

FEB26-ROSAS-S1-EP2-IRPP



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INTERVIEW SCRIPT ELI CRANOR

PRODUCTION: RAISED ON SONGS & STORIES

RECORDING SCHEDULE: TBA

AUTHORISED RECIPIENTS: SK – EC (Virtual) - DK

OUTLINE SCRIPT: Raised on Song & Story EP2S1 - Running Time: TBA

Music: Rare Old Times - Solo piano version – 1 full round of the tune

FX: as Selected

Advert / Sponsor time space: 2 minutes 30 Seconds, (*approximately*)

Music: Rare Old Times - Solo piano version – plays under neath SK intro and cuts at Eli ´s reply:

SK: In tonight ´s Raised on Song and Story we head to the land-locked state of Arkansas in the south-central region of the USA.

Bordered by Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma – its name comes from a Quapaw Indian word meaning; *´People who live downstream´*.

Originally part of the Louisiana purchase, Arkansas became a territory in 1819 and was admitted to the Union as a state in 1836.

The mountain ranges of the Ozarks and Ouachita -the vast timberlands of dense forests – the majestic Mississippi River and Arkansas Delta – all these and more- indigenous, incredible natural wonders that pretty much explain how the 25th state got the nickname; *The Natural State*.

The year was 1988. - The place was Forrest City Arkansas. - The parents were Finlay and Christy Cranor. Their new born baby boy was named Eli.

Eli grew up in Russellville and graduated from high school before attending Florida Atlantic University where he built on his talent for Gridiron and played with the college team throughout season 2006.

Next thing you know is he ´s back to Arkansas and Ouachita Baptist to major in English Lit.

Then came something completely out of left field in this potted biog: our budding novelist is recruited as a player coach for a Swedish American football team and moved to Karlstad in Sweden to play for them for nearly a year before meeting his soon to be Missus and heading back to the more temperate climes of The Natural State.

Once home he taught and coached football at a high school in the city of his birth before finally getting around to writing a best seller or several and thereby qualifying for such a lengthy introduction on Raised on Song and Story:

SK: Eli Cranor - You ´re very welcome to the Show

ELI replies:

SK: Let's kick off by talking a bit about growing up in Arkansas – draw the listeners a picture of those innocent days in the 1990's and early noughties – when a boy became a teenager in an era of prosperity and unbelievably rapid technological advancement - before everything changed with the diabolical events of 9/11?

ELI Answer:

SK: Just in case I forget – while researching your background I discovered- Al Green was from your neck of the woods – have you met him – do you like his music – do you have a favourite song by him?

ELI answers

Music: If Eli picks a song play sample of song

SK: A taste of Arkansas native Al Green

SK: Before we move on to the halcyon years of high school and college – let's have your first song choice – the tune that always takes you back to Pope County, Arkansas and the glory or angst of adolescence

ELI picks song and explains his choice

Music: Play [song]

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SK: That was [song title] selected by novelist, Arkansas author Eli Cranor as one of the tunes that still resonates from his childhood.

SK: So, Eli let's talk High School – you went to Russellville High where you ended up being the quarterback for the school team - what was it like - were you Mister popular – how were your grades – tell us about the American High School experience - bear in mind, people not from the States have a fairly Hollywood concept of High School – so, is it all T-Birds, pony-tail girls in Sandra Dee dresses and wild parties with very creative ways of drinking beer?

ELI Answer:

SK: You decamped to Boca and a Florida university, then back to an Arkansas college – briefly take us through that journey and the reason for those choices – was it simply football driven - how did you do academically?

ELI Answer:

SK: Okay – you're a successful, athletic young man on the cusp of responsible adulthood - what song reminds you of a slow dance with the prom queen or playing air

guitar with your buddies – we´re talking the end of an era if not the end of innocence I suppose - that glorious summer of freedom when college was done and the next chapter was a mystery still to be revealed and written?

Eli selects song and explains his choice

Music: Play [song]

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SK: I´m here with bestselling Irish novelist Ei Cranor and we´ve just listened to (*song title*) - a tune he remembers from when the boy opened the evolving doors of life for the man to find his way

SK: Do you have any memory of how you felt at the time – a young man with ambition tempered by new responsibilities and a developing maturity?

ELI Answer:

SK: By the time you´d graduated, had you written anything of substance that might lead you to believe it would lead you to take a road less travelled?

ELI Answers

SK: Okay this is the question I´ve been dying to ask: How does an all-American college graduate end up coaching and playing ball in Sweden?

(Let´s ask Eli if he wouldn´t mind ending this answer with talking about meeting his wife and returning to Arkansas)

SK: That neatly takes us to your next song selection – personally I think you should go with your first dance as a married man myself but hey – your funeral.

Eli selects song and talks about it

Music: Play [song]

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SK: Let´s talk your first novel: ***Don´t Know Tough*** - what made you decide to write a book and how much of Billy Lowe is you- how much of Ricky Lowe is you? Is Trent Powers based on a real person – in other words much of the book reads like it´s taken from real life – well – is it?

Eli Answer:

SK: What´s the background to you posting on Facebook ***Don´t Know Tough*** was essentially an exercise in penance?

Eli Answer:

SK: How long did it take to write?

Eli Answer:

SK: Okay so you laboured and edited until you're happy with your effort - then you face the universal problem of every new writer - how does one get a publishing deal for their first book?

ELI Answer:

SK: With publication of: '**Don't Know Tough**' comes the somewhat unusual case of a first novel being a best seller with a whole host of critical accolades following in its wake – all in all it must have been a hell of a buzz?

Eli Answer:

SK: So, go on, out with it – what was the first indulgent splurge when the first big royalty cheque hit the doormat?

Eli Answers

SK: Time for your next song – where were you musically - at this seminal point in your life?

Eli selects song and talks about be it

Music: Play [song]

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SK: I'm here with Eli Cranor talking about his life times and the bestselling books he's written.

SK: So, Eli, the success of: '**Don't Know Tough**' is followed by '**Ozark Dogs**, a tale that characterises the relationship between a Vietnam vet and his grand-daughter amid reams of generational differences with Romeo & Juliet type warring families and a series of nefarious interactions with Ku Klux Klan and Dixie Mafia types. Again, an extremely gritty narrative that doesn't shy away from degenerate and violent behaviour- It's a compulsive read but again terrifying in its levels of desperation. There are similarities to the plight of the characters in **Don't Know Tough** – so tell me - is this a true reflection of a particular strata of Arkansas society?

ELI Answer:

SK: **Broiler** is your next novel and again another noir thriller wallowing in a kind of desperation – this time highlighting a power-play of difference between the have and the

have-nots? The book lays out a reckoning of consequence exposing the underbelly of the American nightmare. Tell us a little Eli about how you conceived the story and if it is a metaphor of sorts, for something or somewhere bigger than Springdale?

SK: Time for your next song – This time I'd like you to give a tune that personifies America in your mind?

Eli selects song and talks about it

Music: Play [song]

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SK: Just looking at my notes Eli I've a bunch of prompts -would you mind if I just throw them at you one at a time and we see where it takes us?

ELI Answer:

SK: Mississippi Blue 42?

ELI Answer:

SK: Editing and editors?

ELI Answer:

SK: Meeting your readers and book signings?

ELI Answer:

SK: Waiting for the muse of inspiration?

ELI Answer:

SK: Your writing process to start, continue and finish?

ELI Answer:

SK: Publisher pressure and deadlines

ELI Answer:

SK: So, in the midst of all the chaos of fame and fortune does any song stand out and if so, why?

Eli selects song and talks about it

Music: Play [song]

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SK: I talking to Arkansas novelist Eli Cranor, who has been filling me in on who he is, what he does and how he does it – all the while giving us an insight into his psyche

through selecting songs from various different stages of his life – Eli, what are you working on at the moment?

ELI Answer:

DK: When and where will it be available?

SK: There are lots of aspiring writers out there who have submitted a novel to a hundred publishers, literary agents or whatnot and now have a drawer full of rejection slips from those who bothered to answer – you’ve been that soldier - any advice for dealing with rejection?

ELI Answer:

SK: Where are you on Audio books and AI authors?

ELI Answer:

SK: Let me put you through the quick-fire ringer before the last big question – no thinking just answering, first thing that comes to mind?

ELI Answer:

DK: American Writer?

ELI Answer:

British Writer?

ELI Answer:

SK: French Writer?

ELI Answer:

SK: World Writer?

ELI Answer:

SK: Existentialism or Nihilism?

ELI Answer:

SK: Let’s finish with your last music choice – and that Eli, is the song you really wish you’d written?

ELI selects song and talks about it

Music: Play [song]

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SK: That was [*Song title*] by [*Artist*] – bestselling Arkansas novelist Eli Cranor ´s final song choice and the one he wished he’d written.

SK: You’ve been listening to novelist Eli Cranor being thoroughly entertaining in song and story. If you want to buy any or all of Eli ´s books just go to his website: elicranor.com or - for our old school listeners who like dealing in old money- all Eli’s books can be ordered from any good bookshop. You can follow him on ?.

SK : Thanks Eli.

Eli final salute and observations:

Music: Rare Old Times piano plays underneath vox to fade out after credits

SK: Thanks to you lot out there for keeping us company - maybe you’ll all join me next time we delve into the life of someone who writes and tells stories along with having a song or several in their back pocket. Goodnight and may your God go with you

VO: Raised on Song & Story was written by Derek Kelly and presented by Stephen Kelly

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