

Author Interview With Amy McKinley by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I've always liked to write. Some years back I worked for a creative firm as a writer. That's when I knew I wanted to write books.

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- Right now, my favorite genre is romantic suspense with thriller elements.

Is there a genre you've always wanted to write in that you haven't yet?

- I would like to write sports contemporary romance but that may be down the line.

Who are some of your inspirations?

- In terms of writers there are many! I'll pick one and say Karen Marie Morning. I love her books.

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- So far, no. I like to write about angsty situations and edge of your seat suspense.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- Too many to list! ;) Karen Marie Moning, Tijan, Tracey Garvis Graves book On the Island, Tom Clancy.

What's your writing process look like? (Outline or go with the flow of your character)

- I outline before I write. That way I can play around with the plot points to make sure the story is working. There is still a great deal of flexibility and times when the story takes an unexpected turn I had no idea was coming. ;)

What are some of your hobbies?

- Reading! That is my favorite thing to do when time allows, or I sneak in a few hours here and there.

Have you attended any signings? If so, what was your favorite thing about it?

- I have not. I'm pretty shy when it comes to public events. I'll have to work on it and plan to do some in the future.

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

- I love to see that a reader was captivated by the story and characters. That they were on the edge of their seat until the very end and clamoring for the next story. There is nothing better than knowing a book I wrote entertained. That the words fell away and pulled the reader into the story's world.

If you could spend the day with one of your characters, who would it be and what would you do?

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What are you currently working on?

- I'm writing another book for the Gray Ghost series. After I finish this one (almost done!) I might take a break and write another series. I'm not sure yet. I have a few more that I want to work on for the Gray Ghost books, but it depends on which is more compelling at that time.

What's your writing routine?

- I'm a morning person. I like to start writing at seven and go until noon--with breaks of course. The afternoon consists of administrative tasks, errands for my family, or more writing.

Do you have any superstitions when it comes to writing? If so, what?

- No superstitions for me regarding writing.

What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

- Write what you want to write--what you feel strongly about--and never give up.

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- When I'm writing paranormal romance I sometimes play around with name generators. For contemporary or suspense I'll either know what name I want or look through baby names or popular names for the country the character is from.

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

- The books are so different than the movies. They're more in-depth and that makes it hard to pick a favorite. One movie that I didn't read the book first is Safe Haven and I loved that movie. The Jack Ryan series is another.

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I appreciate them. Writing is a huge passion for me and I'm able to do my dream job because of my readers. Thank you for caring, for wanting more, for being so supportive!

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

- I would give a portion to charity, my kids, and a vacation with my family.

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

- Recently I wrote a short story that was included in the Tempting Fate anthology where 100% of the profits go to the Cancer Research Institute.

If you could give your younger self one piece of writing advice, what would it be?

- To go for it! When I was younger I loved to write but didn't know how to break into a career as a writer or that it was even a possibility. I'm so glad the opportunity presented itself, even if it was later, and I took the leap.