



**The Letterpress Project  
Author and Illustrator E-Interviews**

# **An Interview With Veronica Lamond**

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

My earliest memories of books and reading are being paid 10 cents by my granny for every book I read. Apparently, I told her I wasn't just going to read books, I was going to write them – but I can't remember saying that!

My family were all great readers and our house was full of them – I remember my dad's voice reading Dylan Thomas poems out aloud, late into the night. My beloved mother was the South African poet, Ruth Keech, and I remember quiet Sundays with her writing on the sofa.

My favourite book for a long time was 'Little White Horse' by Elizabeth Goudge. I loved the imagery and must have taken it out the library about 20 times before buying it. I still read it occasionally. I also liked 'Eloise in Paris', 'The Magic Faraway Tree' and 'Anatole' by Eva Titus... now you've got me going!

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

I wanted to be a children's book illustrator for a long time, to create images that would feed children's imaginations. That led me into becoming an author, as I needed a story to illustrate. I only started on my books when I was 53 years old.

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

It's impossible for me to decide what makes a successful illustration as there are so many ways of illustrating and so many different ways they can tie in with the story.

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

I write and illustrate with both children and adults in mind – I hope my work opens up spaces for children and adults to make their own observations and fill in the space with their own experiences.

**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 the physical books is never replaced wholly by electronic books – the feel of turning pages and the smell, weight, and texture of the book all add to the experience of reading.

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

I do have a lot of books and am lucky to have three daughters who read a lot, so I get to read their books as well! I have a signed first edition of Dylan Thomas's Collected Poems, which special to me.