

Marc Bauer biography

Alberta's newest, young alternative fiction writer; creating controversial tales full of humour and raw emotion that people can relate to.

When Marc's mother saw "Alternative Energy" for the first time, she asked him what his picture was doing on somebody else's book.

That's pretty much the reaction he got from friends and family when the book was launched in January 2012. Fear and apprehension had kept his writing under the radar from everyone except his wife.

In high school, his English teacher told him he had a talent for the written word, if only he would apply himself a bit more in class. Back then, he did what any other teen aged boy would do – nothing. It was the mid 90's. Marc was more bent on partying than attending school and Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Radiohead were singing what was on his mind.

He didn't even read his first novel until he was in his 20s. Around the same time, he was being lured into Alberta's booming oil and gas industry. The job looked pretty good from the outside – the fancy truck and high rolling lifestyle. So off he went to trade school to get his millwright/industrial mechanic certification and right into the job he thought he wanted.

Being out of town for vaguely determined amounts of time, working all day and drinking all night took its toll and before long Marc realized that no matter how big the paycheck, this life wasn't for him.

He puts his writing career down to an intervention of the spiritual kind. Egged on by his wife, he attended some psychic readings and each time he was told the same startling thing – write! At first he passed the clairvoyants off like his old English teacher. Then, thinking "what the heck" he sat down with no clue of what he was doing and wrote a full length novel.

Enter, *Alternative Energy*. Paralleling Marc's life, this graphic novel exposes the underbelly of the oil and gas business and at the same time asks some pretty tough moral questions. Its main character, Brandon Baker stumbles through the highs and lows of working the rigs, finds love, suffers loss and ultimately finds his true path in an unlikely place about as far away from the patch as you can get.

Ripe with controversy and highly relatable, this novel is as entertaining as it is an eye opener. Marc is currently working on a second novel, set in Alberta's oil sands, which he plans to release early next year.

Marc was born in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan and moved to Medicine Hat Alberta, where he lives today with his wife, Melanie and their two young boys. He has worked as a millwright and industrial mechanic in the in the oil and gas industry for the past 15 years.