UW-Fond du Lac and a 2001 graduate of UW-Milwaukee, where he studied creative writing. He joined the Allied Authors of Wisconsin, one of the state’s oldest writing collectives, in 2005.

His website, david-michael-williams.com, features a blog about his fiction and the craft of writing.

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*For more information or to set up an interview with the author, contact David Williams at (920) 904-5249 or* [*onemillionwords@hotmail.com*](mailto:onemillionwords@hotmail.com)*. An online press kit featuring high-resolution author portraits and book covers, an extended bio, sample chapters, and a Q&A is available at* [*http://david-michael-williams.com/press-kit*](http://david-michael-williams.com/press-kit)*.*