



AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

WITH

TERESA BATEMAN

WHEN DID YOU START WRITING?

I've always written, ever since I could hold a pencil. It's as much a part of me as my blue eyes and brown hair.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I wanted to be a librarian since third grade. I've always known it was my calling.

HOW HAS YOUR CAREER AS A LIBRARIAN PREPARED YOU FOR A CAREER IN WRITING?

Being a librarian is the perfect preparation for being an author. I don't put books on my library shelf before I've read them, so I've read thousands and thousands of books. I'm immersed in good writing every day. I also get the chance to work with children. I know what books they pull off the shelves and why. I know what they're looking for. Working in a school also lets me know what the teachers want to support the curriculum.

WERE YOU EXCITED WHEN YOUR FIRST BOOK WAS PUBLISHED?

I danced around and around the house, waving the letter in the air. Then I called up everyone I knew. The next day at school I announced my news to the entire staff at a faculty meeting. It was unbelievable. I was so excited. I'd like to say that I'm no longer as silly when I get an acceptance letter, but I just had my 19th book accepted and there I was, dancing around and around the house again!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND DISLIKE ABOUT BEING A WRITER?

I love it when my stories come to life—when I feel as if I know the characters, the words flow, and the beginning, middle, and end seem obvious. The hard part is always when I get stuck. I think and think, I write and write, I try ideas and then throw them away. However, once the right idea hits, things always improve. I have to remind myself that I've been stuck before and made it out again!



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HOW OFTEN DO YOU WRITE?

I write every day without fail. Sometimes I write a little, sometimes I write a lot, but I write every day and have done so for the past 18 years.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND *FIONA'S LUCK*?

I love Irish stories. I have Irish ancestry. I got to thinking about the phrase “luck o’ the Irish” and began wondering, “What if that luck were taken away? Who would take it, and who would get it back?” That got me started on *Fiona’s Luck*.

WHAT DO YOU WANT READERS TO TAKE WITH THEM AFTER READING *FIONA'S LUCK*?

I want readers to understand that luck is all well and good, but you shouldn’t plan your life around it. A clever mind and a good heart will get you further than sitting around waiting for luck to come your way.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHILDREN’S AUTHORS?

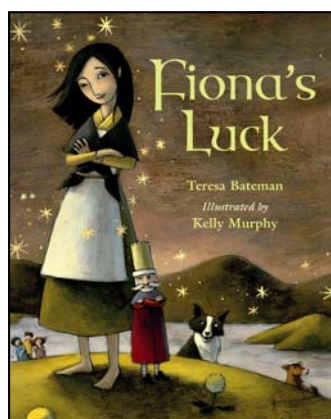
Rick Riordan, Gerald Morris, Kevin Henkes, Shannon Hale—I could go on and on. Children always ask me who my favorite author is, and the truth is I have hundreds of favorite authors.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHILDREN’S BOOKS?

I read all kinds of books. I love funny books, and mystery stories, and suspense, and fantasy, and science fiction. My favorite book of all time, however, is *Anne of Green Gables*.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR ASPIRING WRITERS?

If you want to be published, and you work at it long and hard enough, you WILL be published. Talent is all well and good, but sticking to it and putting your heart into it counts as much or more. Everyone has at least one good book in them. The only difference between a writer and a non-writer is that the writer actually sits down to do it.

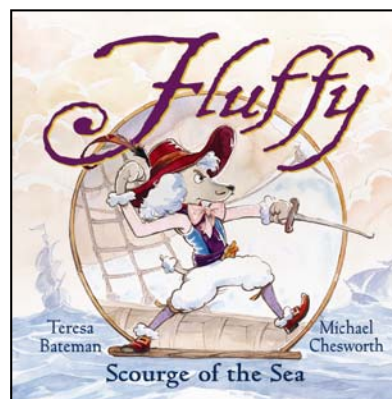


978-1-57091-651-9 HC \$15.95

The greedy leprechaun king has locked away all the luck in Ireland and the whole country has fallen into despair. Through clever charades, Fiona outwits the leprechaun king and restores luck to the land.

“Plucky. . .” —*Publishers Weekly*

BOOKS BY TERESA BATEMAN



978-1-58089-099-1 HC \$14.95
978-1-58089-152-3 PB \$ 6.95

The swashbuckling tale of Fluffy, a pampered poodle whose pleasure cruise is interrupted by a band of scurvy pirate pooches.

“As silly as a four-year-old could wish. . .” —*Booklist*