

The Little Creative Interview
with Terrie Leigh Relf

Let's Meet...

Terrie Leigh Relf

Terrie Leigh Relf (AKA semi AKA The Boortean Ambassador to Haura) is a lifetime member of the SFPA and an active member of the HWA. She is on staff at Hiraeth Publishing where she works on a variety of projects and hosts the somewhat-quarterly drabble contest. Relf is also the poetry editor for Tales from the Moonlit Path, an adjunct English professor, a life and writing coach, and a Reiki master.

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

When I was six, my mom's parents moved in with us and Gran had a piano. I was fascinated by it and my other grandmother, Gramma Dee, paid for me to take lessons. Gramma Dee was also the one who read poetry to me, especially haiku and related forms. It was Gramma Dee who also gave me my first journal to write down my dreams and nightmares. She also encouraged me to compose poetry. My first poem was published in a school publication during that year. I'm not sure which grandmother taught me to read, because I was already doing so in first grade. Perhaps both of them did.

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

I draw inspiration from all facets of life. Sometimes, it's a phrase heard in passing that invokes a story or poem. Other times, it's a dream or nightmare. Prompts and thematic calls for publication also inspire. I host a read-and-critique group, and we inspire each other. Every week, someone takes a turn to create an exercise, which also keeps the inspiration flowing.

3) What work are you currently most proud of?

Currently, I'm most proud of my novel, Beacon Lights of Ranat, that's still in process. I will be even more proud when it's "done." I'm also proud of our upcoming anthology, edited with Marcia Borell: *It Came from Her Purse*. We received quite a few quirky tales for this and had so much fun pulling it together.

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

Explore. Experiment. Enjoy the process. Be open-minded. Create a group of like-minded individuals. Attend conferences and read, read, read! Keep at it – even when you don't feel like it.

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

Read the guidelines and contracts. Ask questions. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

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...links...

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