

The Little Creative Interview
with P Andrew Miller

Let's Meet...

P Andrew Miller

P Andrew Miller is an Ohio native and Miami University, Ohio, alum. Early on, his winning work was published in the *Wooster Review* and “The Year That Had a Santa Claus” was published by *Midnight Zoo*. To receive his MFA from Emerson College, Boston, he wrote a collection of short stories for his master’s creative thesis, half of which were later published. In 2000, he became a professor of creative writing at Northern Kentucky University and is currently the coordinator for creative writing there. His fiction and poetry are often speculative in nature but not always. In addition to fiction, P Andrew Miller also writes poetry and creative nonfiction.

1) When did you first begin expressing yourself creatively and how?

My mother used to say I would pick up books in the doctor’s office and make up stories to them, out loud, while waiting. The first thing I remember doing is making up stories based on mythology or comic book characters. I would bounce a ball against the wall and think up story ideas, usually with my own characters. I wrote a song in grade school and started writing stories and longer poems in junior high. By my senior year of high school, I had won the Ohio High School Creative Writing Contest sponsored by the College of Wooster.

2) From where do you draw inspiration for your work?

Much of my poetry is drawn from personal experience. I also take a lot of inspiration from mythology. I’ve been reading various mythologies since I was in grade school and the themes and characters from the myths have always fascinated me. I enjoy taking these ideas and figures and giving them a new twist.

3) What work are you currently most proud of?

I’m most proud of my recent short story collection, *In Love and Water and Other Stories* and especially the story “Postcards from Andros.” I never set out to write a short story collection; I just wrote the stories I wanted to write. So this takes over 20 years of stories and puts them together. I was kind of surprised to see certain themes kept returning and actually made a good, thematic collection.

4) What advice would you give to others about the creative side of what you do?

Don’t be afraid. Don’t be afraid to try new things. Don’t be afraid to get personal in your writing. Don’t be afraid to send it to publications. Don’t be afraid to pursue your creative side.

5) What advice would you give to others about the business side of what you do?

Be professional. If you get a rejection letter, send it out again. Don't write back a pithy response to the editor questioning their intelligence. Know what your goals are. Very few writers get rich. What is it that you want to get out of your writing? On the other hand, don't pay to get published.

P Andrew Miller

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[In Love, In Water and Other Stories](#)

Published by Post Mortem Press

Bodies in Water

Published by [Porkbelly Press](#)