



### Lorna White

#### When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I have always loved writing stories as a hobby. When I was ten, I wrote an imagined origin story of why cats and dogs do not get on, and the story was selected by our teacher for the school's gazette. That's when I knew that I should continue with this hobby. I loved writing up fairy and fantasy tales as well as romantic fiction. As a teenager, I would chronicle my older sister's romantic dramas and transport them to a different time in history; she would tell me about her love life and the challenges she faced. I would set everything at the French court of Versailles where we were the daughters of the British Ambassador - this saga went on for a whole year.



#### Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

Yes! I grew up in France in a bi-lingual family. Both my French and English side of the family were huge readers. My father was a journalist, and my mother studied French literature at university in Paris. We would read before going to bed, and I always got told off by my sister for turning the light back on after lights out, when I couldn't put a book down. We also had these amazing subscriptions to a magazine called 'J'aime Lire', which still exists (and my daughters' love them) they include two short stories and a comic strip at the end.

#### What was your favourite book as a child and why?

Difficult to say because there are too many that I cherished as a child. One of my favourite books in French was *Les Contes de la rue Broca* by Pierre Gripari, a collection of quirky fairytales set in a modern world. In English, I grew up with the Ladybird book series and their audio tapes. I have the whole fairy tale collection, and one of my favourite stories was *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*. *Black Beauty* and *Anne of Green Gables* were also classic books that I loved. Another favourite was *Lorna Doone*. My grandmother, also named Lorna, used to tell me the story countless times. When I was young, she gave an abridged picture book version, which I still love.

#### How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

I still can't quite believe it, and I am very grateful.



#### What is the best part about being an author?

Creating stories, writing them up and exploring your imagination. That's the best part.

## What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

Because I am very shy, I think that putting myself out there is tough but not insurmountable.

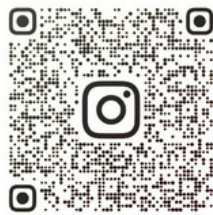


## Why do you think it is important for children to read?

Reading is so important because children can explore new worlds, losing themselves in their imagination and escape to a different realm – switching off from day-to-day life. They can meet and like or dislike all sorts of characters as well as relate to some of them. Reading opens the mind, helps identify different points of view and creates empathy. You don't have to read everything, and you shouldn't force yourself to read something you don't find interesting, but I believe that there is a book out there for every child.



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## What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

My English grandmother was an incredible storyteller, and she always had a fairy tale or story to tell us. We could listen to her for hours. She was a great inspiration in my love of fairytales and lots of other stories. On my French side of the family, we come from the South of Brittany where an abundant amount of fairy myths and Arthurian legends have always been an inspiration. Needless to say that I grew up loving fantasy fiction. This is a hard question to answer because I do have such wide range of genres that I enjoy. I love historical romances as well as paranormal and gothic fiction filled with vampires. And all these stories inspire me to explore my imagination and to write. Also, I find places inspiring, whenever I go on holiday or I visit a specific place, I always feel an urge to write.

## Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

I always welcome feedback; however hard it is sometimes. Having a co-author for Faedom meant that we both edited each other's work which made any additional edits from the editor less daunting. Being open to critique is important as it undoubtedly improves your writing.



### More Info



## Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

A tough question because I can read anywhere especially if I am gripped. I would say either on a very long and scenic train journey, or in the South of Brittany in France, by the seaside surrounded by the music of the ebb and flowing sea.