

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**A troubled young man who is haunted by complete memories of two past lives accidentally stumbles upon a centuries-old secret society of others like him**

Thrilling adventure ‘The Reincarnationist Papers’ coming to screens this summer with Mark Wahlberg & Dylan O’Brien in Paramount’s ‘Infinite’

DENVER, Colorado — Shrouded in secrecy and mystery, D. Eric Maikranz’s **“The Reincarnationist Papers” (May 4, 2021, Blackstone Publishing)** recounts the many lives of the troubled Evan Michaels, a criminal for hire who is haunted by memories — not only of his past, but of the past lives he has lived.

After an arson job gone wrong, Evan is confronted by a mysterious woman, Poppy, who recognizes him for what he is because she also remembers multiple lives — except that she is much older, remembering seven complete lives. But there is something else Poppy must share with Evan — she is a member of a secret society of similar individuals who remember sequential past lives and reincarnate life after life. These 28 people created a secret society called the Cognomina centuries ago so that they could associate with each other from one lifetime to another. They are, in effect, near immortals — compiling experiences and skills over diverse lifetimes into near superhuman abilities that they have used to drive human history toward their own agenda on a longer timeline. Poppy invites Evan into the Cognomina but he must face their tests before he can enter this new mysterious society as an equal.

With elements of a thriller, mystery, fantasy, crime and historical fiction novel, this puzzle-box book will captivate fans of multiple genres as they race through the pages to discover the secrets behind the Cognomina.

Maikranz’s electric adventure was discovered with help from his guerilla marketing tactics, and is the basis for Paramount Pictures’ upcoming film “Infinite” starring Mark Wahlberg and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Praise for ‘The Reincarnationist Papers’

“The Reincarnationist Papers is a book sprung from an imaginative premise: The existence of a secret society, called Cognomina, whose members have the ability to remember everything from their past lives.” – *O - The Oprah Magazine*

“The high stakes and clever premise of Maikranz’s thrilling debut successfully evoke a sense of wide-eyed awe.” - *Publishers Weekly*

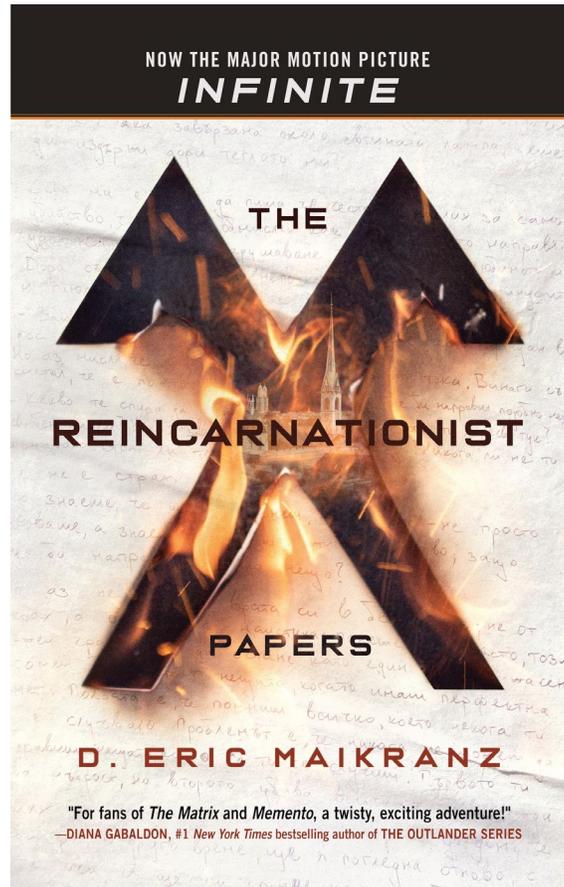
“For fans of The Matrix and Memento, a twisty, exciting adventure!”
- *Diana Gabaldon, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the OUTLANDER series*

“A heck of a read.” - *Mensa Bulletin*

“Already slated to be a motion picture, this is a fascinating and fast-paced story that will keep readers engaged until the very end.”
– *Library Journal (Starred Review)*

More about ‘The Reincarnationist Papers’

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Paperback | 978-1094154954 | \$15.99
E-book | 9781094154947 | \$9.99
Audiobook | \$21.41



Discovered as three notebooks in an antique store in Rome at the turn of the millennium, *The Reincarnationist Papers* offers a tantalizing glimpse into the Cognomina, a secret society of people who possess total recall of their past lives.

Evan Michaels struggles with being different, with having the complete memories of two other people who lived sequentially before him. He fights loneliness and believes he is unique until he meets Poppy. She recognizes his struggle because she is like him, except that she is much older, remembering back seven consecutive lives.

But there is something else she must share with Evan – she is a member of the secretive Cognomina. They are, in effect, immortals - compiling experiences and skills over lifetimes into near superhuman abilities that they have used to drive history over centuries.

Poppy invites Evan into the Cognomina but he must face their tests before entering this mysterious society as their equal.

More about D. Eric Maikranz

Author D. Eric Maikranz has led a multitude of lives. As a world traveler, he was a foreign correspondent while living in Rome, translated for relief doctors during a cholera epidemic in Nicaragua, and was once forcibly expelled from the nation of Laos. He has worked as a tour guide, a radio host, a bouncer, and as a Silicon Valley software executive. “The Reincarnationist



Papers” is his first novel and has been adapted into the Paramount Pictures film, “Infinite,” starring Mark Wahlberg. He is also the author of two travel books, “Insider’s Rome,” and “Insider’s Venice.”

In an interview, D. Eric Maikranz can discuss:

- **The guerilla marketing tactics he used to help his novel be discovered and adapted into a Paramount movie**
- **The experience of having his novel adapted into a \$130 million movie**
- **The casting choices of his characters**
- **The influence of philosophy and history in his fiction**
- **The secrets of writing a compelling story**
- **How his travels through Italy are reflected in his writing**
- **Working as a foreign correspondent in Rome**
- **Translating for doctors in Nicaragua during a cholera outbreak**
- **The fascination with secret societies and conspiracy theories, and world history**
- **The complications that arise when writing a book about reincarnation and past lives**
- **His plans for continued exploration of the Cognomina**

An Interview with **D. Eric Maikranz**

1. What was your inspiration to write this book?

There were two primary inspirations for the book. The first was the age-old saying that we've all heard a thousand times — "If I only knew then [as a younger person] what I know now." We've all thought about how we might have made different choices or how our lives might have turned out differently if only in our youth we could enjoy the benefit of our knowledge and experiences we gain through our lives. If reincarnation were real, then you would be able to remember all of the experiences in our past lives in the way the members of the Cognomina can.

The second inspiration is that I have three memories that do not belong to me, or perhaps better said that those three memories do not fit with my life, but I remember them. The memories are very short, very sharp and are from the late 1800s and mid 1900s. I don't know why I have them, or who they belong to, but they are with me like my other memories except that they do not fit the timeline of my life.

2. How did you land on reincarnation as a central theme? What kind of research did you have to do for this topic?

I love history. I always have my nose in a history book or good historical fiction. Reincarnation, where the people who reincarnate have complete recall of their past lives like the members of the Cognomina in *The Reincarnationist Papers*, gives me the opportunity to put these complex characters in multiple historical scenes as drivers of history or victims of it. That is one of the most parts of this Cognomina universe and I am eager to see how screenwriter Ian Shorr and director Antoine Fuqua have adapted this world.

I did a lot of research into reincarnation for this book, but I want to start off by saying that I neither believe nor disbelieve in reincarnation. I do have memories that do not belong to my life, as do many other people I discovered via my research. Instead of presenting some conclusion on reincarnation – real or not, I present an interpretation and expansion of the questions I found in following the academic research into reincarnation and past life memories. I was surprised to find that the University of Virginia had a Division of Perceptual Studies that has been researching, documenting and publishing scientific studies and profiles of people around the world who have memories of past lives. Dr. Ian Stevenson (1918-2007) pioneered this groundbreaking work that now continues under Dr. Jim Tucker. Both men have published books that capture detail from the thousands of cases they have researched. I have summarized a

handful of case studies that affected my novel. Feel free to access them at thereincarnationistpapers.com/research

3. Can you talk a bit about how your book was discovered and how you used some unconventional marketing to get *The Reincarnationist Papers* made into a Paramount movie?

I first released *The Reincarnationist Papers* as a self-published novel in 2009 and I borrowed a technique that I have used successfully in my Silicon Valley career in software development, and that is crowdsourcing or leveraging consumers of a product to get their help with the next stage of development. The next stage of development for me was to get the book to a wider audience, so I put a cash reward on the first page of the book to any reader who could get the book introduced to a publishing or Hollywood executive and then I marked the book down to the lowest price that Amazon would allow in order to reach readers who might be able to help. Specifically, I offered to reward my readers with a percentage of any advance or upfront payment (the same as any agent would earn from a movie deal) and in doing so, I crowdsourced my readers to become my agents.

The Guerilla Marketing idea of putting a cash reward on the first page of the book for any reader who could make an effective introduction to a Hollywood studio executive or major publishing executive seemed like an outlandish idea – until it worked.

Just over a year later, on Thanksgiving Day, Rafi Crohn, a junior Hollywood executive found *The Reincarnationist Papers* in a hostel in Nepal, read the book, loved it and contacted me about getting it made into a movie. Rafi worked on the project for years but was finally able to orchestrate a sale to Paramount in 2017 and the movie version, called *INFINITE*, is coming to screens this summer.

4. What was it like having your novel adapted for film?

It has been a surreal experience so far and a bit of an emotional roller coaster ride. I was surprised when Rafi sold an option to Bellevue Productions, and I was ecstatic when John Zaozirny of Bellevue managed to sell *INFINITE* to Paramount in a single day. Then Paramount brought in a new chief executive who shelved the adaptation and it seemed like the project was dead and felt devastated. Everyone warned me the movie was still a longshot to get made, even after Paramount bought it, but I couldn't help but keep fantasizing about seeing *The Reincarnationist Papers* as a movie. Then, like a hero that saves the day, director Antoine Fuqua asked Paramount if he could direct it and the movie was back on. Chris Evans signed on to play Evan Michaels but had to back out in 2019 and it looked like the movie project might die again until Mark Wahlberg joined to play the leading role. Shooting started in September 2019 and the

producers welcomed me and my wife to the set in England to meet the amazing and hardworking cast and crew. I was so nervous walking onto that set that I couldn't even hold a cup of tea in my hands, but producers Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Mark Vahradian brought us right into the film making process and introduced us to Mark Wahlberg and Antoine Fuqua and the rest of the crew. We were on set for two days and saw a sixth of a billion dollars being spent on an idea that came out of my head, very surreal and very cool.

The best parts so far are the new friends I made along the way. Rafi Crohn who is proof that as an artist you only need one champion to like your work. John Zaozirny was the first to invest in *The Reincarnationist Papers* for Hollywood. Ian Shorr wrote a dynamite adaptation that hooked one of the biggest studios in Hollywood and then he took me to Burning Man. Antoine Fuqua took the story under his wing and made it real for that larger audience that I had in mind when I first offered a reward to my earliest readers. Lorenzo and Mark V. who made the film a reality. And finally Mark Wahlberg, who chose INFINITE as his next big role.

5. You've lived through so many interesting experiences -- translating for relief doctors in an epidemic, working as a foreign correspondent and even being expelled from the nation of Laos. How does all of this impact your writing?

I have been very fortunate in that my life has presented me with many adventures and opportunities for travel to over 60 countries. Some friends tell me that I have had several lives worth of experience and it is this collection of events that I continue to draw on to try to build characters who are often centuries old through all of their remembered lives that stretch back into history. As we follow Evan through his journey into the mysterious and dark world of the Cognomina, I really focused on recalling and capturing in the book that emotion and fascination I experienced when I visited exotic cities or countries or cultures for the first time. That adds to the wish-fulfillment we get to experience with Evan on his journey.

6. How did you manage to incorporate elements from so many genres into the book so seamlessly?

I hope that it appears seamless to the reader. The book tackles themes of spirituality and existence at the crossroads of nihilism and the obsolescence of conventional religion when it begins to break down with reincarnation is real for these characters. It sounds like heavy stuff, but I try to break it up with historical flashbacks with members of the Cognomina in previous lives as a way to develop their character and their flaws. Lastly, I use the secret society of the Cognomina to explore the wish fulfillment that always pops into readers' heads when I can make them imagine what their life [or lives] would be like if they reincarnated like my characters.



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7. Will we find out more about the Cognomina?

Oh yes. The second book in the series is done and I will submit it to my publisher in the next month or so and it should be available in late 2021 or 2022. In this book we meet more members of the Cognomina and they find out they are not alone, the one member they excommunicated years ago has been busy finding and recruiting others who reincarnate – but to what end. There are also some additional details and bonus content like hidden chapters from The Reincarnationist Papers, insider details into the Cognomina, and samples from the next book. Just visit ericmaikranz.com to get access to insider content and updates.