

ALUMNI PROFILE

Eric Jerome Dickey Author



Herff College of Engineering Experience

“Coming from South Memphis to college was a huge step, and one few others in my family had the opportunity to take. When I got here, I felt like Clark Kent dropped off in Metropolis. Those were definitely make-or-break years. Thanks to some brilliant professors, I learned how to break things down into the simplest terms. I received an excellent foundation and all this knowledge became accessible to me. When I graduated from the Herff College of Engineering, I had a tremendous sense of achievement. I felt like I could do anything.”

Professional History

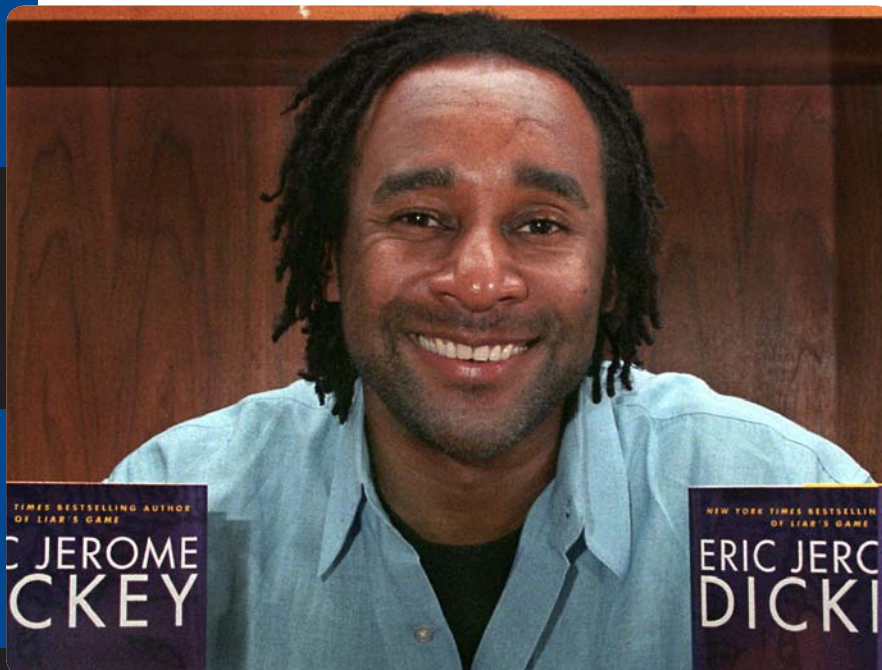
Eric Jerome Dickey began his post-college career as a software developer in the aerospace industry. He also worked as a middle school teacher, actor and standup comedian before becoming a full-time novelist. In 1994 he published his first short story, and in 1996 he published his first novel, *Sister, Sister*. Since then, Dickey has published 14 novels, most of them *New York Times* bestsellers. He also wrote a screenplay called *Cappuccino* which made its debut in 1998 during the Pan African Film Festival and is currently on the film festival circuit. His newest project is a series of comic books for Marvel's popular X-Men Series, featuring the characters of Storm and The Black Panther.

Significant Accomplishments

- Blackboard Book of the Year award for *Cheaters*, 2000
- Named “Author of the Year” by the African American Literary Award Show, 2004, 2005 when he also received the award for “Best Contemporary Fiction”
- University of Memphis Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, 2003
- Numerous nominations for the NAACP Image Award
- Established the Eric Jerome Dickey Library and Literary Enrichment Fund, sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity
- In addition to *The New York Times* list, he has been on numerous bestseller lists, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Essence*, and *Publishers Weekly*.

Education

- Bachelor's of science degree in computer system technology, 1983, the University of Memphis



Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.