



1. If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

I have always dreamed of being a traditionally published author. Every time I'm asked what I do for fun, I say reading and writing. A huge draw of wanting to be an author stems from being a lifelong reader; I've picked up books that rocked my beliefs and changed my perspective on life, and I got to go on a journey besides. I want to be someone whose work has that effect on people. Lofty dream, I know, but good authors are either very optimistic or are the saddest guys in the world.

Traditional publishing is an arduous process, and there are plenty of other hopefuls vying for their own shot. Self-publishing is an option if you've got a community who knows about you, but there is something so very romantic about the idea of strangers perusing bookstores and stumbling upon a novel of mine.

There's an adage: Do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life. There are also plenty of people harping about the dangers of losing that love if you turn it into your livelihood. I like to think I'm striking a balance by getting a day job to support my passion—and my living expenses!

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

In university, we were often put into groups for coursework. I welcome the opportunity to work in a team, but it becomes a challenge if the other people in your group don't want to be there or to do the work. If the tasks were assigned to be done in our own time, there were always team members who ignored all channels of communication until even past the deadline.

When I was a child, I will admit I used to do entire groups' worth of tasks just so they'd be finished. In college, aside from the tasks being exponentially more difficult, I figured it was a harmful habit to foster and bring into my future career. I needed to be able to work with and rely on an actual team.

What I did was take charge, if no one else volunteered to do so, by delegating the work into smaller tasks and assigning them amongst the group. I made sure to conduct myself in a civil and respectful manner; we as students wanted to get the job done in the end, so this wasn't taken too hard by my peers. This system worked splendidly over my four years of college.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

Before graduating, I was a software development intern at a programming company. The most difficult task took place in the first few weeks because I had to learn two new programming languages on the job. Things got very technical, and for a long while when I closed my eyes, all I could see were documentation and reference websites.

Now, the task that I found the most fulfilling was when my team—we were all interns—would pause and discuss what we were working on. I would come to learn that the others disliked these meetings because they detracted from time spent with actual coding, but I enjoyed seeing our progress.

Not only did I make sure I had a proper grasp on my feature branches by explaining them to the others, but I also learned new techniques by listening to them discuss theirs. Most of all, it was the satisfaction of seeing competent people produce good, viable output and counting myself among them.

4. How would your past colleagues or managers describe your work ethic?

Colleagues and managers would describe me as diligent, affable, and fast. I have a methodical approach to most things in life, and work is no different. I like to lay out the steps to things I must do, even just in my head, but I've been known to write them down.

I've also been told that I have a good grasp on boundaries, both my own and other people's. I know how to say no to unreasonable requests or how to tell people that their expectations don't align with the reality of what I can deliver, especially if the order is too tall.

I conduct myself always according to how I want to be treated—with respect and trust in my abilities. I do all my work to the best of my ability and expect those I work with to put in the same effort to ensure that the job goes smoothly.

5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?



I wrote six novels in preparation for the one I'm going to try and query. That is, I wrote and learned and wrote again until I felt like my work was good enough to even attempt to send out—the total number of books just happened to be six.

They average 60,000 to 80,000 words, and the genres don't stray far from these three: literary fiction, fantasy, and science fiction. It necessitated a lot of research so I could present accurate information along with a compelling narrative; I wouldn't want to take a reader out of their groove because I'd misrepresented the total number of a complete set of adult human teeth.

It's a personal accomplishment that I'm trying to turn into a professional one, and one that I'm proud of. Every time I'm asked what my passion is, I say books. I'm glad that being a writer works out so well with having a job.