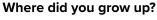
Lesley Parr



Cwmafan, Port Talbot.

Where did you go to school?

Cwmafan and Margam.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

That changed a lot but, for a long time, I wanted to be a naturalist.

What are your hobbies?

Cooking, walking, reading, seeing friends.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

I had two: *The Little White Horse* by Elizabeth Goudge and *Watership Down* by Richard Adams, but what I read most was the *Beano*.

When did you consider being an author?

All my life, really, but I decided the time was right in 2011. It took ten years of hard work, learning and becoming a better writer till my first book, *The Valley of Lost Secrets*, was published.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?

I definitely seem to veer towards accepting change as a theme. And my books are always about relationships above all else – both friendships and familial. And always working-class!

What advice can you give to budding authors?

The best advice I can give is to know when to walk away from your desk and take a break if the words aren't flowing. It's amazing how much more productive you can be if you give yourself a break – both physically and metaphorically.

Do you have any rituals when you write?

Not really but I like to put on music to suit the mood. I listen to a lot of albums by tenor Joseph Calleja; so much so he gets a mention in the acknowledgments of my first book, which he has read and enjoyed, by the way – the whole book! He sent me a voicenote to tell me – that was a moment!





Quick Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

The Little White Horse by Elizabeth Goudge, and Watership Down by Richard Adams.

Who's your favourite character from a children's book?

I have a huge soft spot for Todd Hewitt in Patrick Ness's YA *Chaos Walking* trilogy. I also love Gina Kaminski from *Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf* by Craig Barr-Green and Francis Martin. A picture book, so the other end of the young reader spectrum!

Where is your favourite place to write?

At my desk at home, with all my familiar and encouraging things around me.

What's your favourite food?

Pizza or curry. I can't choose, sorry!

What's your favourite film or show?

I love TV and film! Favourites are *Neighbours*, *Life on Mars* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Film-wise, it's between *Pride* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

What would be your superpower of choice? To fly.

Favourite social media network? Instagram.

What makes you smile?

My husband and my friends. And thinking of my mother.

If not an author what would you be?
A detective!

What's your advice for budding writers?

The best advice I can give is to know when to walk away from your desk and take a break if the words aren't flowing. It's amazing how much more productive you can be if you give yourself a break – both physically and metaphorically!



