

Author Interview With Matilda Reyes 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 was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. I've lived on both coasts, love experiencing different seasons, but Los Angeles stole my heart. I'll never say no to a cup of hot chocolate. Before becoming a full-time writer, I worked in the non-profit sector for fifteen years as an activist, researcher, grant writer, program director, and more. I live in Miami, Florida with my husband and dog.

I loves books of all genres but has a special place in my heart for urban fantasy like the Dresden Files and the Iron Druid series. They've definitely impacted my choice in primary genre to write, and I just love it.

I own more books than I could possibly read and have a passion for buying books from indie authors. In addition to the fourth book in the Vespers Chronicles, I'm working on a four-book series about mage detectives, power, and suspense called the Black Cauldron Detective Agency. Book One, Unearthly Magik, comes out Summer 2022.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- You can't edit a blank page. Your first draft will likely be a mess, but that's okay. That's why we edit. Editing is fun!
- Learning never stops. Whether it's videos on marketing or bookkeeping for the business side of things or talks and classes on craft, there's always something to pick up and areas to grow.

If you won the lottery what would you do with the money?

- Buy a house with a mountain view and disappear from the public eye. I'd still write books because it's a passion, but I doubt I'd do as many events as now.

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

- I'm a lupus advocate.

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

- I honestly can't think of one song that covers my entire life. Each decade has been vastly different.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Michael J. Allen - He wrote this fantastic series about a mage who uses trash to fuel his magic. Bridgette O'Hare. Not only is she my cover designer, but she writes kickass series in her spare time.

What are some of your hobbies?

- I love hiking when the Florida weather isn't too hot and humid, reading, of course, and knitting. I have a special love of the MCU, and I always enjoy a good binge watching. A new hobby I've started is diamond painting.

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

- I get excited when I see that people made a connection to the characters.

What are you currently working on?

- I'm currently putting the final touches on Unearthly Magik, getting ready for the re-release of my first trilogy, and finishing up blurbs for all four books.

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- I'm horribly behind with my to-read list. I generally don't have time or the mental energy to commit to reading a series. At the top of my list right now are a few books on elemental magik, herbal poisons, and the Gena Showalter's Atlantis series.

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

- The Time Traveler's Wife! I loved the book, and Theo James and Rose Leslie truly did the characters justice.

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

- I trained for a marathon with Snoop Dogg's wife.

What is the hardest part of the writing process?

- That first draft!

How do you do research for your book?

- I read a lot. For my current release, I spent about a year researching different kinds of magic practices around the world, talked to a private investigator about the ins and outs of his job, dream/fan casted the characters, and asked questions of people who engage in some of these practices or speak certain languages.

You are settling in for a movie night, what are your go- to, must haves as a snack?

- Raisinets, popcorn, and a bottle of water.

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've worked with Collen in the past and love the IBBB's work.