



REBECCA STEAD

ABOUT



I grew up in New York City, where I was lucky enough to attend the kind of elementary school where a person could sit in a windowsill, or even under a table, and read a book, and no one told you to come out and be serious (well, eventually someone did, but not right away). On those windowsills, under those tables, and in my two beds at night, I fell in love with books. (I had two beds because my parents were divorced.)

Specifically, I fell in love with fiction.

Reading books made me think about writing. (The writer Saul Bellow once said that a writer is a reader moved to emulation. That's me.)

But I didn't write a lot. Sometimes I just wrote down things I overheard – jokes, or snatches of conversation. You could probably fit everything I wrote before the age of 17 into one (skinny) notebook.

Much, much later, I became a lawyer (I believed that being a writer was impractical), got married, and started working as a public defender. But I still wrote stories (for adults) when I could find the time.

My first child, a fabulous son, was born. A few years later, I had another fabulous son. There wasn't much time for writing stories after that. But I still tried.

One day, my three-year-old son, though fabulous, accidentally pushed my laptop off the dining-room table, and my stories were gone. Poof.

So. It was time to write something new. Something joyful (to cheer me up: I was pretty grouchy about the lost stories). I went to a bookstore (an *independent* bookstore) and bought an armload of books that I remembered loving as a kid. I read them. I went back to the store and bought more books *written for children*. I read them. And then I began to write again.

Some people will tell you that real writers don't use parentheticals (which is nonsense). The most important thing to know about writing is that there are no rules.

INTERVIEWS

A few fascinating interviews about my books, my childhood, and my writing process, among other things:

Fascinating [interview #1](#)
("Yeah, I like to talk about weirdness.")

Fascinating interview#2

("Now I feel like my regular, struggling self")

Fascinating interview #3

("On many days, I don't sit down to write at all.")

Fascinating interview #4

("And one day I just lost my sense of the book's internal logic.")

Fascinating interview #5

("Guess who I'm writing a book with?")

