

Author Interview Questions



1. Do you have a pen name? Or, what name are you using for your book?

Rachael is my middle name, so Rachel Jackson, with the spelling simplified for discoverability, is both my real name and a pen name!

2. When did you first realise you wanted to be a writer?

I have wanted to be an author since I was about 7 years old, and my parents bought me an old-fashioned typewriter, which I loved. I would sit in my room and tap away on it, and then carefully leave some spaces to fill in with pencil drawings. At school, I used to be sent to other classrooms to read my stories aloud because they were funny or silly, and I loved reading. I would often feature teachers at the school in my stories as a way of being cheeky and getting away with it!

3. What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?

I like things to be both funny and gritty. Thankfully, I'm very immature, which helps.

4. Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?

Just from life. When I was younger, I went from being a bit of a loner at school to suddenly having some really exciting friends thanks to a youth theatre group. Since then, I've lived in six different countries and roughly fifteen different cities, and I'm always meeting people who seem like they'd be fabulous in a novel!

5. Is this your first book?

It's my first fiction book.

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

I live in Spain, so I spend a lot of time eating tapas, walking through the beautiful countryside, or at the beach. I like to travel. Writing allows me the freedom to do that.

7. What does your family think of your writing?

My sister has been very supportive. My mum and dad were always very proud when I won awards for a piece of creative writing or for English Literature. As an adult, this is the first time I've written anything creative. I've been writing non-fiction books and business reports, and I think they're just happy that I'm not destitute!

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

That reliving memories for inspiration in your stories is just as fun the second time around!

9. What do you think makes a good story?

Surprise, humour, realism and emotive characters.

10. What are you hoping readers take away from reading your book?

That the '90s were a great decade to grow up. Fresh memories of the great mobile phone takeover. And perhaps thoughts of a lost love that got away.

11. Where do you live?

Spain

12. Do you have any pets and, if so, how many?

Yes, two dogs (a Yorkie called Bella, a rescue Podenco called Cloud) and two Ragdoll cats named Tom and Jerry. They're my tribe.

13. Is there anything else you would like your readers to know about you?

I have tried to channel the Inbetweeners, Gavin and Stacey and Adrian Mole into my work, because all three have the perfect mix of humour, realism and young love/coming-of-age issues. Plus, they are brilliantly British.