



Ann Anderson, Writer

I like books. You, too? Discuss!

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Solstice Spotlight: Jim Cronin

By [Ann Anderson](#) ¶ Posted in [Books](#) ¶ [1 Comment](#)



The author and young fan

Featured title: Hegira

Amazon link: [Hegira](#)

Genre: Science Fiction

His home world is dead; the victim of a supernova, but this does not stop Karm from attempting to save the Brin, his extinct species.



Seven Questions for a Solstice Author

· **Why do you write?**

After retiring from my career as a science teacher, I had the strange notion I could write a novel. Given my lack of knowledge about how to actually write anything this seemed a bit unrealistic, but a worthy challenge. And, what the heck, I was retired so I had lots of time. I had a blast.

· **What do you read for guilty pleasure?**

I love anything science fiction or complex fantasy worlds. These allow me to escape into incredible places and go on amazing journeys.

· **What one book do you wish you'd written?**

The Foundation series by Isaac Asimov. An incredible tale of an entire galaxy spread out over a vast time. Developing the beginnings, growth and decline of a galactic empire require unbelievable imagination and insight into how civilizations evolve. Then taking that knowledge and translating it into a fantastic story... that is real talent.

· **What's your biggest writing challenge?**

Accepting the fact that what winds up on the computer screen is frequently not at all what I had envisioned when I started to write. It always amazes me when I start arguing in my head with a character about what should happen next. I find that when I let go of my ideas and let the characters take over, they write a much better story about themselves than I ever could.

· **Which character of yours is your favorite?**

Maripa is my favorite. She started out as a relatively minor character, but evolved into a powerful and essential character to the story. She is intelligent, no-nonsense, a skilled fighter,

and willing to stand up to her uncle, the most powerful being on the planet. Yet, she is also extremely fragile and vulnerable not far below the surface. She was a fun character to write.

· **Who's your favorite fictional anti-hero?**

I actually loved the way J.K. Rowling wrote Severus Snape. Throughout the series he developed into a tremendously complex and tragic individual.

· **If you could choose to have another talent, what would it be?**

I guess I would like to learn how to play the piano. I used to play guitar, but by ear. My wife, a talented musician, has tried teaching me how to read music, and play the piano, but I seem to have a real block in my brain. Maybe someday.