

Author Interview With Allan Evans by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

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

- Author Allan Evans has been finding writing success of late. His debut novel, *Abnormally Abbey* (the first book in the young adult Ghost Girl series) published in fall of 2020. A short story, *Silent Night*, was in the *Haunted Yuletide* anthology (December 2020) and a serial killer thriller set in the Twin Cities, *Killer Blonde*, published in 2021.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- I've learned that writing every day makes me a better writer. I've also found it takes writing a few novels before establishing my writer's voice. And finally, I've learned that the magic happens in the re-writing and editing process as I refine my initial draft.

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

- Half to set up a foundation for clean water and half to travel the world.

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

- I work with youth 3-5 times each week teaching/coaching soccer.

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

- What a wonderful world. I'm an optimist and our planet holds such an amazing variety of people, places and animals.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Allen Eskens is another author from Minnesota. His novel, *The Life We Bury*, was such an amazing read. And Grady Hendrix, with his novel, *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* (coming as an Amazon series!), shows how much fun it can be to write horror.

What are some of your hobbies?

- Coaching soccer, photography and traveling.

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

- I don't actually like reading my reviews. I know they're necessary and helpful for potential readers and web algorithms, but they can be tough to read. But please, keep leaving them!

What are you currently working on?

- Just finished my 93,000 word sequel to Killer Blonde. A dark website has been discovered for serial killers and the bad news is they are targeting detective Cade Dawkins. He almost didn't survive catching the last serial killer, and now there are more coming for him.

-

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- My Best Friend's Exorcism by Grady Hendrix and Heart Shaped Box by Joe Hill.

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

- The Bosch series from Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch novels.

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

- I once worked as an undercover investigator.

What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

- Research brings authenticity to my novels. I've sat down with a Minnesota State Patrol investigator, a crash scene specialist, the former head of security for governors Jesse Ventura and Tim Pawlenty. I have a regular source within the St. Paul police to run procedural questions through. I've done three ride-alongs with police and the Patrol.

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

- Most names used are people I know.

Do you hide any secrets in your books that only a few people will find? If so have you provided a treasure map of sorts so the reader gets that something extra?

- There's always some references that only a few may find.

If you could tell your younger writing self anything, what would it be?

- Keep at it. Success comes from perserverance.

Everyone has one thing that takes away their best self. What is your writing Kryptonite?

- Lack of caffeine.

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

- Recommendations from fellow authors