

Author Interview With Acacia K. Parker

by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I'm going to try and make a long story as short as possible here...
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- I got into writing because it was what made me happy. In my early to mid-twenties, I went through a very serious creative lull. Life was happening, and I didn't take as much time as I wished I had to sit down and do these creative things I loved doing (like drawing and writing).
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- It was near the end of my twenties that I realized that writing wasn't just my passion, but something I wanted to do (and could do) as a job. At that moment in my life, I was going on almost five years at a large insurance company, working 8-5 (and usually a lot of overtime). I'd just started college to obtain my undergraduate degree, and truth be told...I was super miserable. My job was extremely demanding and stressful, college was overtaking my life, and I had a hard time taking any time to, once again, do the thing I loved the most.
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- I remember the turning point. My husband and I were having dinner and he asked me, "Why not change jobs?" and I answered, "Because none of them will make me happy anyway," to which he countered, "Then what will?"
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- Well, I think we all know what my answer was, because fast forward almost four years later, here I am, doing the thing I love doing!

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- I would have to say anything paranormal or fantasy with some romance thrown in!

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

- At this point, no...but that could change as the years progress.

Who are some of your inspirations?

- There's so many! J.K. Rowling, Neil Gaimon, Terry Brooks, Anne Rice, Suzanne Collins, Rick Riordan...and that list could keep going and going and going.

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- I think every book I write (and will write) has some aspect of my own personal experiences in them. I don't know that that can be helped, being a writer and artist. It might not necessarily be an exact experience with the genre I write in, but it certainly does have tidbits thrown in.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- See above!

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

- I'm a bit in the middle here. I write a very, very, VERY basic outline for my stories to give myself something to fall back on. However, usually about a quarter of the way through, my characters start doing things that sway from the outline, or things happen that I hadn't expected, or even new information I hadn't known before pops up. I usually have to tweak things around when that happens, which is why I don't spend a lot of time outlining because I know a decent portion of it will change.
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- However, I will say that I always know the ending of each story I write before I even write the outline. This allows for me to easily follow after my characters while they act out whatever they want to act, because in the end, I know (and I think they know, too) where they'll end up.
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- It certainly makes writing that middle part a bit easier (for me, anyway!).

What are some of your hobbies?

- Is drinking wine a hobby? If so, that's totally up my alley. Also binge watching new shows on Netflix with my husband...that's always super fun.
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- If those don't count, then I love to draw, paint, scuba dive, hike...I love being outside, so anything that pertains to that I'm usually happy with.

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

- At this point in my career, I haven't, but I hope one day I can attend lots of them!

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

- What I love the most is seeing how the reader connected with the characters, especially because I'm in a genre where the main character (and other characters) may not necessarily be human.

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

- That's a tough one! I think for now, since it's my current work in progress, I'd hang out with Wren, and we'd most certainly go exploring. She lives in a fantasy world called Heros, and there's a lot to be discovered in her world.

What are you currently working on?

- Right now, it's my current serial series *The Embers We Seek*. The serial means that each month, I will release an 8-15,000 word 'episode', and with the story scheduled to be complete in ten episodes, I've got some work cut out for me!

What's your writing routine?

- I'm lucky enough to be capable of doing this full time, which means I split my days according to what I have going on. Sometimes I'm writing something new, sometimes I'm editing, sometimes I'm making teasers or getting things posted to social media...I typically have an 8 hour workday, and follow my husband's schedule to get the most out of my time alone at home (he's quite distracting...in a good way, of course).

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

- I actually do not have any!

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

- Keep writing. Every minute you can get, keep writing, and keep learning what works for YOU. There's no straight path to this kind of career, so there's never going to be a point where you can stop learning. Take things in stride, learn what you can, implement new goals and plans...
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- And make it happen!

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- Oh, babynames.com, all the way.

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

- Although I do have some stipulations on this, *Harry Potter* is probably my favorite.

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I'm pretty much an open book...ask me anything, and I'm sure I'll have an answer!

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

- I would pay off my house as well as my immediate family (parents, brother, and my in-laws) and then I would invest and travel.
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- I don't know that I'd ever stop traveling.

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

- This is actually something I'm working on, as I do not feel I give back nearly enough. The only small thing I do right now is to give random compliments to strangers when I see them. Like, I like your shirt or your hair or...something that might make someone smile.

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

- You're good enough. Don't let the fear of failure stop you for pursuing your dream, because at the end of the day...wouldn't you rather say you did it and tried than nothing at all?