

= Joseph Staten =

Joseph Michael Staten is an American writer .

At Bungie , Staten served as director of cinematics for the studio 's games , including the Halo series ; he would write mission scripts and movie dialogue for the titles . He has also been involved in managing the expansion of the Halo franchise to other game studios and producers , including Peter Jackson 's Wingnut Interactive . Though not a published author previously , Tor Books approached Staten to write the fifth Halo novelization , Halo : Contact Harvest . Released in 2007 , the novel reached # 3 on The New York Times bestseller list in the first week of its release and received positive reviews . Staten 's latest project was a brand new game series entitled Destiny , a first @-@ person shooter . Staten rejoined Microsoft Studios as a senior creative director on January 9 , 2014 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life and education = = =

Joseph Staten is the son of a minister who is a professor of theology and philosophy of religion . He was born in San Francisco , California . Staten entered Northwestern University in 1990 with the aspiration of becoming a professional actor . Realizing he was not material to be a leading man , he switched focus to other subjects and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in communication and international studies in 1994 . Staten also has studied at the University of Chicago where he received a Master of Arts degree in international relations in 1997 . After being rejected for employment with the Central Intelligence Agency , Staten dropped the idea of entering the foreign service and helped his family at their winery in Sonoma Valley . He instead pursued a number of jobs before becoming a staff member at game developer Bungie in 1998 after meeting some of the developers in online Myth matches .

= = = Bungie = = =

Staten 's former role at Bungie was director of cinematics and was responsible for the in @-@ game movies for Bungie 's Halo : Combat Evolved , Halo 2 , and Halo 3 . Work on the games at " crunch time " involved 80 @-@ hour weeks and stretches without sleep maxing out at 72 hours . Staten worked alongside three other staff writers at Bungie , each with their own separate role : Frank O 'Connor developed Halo 3 's combat dialogue , Rob McLees focused on Halo canon and working with licensing partners , Luke Smith interacted with the fans online , and Staten developed the cinematics and missions scripts . Staten said in an interview that he considered it challenging to write for the games , as " first person shooters [are] all about writing ' between the bullets ' " ? relating plot information to the players in between action sequences . " You need to be efficient and clever to give players the story ? the context ? they need . But you don 't want to push too hard or they 'll reject it . " During his work on the games he read science fiction works by Iain Banks , Robert A. Heinlein , and Vernor Vinge . In addition to his writing contributions , Staten lends his voice to small aliens known as Grunts in all three video games .

Though previous Halo novels had been written by professional writers like Eric Nylund and William C. Dietz , publisher Tor Books chose Staten to write the fifth Halo novelization , entitled Halo : Contact Harvest . Editor Eric Raab noted in the book 's press release that " who better to tell the tale " of humanity 's encounter with the antagonistic alien Covenant than Staten , who had " intimate knowledge " of the series ' story . The novel is an ensemble piece , with the action being narrated from both human and alien viewpoints ; the work of Staten 's favorite science @-@ fiction authors helped teach him the importance of honing a " strong , consistent voice " . Staten found that writing compelling action involved slowing things down , paradoxically the opposite of the fast @-@ paced gameplay of a Halo title . He considered the book the perfect way to elaborate on the Halo story

without stripping it down for a video game , . and flesh out the character of Avery Johnson more than the games had allowed .

On release , Contact Harvest reached a top spot of # 3 on the New York Times bestseller list , where it remained for four weeks . The novel also appeared on the USA Today bestseller 's list at the same time . Reviewers noted that despite being an unproven writer , Staten had succeeded in crafting an excellent novel . The novel 's success was considered to be evidence that games were breaking into the mainstream , and that the genre was becoming increasingly about the story .

After Contact Harvest 's release Staten played an important role in the development of offshoots to the Halo franchise . He traveled to New Zealand several times to work with Peter Jackson and Weta Workshop . Staten assisted with the fiction of Ensemble Studios title Halo Wars , and the now @-@ postponed Halo film . In interviews , Staten has explained that the game 's protagonist , the Master Chief , would serve as a supporting character rather than who the film would focus on . He worked on story development for the Halo 3 expansion , Halo 3 : ODST ; Staten provided the voices for a number of characters as placeholder audio during the representational play testing of the game in December 2008 . Staten was last working for Bungie as the writer and design director for Destiny . On September 24 , 2013 , Bungie announced that Staten had left the company to pursue new creative challenges .

= = = Microsoft = = =

Staten rejoined Microsoft Studios as a senior creative director on January 9 , 2014 . On March 12 , 2015 , 343 Industries official website posted a blog post detailing a list of upcoming Halo novels . One of the novels listed is Halo : Shadow of Intent authored by Joseph Staten and was released on December 7 , 2015 . He is the lead writer for Microsoft 's ReCore , which is set to be released in 2016 .

= = = Personal life = = =

Staten is married and has two children . On June 18 , 2011 , Staten gave the convocation address to the class of 2011 of the Northwestern University School of Communication .