

SAMPLE Q&A

What is the name of your latest book and what inspired it?

I'm getting ready to release the first book in a middle-grade sci-fi series, *Snow Globe Travelers: Samuel's Legacy*. It's really exciting!

I started the story in April of 2012. At the time, I was following a blog that hosted weekly flash fiction challenges. One week, a short list of titles was provided for the challenge and one of those titles inspired me.

I didn't know then because I wasn't in the same place with my faith as I am now, but the beginning of this story was the beginning of much deeper journey for me. While Sarah, the main character, and I have different personalities, it's really strange and incredible how much of her journey and mine from that moment parallel - not in the details, I haven't discovered a snow globe shop connecting to other worlds - more in the abstract and emotional sense. It's definitely a God thing.

Do your real-life adventures inspire your writing?

Great question! Yes, they do. I often incorporate my emotional and physical experiences into my character's adventures.

Do you have any unusual writing habits?

Not really.

However, ironically, I avoided lengthy writing growing up. The only writing I did back then was poetry or a rare journal entry. I didn't come into my own as a writer until I was an adult.

I also tend to be a slow writer. The whole story needs to be plotted before I can really dig into drafting.

What authors, or books have influenced you?

There are so many great writers. My all-time favorite author is Edgar Allen Poe. I love his short stories and poems. Aside from him, I would say my approach to writing has been influenced by writers like R.L. Stine, C.S. Lewis, H.G. Wells, and James Patterson. I actually took James Patterson's Master Class online a couple of years ago.

Do you have any advice for new authors?

Read a lot. Study the craft of writing. Develop a thick skin. Even if you don't agree with some's opinion of your work, be gracious. Covers, titles, blurbs, and editors impact the success of a book more than ads or promotions.

At some point, you will get frustrated and discouraged. You may even want to quit. Just remember, success is the result of persistence in spite of failure and disappointment.

What is the best advice you have ever heard?

Don't submit or indie publish a story before it's ready and don't pitch a story that isn't polished and ready. Or something along those lines.

If you were going to be stranded on a desert island and allowed to take 3 or 4 books with you what books would you bring?

Edgar Allen Poe's complete volume of works, Robert Frost's complete collection of poetry, the Bible, and my copy of *The Night Before Christmas*. Can I cheat and throw-in my copy of *A Treasury of Peter Rabbit and Other Stories* by Beatrix Potter? The last two books hold a lot of sentimental value.