

**The Little Creative Interview**  
*with J. A. Merkel*

*Let's Meet...*

# J. A. Merkel

J. A. Merkel writes speculative and science fiction filled with multiverses and second chances, and his worlds are packed with anti-heroes, love as magic, and tragic reversals. For Merkel, writing isn't a chore. It's a fantastical kingdom with thousands of doors where readers can stumble into their own special adventures, laughing, shouting, and journeying to find home, wherever that may be.

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

I used to put on shows or plays with my younger brother using action figures or beanie babies. These were high stakes, fate of the world stories featuring Bones the Dog and Stretch the Ostrich.

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

My family continues to be a huge inspiration for my work. Having grown up on a farm with 8 siblings nourished and boosted my creativity. We were always encouraged to read and be outside, and I was lucky to have access to both kinds of worlds, real and imagined, from a young age. The imagined world is what stuck with me most because it showed me the magic of love and that you are the dreamer of dreams, holding the power to create any worlds you want.

**3) What work are you currently most proud of?**

I am currently most proud of The Fall Gauntlet series, which is a collection of sci-fi short stories based on estranged brothers trying to get their family back. There will be nine short stories in the collection. I'm thrilled with how the covers came out!

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

Strike a balance between your deepest passions and what is salable in the market when it comes to your creative ideas. Write the story that only you can write that you know people will want to read. Be clear on why people will like it and play to your strengths.

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

Be relentless in your pursuit of accomplishing your goals. Treat your writing hobby or passion as such and that's all it will ever be. Treat it like a business and a career (if that is what you want), take steps to get there, and that's what it will become.

**J. A. Merkel**

<https://jamerkel.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Fall-Gauntlet-J-Merkel/dp/B0CGXZ8269/>

<https://www.instagram.com/writerthings/>

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