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\*(High-resolution image links below)

**Local Teacher’s New Fantasy Novel Hits #1 on an Amazon Best Seller List**

Two months after its release, Stephen Merlino’s fantasy novel, *The Jack of Souls*, hit #1 on Amazon’s Fantasy Coming of Age Best Seller list. The novelalso climbed the Sword and Sorcery list to #9 and the Fantasy Scary Stories list to #23.

*The Jack of Souls* is the story of an outcast rogue who must break a curse laid on his fate, or die on his nineteenth birthday. “It’s a tale of magic, mischief, and the triumph of tricksters,” says Merlino. Alongside the roguish protagonist, the novel features strong female characters and a subplot from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream.*

“I’m ecstatic to see *The Jack of Souls* on a list beside *Eragon*,” said Merlino. “I may not be as young as Paolini, but I’m sure I worked as hard—and probably for longer, I have to admit. These characters have been with me for years.”

Merlino releases book two in the series this August, and book three in December, to complete the trilogy. “Then the second trilogy begins!” says Merlino. “They call that ‘Aggravated Trilogy,’ but I have no remorse. I love series.”

Stephen is a high school English teacher in the Edmonds School district. He is husband to one, father of two, chicken wrangler of three, and a recent companion to The Doctor in her female incarnation, which surely—obviously—is coming to the BBC because we are definitely ready and how could they not think of that?

 - ENDS -

**Headshot URL:**

<http://stephenmerlino.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/scm-casual2-clr-300dpi-.jpg>

**Cover URL:**

<http://stephenmerlino.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Cover-300dpi1.jpg>

**Amazon Best Seller Screen Shot URL:**

<http://stephenmerlino.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Cover-300dpi1.jpg>