

# Interview Questions

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**Q: Why did you write this novel?**

A: The short answer: character possession. The long answer: I have always loved getting lost in a good book and I've always dreamed of writing my own book since I was in high school. I've tenaciously hung onto that dream until I finally freed myself from my 8 to 5 job as a technical writer. That little feat took a lifetime.

**Q: What did you hope to accomplish by self-publishing your book?**

A: I hoped to plot my own authorial destiny. Life is short. Why should I put my fate in someone else's hands? Let me fail or succeed by my own efforts. Self-publishing is hard work, but it's an exciting adventure.

**Q: Who is your intended readership?**

A: In general, I would say my intended audience is women aged 18 to 40 who like stories with strong leading characters who are engaged with the world, creative, intuitive, and willing to tackle whatever is thrown at them.

**Q: When did you realize you wanted to be a writer?**

A: In high school. I had a neurotic high school English teacher who always gave me an A on my assignments. One day I got the notion in my head that I would knock her socks off with a really good story instead of one of those boring stories I slapped together for her class. So all weekend I wrote a short story over and over again until I thought it was darn near perfect. I was absent the day the graded papers were handed back, but she informed the entire class that she had given an F to one of her students because they had submitted a story that had to have been plagiarized from some literary magazine. The writer, she said, was not intelligent enough to have written such a story. My classmates figured out that it was my story. They wanted to know what had I written that got the teacher so upset. Did I copy the story? I tried to explain to my teacher that I had indeed written that story by myself, but she laughed at me and told me I was lying. Gee, I would love it if she was still walking the earth today and proclaiming my novel as a great literary work that I couldn't possibly have written. Alas, she was not that knowledgeable about literature and I will probably not reach the height of my stupidity as a writer.

**Q: How did you research your book?**

A: Numerous ways: reading books and newspapers, scouring the internet, exploring places and observing people, dreaming and imagining.



**Q: What surprised you about the process of writing your book?**

A: That it took me so long. So many things put me on the long path—raising a family, working full time, learning the craft, discipline.

**Q: What do you like to do when you're not writing?**

A: Anything creative—blogging, cooking, gardening, arts and crafts—and, of course, reading, hiking, travel.

**Q: Are you working on another book?**

A: I am waiting for the characters to show up and point the way. For me, it's an exploratory process that I have to go through as I wait for the next story to settle on my shoulders. Recently a little piece of flash fiction I wrote about a gypsy girl in Lithuania before World War II has been bugging me.

**Q: Were books a big part of your growing up years? If so, what books influenced you most?**

Yes. My father impressed upon me the importance of reading. He insisted that *Treasure Island* and *King Arthur and His Knights* were two important books to read so at the age of seven, I acquired his boyhood copies of those two books and proceeded to read them with the help of a dictionary. I really worked at it and I loved those books for the characters and the dangers that they encountered. I was hooked on reading.

**Q: What is something people might be surprised to learn about you?**

A: I love to collect Tarot cards—for their beauty and their truth. I'm no fortune teller, but Tarot cards are a great trigger for releasing the imagination and from time to time glimpsing the future.

**Q: What are the underlying themes in *Dreaming of Laughing Hawk*?**

A: The main theme of *Dreaming of Laughing Hawk* is that we all seek something big in life—love, power, or purpose—and most of us our willing to risk our lives for these dreams. Another theme is hatred, the desire to purposefully demean or destroy someone else's life through words or deeds.

**Q: Do we see some of you in your characters?**

A: I am all of my characters, the good ones and the bad ones.

**Q: Are the characters in your book based on people you know?**

A: Bits and pieces of some characters may be based on people I've known, but other characters come to the story of their own volition.





**Q: Why do you think readers are going to enjoy your book?**

A: Dreaming of Laughing Hawk is not a cookie cutter romance. The plot is unique and fast-paced; the characters are complex. It is a story readers can see, touch, taste, smell and hear.

