

Interview 1: Ashley Smith, In Her Own Ink

1. When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

Blogging about my recovery experience inspired me to want to share my story. However, writing my second blog book solidified my desire to be an author of many books.

2. What inspired you to write this book?

A lot of my peers wanted to learn how to write a book. I want them to be encouraged to write which motivated me to create the author's workbook, In Her Own Ink.

3. What is your typical writing routine?

Before I dive into my writing session I watch a performance- the same performance every time. I examine the artist and gain motivation to take on the task of writing.

4. What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

I love mentoring and motivating. I love how I can be myself and dedicate my full attention and energy to every non-fiction work.

5. How do you handle criticism from editors or readers?

I haven't received much criticism yet. Whenever I share parts of my book for feedback I go to my "focus group" (friends and family). I always ask them to tell me one thing they liked. Then ask what's something I could improve. This constructive criticism helps me sharpen my skills and work.

6. How do you get inspired to write?

To inspire myself to write I reflect on my book's cover image. It's a constant reminder of the possibilities and importance of me finishing the book.

7. Can you describe your writing space?

My workstation is in the corner of my kitchen. I keep inspirational messages on my desk- "She believed she could so she did." Also, the scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:8 "finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride" (New Living Translation). I review them often.

8. What do you like to do when you're not writing?

Whenever I'm not writing a book I'm working on another project. Most likely my blog and the other assignments I create for myself - I like to stay busy.

9. What was the most challenging aspect of writing this book?

The most challenging part about writing the book, In Her Own Ink, was developing different examples. I worked hard to make them practical and easy to follow.

10. What is your favorite part of being a writer?

My favorite part of being a writer is striving to be an inspiration to someone. At the same time I'm motivating myself. It's therapeutic.