

# **Author Interview With Molly Zenk by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits**

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I don't remember a time when I wasn't interested in being an author. I remember I wrote my first short story at 7 years old. I graduated to writing novels in high school and college. I've been writing professionally for 11 years.

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- YA but I also love urban fantasy, paranormal, and historical.

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

- High Fantasy or Alt History.

Who are some of your inspirations?

- Jane Austen, Meg Cabot, Libba Bray, Keira Cass

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- Not really. I write to escape.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- John Keats, Jane Austen, Keira Cass, Morgan Rhodes, Terry Brooks, George Elliot...It's kind of a grab bag of "classic" and modern.

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

- I try to outline but the characters rarely stick to the outline.

What are some of your hobbies?

- Reading, relaxing with TV, spending time with my kids.

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

- NA

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

- That readers connect with the characters.

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

- Don't make me pick!

What are you currently working on?

- A short story collection set in the Captivity universe.

What's your writing routine?

- Send kids to school, use my time wisely to get writing done.

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

- No.

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

- NA

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- It depends. Sometimes I look at baby name websites. Other times it's just "well, that's your name because it just is."

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

- I've been liking what BBC and Masterpiece team up to do for classic lit. Some of my recent favorites are: Les Miserables and War & Peace.

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I consider myself approachable. Don't be shy to say hi.

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

- Pay off the mortgage on the house and take a trip to Italy.

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

- I just try to be a good person and treat others with kindness and respect. My kids have special needs. We do a lot of research studies to give back to the community and science that way.

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

- NA.