

Q&A with KATIE GANSHERT

If you could have one super power, what would it be?

Hands down, I wish I could apparate like the witches and wizards in Harry Potter. In case you don't read those books, apparition is the ability to think of a place you want to go and *poof* you're there. Do you know how amazing that would be? Seriously. No more spending time in traffic. No more paying for gas. No more ears popping in planes. And if I wanted to write a story set in Novosibirsk, Russia, do you know how easy it would be to research? Okay, so maybe my editor is happy I can't apparate.

If you could witness any event in history, which event would you choose?

Something to do with Jesus. Either His birth or His resurrection. I don't think I could handle His death.

If you could be an animal, what animal would you be?

I'd be an octopus. They don't have many predators, do they? Or maybe a jelly fish. Something where I could explore the depths of the ocean and meet Nemo. I also want to know if mermaids are real.

What was your favorite book growing up?

Hands down, *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. It was the first book that swept me up and transported me into a different world. I absolutely could not put it down. I have so much nostalgia for this book that when I taught 5th grade, I read it to my students each year. The story has so much word play and symbolism that went over my head as a kid, but I can appreciate now as an adult. Plus, the message is beautiful. Don't let the old-fashioned cover scare you off. It's such a fun book.

When did you start writing?

In third grade I wrote this epic, life-changing story about Mr. and Mrs. Leaf. In fact, it was so epic and life-changing, my 3rd grade teacher read it out loud to the class and everybody clapped and cheered. Okay, so maybe not. But it was at least good enough to read out loud. And so a love-affair was born. I found something I could do well. From there on out, I wrote all kinds of stories and bless my parents for being so patient, they listened as I read every single one of them out loud (sometimes with an accent).

Where do you get your ideas?

Usually in church. While most of my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are listening and self-reflecting and confessing and pondering the vastness and greatness of God, I'm the weirdo who's thinking, "This would be a great spiritual arc for my character."

What are three of the hardest things about being a writer?

- Sitting in the chair and putting my hands on the keyboard on days when inspiration refuses to cooperate. Talk about torture.



- Waiting. There's always something to wait for on this journey. And since I'm an impatient person, this doesn't come easily.
- Sharing my stories. Enter fear and trembling. Because what if people don't like them?

What are three of the best things about being a writer?

- Sitting in the chair and putting my hands on the keyboard on days when inspiration flows so fast I can't catch it all. What a rush.
- Waiting. Because through the long moments of nothing, I'm reminded again and again to surrender my hopes and dreams to Him.
- Sharing my stories. Enter excitement and anticipation. Because what if people like them?