



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

# An Interview With Camilla Chester

**Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?**

*Books have always been a big part of my life as I come from a family who love books and reading. We played poetry games for fun and my Grandpa was a detective novelist so I was surprised to learn that books weren't important to everyone. Reading was just as normal as breathing and we often talked about books.*

*I often get asked about my favourite book, or inspirational author, but it is funny as every time I read a fantastic book I think that is my all time favourite and seek out others by that author, until I find the next one and the next one! The ones I keep and re-read are usually by Margaret Atwood or Roald Dahl or Maggie O'Farrell or Phillip Pullman... I could go on!*

**Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?**

*Nothing! Writing is one of my jig-saw puzzle pieces that make up who I am. If I'm not writing stories for children I don't feel complete.*

**Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?**

*I know I've hit the nail on the head when it gets approval from my own kids who are my harshest reviewers. If it passes the test with them I will try it on other children and the best is when I get a reader telling me they loved it. Wonderful feeling that I know it's done its job.*

**Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?**

*My own daughters usually, but now that they are growing up I try and remember how I felt at the age of my readers (8-12) and write for the younger me.*

**Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?**

*I believe that the physical book will never die. This may simply because I don't want to live in a world without books but also because I know my love is shared by millions of others. The eBook has its place but it is alongside the physical book which is a thing of beauty and cannot be killed.*

**Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?**

*I don't collect books. I keep a few titles that I know I will read again, but I am generally quite ruthless in giving them away once I've read them - otherwise I would have thousands and my husband and kids wouldn't have room for any of their belongings. I use the LIBRARY - use yours everyone, they are wonderful, magical places.*