

Chris Hadfield discusses his new book, “The Defector”.

Transcript

0:00

[Music]

0:05

okay if there is anything Chris Hadfield

0:07

can't do well he still has to find it

0:09

okay his CV includes singer songwriter

0:12

astronaut best-selling author who's got

0:15

a brand new book here it is the defector

0:17

takes place in 1973 when a

0:19

state-of-the-art Soviet jet fighter

0:21

disappears leading to a high stakes game

0:23

of spies lies and defection and for more

0:27

we are joined by all right so Chris I

0:32

like you're such a busy man how do you

0:33

do this in your spare time uh yeah I

0:36

think it's really good to have multiple

0:38

things going on but I found that when

0:40

I'm writing books especially fiction

0:42

they're always just sort of ticking away

0:44

in the back of my head no matter where I

0:46

am you know if you're standing in line

0:47

somewhere you you've got these various

0:49

plot ideas and the main characters of

0:52

these books they're always with me like

0:54

almost like like Consultants around me

0:57

and so they they they're like how would

0:58

I react to all these things things and

1:00

you see a thing go by hey that'd be

1:01

interesting for the book so it's almost

1:03

like just having a a parallel uh

1:06

dialogue going on with yourself while

1:07

you're doing all the other things were

1:09

you writing notes did something come to

1:11

you and then you're like oh gosh I do

1:12

that all the time and you know a a

1:14

mobile phone's great for that because

1:15

you go oh or you run into a person with

1:18

a really interesting name or or you hear

1:20

a turn a phrase or you get an idea and

1:22

just send yourself a quick notes so you

1:24

remember and then you got to sit down

1:27

and morning after morning go through the

1:29

process of WR a book but I really enjoy

1:31

it it's it's just a creative process

1:33

like anything else what number is this

1:34

sorry this is my fifth book uh uh my

1:37

second Thriller fiction the first

1:40

thriller fiction was the Apollo murders

1:42

and this is the next it's got the same

1:44

you know main characters uh you know

1:46

what happened next and I'm actually

1:48

working the on the third book in the

1:50

series in the early research stage of

1:51

the third book in the series now so now

1:54

I was going to say part of this book you

1:55

draw in your own experience as a test

1:57

fighter pilot yeah I I was uh combat

2:00

fighter pilot in the Cold War I flew

2:02

f-18s uh for a living and um oh there's

2:06

a picture when I was down at sort of the

2:08

fighter pilot Olympics I thing called

2:10

William Tell um and that's when I was a

2:13

test pilot uh but I did the very first a

2:16

flying one of Canada cf-18s intercepting

2:19

Soviet bombers who were practicing

2:21

attacks on North America and during the

2:23

Cold War and I would race out in the

2:26

middle of the night I would sleep in the

2:27

quick re reaction facility you had to be

2:30

airborne 12 minutes from sound asleep

2:32

you had to be airborne in your F-18 in

2:34

12 minutes race out over the North

2:35

Atlantic and intercept the Soviet

2:38

bombers before they could get to the

2:39

line where they could release their

2:40

Crews missiles so I did that for a

2:43

living as a cold war fighter pilot and

2:46

then a test pilot and then an astronaut

2:48

and so all of that weaves into uh my

2:51

background to be able to write a book

2:52

like The Defector yeah not that he has

2:54

to but do you get the feeling that Chris

2:55

Hadfield would be like the best

2:57

candidate for job interview like if you

2:58

had to sit down and interview interview

2:59

him for a job and you're looking at a CV

3:01

and tell me more about that in this I

3:05

never want my resume to go up against CH

3:08

that is for sure where do writing rank

3:10

of all the things you've done and do I I

3:13

it was my first love really I loved uh

3:16

language and English and and stuff in

3:18

school I've always been a voracious

3:20

reader but I I I was I'm the type of

3:23

person when you're reading a book and

3:24

there's a paragraph that is exquisitely

3:26

written I'm like I I'll read that

3:28

paragraph 10 times I'm going how did the

3:30

the writer how did they use the language

3:32

so well and and almost look at it as a

3:35

work of art on its own like when you see

3:37

a painting and you're just man how did

3:39

they do the brush strokes and and so I

3:42

always wrote but I I knew that wasn't

3:44

going to you know get me to command a

3:46

spaceship so I did an engineering degree

3:48

and such but I always had in the back of

3:50

my mind that uh that someday I'd like to

3:52

try and write and and the previous book

3:55

the Apollo murders has been a

3:56

international bestseller and it's being

3:58

made into an eight part television

4:00

series and so so yeah which is uh really

4:03

exciting for me and and so this is a lot

4:06

of fun to to go through the whole

4:08

process of coming up with characters a

4:10

story and then making it fit with

4:12

history in a way that as the reader you

4:14

can't tell what you know what I made up

4:17

and what actually happened in history so

4:19

yeah I I'm all the other things I'm

4:21

doing are fun but uh writing Thriller

4:24

fiction is a real is a real exciting

4:25

part of it okay not only do you write

4:27

books you're also as we know a

4:29

songwriter and a fellow musician Ed

4:31

Robertson from The Bare Naked Ladies he

4:33

was recently with us here on TMS cuz BNL

4:35

they're celebrating 35 years they 35th

4:37

Anniversary and your name actually came

4:40

up uh Chris I want to show you this clip

4:43

oh finally spend one week in space with

4:47

musical collaborator Chris Hadfield the

4:49

commander or one week watching a Big

4:52

Bang Theory Marathon which of course

4:54

Bare Naked Ladies did the theme for

4:56

every time I'm with Commander Hadfield I

4:59

learn a lot uh he's also funny he's uh

5:04

super interesting uh I I would go I of

5:09

course I'd love to be in space for one

5:11

hour uh but anytime with Chris Hadfield

5:14

is time well spent so I'm going with

5:16

that what a nice thing for Ed to say

5:18

Ed's a great guy and he's a fellow pilot

5:21

and uh I talk to Ed every week and yeah

5:23

we've co-written music together and

5:25

we've performed all all over the place

5:27

uh together as well so yeah what he just

5:30

said about me gosh I I say all that

5:32

about Ed he's a really interesting guy

5:34

and and such a creative spark okay from

5:36

Ed to Jeremy we're obviously we're

5:39

counting down to next year's Mission um

5:42

obviously I'm talking emis too yeah and

5:44

Jeremy Hansen yes uh any advice have you

5:48

talked have you given tell me about

5:51

conversations with Jeremy well you know

5:52

something really significant in the

5:54

entire history of our species only 24

5:57

human beings have ever left Earth orb

5:59

and they've all been American and the

6:01

first human ever to leave Earth orbit

6:04

who isn't an American is going to be

6:06

Jeremy Hansen from Southern Ontario when

6:08

he launches to go around the Moon late

6:10

next year or early 2025 I'm going to see

6:12

Jeremy this week actually uh I'll be up

6:15

at the Canadian space agency with him um

6:17

he doesn't need my advice I mean he he's

6:19

been an astronaut since 2009 Super

6:22

accomplished a wonderful family man his

6:24

wife's a doctor uh a pilot but a great

6:28

leader uh of people down in the

6:30

astronaut program so yeah I'm I'm really

6:32

excited for Jeremy and he's been uh a

6:35

public servant his entire life and he's

6:37

been an astronaut for whatever 14 years

6:40

and finally he's getting to fly and he's

6:42

going on a historic Mission all the way

6:44

around the moon and so I couldn't be

6:45

happier for Jeremy and I'm really

6:47

looking forward to his launch and

6:48

Mission yeah which is about a year away

6:50

now right next November a little more

6:52

but yeah a little over a year listen

6:54

before we let you go uh Colonel we want

6:55

to let you know it's free Friday here on

6:57

TMS where we celebrate our viewers pets

7:00

oh great we wanted to show this pick of

7:02

your dog oh there's Henry that's Henry

7:05

tell us a little bit more about Henry in

7:06

this picture uh Henry uh he's a King

7:09

Charles he he was King Charles before

7:11

that was cool actually and uh and he's

7:13

he's a great dog he's two years old uh I

7:17

got him out in British Columbia and he

7:18

he's just a terrific dog he is always

7:20

trying to do the right thing you know

7:23

he always tries to do the right Henry's

7:26

a great little dog we've had my wife and

7:28

I have a dog since before we got married

7:30

and uh Henry is a great great companion

7:32

to have gone through life well if Henry

7:34

isn't watching you make sure you tell

7:36

him he was featured on TM today as well

7:38

Daddy appropriately aces The Defector is

7:43

now available everywhere books are soul

7:44

Chris always a pleasure thank you nice

7:46

to see you both thanks hope you enjoy

7:47

the book