



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

An interview with P.S. Winn

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

I was the youngest girl in a family of eight children. After a lot of boys, everyone was excited for a girl and I was spoiled rotten. That meant I was lucky enough to have others take turns reading to me. My parents encouraged reading and I went through book after book and genre after genre. I still read between 1 and 10 a day. I began reading a lot of non-fiction and quickly moved to fiction and non-fiction. I love mystery thrillers with twisted tales.

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

I didn't begin writing novels until 5 years ago. I had written numerous poems and short stories. I liked to write my own greeting cards. The short stories were piled in boxes in my closet. A close call on my husband's health forced us to move quickly and taking as little as possible because of it. I almost didn't find room for the boxes of writing and was devastated. After moving, I decided to preserve the writing I would try my hand at publishing a novel. Five years later I found I had fifty.

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

I don't do books with just illustrations, but before writing I sold drawings and paintings. I think illustrating is fun and a fantastic addition to stories. I do a few of my own covers and that is always fun. I like realistic drawing, but find sometimes abstract shows more of what my stories are. Like my book "Presence" has a cover with an abstract mix of red and blue representing good and evil spirits, which the character in the book sees. The cover of my book "Viewings" came well before the story. I

drew the picture of the old barn years ago and it was a best seller among my drawings. Thinking of the picture and the barn, I always wondered why I drew the picture and what was in that barn. I wrote the book to answer my own curiosity. I think whether it is a book or an illustration the success comes from the author believing in themselves and sharing what they love.

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

I'd have to say yes because besides novels, I also write preschool books and Young adult stories. I do find that many adults love the young adult adventures as much as a younger audience does. I really don't like or understand the distinction that calls a book young adult or adult. I think that depends on the reader. When I sit down to write books with a younger audience in mind, I am lucky, because I have 7 children, 18 grandchildren and one great Grandson. I know what they like and also get their input.

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 people will always want paperbacks. I think we lose something when you aren't physically holding the book and treasuring it. I always wonder what if some day we lose the power grid? How important it will be then to have books in paperback and hardback form. I write and read futuristic books and always think of the story "The Time Machine" and the movie when the books found, crumble. My heart aches every time I think of that scene.

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

I have a lot of books and I also like to pass on special books I love to my children, grandchildren and friends. For me, sharing a beloved book with those you love is a great gift. The best thing about a book collection is sitting with a child on your lap and sharing a favourite story. My favourite books are classics like those written by Charles Dickens, John Steinbeck H.G. Wells and Jules Verne.