

- How do you deal with writer's block? *Write. Write. Write. Eventually something will happen.*
- What's the best thing about being a writer? *Giving readers the same feeling I get when reading a great story.*
- What's your advice for aspiring writers? *Do it. Don't let fear hold you back. The hardest part is getting started.*
- How do you get inspired to write? *Inspiration is everywhere. Books, television, music, video games. I get a lot of good ideas while running.*
- What prevents you from writing? *The Internet.*
- If you could tell your younger self anything, what would it be? *Go for it. You are the only thing that matters. Support is great, but believing in yourself is the most powerful tool.*
- When did you learn that language had power? *I stayed up all night reading *Harry Potter* as a kid. When I couldn't stay awake any longer, I'd fall asleep thinking about what I'd just read. The words made me feel. I'd find myself thinking, "What if."*
- What is your favorite book? *1Q84 by Haruki Murakami. It's a dystopian, a fantasy, a mystery, a romance and so much more. It sounds like a jumbled mess, but it's woven together beautifully.*
- What is your spirit animal? *Rapper J Cole is my spirit animal. I love his music.*
- How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have? *Probably one half-finished novel and so many at other stages of incompleteness.*
- What does literary success look like to you? *I just want to make people feel the way I feel about words and stories. Financially, I'd love to make enough money to supplement my part-time job as an after-school teacher.*
- What's the best way to market your books? *Know your audience. Nothing works without that.*
- What's the most difficult part about writing characters from the opposite sex? *I have no idea what it's like to be a woman. The best I can do is think on my interactions with the women in my life and try to use their words and actions to peek into their thoughts.*
- How many hours a day do you write? *It depends. One hour and I'll feel okay.*
- Have you read anything that made you think differently about fiction? *I'm finally at a point in my writing that I'll catch myself thinking about another writer's process when reading their book. Like, "Oh, now I see why they did that."*
- How do you select the names of your characters? *Sometimes it just comes to me, other times I'll use a placeholder until I find one I like.*
- Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with good ones and bad ones? *Of course, I read them. Good or bad, I'm appreciative they took the time to read my book.*
- What is your favorite childhood book? *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.*
- What is the most difficult part of writing? *Resisting the urge to edit while writing my first draft.*
- Is there anything you would do differently in your writing career, given the chance? *Start earlier.*
- How long on average does it take you to write a book? *Several months for a complete first draft. There's no telling once I start editing and rewriting.*