

Author Interview With Amy Q Barker by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

For those new to your work, please tell us a bit about yourself, your books and your genre/s

- I'm the author of 5 women's fiction novels. I like to write about strong, interestingly flawed, and amazing women who are "going through something." I also like to write about how these women fall in love and how they become better humans.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- Number one: determination. Number two: discipline. Number three: thick skin. Number four: patience. Number five: connection.

In your everyday life how do you give back to the world?

- I try to see beyond the obvious and external. I try to look people in the eye and see what's really going on with them. I try to fight for the underdog, the broken, the ignored. I try to forge connections by being the medium that brings people together. I try to be a better person and to think about others before myself.

If your life was a song what song would it be and why?

- In My Life by the Beatles. Much of who I am and what I write is a reflection on my relationships with the people that have come into my life and also those who have passed through it or passed away. The reason I write is partly as a tribute to them but also a way to heal my own soul from the broken pieces that have made me who I am today.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Paige Toon is my favorite, but lately, from a romance standpoint, I've been loving Lily Foster and Adriana Locke

What are some of your hobbies?

- I love reading (2-3 books a week), hiking, kayaking, biking, boating, hanging out with friends and family

When reading reviews, what is something you love to see written?

- When a reader gets what I'm trying to portray in my stories - not just the surface (i.e., here are the plot points), but the actual meaning and depth behind the plot (i.e., the reason why the characters do what they do).

What are you currently working on?

- I'm working on books 6 and 7 (I alternate writing on one to the other every other day). The first one will be a little bit edgier women's fiction than I normally write, but still with all the "feels" of my other works. The other is still being fleshed out.

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- I'm currently reading the entire Throne of Glass series, but in between each book, I'm reading women's fiction and romance (I just finished "She's Up To No Good" by Sara Goodman Confino" which I loved).

What is your favorite book made into a movie/tv show?

- I loved Virgin River, and this may be old school but I still think the Bridget Jones' Diary movie was even better than the book.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

- I have severe social anxiety, but I hide it by pretending to be super extraverted and talking a lot. Sometimes this gets me into trouble.

Its Release Day! How do you celebrate?

- I post a lot of videos on social media and drink a lot of toasts with my friends, usually ending with being drunk around a bonfire somewhere.

Do you collect anything? If so,what?

- Do books count? I have a LOT of those. Old and new. Every genre.

What is your writing routine with a new book? Do you outline your stories or do you do what the characters tell you to do as you go along? Mix of both?

- I'm a very free-flowing writer. I don't write anything down in advance. I simply wake up every morning at 4:00am and start writing and wait to see what will come out of my fingers.

What has been your most rewarding experience since publishing your work?

- Meeting brand new friends through the books - I never expected this! Books are amazing connectors. Now, no matter where I am or who I talk to, if I say I'm an author, it immediately launches into a whole new conversation and connection around books and writing and how important stories like mine and like other means to people.

If you could sit down with any character in your book, what would you ask them and why?

- I would LOVE to sit down with Rue (the title and main character of my debut novel). She was born blind, so I would ask her a thousand questions related to being blind, but I would also ask her about her hopes and dreams, and how she "sees" the future and the world around her.

If you were offered a movie deal for just one of your books, which would you choose and why?

- Rue. I think a movie would show what I was trying to portray in the book - that being blind, just like any other disability (or difference) doesn't mean you are less-than, doesn't mean that you are any less worthy of love, life, happiness, and everything this crazy life has to offer!

What's the one animal you have to see at the zoo?

- I love the lemurs. I mention lemurs in my book, Lap Baby. They are so cheeky and adorable!

Other than necessities, what is one thing you cannot go a day without?

- Books. I literally have a book with me at all times. Also, Blistex lip grease - I'm completely addicted to it and would bring it with me on Survivor Island.

Where do you come up with the ideas for character names or towns/places to have books set in?

- Usually they are places where I have lived or visited. I also want the location to have some type of connection, feeling, or energy that makes me want to explore it more (in my mind and in my words).

You are filling out this interview as part of a tour with Itsy Bitsy Book Bits. What made you choose Itsy Bitsy Book Bits?

- I heard about how great you were with another author friend of mine.