

# EVERY AUTHOR HAS A STORY

## AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Name: Rebecca Weber

Do you have a pen name? Nope! Just my actual name at this point.

Book titles – What are the titles of the books you have written or are currently writing?

THE PAINTER'S BUTTERFLY is my debut novel due out sometime this year through Sage's Tower Publishing! I've also written a YA novel called ROSE AND THORN that I'm currently querying. I've also got sequels for both in development. I think my debut's sequel will be titled BRUSHSTROKES!

The title of this interview is 'Every writer has a story'. Tell us a bit about you and your story leading up to becoming an author.

Let's see...my writing story started in elementary school. One of my teachers submitted a poem of mine to a contest, and it was featured in a local newspaper. Since then, I've always dreamed of being a writer. I was never brave enough to sit down and tackle writing a book until COVID-19. I'd taken part in a literary magazine through high school and college, but only with poetry. Novels were a formidable challenge. I'm glad I found my courage to write daily because it turns out I love the process! Now, the sky's the limit! I'll write until the day I die.

Who or what are your main influencers and why?

This is a tough question. Every book I've ever read has shaped me into who I am today. I am a culmination of all of those beautiful stories. I'd have to say foremost, my family has influenced me. Their love and support made all the difference in my quest for self-confidence. I couldn't have pursued this dream without them lifting me higher.

What inspired your books?

The inspiration for my debut novel derived from my sister's love of Johnny Depp. I think I was in middle school when she approached me and insisted I come up with a story that revolved around a young artist and a middle-aged man, so that she could act in a movie with Johnny. THE PAINTER'S BUTTERFLY fits the bill but is a couple decades too late. My sister has since grown up! Sorry, Sarah! I'm a skilled procrastinator.

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Tell us about your latest published book:

THE PAINTER'S BUTTERFLY features a twelve-year-old foster child named Nova. She dreams of having a real home, but no one has ever committed to being her family. She's delivered to a farmhouse in the middle of nowhere to live with her new guardian, Mr. Russell, a painter by trade. While exploring the home, Nova discovers a magical easel that brings paintings to life. Her impulsivity and spunk drive the story from that point on.

Tell us about your work in progress:

My second novel, ROSE AND THORN, is a dual-perspective YA adventure/light fantasy story, featuring a young falcon and a prisoner of war as the main characters. It's set in a fictional world and explores the art of falconry, as well as major themes of survival and found family. The characters have such incredible personalities. I feel blessed that they communicated so clearly with me through the writing process.

Which part of the writing process do you enjoy, and which parts do you dread?

My favorite part of the writing process is the steady flow of creativity. On a good day, ideas spring into my brain as if I'm a radio transmitter. I love how it feels to breathe life into a story. I used to think that editing would be the most difficult part of writing, but in actuality I enjoy that too. It's like polishing a gemstone to make it all shiny.

My least favorite part of the writing process is waiting for feedback from others. It's nerve-racking and messes with your head.

What is your greatest strength/weakness when it comes to writing?

My greatest writing strength is my ability to make characters relatable/likeable. Also, because I started my writing journey through poetry, I think I have a good handle on poetic, descriptive language. Nature has always been my favorite topic to write about. My greatest weakness is reining it all in. Sometimes, I go over the top with my descriptions or get too attached to my words.

Do you have a favourite author, and do you write the same genre?

I have MANY favorite authors. Eoin Colfer, Jonathan Stroud, J.K. Rowling, Louis Sachar, Lois Lowry. I could probably go on forever. My favorite genre has always been fantasy, but I've branched out as I've gotten older. Fantasy will always hold a soft spot in my heart and I'm inclined to write fantastical stories.

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How do you measure your success as an author?

I want my work to emotionally move my readers. If I can help someone escape their daily troubles and woes through my words, then I will have done my job right.

Writing is very time consuming; how do you fit it into your daily routine?

Since COVID-19, I've been spending a lot of time at home. My husband and I run a house flipping business, so my schedule is pretty flexible. I've tried to make a habit of sitting down at the same time every day (early afternoon) and writing/editing for a couple of hours.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of writing a novel?

Learn from my mistakes. Don't wait 15 years to get your idea on paper. You don't have to sound like anyone else but you. Conquer the fear and self-doubt to tell YOUR story now.

Finally: Your chance to advertise your work.

List your links below.

Website: <https://rebeccaweberwrites.wixsite.com/author>

Twitter: @RWeberWrites

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaWeberWrites>

Instagram: rebeccaweberwrites

TikTok: @rweberwrites

Add your photograph to let the readers put a face to the name.