

INDIE WRITERS REVIEW

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

With Kristen Peterson



1. PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, THE GENRE(S) YOU WRITE IN, PREVIOUS WORK AND WHERE YOU ARE BASED.

My name is Kristen Peterson, an author of children's picture books. I currently live just outside of Austin Texas and work as a professional photographer part time.

2. WHICH OF YOUR BOOKS / PIECES OF WRITING ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF, AND WHY?

I would have to say my first book BRAVE BENNY. I first had this story idea nine years ago but as a believer in timing it wasn't for me at the time. Recently I picked up where I left off and things have been progressing quickly but I am most proud as this is my first book, this was a huge personal goal of mine.

3. HOW LONG ON AVERAGE DOES IT TAKE YOU TO WRITE A BOOK?

Currently 2-3 weeks

4. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS?

Choosing the ideal illustration style that best suits the story. As a creative myself this is the most time-consuming part.

5. WHAT WAS YOUR HARDEST SCENE TO WRITE?

The middle. I normally know how I want the beginning to start and how the story will end but for me the middle takes more time.

6. DO YOU READ YOUR BOOK REVIEWS? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH BAD OR GOOD ONES?

Yes, at the beginning. I read the first couple reviews when I first published my book because it was new and exciting. Reading the support from readers was incredibly uplifting. I have learned from other inspiring authors that reviews alone do not define them as an author. Some people will love my books, and some will not. You can try to please every reader but ultimately, it's just not realistic.

7. WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO, AND HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND RESEARCHING BEFORE BEGINNING A BOOK?

I research until I'm pleased that I've gathered all I can to provide accurate information in my stories. In my upcoming nature series I will be doing a lot of research.

8. WHAT DOES LITERARY SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO YOU

That moment my published book lands in my hands is when I feel I'm successful. Sharing my work with others and knowing even just one reader enjoyed my book makes my heart so happy.

9. HOW MANY UNPUBLISHED AND HALF-FINISHED BOOKS DO YOU HAVE?

Six. I am working on my upcoming nature series, two seasonal picture books and one natural healing book. Of course story ideas fill my head daily.

10. WHAT WAS THE BEST MONEY YOU EVER SPENT AS A WRITER? (E.G. SOFTWARE, SELF-HELP BOOKS, MARKETING BOOKS ETC.)

Illustrations for sure. They're just as important as a purposeful story.

11. DO YOU WANT EACH BOOK TO STAND ON ITS OWN, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO BUILD A BODY OF WORK WITH CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EACH BOOK?

Right now, I like how each book stands on its own. However, my nature series will definitely be connected in more than one way.

12. WHAT ARE COMMON TRAPS FOR ASPIRING WRITERS

Self-doubt. I can't speak enough about how paralyzing this can be for aspiring authors. Surround yourself with a good support team, join online groups and forums. Truly understand every successful author began somewhere and most likely experienced some level of self-doubt one time or another. It takes a lot to put our work out there for the world to judge. I have a huge support system which I think is so vital to new authors.

13. WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT THING ABOUT WRITING CHARACTERS FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX?

Writing of the opposite sex isn't really much of a struggle for me. Maybe in the future if I were to write a fictional novel I'd have a different response but now as a children's author it's not that difficult for me.



Blog (www.authorkristenpeterson.wordpress.com)

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