

The Little Creative Interview
with Marcy Dewey Mahoney

Let's Meet...

Marcy Dewey Mahoney

Marcy Dewey Mahoney writes the fantastical and the spooky with a hint of funny. An Ithaca College and animation industry alum, Marcy is the author of the novel ARCHWILDE. Her work has been published in several fiction anthologies, and she has also penned a series of creative writing prompt journals.

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

My mom says I started talking at 6 months old and never stopped, haha. I've been creating stories for as long as I can remember. My sisters and I had epic storylines when we played Barbies. We would build palaces out of anything we could find—cardboard, couch cushions, our house's staircase. Little Me even once drew a scene-by-scene recreation of Disney's Sleeping Beauty because we had to return the VHS to the video store, and I wanted to keep the story with me as long as I could. I started writing my own 'books' in spiral-bound notebooks in 7th grade and haven't stopped since.

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

Fairy tales, myths, and legends inspire my imagination. There's always an element of magic in everything I write, whether it's full-blown fireball battles or a small hint of serendipity. Growing up in the '80s, I was obsessed with cartoons (She-Ra and He-Man in particular) and pretty much anything that came out of the George Lucas or Jim Henson-verses. I also read a lot, though most of my favorite books were more horror-themed—John Bellairs, Christopher Pike and V.C. Andrews were among my favorites. Each inspired a darker side to my storytelling.

3) What work are you currently most proud of?

My debut novel, ARCHWILDE, which was published in May of 2022! I wrote the first version of this book in high school, in several spiral bound notebooks that I still have, even if they've faded a bit over the years. Writing was my escape back then ... I was a shy, nerdy, awkward girl with a romantic heart, and writing ARCHWILDE was a way for me to find a voice and feel empowered. It's always been the story nearest to my heart, and now I can finally share it with others!

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

It takes as long as it takes. Really. It's good to set goals and try to stick to them but sometimes life gets in the way, and that's okay. If we spend all our time beating ourselves up for not getting our creative work out there by a certain deadline, we create more blocks for ourselves. And don't compare yourself to what others have done, or where they are in their creative journey. Each of us has our own path to follow. Comparison is a joy killer, and joy is a huge part of the creative process. Find the joy in your own approach, and let it take the time it needs.

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

I'm rather new to the business side, and I'm definitely learning as I go. I think first you need to decide what "success" looks like for you, and then do thorough research on all your options. Is "success" an agent, a traditional publishing book deal, a movie or TV series option? Is it a legion of devoted readers, or just being able to make a decent living from your books? Or is "success" simply having your book out there in the world, knowing you accomplished something wonderful for yourself? ALL of these are valid ideas of success, but each requires a different approach. Decide what you want, then do the research and find the publishing method that works best toward your goals. And remember, your idea of "success" can—and probably will—change along the way, and that's okay.

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