



An Interview With Katrina Jan

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

I just remember always sitting in a corner with a book, whether it was during lunch time at school, before dinner at home or in the garden when all the other kids were playing together. I saw books as a form of escapism; I wanted to be a part of their world and all their adventures, whether they were good or bad. I grew up mainly reading the likes of Roald Dahl and J.K Rowling. I must have read Fantastic Mr Fox a thousand times until the book was so battered it couldn't have been held together anymore. All I remember doing as a child was reading – my childhood was books.

Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?

I have always enjoyed writing from a young age, especially short stories and poetry. The first story I must have written was when I was about five – I still have it! Ever since then I've not stopped. It makes me happy and I find it fulfilling.

Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?

Something that I've enjoyed writing and others have enjoyed reading – in terms of other books, I feel generally speaking, a successful book is something which captivates from start to finish and plays upon your mind, long after you've read it.

Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?

It usually depends on the piece and whether I'm hoping to reach adults or children or even both for that matter.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

I hope not! I am not a fan of the electronic book – I need to physically hold the book and turn the pages. I think it would be a shame for the publishing world if the electronic book was to take over. I feel everything is electronic these days it would be nice to keep books the old fashioned way.

Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?

Yes. I try to collect the classics. I feel in order to understand literature today you have to have read the classics.