

THE REBEL READING SOCIETY

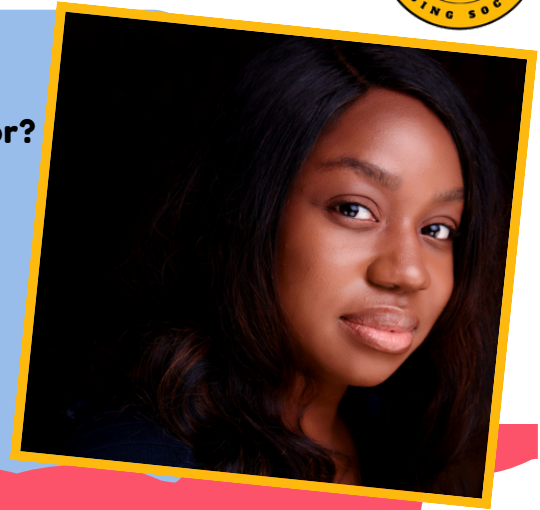
Author Spotlight



Abiola Bello

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

I decided I wanted to become an author because of my English teacher! In yr 7, one of our first lessons was a creative class and my teacher called me up afterwards and asked me what I wanted to be. I said a lawyer or a tennis player because that's what my mum said I should do! My teacher said you should be an author and the rest is history.



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

I read and still read all the time. I was so excited when I was able to get 10 books out of the library and I would go every Saturday to get new books. I can read very fast so I can get through loads of books. I would read in my room or on the way to school or dance rehearsals.



What was your favourite book as a child and why?

My fav book as a child was *Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* by Judy Blume. I think I loved that book because it was girls around my age dealing with the same stuff I was - faith, boys, growing up etc.

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

Seeing my books in shops never gets old! It's always so nice and surreal especially when you realise how many books there are in the world alone so for my book to get chosen is amazing.

What is the best part about being an author?

The best part about being an author is getting to all these crazy ideas out of my head! Seeing it come to life is so fun and then going into schools and talking to them about the books is always a good time.

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

The deadlines are never fun! I always feel like I never have enough time but I'm 14 books in and have never missed a deadline.



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

Children need to read because it's a great way to expand your imagination, to see themselves represented in books and also to socialise. A great book is worth talking about!

What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

I think my main inspiration is seeing people that look like me in different spaces whether that's romance, fantasy, adventure etc. As a kid I didn't have that so I want to make as much content as possible.



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

My agent is my usual go to person when I have a new idea and we bounce things back and forth to see if it works. Not all my ideas work! Even though I think they do but I know that whatever we go with has a good chance of getting brought by a publisher.

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More Info



More Info



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

Anywhere that has a nice beautiful sandy beach. Maybe the one in Montego Bay. It was so peaceful there to read.