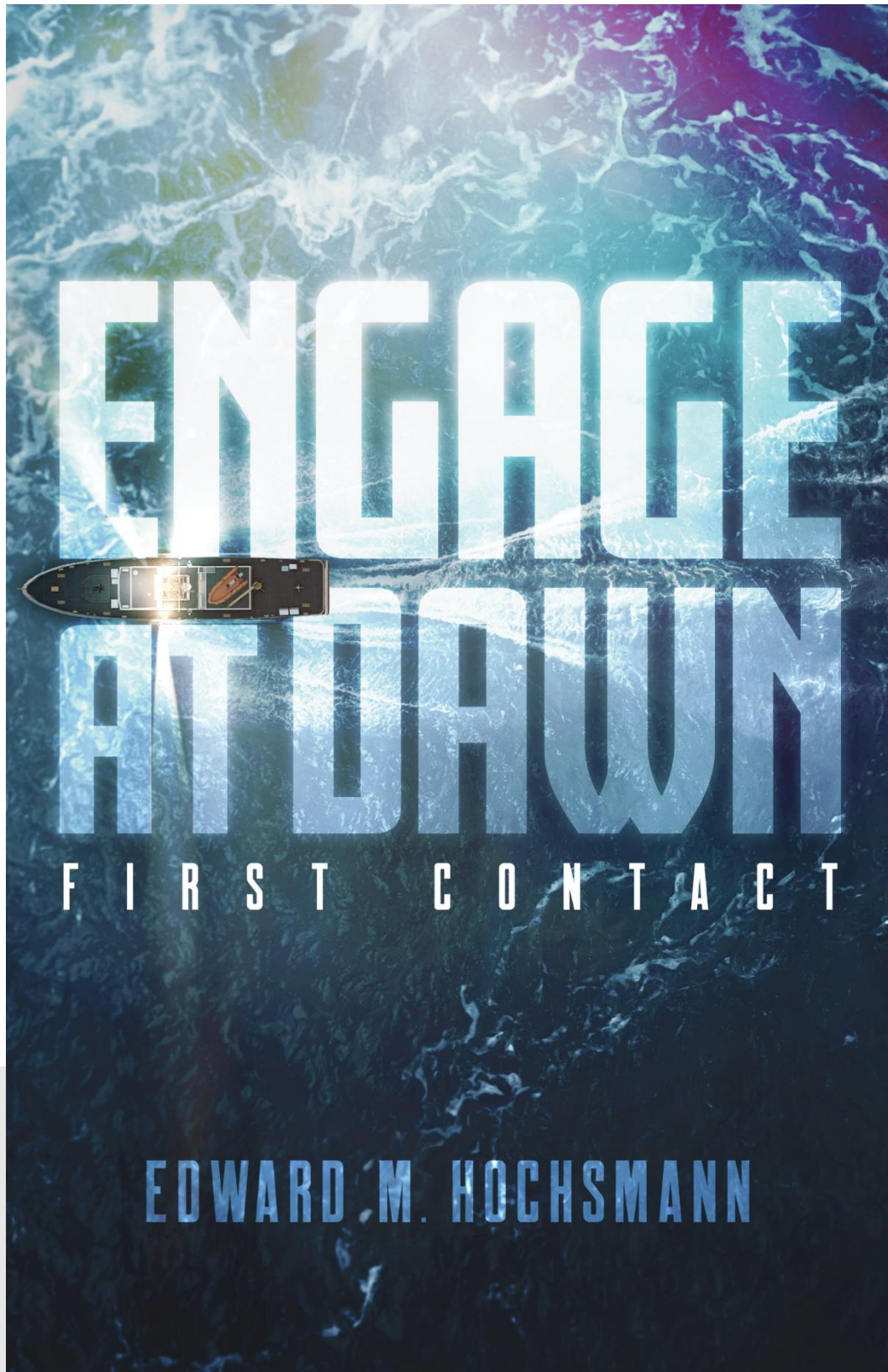


EDWARD M. HOCHSMANN



ENGAGE AT DAWN: FIRST CONTACT | MEDIA KIT

01

Author Biography

Mariner, Aviator, College Professor, Defense Analyst and now Author

Edward Hochsmann is a retired U. S. Coast Guard search and rescue and law enforcement professional and author of the new sci-fi action-adventure novel *Engage at Dawn: First Contact*.

With the completion of his first novel, a soft science fiction piece titled *Engage at Dawn: First Contact*, the 25-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran mariner, aviator, instructor, and analyst has added “author” to his list of experiences.

Ed likes reading, police procedurals on TV, contemporary music on the road, and classical music in the office.

After a career traveling from Australia in the west to Italy and Germany in the east, Ed has settled into a quiet life in the Florida Panhandle to focus on writing (and not shoveling snow!)



To find out more information about his book, please visit his website at:

edwardhochsmann.com

02

Book Details

AUTHOR: Edward M. Hochsmann

CATEGORY: Science Fiction

ISBNs: 978-1-7354443-0-7 / 978-1-7354443-1-4

The discovery of a drug runner's derelict boat, with extensive and inexplicable damage, leads Coast Guard Officer Ben Wyporek and his crew on a dangerous mission to locate a crashed alien vessel before a transnational criminal organization, known as the 252 Syndicate, can find it.

Driven by Dr. Peter Simmons, a mysterious government agent obsessed with secrecy, the crew of the aging Coast Guard Cutter *Kauai* is ill-prepared to handle the mission. The operation quickly turns into a life-and-death race with the technologically-advanced 252 Syndicate to find and contact the first known extraterrestrial visitors to Earth.

For DIA Agent Simmons, the objectives are clear; he must preserve the secret of the aliens' arrival and discover if they are hostile or benign. Either way, he must keep the 252s from accessing alien technology. From his perspective, his ultimate mission is to save the world, no matter the costs.

Lieutenant Samuel Powell, Commanding Officer of the *Kauai*, distrusts Intelligence specialists like Simmons. Despite his best efforts to protect his crew, he still can't prevent his First Officer and best friend Ben from being drawn into the fight of his life.

Exploring the friendship and teamwork of a typical ship's crew, in the face of unexpected and hazardous challenges, *Engage at Dawn: First Contact* illustrates the bonds and humor common to Coast Guard and other military units.

03

Chapter Excerpt

EXCERPTED FROM CHAPTER 20

"Conn, Mount 51, sound of gunshots 040 relative, no visual target!" Hebert shouted through the bridge door from his position on the starboard machine gun.

"Conn, aye!" Hopkins replied.

Sam watched the scene ashore unfold in real-time in the video feed from the orbiting Puma. His heart pounded, and he felt a rising nausea from the frustration of the situation. He watched the SUVs split apart and then stop. Figures emerged from both vehicles.

"*Kauai*, Shore-One, we are taking fire, repeat we are taking fire, request immediate assistance!" Ben's voice burst from the radio.

"Conn, Mount 51, sound of continuous gunfire 050 relative, no visual target!" came the redundant report.

"Conn, aye!" Hopkins shouted again. "Captain, one point seven miles to shoal water!" She had called down to Drake at two miles and saw the engine speed back down slightly to "normal" emergency ahead in response.

"Very well, prepare for crash back!" Sam replied. "Williams?"

"Nothing yet, Captain, sorry," Williams said evenly, shifting in his seat.

"Captain, one and a half miles to shoal water!" Hopkins shouted from across the Bridge. Into the telephone, she said, "Chief, stand by for crash back."

"Very well, stand by!" Sam replied.

Suddenly, the deck seemed to jump with a loud "thud" from below, and a second later, a low "boom" sounded through the Bridge. "Mount 51, report!" Hopkins shouted.

"Sound of an explosion 020 relative! Gunfire has stopped!" Hebert replied.

On the Puma's video display, Sam saw the figures behind the westernmost vehicle aim a mortar-like device and fire it. The camera picked up a flash of a small object, then a burst overhead Ben and Simmons' position. One figure fast-crawled to the other then returned to his position. Sam was unconsciously pounding his right fist on his thigh as the scene unfolded before him.

"Getting something," Williams said. "Yes! Two distinct targets on long-wave IR."

Sam leaned in. "Surface action starboard, train on the target on the far left and standby. Deffler, illuminate the hostile vehicle farthest west." Standing up, he shouted, "OOD, Crash Back Now!" Into his handheld radio, he said, "Pickins, haul ass to the Boat Deck now!" Hopkins shouted into the telephone, "Main Control, Conn, Crash Back, all back full!"

"Unmasked," Deffler piped up. "Target illuminated."

Excerpt cont

EXCERPTED FROM CHAPTER 20

Sam held on to the bridge rail as the patrol boat pitched down and violently shuddered while shedding speed quickly in the emergency stop. He watched the firing resume on the screen, and the figures started moving from behind the vehicles and closing on Ben and Simmons' position.

"Main Control, Conn, All Stop!" Hopkins shouted into the phone when the speed dropped to zero. The roar of the engines immediately died away.

"Conn, Mount 51, more continuous gunfire bearing 060 relative, no visual target!"

"Conn, aye!" Hopkins replied.

"Target identified, target confirmed, on target and tracking!" Williams shouted.

"Batteries release, commence fire!" Sam ordered.

Drake held the phone to one ear and his finger in the other to hear Hopkins orders over the engine noise. Sweat poured down his face as he stared at the instruments—the engine room was sweltering during normal cruise conditions, after ten minutes at extreme speed, it was like an oven.

Hopkins held the line open. When Drake heard Sam shout the initial crash back order, he did not wait for Hopkins to repeat it—just dropped the phone and smoothly but quickly closed the engine throttles. When the RPMs had died down enough, he declutched the engines from the propeller shafts, shifted to reverse drive, and redeclutched. After a short spine-tingling shriek from the clutches, the propellers showed reverse turns, and Drake advanced the throttles. The propellers bit against the cutter's forward speed and sent a fearsome vibration through the hull. The engine room was a cacophony of roaring engines, rattling tools, and the sharp "pings" of propeller cavitations. Holding the phone to his ear again, while gripping a stanchion to stay upright, Drake watched the ship's speed readout drop to zero. He retarded the throttles to idle and declutched at almost the same time Hopkins "all stop" order came. He switched the engine control selector back to the Bridge, picked up the phone, and reported, "Conn, Main Control, engines at all stop. Returning engine control to Conn."

With the engines at idle, Main Control seemed almost quiet compared to the last few minutes. Brown had just started to relax when a series of loud thuds and sharp vibrations startled him. He looked frantically between the engines and instrument panel and shouted, "Shit, Chief! What now?"

"Relax, son," Drake said, wiping the sweat from his forehead while staring forward with a worried expression. "It's the main gun."

04

Sample Interview Questions

01

What inspired you to start writing?

02

Have you always wanted to be a writer?

03

What comes first, the plot or characters?

04

How did you come up with the title to your book?

05

What is the most difficult part of writing for you?

06

Are you on social media, and can your readers interact with you?

07

Is writing your full-time career? Or would you like it to be?

08

How do you research your books?

09

What do you think makes a good story?

10

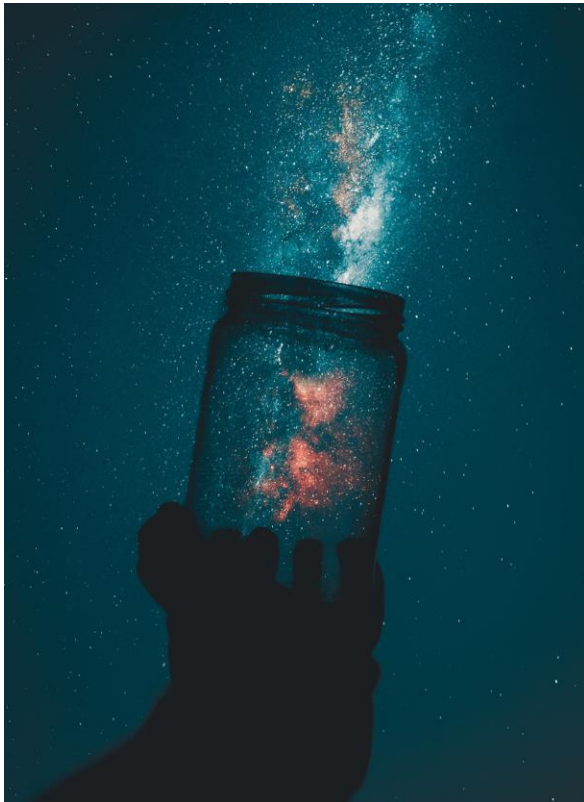
What was the best money you ever spent as a writer?

05

Target Audience

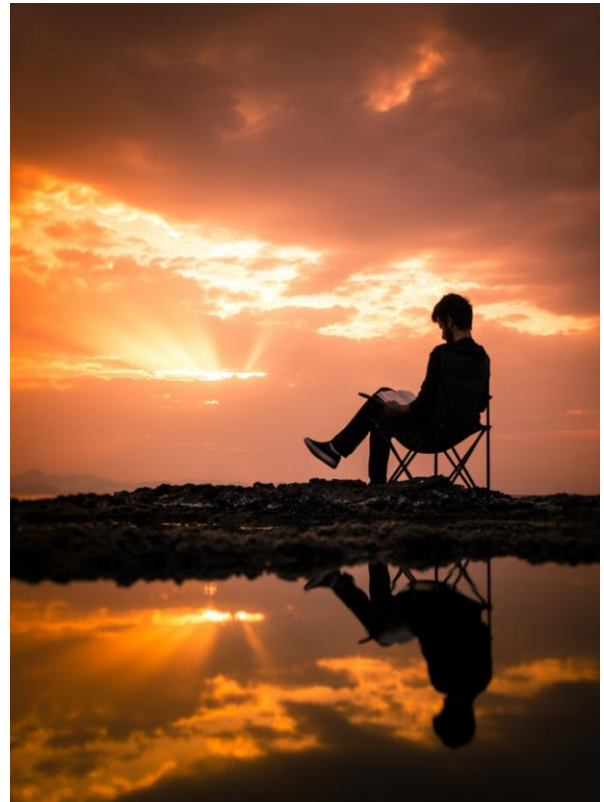
READERS OF SOFT SCI-FI

Science fiction readers who like “everyman” stories will find much to enjoy in this book that follows regular people in extraordinary situations.



FANS OF ADVENTURE FICTION

Readers who enjoy adventure fiction that offers up a serious character dilemma, will not be able to put down this thrilling page-turner.



06

Main Characters

Lieutenant Samuel (Sam) Powell, Commanding Officer, USCGC *Kauai* - Although Ben is the focus of the narrative, Sam is the main protagonist. Sam is one of those people who is the total package - knowledge, judgment, experience, and “people sense.” He was raised in a wealthy family and was being groomed to become another Wall Street “Master of the Universe” when a clash with his father led him to abandon that path and enlist in the Coast Guard.

He is relatively quiet, funny, and generally low-key, although he has an explosively violent temper when his loved ones are threatened. He has the complete devotion of the crew as a result of his innate qualities and his background as “one of them.” He distrusts Intelligence specialists like Simmons as a result of the influence of his mentor through adolescence (a retired Navy SEAL) and experiences in his career.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Benjamin (Ben) Wyporek, Executive Officer, USCGC *Kauai* - Ben is sort of an “everyman” in terms of the science fiction aspects of the story. He was just an average student academically and militarily at the Coast Guard Academy, which lends humility to his character. He respects the professionals around him, and although he is firm in his job, he never lets his position go to his head.

Ben is something of a “Dudley Do-Right” but has a wry sense of humor that gets him in a little trouble from time to time. He is knowledgeable and professional, but still a bit callow. Unlike Sam, who more-or-less hates Simmons, Ben is at ease with and sort of likes the DIA man.

Dr. Peter Simmons, Field Agent for the Defense Intelligence Agency - Simmons is effectively the antagonist for the story. He has a talent for deception, which has led to his success as a DIA field agent, but he is the antithesis of Sam and Ben’s ethos. He has a risk-seeking bent that borders on pathology. He is very single-minded in terms of the search for the aliens and his implacable hatred for the transnational criminal organization known as the 252 Syndicate. He is not without redeeming features: he genuinely likes Ben, respects Sam, and looks after his late fiancé’s younger sister (who has high-functioning autism), even securing a place for her in the DIA as an analyst.

07

Supporting Characters

Chief Machinery Technician James Drake - The senior enlisted member of the crew and the classic father figure among the enlisted and, to some extent, for Ben. He is the quintessential “operator” and has what amounts to an underground network of fellow CPOs from whom he can acquire technical assistance, materiel, and “intel.” His background is somewhat mysterious, but he is “connected” up to the Senior Officer level of the Coast Guard.

Operations Specialist First Class Emilia (Hoppy) Hopkins - A lot like Sam in terms of competence and professionalism, and they are as close (in terms of friendship) as people in their respective positions can be. She is classy (in the best sense), an anchor of truth and empathy for both the officers and crew and absolutely fearless in their defense. Although a straight arrow, she is not afraid to forego convention in highly unusual circumstances.

Arthur (Art) Frankle, Field Agent for the Defense Intelligence Agency - An old-school, kick-in-the doors field man. He is in his early 50’s and knocking on the door to retirement, but hates the idea of “giving up the game.” He was Simmons’ first partner in the agency and has been a mentor to him.

08

Downloadable Cover Image



[Download High-res JPEG](#)

09

**Connect with
Edward M. Hochsmann**

via email

info@edwardhochsman.com

or online at

[Website](#)