

Michelle Briscombe



Where did you grow up?

Cardiff and I moved to Barry when I was twelve.

Where did you go to school?

Cardiff and Barry.

What was the best / worst thing about your school?

The best thing about school was learning and meeting my friends every day. When I was in primary school, I was given the best role as school librarian which obviously meant I needed to read as many books in the school library as possible.

No worst thing – but perhaps school dinners in the 1980s weren't as nice as they are now!

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be an actress, specifically a Shakespearean actress!

What are your hobbies?

Reading (obviously) and I love walking and spending time in the countryside.

What was your favourite book when you were young?

Can I name three? *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle* by Beatrix Potter when I was very young (I loved the illustrations, the fact that it was a very small book, as well as the idea that animals had other lives). *The Wind in the Willows* – animals and the countryside, the riverbank and adventures – what's not to love! When I was fourteen, I read *Wuthering Heights* and it was the first book to make me cry. I've read it numerous times since and it still makes me cry.

When did you consider being an author?

I've written stories for a long time. When I was a child, it was a way to escape, but I seriously considered it when I had my son and daughter. I wanted them to read a story that I had written.

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?

I like historical ghost stories, but I also like fantasy and sci-fi.

What advice can you give to budding authors?

Read, read and read some more!

Read the books you love. Let them inform you and don't be afraid to write like your favourite authors until you find your own individual niche. It will come!

Carry a notebook with you, you never know when inspiration might strike.

Do you have any rituals when you write?

I like to write during the day. I have a desk in my bedroom that faces the tree that is outside my window. I think it's about 70 or 80 years old, and although I don't have a specific ritual, I like to think that tree has watched me writing my stories over the years.

What's the best / worst part about being an author?

The best part is when a story arrives in my head and I spend the time thinking, planning, researching and eventually writing it, and then after about a hundred years of editing, I hold it in my hand as a perfectly formed book.

No worst part – but there are moments of anxiety when I worry that nobody will like my story.

Quick Questions

What's your favourite childhood book?

The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle.

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

Mrs Tiggy-Winkle.

Where is your favourite place to write?

At my desk in my bedroom.

What's your favourite food?

Greek Salad with lots of feta cheese.

What's your favourite film or show?

It's a grown-up show and very dark, so I will probably not say.

What is your favourite word?

I use 'consistently' quite ... consistently!

What would be your superpower of choice?

Flight – but can I also have invisibility?

Favourite social media network?

Instagram.

What makes you smile?

My children and my husband.

If not an author, what would you be?

A Shakespearean actress.

What's your advice for budding writers?

Read, read, read!