

Author Interview With Seelie Kay

by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I've been writing all of my life, from the day my parents handed over my crayons. I still have notes I wrote to my mom when I was four complaining about unfair treatment! I began winning essay contests in grade school and never stopped. I went on to a career as a journalist and a lawyer, then an author, so I have literally never put down "my pen."

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- I love writing romance. There is something so soothing about a world where love wins. It's a great distraction from what I do in my day job, ghostwriting non-fiction.

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

- "Snatching Dianna," which is romantic suspense, is a step toward a genre I love, the thriller. I love a good mystery, but suspense is what keeps me reading, and now, writing.

Who are some of your inspirations?

- I have a thing for people who turn failure into success, who won't take no for an answer. People like Benjamin Franklin or Einstein. They saw failure as an opportunity. So when things don't work out in my world, I look for the opportunity. And I pick myself up and keep going. Fifteen years ago, I was diagnosed with MS, a cruel and fickle disease. I saw that as an opportunity to evaluate my life and change directions toward a life that would permit me to thrive, despite MS. I left the law and turned to writing full-time. I never regretted it.

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- Of course they do. All of my characters are born of personal experience and people I have met along the way.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- J.D. Robb, Lisa Scottoline, David Baldacci, Stuart Woods

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

- When inspired, I literally sit down and start writing. I never know where the story or the characters are going to take me. I just let it flow until I get it out of my system.

What are some of your hobbies?

- I love to cook and try new foods, utilizing produce I've grown or picked up at a farmer's market. I am a great believer in the farm to table movement. I also enjoy sampling new wines, heading out on weekend adventures, light opera and classical music, and reading!

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

- I have not, but I would love to! I am fairly new to the book world and by the time I discover a potential opportunity, all of the spots are taken. I have been leaving my name everywhere, hoping someone will bite! In the meantime, I participate in a lot of social media events. I do author takeovers on Facebook and participate in events, such as a party Dec. 8 on Facebook to celebrate my holiday release, "The President's Daughter." (It's at the Book Carousel.)

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

- That I made them laugh, cry, blush, gasp, or smile. I want people to enjoy my books. Otherwise, what's the point?

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

- I am fascinated by secret agents, so I would love to spend a day with Cade Matthews and his wife, Janet MacLachan. I would ask them to take me to the Agency and show me all of their spy toys!

What are you currently working on?

- The third book in this series (Feisty Lawyers), "Cult." The second book, "Infamy," will be released Jan. 4.

What's your writing routine?

- I really don't have one. I work when I have a deadline and I write my books when I have some spare time. Sometimes I write for 10 hours straight, other time only an hour. I have a bottle of water and some fruit by my desk, but that's about it..

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

- Not really.

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

- If your heart's not invested, your writing will suck.

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- The phone book. I look for a name and change it a bit.

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

- Gone with the Wind. There are very few movies that do justice to an amazing book.

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I am an MS Warrior. I fight this disease every day and I refuse to let it win. I control it, it does not control me. My writing plays a big role in my fight and for that reason, I love hearing from readers.

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

- Well, the first thing I would do is move to a hotel, change my phone number, and call a lawyer. Then I would create two trusts. One for my family and one for charity.

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

- Acts of kindness. It takes so little effort to be kind and let others know they are appreciated.

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

- Don't be afraid to try.

