



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH EMMA PASS

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 read to by my parents. I grew up surrounded by stories. Apparently my parents had to teach me to read at a very young age as I used to wake up in the middle of the night, go into their room and tell them I was bored! So they 'trained' me to entertain myself with a book instead. :)

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

I always loved writing stories, but I didn't realise it was what I wanted to do until I was 13 years old, when I went to the cinema and saw *Jurassic Park*. Afterwards, I couldn't stop thinking about this abandoned island and all those dinosaurs still roaming about... so I started writing a story about it. A few days later, I thought, "I'm going to be a novelist." It was like a light bulb being switched on inside my head.

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

For me, a successful book is any book that gets someone reading. There's a lot of snobbery about what people "should" read, especially when it comes to children's and YA novels, and I think that's crazy. I've actually had people tell me it's a "shame" that teenagers get "stuck" reading YA when they should be moving on to adult novels. When did reading become a competition?

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

I think that, first and foremost, I write the sort of books the younger me would have enjoyed (maybe that's because I'm still a big kid at heart, though!).

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

People have been saying that ebooks will replace the physical book ever since ebooks first appeared, but it hasn't happened yet. I think there's a place for both (and I enjoy reading both!).

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

If by 'collector' you mean 'owns so many books she doesn't have room for them all on her shelves,' then yes! I would **love** to own a first edition of *Emily of New Moon* by L.M. Montgomery – it's one of my favourite stories and Emily Byrd Starr is one of my favourite heroines.