

S. Menduke- Smashwords Interview

Describe your desk

Beautiful wood grain- cherry I think. It holds my cat-coaster (and sometimes an actual cat),small lamp, readers, and the piles of bills I am not paying...not very Feng Shui....

Where did you grow up, and how did this influence your writing?

My early childhood was spent in Northeast Philly, but at 12-years old my mother decided we would move to South Florida- Hollywood-Hallandale area. I lived there for the next 20 plus years. I plan to go back eventually. Central Florida was great for raising my boys, but I miss it down at the tip :)

When did you first start writing?

I started writing at about 8-years old. It has always been a dream of mine to get paid to do it. Free-lancing for weeklies, which I did for several years in my mid 30's, was not quite the dream my 8-year old self had in mind. Self-publishing my first works of fiction now in my late 40's is fantastic...well...not really fantastic. Fantastic would be me making a living wage doing it. Currently, I'm averaging about negative \$.75 daily...However, despite the monetary challenged nature of it I still have no regrets about self-publishing in general. Maybe I'll hit after death and my kids will be rolling in cash....

What is the greatest joy of writing for you?

When it flows. I spend a lot of time "thinking" about characters, but not knowing quite what to do with them. When I start the actual writing process I'm often going through the motions- describing a character or place, but all of sudden a light bulb turns on and I know exactly what that character is doing and why. It's magic when that happens. If I had my very own applause sound box i'd hit it. I feel like Rocky when he gets to the top of the steps.or Norma Rae holding up her sign. Yes,honey YES!! I spend a lot of time alone...

What are you working on next?

I'm working on one-but I cannot disclose it's subject content due to the fact that I have zero plot and only a few characters....My book "Beach Bums" will be available on Smashwords at the end of January. It's exclusively on Amazon until then. You can check it out here- <http://tinyurl.com/lS3rpyt>

Who are your favorite authors?

Elmore Leonord, Stephen King, Carl Hiaasen, Christopher Moore, Janet Evanovich, Lisa Lutz, and more

What inspires you to get out of bed each day?

Coffee

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When you're not writing, how do you spend your time?

Bike riding with a bratty pitbull, watching endless amounts of Netflix-Amazon Prime, and eating things that are baked, fried and generally bad for me

Do you remember the first story you ever wrote?

I don't, but my mother constantly tells me she knew I'd be a writer when I wrote a dramatic piece alerting her to my disgust at spaghetti and the condition she would leave the kitchen when she made sauce to go with said spaghetti. It was my job to clean the hundred pots she used.

What is your writing process?

Horrific..it involves a lot of daydreaming, procrastinating, self-doubt, self-loathing, and chocolate

Do you remember the first story you ever read, and the impact it had on you?

Stephen King's collection of short stories, "Night Shift" I was 12 or 13 and thought they were AHHH-mazing and hip and scary and said an incredible amount about societal injustices and perceived norms.

How do you approach cover design?

Fiver

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