

Author Interview With Mya O'Malley by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- Looking back, I like to think I was always a writer. From early childhood, I could be found crafting mythical tales of mermaids and poetry. As an adult, I began creating stories centered around love, romance, mystery, and intrigue. I love a good story, whether it be a book or a movie, it's a chance to escape into another world; to dive deep into the lives of fascinating literary characters and to witness how they find solutions to their problems. There's really nothing quite like losing yourself in your own characters other than the feeling of sharing your stories with others.

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- Paranormal mystery/romance

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

- I've always wanted to try my hand at writing an intense thriller. Something in the vein of *Sleeping with the Enemy* or Ruth Ware's psychological thrillers—a tale that keeps you on the edge of your seat, has you keeping your lights on at night. You get the point.

Who are some of your inspirations?

- Many great authors such as Stephen King have inspired me to write. I love his book titled, *On Writing- A Memoir of the Craft*. Also, my daughter, Alexandra,

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- I draw from the world around me while writing my stories. I'm an observer-always taking note of my environment. I'll take a situation and think to myself-what if? A tale soon starts to unravel in my mind. So are there personal experiences in my writing? Perhaps. Often, I start with the thread of an idea and place my own spin on it until the concept develops a life of its own.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- Stephen King, Liane Moriarty, Nicholas Sparks, JoJo Moyes, and for non-fiction, Gabrielle Bernstein.

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

- I have to say it can differ from book to book, but for the most part I have a mental outline in my head that I map out on paper briefly before I get started and then as ideas come into play. Then, I usually let my characters take the lead and let them take off in whatever direction they flow in.

What are some of your hobbies?

- I love acrylic painting- mostly abstract. Lately, I've been visiting some amazing destinations and then paint abstract images based on my experiences while traveling. Photography has also been a hobby of mine for years.

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

- I have! I adore going to signings and meeting up with readers and other authors. One of my favorite signings was an event at a local Barnes and Noble where two other local authors and myself had the opportunity to meet each other and interact with readers. We stayed for hours and it's one of my fondest writing memories. I've also been lucky to have had signing events at several of my local libraries and even had my first author reading experience in my very own town library. It's an amazing feeling, an amazing experience.

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

- I love it when a reader "gets it". When a reader expresses exactly what you intended to come across while writing.

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

- Ah- such a tough question! I would have to say Naomi in the Maggie ghost trilogy. I've felt such a connection with this character and had a hard time letting her go. (Actually, there is a part of every character that an author truly never lets go) I admire Naomi for her compassion, drive, and ability to speak with the spirits that come to her for peace and closure. She's never let a single one down.

What are you currently working on?

- I'm currently working on a spin-off to the Maggie series, titled Matching Miriam. This one is based off of Miriam, Naomi's best friend and police officer. I knew while I was writing the Maggie series that such a strong, but flawed character was just screaming for me to write a story of her own.

What's your writing routine?

- It can differ from time to time, but mostly I write on weekends, summers, and vacations. (I'm a full time teacher in case you haven't figured it out.) ;) If I'm on a tight deadline, I can be found right after work pounding away on the keyboard at home or in my town library.

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

- Not really. However...I'm now in the process of writing what would be my thirteenth full length novel! How's that? ;)

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

- The best writing advice I received is to keep writing, Seriously, it's so easy to give up, but if you're truly passionate about writing, you'll find that you won't want to stop, that you CAN'T stop, That's the sign of a true passion for your work. Keep at it, keep practicing, and it will become a part of who you are. You'll find that your writing improves. just by doing what you love best. Keep at it!

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- Honestly, most of my character's names I've stumbled upon easily. I think of a name that I either like (or don't, in some cases) and I make it fit around the character I'm developing.

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

- I love S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders. As a teen, you'd find my walls covered in posters from this movie. I like the message it sends about the dangers of class conflict

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I love when readers reach out to me. I can be found @ my. website- www.myaomalley.com, on Facebook- Mya O'Malley Author, Twitter- MyaOMalley, and Instagram- myaomalley. I'd love to hear from you!

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

- I'd travel, explore, volunteer to many different causes, enjoy time with friends and family, donate to my favorite organizations, and write, write, write...

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

- I like to think that by being kind, grateful, and compassionate to others that I'm giving back something powerful to the world. This world could use all the kindness and love it could get, and If I can do my part—that's something. Every single one of us matters and makes a difference to the whole.

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

- Don't give up on your dreams, if you want it bad enough, work hard to make it happen. and have fun along the way!