



David R. Schoorens

Originally from Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1979 I earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Southeastern Massachusetts University – now the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. By January of 1980, I stepped aboard Officer Candidate School with the United States Coast Guard. Commissioned as an Ensign, I was assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center in Washington, D.C. before serving as the Operations Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Group Baltimore.

My knowledge of coastal search and rescue and small boat station operations proved useful in my writing. One such station found in Eastport, Maine plays a prominent role in his political and moral thriller ***Refuge: A Novel of Lost Democracy***, published in 2022.

Leaving active duty in 1985, with my Cathy we started a family while she attended medical school through the Department of Defense University of Health Sciences, later serving in the U.S. Air Force as a primary care physician. In 1990, the next move was on military orders to Geilenkirchen NATO Airbase in Germany. We left for overseas with two children and returned with a third.

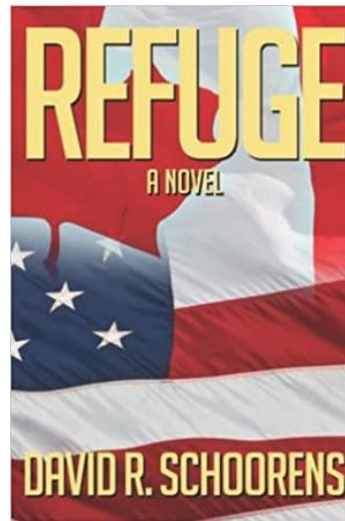
Germany was followed by a move to F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Then back to Geilenkirchen once more before returning to the States at Hanscom Air Force Base, ironically in my hometown of Bedford.

Living in other parts of the United States and in Germany and travels through much of Europe, yielded many experiences, friendships and memories. These have served me well, adding richness and authenticity to my novels.

Along the way, I picked up two graduate degrees. A M.A. in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University and a M.S. in Business Administration from Boston University's campus in Brussels, Belgium, while living overseas.

Recently retired as a high school biology and chemistry teacher, we now live in Rhode Island.

Refuge: A Novel of Lost Democracy



What happens if democracy falls?

Refuge: A Novel of Lost Democracy, my debut novel published in **November 2022**, is military and political thriller with a large measure of the dystopian fiction genre. But it goes beyond the usual tactical thriller.

It is a moral thriller.

Set in our near future, the story imagines the rapid descent of American democracy into autocracy. The fall does not come in the aftermath of economic collapse or war.

All it took was an election.

Gerrymandered districts. Laws suppressing the vote. Disinformation and lies. Promises of former glory. Apathy and ignorance. Political violence and above all, fear.

Democracy fell because it was our choice.

The story opens in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, where American dissidents hope to start a new life. Mike and Debbie Whynot, both retired U.S. Air Force officers and leaders of their fellow expatriates, face threats from the new autocratic U.S. government. They will pay dearly for their continued fight for democracy.

Across the Saint Croix River in Eastport, Maine, others remain in service to the new U.S. government. A few will find the moral burden unendurable.

Meanwhile, the authoritarian U.S. president hurtles toward open warfare with Canada and NATO.

Refuge is a prescient cautionary tale. A political horror story where the monsters are real and they don't go away when you close the book.

Captive



A terror any author may face.

Victor Holt made a bad mistake.

He wrote a novel. A cautioning tale defending democracy. A warning.

Victor did not foresee infuriating so many people. Who call him un-American, treasonous and demand his book be banned. Who threaten to harm him. To kill him.

This wounded and decorated combat veteran of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, now an old man and all alone, faces new enemies hiding amongst his fellow countrymen. Doxed, harassed, threatened, stalked, vandalized and assaulted, he faces mortal danger from an enemy who does not stop. His fight to save himself will drive him to the edge of sanity.

How can one man stand against a furious mob? Yet Vic's greatest threat will come not from the crowd, but from a single man.

In a sense, *Captive* continues a defense of democracy which began with *Refuge*.

***Captive* is a nightmare likely imagined by any author; by anyone who has made their voice heard.**

Reviews of Refuge

A powerhouse of fiction. Recommended to me by a Canadian retired military officer, and the book lived up to everything he said about it - that this novel is a tour de force, a powerhouse work of fiction from a writer with a distinctive and compelling voice.

Max Folsom, Author

A dystopian prequel not post-apocalyptic but a warning. This amazing book is frankly terrifying in its plausibility. We can see things happening now that will lead to this. Failure to pay attention will doom us.

Stuart A. Halsan, former Senator, Washington State

A Chilling, Very Plausible Novel. A Must Read. A very timely read, and a story line that is chilling in its plausibility. Super first novel by an author whose work here deserves a broad audience.

Mark Holmes, Author

Can the world endure an autocrat in the White House? . . . parallels the style of Tom Clancy's best sellers with all their precision, intensity, and scope. Like Clancy, Schoorens uses war game theory to explore the rabbit holes and dark corners into which narcissistic autocrats might drag the world.

Donald Mulcare, Ph.D.

Excellent and Engaging Read. I am a Canadian living in New Brunswick. I appreciate the author's attention to details about Canadian war history and the geography of my province. The story is fictional but to some of us too close to non-fiction than we would like.

E. Ann McIntyre, Author, Canada

Engrossing and gripping novel. An entertaining, if chilling, journey into a near future when the USA is in the grip of an authoritarian administration. Told from the standpoint of a struggle between patriotic forces determined to defend the constitution and a hardline regime prepared to go to any lengths to subjugate opposition, Refuge paints a disturbing picture of where American politics might be heading if we close our eyes to the dangers. A readable and enjoyable novel with an important message.

Em Thompson, Author, United Kingdom

. . . a shocking piece of literature . . . I would say if you are a reader who is tired of reading the same old books that are lackluster and forgettable then take a chance with this one because I promise you now that you will not be disappointed! Refuge gets five stars from me!

Aimee Ann, Red Headed Book Lover

Frighteningly relevant in today's political climate. I had the opportunity to meet David at a book signing at Root and Press in Worcester, MA. After talking with him about the book, I decided to take a chance, despite my misgivings on the subject. It was a well written novelization of current events. It presents a plausible outcome of the poor choices we make in electing our government. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes books in the style of Tom Clancy. It's a mix of politics, military fiction and spy craft. I think it should become required reading in today's United States. I look forward to David's next book and wish him well with his future writing!

C. Belcher

Interesting book. Hope it doesn't become history. Refuge intrigued me after reading so many politically right-leaning dystopian books. However, after the first couple of chapters that are clearly referencing the current leader of the Republican party and his clear and present danger to NATO nations, the book became more of a story of how different people in many different circumstances might react to such extremism. Would you go along, "Just following orders?" or would you stand for justice? Would you play dress up with the military garb and weaponry and shoot at your fellow American citizens or would you stand for the Constitution and our American allies? It's well worth the read. Yes.

Noneya

Wow what a story! I cannot believe that Schoorens wrote this book in 2021 or thereabouts and how close it is to world events today 2025. Secondly, I cannot believe that an American wrote this story in which Canadians ended up winning a fictional conflict with the Americans. I can tell from this story that Mr. Schoorens is most likely not a Republican. Furthermore, being a Canadian and being familiar with down east Washington county Maine and western Charlotte County New Brunswick where this story is set one can tell that the author is very familiar with the geography of the area. For these reasons I have given the story 5 stars and would give it more if possible. Mr. Schoorens you are one brave individual!!!

R. McGuire

Refuge reads today like the work of a writer with a crystal ball, and David Schoorens has done the hardest thing any author can do, which is to convincingly frame action and event to get the reader to turn the page. The movement between kitchen table scenes and wide angle views is convincing and tense, and the ending is, (how to put it?) devoutly to be wished for here in the 21st century United States. I've had some sleepless nights running through the scenarios in the book in my head and wondering how close this work of fiction is to the truth. Too close for comfort.

B. Martinez

Review of Captive

If you only read one book this year, make it this.

Ageing author Victor Holt measures his book sales in hundreds, not thousands. Or he does until he publishes an impassioned examination of the State of the American Nation. In his words, "Matching our troubled times, Democracy Lost offered a plausible story of the extreme right taking power in the United States. My story imagines how the neo-fascists learned from their mistakes and took the Presidency and the Congress in an election. And democracy lost."

Initial sales are modest. But when a populist far-right podcaster launches an online campaign to get the book banned, sales rocket. And so does online abuse.

Against the advice of an accommodating police officer, Holt fights back. Principle is important, of course, but the wily Holt can see that controversy is good for sales.

In no time at all, Holt finds himself subject to an organised campaign of threats, intimidation, public book burning, library bans . . . and death threats. Rather than fold, he ups the ante – and sales – by very publicly fighting back

An implausible scenario? Quite the opposite. Salman Rushdie has been the subject of decades of death threats resulting from the power of his words, culminating in a savage recent attack. And in the States today, the right is aggressively promulgating a campaign of censoring books, banning them from libraries and suffocating truth with power.

'Captive' is a riveting read. On one level, it is a page-turning thriller with a sting in the tail. But beneath the surface, it is a chronicle of our times, written by an author with a true love of his country, the American Constitution, and freedom of expression. But it's not black and white. Victor Holt is, in many respects, unlikeable – quick-tempered and prone to ignore the reasoned advice of those who care for his safety. He is determined to stand up for his book in the face of hatred, attacks and threats. And like all good novels, there is more: legal manoeuvres, love interest and plenty of yummy food.

I loved 'Captive'. It is a rare example of an entertaining thriller with a thought-provoking message. Beautifully written - bristling with astute observations and David R. Schoorens's wordsmithy prose – it pulls no punches. I only wish the premise was far-fetched.

Sadly, I fear it is not.

Em Thompson, Author, United Kingdom

Buying Refuge Online

Amazon US: www.amazon.com/dp/1958217654

Amazon CANADA: www.amazon.ca/dp/B0BMXVT3VJ

Amazon AUS: www.amazon.com.au/Refuge-David-Schoorens-ebook/dp/B0BMXVT3VJ/

Amazon UK: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BMXVT3VJ/

Barnes & Noble (paperback): www.barnesandnoble.com/s/schoorens

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Threads: https://www.threads.com/@davidschoorens?_pwa=1

Pinterest: <https://es.pinterest.com/refugenovel/>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCIA1My9lvBB0RArT-qn5GQ

TikTok:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@why13570/video/7623830871593733407?cid=NzY0NjEzMTEyODg1MTUzMDUxMA>

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Interviews of the Author

A list of my author interviews accomplished to date. Look for these interviews all over the podcast universe, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and YouTube.

Story Impact with Lisa Towles

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTV9I1tGJPc&list=PLbkr7W9ytZ0YIPKx5fIDqGpVzfRIInk2o&index=20

Authors Over 50 with Julia Daily

<https://youtu.be/kLr9zzKTJsc?si=f5NGC7yxAm85-T7N>

www.juliadaily.com

All Booked Up with Beth Hildenbrand

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqKsDKO184o

It can also be seen now on Beth Hildenbrand's Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/beth.hildenbrand.5

The Authors Table with Mr. Brad Haizlip

www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6DVJqA6PG0&t=2s

Rhody Radio, Cranston RI Public Library with Dave Bartos

[David Schoorens, author of REFUGE: A NOVEL OF LOST DEMOCRACY by Rhody Radio: RI Library Radio Online](#)

Be My Guest with Jan Lewis of Upton (Massachusetts) Community Television

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfqNJPeJHkY

Citywide Blackout Productions with Max Bowen

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeaGTgFKPYc

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