

AUTHOR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS for *Am Writing Fantasy* FEATURED AUTHOR
www.AmWritingFantasy.com

Dear Author:

I'm delighted you've agreed to an interview on my website.
Here's what I'll need:

- 1) Please provide a clear headshot of yourself in .jpg or .png format.
- 2) If you'd like to include a .jpg of a book cover, please do so. Graphics should not exceed 400 pixels in width. If you have a problem reducing the size, I will happily do that for you. I'd rather have a graphic too large than too small.
- 3) Please provide a 2-3 line bio about yourself (in 3rd person) to appear at the bottom of the interview.
- 4) Please provide links where readers can connect with you. These will appear at the end of your interview. (**Please provide me with actual URLs as opposed to links embedded in Word.**) If there are any signings, appearances, etc. you have upcoming, we can include those.
- 5) The interview questions are the next few pages. **You don't answer them all!** The first section is on writing (lots of possible questions to choose from) AND there is a second section on getting to know you. Don't miss those!
- 6) As far as word count goes, most interviews are about 2K. I don't like to be super specific here because some people have more to say than others. So, to generalize, a minimum of approx. 1500 words is good and probably no more than 3K. Just as a guide.
- 7) If you have any graphics you love that involve your book/writing/genre, please include those in your email. I love having different images to use!
- 8) If you have an excerpt you'd like to include or link to, please include that too.
- 9) And don't forget if you have any special offers (free books, sales), let me know and send links/images.
- 10) Please send everything back to me in one email if possible. SEND TO: autumn@amwritingfantasy.com. I will confirm that I have received your interview. If I do not do so within a few days, please check and make sure that I have received it. Thanks!

I'm really looking forward to promoting you and will do my best to share your interview with my contacts on multiple social media platforms. I hope you will do the same.

☺

WRITING QUESTIONS

(Please choose approximately 8-12 questions to answer)

What is your latest book?

I hear you have some very exciting news! Can you share it with us?

Is your recent book part of a series?

What are the special challenges in writing a series?

Do you write under a pen name? If so, can you tell us why?

If you were to advertise your book on a bumper sticker, what would it say?

What else have you written?

What do you think some of the greatest misconceptions about indie authors are?

How often do your characters surprise you by doing or saying something totally unexpected?

What part of writing a novel do you enjoy the most? The least?

Some authors, like me, always write scenes in order. But I know some people write scenes out of order. How about you?

Is it important for you to know the ending of a book before you write it? The title?

Some writers edit excessively as they write; others wait until a novel is finished to do the bulk of the editing. How about you?

After working for a very long time on a novel, many authors get to a point where they lose their objectivity and feel unable to judge their own work. Has this ever happened to you? If so, what have you done about it?

Over the years, many well-known authors have stated that they wished they'd written their characters or their plots differently. Have you ever had similar regrets?

How important is the choosing of character names to you? Have you ever decided on a name and then changed it because it wasn't right for the character?

Have you ever written characters that you truly despise?

Who is your favorite character you've written and/or from a book you've read. Has any book character inspired one of yours?

Authors, especially Indies, are constantly trying to understand why some authors sell very well while their talented fellow authors have a hard time of it. It's an ongoing conundrum. What do you make of it all?

Do you have any advice for first-time authors?

Can you tell us about your road to publication? What do you find most challenging about being a self-published author?

There are so many conflicting opinions out there about everything related to publishing: e-book pricing, book promotion, social media usage etc. How do you sort through it all to figure out what works best for you?

Please, tell us about your experiences with social media. What are your favorite and least-favorite parts of it?

Do you have any grammatical pet peeves to share?

What do you like best about the books you read? What do you like least?

How much research was involved in writing your book? How did you go about it?

Is there a question I haven't asked you that you would like to answer? If so, what is it?

Do you allow others to read your work in progress, or do you keep it a secret until you've finished your first draft? Can you elaborate?

Have you received reactions / feedback to your work that has surprised you? In what way?

Are you a fast typist? Does your typing speed (or lack of it) affect your writing?

Do you write anything besides novels? Care to share?

Were you "born to write" or did you discover your passion for writing later in life?

Do you dread writing a synopsis for your novel as much as most writers do? Do you think writing a synopsis is inherently evil? Why?

(for novelists) If you were to write a non-fiction book, what might it be about?

(for non-fiction writers) If you were to write a novel, what might it be about?

Do you have any advice to a new author if they asked you whether to pursue the traditional route to publishing or to start out as an independent writer?

What have you done to market your novel and what did you find the most effective? The least effective?

I'm sure you've read many interviews with your fellow authors. In what ways do you find your methods of creating most similar and dissimilar?

Do you feel your latest book is your personal favorite or one of your previous novels?

Having our work out there to be judged by strangers is often daunting for writers. Do you have any tips on handling a negative review?

Many authors do giveaways; have you found them a successful way to promote your book?

Have you been involved with the Kindle Direct Program? If yes, do you believe it's worthwhile?

Are you an early bird writer or night owl? And do you have any must haves like coffee, chocolates, wine, music or something else?

We all know the old saying; you can't judge a book by its cover. This is true. However, how much importance do you place on your book cover design?

Every day brings forth new changes and shifts in the world of publishing. Any predictions about the future?

Do you have complete control over your characters or do they ever control you?

How would you define your style of writing?

Do you miss spending time with your characters when you finish writing them?

Have you ever wished that you could bring a character to life? If so, which one and why?

A lot of authors are frustrated by readers who don't understand how important reviews are? What would you say to a reader who doesn't think his or her review matters?

Do you ever suffer from writer's block? If so, how do you get around it?

What genre have you never written in that you'd like to try?

Have you ever started out to write one book and ended up with something completely different?

Do you know anyone who has ever received any auto DM on Twitter (with a link) who was happy about it?

What do you know now that you wish you'd known five years ago?

Would you like to write a short poem for us?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

(Please choose approximately 3-6 questions to answer.)

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three books would you want with you.

What animal best describes your personality?

If there was one place in the world you'd love to visit, where would it be?

Are you a cat or dog person?

If you could have a dinner with one historical person, who would it be?

Where do you live now? If you had to move to another city / state / country, where might that be?

Trains, planes, automobiles, or boats?

What's your favorite comfort food? Least favorite food?

If you could be invisible for a day, what would you do?

What's the coolest surprise you've ever had?

If you could duplicate the knowledge from any single person's head and have it magically put into your own brain, whose knowledge would you like to have? And why.

What's the best gift you've ever received?

Have you ever played a practical joke on a friend? Ever had one played on you?

What are the most important traits you look for in a friend?

Care to brag about your family?

If you could have one skill that you don't currently have, what would it be?

What was your favorite year of school? Why?

What might we be surprised to know about you?

What makes you angry?

What music soothes your soul?

What was the most valuable class you ever took in school? Why?

If you are a TV watcher, would you share the names of your favorite shows with us?

If you could add a room onto your current home, what would you put in it?

What's your favorite film of all times? Favorite book?

Have you ever walked out of a movie? If so, what was it?

What's your biggest pet peeve?

Do you have any guilty pleasures?

What are three things you think we can all do to make the world a better place?

What simple pleasure makes you smile?