



Jeff D. Jacques is the author of the short story "Rush" from [Space Grunts: Full-Throttle Space Tales #3](#). Jeff was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada and made his first pro sales in Volumes 5, 7 and 9 of the *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* anthologies. Soon thereafter came *The Light*, an eBook in the *Star Trek: Corps of Engineers* series.

How did you get involved with *Space Grunts*?

Dayton Ward, whom I have been acquainted with online since before his success with *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*, invited me to submit a story for *Space Grunts* and I happily accepted. It had been a while since my last published story, so I was rarin' to go on something new.

What angle did you explore on the theme of galactic soldiers in your story "Rush"?

Generally speaking, in battle you have the good guys and the bad guys and it's basically their jobs to kill each other. In this story I wanted to show that things are not always so black & white, and this is what my main character discovers during his ordeal.

Where do you get your story ideas?

Mainly my brain! Usually, once I have the idea and theme of the story I usually like to start writing without much prior preparation. If the story is a good one, then the words will flow and the story will write itself, so to speak.

What do you see as some of the advantages of the short story format over longer fiction formats, such as novels?

There's always the opportunity for tighter writing because you have fewer words to utilize. Also, if the story is part of a collection of stories following the same theme, it's always interesting to see other writers' takes on what the anthology is about.

Did you choose to write, or did writing choose you?

I've always loved to write, choosing to do so as a way of expressing my creativity. I never really thought of doing it professionally until the *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* contest started up, though.

What advice do you have for someone who is just starting out as a writer of short fiction?

Don't give up. The rejections prior to the first success can be discouraging, but they should be looked upon as incentive to keep trying and improve. Eventually you'll make that first sale, and you'll be glad you didn't quit.

What can readers expect from you next?

Do they know something I don't?? Actually, I don't have anything planned at the moment, but I'm sure something will come along sooner or later...