

SPOILERS FOR THE RED RISING SAGA

[RED RISING - Pierce Brown on character names:](#)

- On where naming characters comes from; *his emotions and what 'feels right'*;

[Interview with Pierce Brown, author of RED RISING trilogy - Hodder & Stoughton:](#)

- On main inspiration and how his life has changed; *He is a professional writer and the main inspiration was Antigone*; **00:15**
- Was the first draft of the book a sprint or marathon; *it was a sprint*; **00:52**
- On the language/slang; *he looked a lot into irish slang as that's what the red's were based on*; **01:14**
- On how to inspire yourself to write; *coffee*; **02:13**
- On his surname being a color; *pure coincidence*; **02:23**

[Event: Pierce Brown Talks GOLDEN SON](#) (Better audio version but wrong time codes [HERE](#)):

- Pierce Brown reading the beginning of Golden Son; **00:30**
- On how his dad taught him to walk; *his dad taught him how to be a man*; **08:10**
- On how his mom taught him to speak; *his mom taught him how to voice his opinions*; **08:56**
- On why Red Rising is listed as YA; *it's a mystery, darrow was a teen in Red Rising*; **09:40**
- On why he writes in isolation; *to capture the melancholy of darrow and a work ethic*; **11:20**
- On why he chose a Colortocracy; *Freedom of Choice in history intrigues him, he was inspired by what would happen when the complete Meritocracy of Plato would be perverted by humans*; **13:15**
- On which character is his favorite to write; *Sevro is easiest, Mustang is hardest, Pax was most fun*; **16:17**
- On the inspiration for Victra; *based off of a character from Gene Wolfe's Shadow and Claw Series*; **18:05**
- Was he planning to add Victra while writing Red Rising; *Yes*; **19:15**

- On actors for the Film; *he wants an actor from a storytelling background or from anonymity*; **21:07**
- *Gold eyes/eugenics don't shine/light up, they are a subtle gold*; **22:52**
- On how involved he is with the film adaptation; *he is going to be 'very involved'*; **23:17**
- *Attempted change of character features in the film adaptation*; **25:01**
- On the Influences from Sci-Fi & Fantasy; *Red Rising is 'Fantasy with a SciFi clothing on', Star Wars, Hyperion Cantos, Dune, Count of Monte Cristo* ;**26:25**
- On listening to music while writing; *he can't listen to lyrics, when writing a scene, he loops a song 54 times, cares a lot about the tone that a song captures about the scene*; **28:33**
- On Darrow's theme song; *Buried in the murder, your bones*; **30:09**
- On the average lifespan of a red; *39-45 for the men and women last longer, cancer is prevalent due to the radiation and old equipment used, a lot of them die by RustLung which is degeneration of the tissue and lungs*; **30:48**

[Pierce Brown on San Diego stop for Golden Son:](#)

- Pierce Brown reading the beginning of Golden Son; **00:46**
- Star Trek or Star Wars; *Star Wars*; **03:24**
- Coffee or tea; *Coffee*; **03:27**
- PC or Mac; *both*; **03:33**
- Night owl or an Early bird; *both*; **03:39**
- Batman or Superman; *Batman*; **03:44**
- Automated(animated?) or Live Action for Red Rising; *Live Action*; **03:53**
- How hard was writing the screenplay; *very*; **05:43**
- Can razors be shaped into anything; *they can shape it into whatever they want*; **06:52**
- On the creatures that Carvers make; *there is a hunting ground on Europa*; **07:52**
- What wakes you up at 3 in the morning; *thinking the plot went the wrong way*; **08:26**
- Do you plan your character to go right but they insist on going left; *constantly*; **09:00**
- Why is the forbidden song forbidden; *it was used as an act of rebellion*; **10:56**
- Favorite book from childhood; *abridged version of the iliad, dune, count of monte cristo*; **11:32**
- On darrow's last name and his clan; *just Son of Dale or Of lykos*; **12:35**
- On the red Clans; *they are broken up intentionally into 12 clans*; **13:11**
- The most drastic thing he has done for a deadline; *2 day no rest working on a 35 page thesis*; **14:40**
- On his previously written books; *one with pegasus writers, one with atlantis*; **16:44**
- How long did it take for you to start writing your ideas; *like 2 days*; **19:42**
- On how to write super intelligent characters/what decision they would make; *leave the thread hanging and wait for inspiration*; **21:29**

[FridayFix • Pierce Brown talks GOLDEN SON:](#)

- On the pitch for the movie; *they didn't like the mars setting*; **02:38**
- Was jumping into screenplays a part of a plan; *yes, he has other screenplays he is working on*; **03:34**
- On his other books and before red rising; *wrote 6 books before Red Rising, rejected by a total 60 agents, 130 rejections*; **04:18**
- On the plot of Red Rising; **07:46**
- On keeping the series in the solar system; *people are more attached to the planets/myth*; **09:40**
- On the characters the died; *Pax's death was decided by pulling it from the hat*; **11:50**
- Moods while writing; *he gets sad while writing sad things, etc, his friends dont mind*; **12:52**
- At the end of Golden Son; *the book is about trust, the end is the result of Darrow's mistakes and lessons*; **14:24**
- Easier to write action or love scenes; *he prefers writing the quiet scenes*; **16:49**
- On the duality of Darrow; *darrow has done great things but still committed many mistakes*; **18:16**
- On the razor; *in sci-fi, you lose the connection because of the size, he wanted to make it technological but not technological*; **21:23**
- On the primal nature of the fights; *it's a thematic exploration and it reflects their decadent society, and how even the height of the hierarchy can't get rid of the dirt* ; **23:28**
- On the laurel-tide dance; *it's like the drunken dancing of irish(like the dance in the titanic in the bowels of the ship)*; **26:30**

[No Cape Required: Modern Day Superheroes Panel at San Diego Comic Con 2015:](#)

- How do you make new superhero characters; *He finds a trope he likes and puts it into a new scenario*; **3:39**
- What is the most interesting part of the Hero's journey; *the compromise the character has to make*; **18:43**
- How to build a world and supporting cast around the character; *the secondary characters are weird part of his personality that he wants to explore*; **29:51**
- What superpower would you like to have; *change the molecular structure of things*; **33:57**
- How do you handle diversity in your books; *Ethno-types as we know it doesn't exist in the Red Rising universe, but the color system lets him comment on what he wants to*; **40:47**

[An Interview With Pierce Brown\(Tashapolis\)](#)

- What's the backstory of the story; *the story of a young man raging war for love*; **02:22**
- Which book was the most difficult to write; *morning star*; **03:15**
- Was writing morning star 'for the fans' hard?; *that's what slowed down the writing process*; **03:52**
- If he wasn't a writer what would you be; same as before, *campaign driver on a political campaign*; **04:28**
- How did you get to live in LA; *he felt restless in seattle*; **05:17**
- What are your childhood inspirations?; *star wars, game of thrones*; **07:59**
- What's your favorite thing about being an author; *being home all day*; **09:04**
- What's behind the tattoo on your arm; *to remind himself of his mortality*; **10:08**
- A day in the life of Pierce Brown; ; **12:21**
- Any projects planned for the future; *fantasy series after red rising*; **15:07**
- If red rising characters had social media which one would they use; *eo as a youtuber, darrow wouldn't use it, sevro on vine, cassius on snapchat*; **15:59**
- What would the characters dress up as Halloween; *darrow and sevro as tiger and winnie the pooh*; **16:52**
- What gifts would he give to his characters for christmas; *peace*; **17:47**
- Who would he ship darrow with in Harry Potter; *hermione*; **17:53**

[Unwritten: Stories You Haven't Read \(Yet\) Panel | BookCon 2016](#)

- Where do your ideas come from; *takes it from personal experience*; **05:28**
- How do you expand that idea into an expansive universe; *to really focus and 'get into the zone'*; **14:05**
- What being a writer feels like; crippling guilt, *anytime he does something he feels like he has to be writing*; **22:54**
- How does being edited as a writer feels like; *it can be very cathartic*; **38:18**
- How much of yourself do you put in Darrow; *it's surprising how much he sees himself in Darrow*; **51:40**
- How much time is based on worldbuilding rather than the plot; *He gets the worldbuilding from the characters and plot*; **59:54**
- Is 'write what you know important'; *well, he knows sci fi*; **1:02:03**