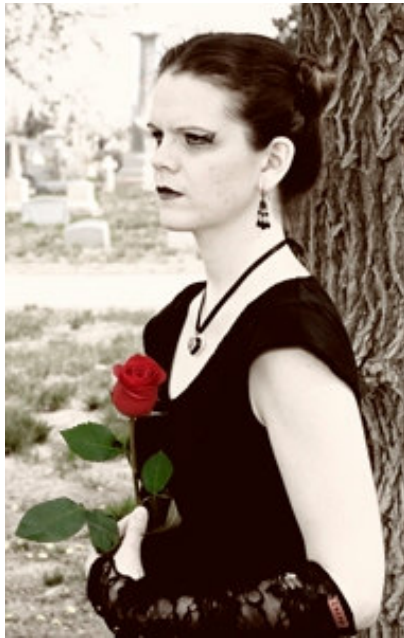


Legend Press asks Anca those all important author questions...



Where's your favourite place to read?

On a comfy couch in the living room, with a hot cup of coffee close by

If you weren't writing in your spare time, what would you be doing?

When I'm not writing, I am most likely to be found with my nose buried in a book, either fiction or reference, or watching a DVD as part of my ongoing research into modern and historical vampire mythologies.

What's the most memorable comment you've had from a reader of your book so far?

Two different people have told me that, in reading my story, they could almost "hear" me relating the events to them in my own voice.

What would you most like to hear someone say about your work?

That he enjoyed the reading and that it gave him something new to think about.

If there was a soundtrack to your book, what would it be?

Going strictly by the musical tastes of the protagonist, there would be healthy doses of darkwave and German industrial music, most notably CruXshadows, Project 12:01, Eisbrecher, and Rammstein. Because of the theme of the story itself, CruXshadows' "Leave Me Alone" (a cry of protest against stereotypes of the gothic subculture) and Eisbrecher's "Wilkommen Im Nichts" would probably be logical choices for specific songs.

Who do you have a secret/weird celebrity crush on?

Weird crush: Alan Rickman, particularly in his role as Severus Snape (I can't explain it; he's nearly old enough to be my grandfather.)

Secret crush: If I were to name him, it wouldn't be secret any longer.

If you had to sum yourself up in three words what would they be?

Christian Rivet-Head Romantigoth

What do you see when you look in the mirror?

A short, pale, snarky girl, usually in a waitress' uniform, usually with a cup of hot coffee on the counter by the sink.

What's the thing (tiny or small) that gets you most annoyed?

Sloppy grammatical mistakes, particularly mixed construction, comma-splices, and atrociously split infinitives.

If you had to take three books with you to a desert island which would they be?

Our Mutual Friend and *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, and *The Works of Robert Burns*.

If you had to take three people with you to a desert island, who would they be?

Assuming that my ultimate goal would be to get off the desert island and return home, I would take my Eagle Scout brother, my Sea Scout skipper father, and my best friend and mad collaborator in all things sane and insane. Between their skills and mine, we would stand a fair chance of surviving long enough to build something useful and to navigate our way homeward.

Was there a pivotal moment in your life that made you know you had to write?

It happened while I was at college. I went back to a favorite book that I hadn't read in years and discovered, much to my dismay, that the writing was utter rubbish. I still liked the story enough to finish it, but I haven't touched it since. Getting through the first chapter was sheer torture, and by the time I'd finally hacked my way through, I had fallen into the same trap that captured James Fennimore Cooper two hundred years ago—I said that I could write a better story than that, and then I knew I had to prove it.

Why is reading fiction important, both to you personally and to the world as a whole?

As a writer, reading fiction is important to me because it exposes me to new ideas that help me to become a better writer. One of my favorite stories-in-progress came about entirely because of my disappointment with the ending of an otherwise beloved book, and while my story bears little resemblance to the one that inspired it, what I read opened my imagination to a different way of viewing things and took me in a new direction that I would never otherwise have discovered. Other writers employ techniques that I've never thought of, or use imagery or turns of phrase that inspire my creativity. I read their work as much to learn from their example as to enjoy exploring their worlds.

As for the world as a whole, fiction opens the imagination to ideas and concepts that might not necessarily find their expression in everyday life, and fictional stories can throw familiar things into a new light that can cause individuals to view the real world quite differently. Some authors set out to tell an enjoyable story, and their readers are entertained by the reading; others set out to make a point, and their readers are exposed to new ideas that they might not otherwise discover because they don't read the human interest section of the newspaper. In short, reading fiction is important because it opens new worlds and it enriches minds and lives.

