

Where do you get your story ideas?

By Kate Porter

Where do I get my story ideas? I've gotten story ideas while walking my dog, chatting with friends, a random comment in a crowded restaurant. Not all my ideas develop to the point of putting them in writing, but each one can lift my mood and bring a smile to my face. Sometimes, they can bring a few tears to my eyes as well depending on where the story might lead.

For my debut novel, *Secrets in Bethlehem*, the combination of a memory of a conversation with a friend, a show on *The History Channel*, and a random question asked by a co-worker, all came together at just the right time. I'd lived in Bethlehem, PA for several years and it felt like the right setting for a romantic suspense with a hint of science fiction tossed in.

The idea for *Black Harvest* was spawned when I heard a news report of a young mother whose young daughter had gone missing. Combining that heartbreaking event with an urban legend, motivated me to write the mystery of a desperate single mother's search for her daughter who had disappeared while they were on a road trip.

When the idea for *Chase Nightly, L'Uccisore* came to me, it began as a parody of the vampire-related movies, television shows, and books that had started sweeping across the country. A humorous look at vampires and vampire slayers rather than romanticizing them. But, as the process began another inspiration came to me as I sat on the patio, sipping a glass of iced tea and brainstorming the characters. Each character that was developed within the storyline, led to another possible story and the Team Nightly urban fantasy series was born. It was as though the characters had taken on lives of their own and I was just along for the ride.

It is amazing and it's fun to see which idea will develop into a story and which one will simply drift away. I like to think that they are like the wind. You never know where it will come from, where it will go or what will be riding on it.

I love to write. It's that simple. I hope others enjoy my stories and share them with their friends.

I enjoy meeting other writers who like getting together to brainstorm, my inbox is always open at kate@kate-porter.net

Q: What is something unique/quirky about you?

A: I would have to say that I've been told many times that when I'm working on a book, or something else that I'm really passionate about, that I tend to get tunnel vision. I call it focus and concentration because when the muse is upon me, nothing can deter me until I'm ready to let it go. It's part of my process to get it down as it comes.

Q: Tell us something really interesting that's happened to you!

A: I'm not sure if it would qualify as interesting but it was extremely exciting; I was profiled in Woman's Day Magazine in 2013 and they sent in a professional photographer and make up artist to come to my home for the photo spread. They were there for over five hours and it was so much fun to see how a major magazine article is put together. I had no idea how much work it takes to put together a single profile, let alone an entire magazine. It has given me a whole new respect for the print media and the work they do.

Q: *Which of your novels can you imagine made into a movie?*

A: I have this dream of seeing my debut novel, SECRETS IN BETHLEHEM as a feature film. SECRETS has a unique and incredible story to tell that will span different genres from mainstream fiction to suspense to action and bordering on science fiction.

Q: *What inspired you to write this book series?*

A: This is really funny, I think. When I first got the idea for CHASE NIGHTLY, L'UCCISORE, it was supposed to be a parody of all the vampire books that swept the world a few years ago. The name of the main character is pretty corny, right: CHASE NIGHTLY? He's a vampire slayer. Anyway, as I was putting together the character bios and writing the outline, it was like the story started taking on a life of its own. I would think, "this character should do this and go this way," but then it's like they were telling me, "Nope. We're doing this and going here." That's when TEAM NIGHTLY was born.

Q: *How did you come up with the concept and characters for the book and series?*

A: The characters in TEAM NIGHTLY are extremely diverse. They come from every walk of life. I wanted them to be normal, everyday Joes and Janes. Everyone has the potential to be a hero inside of them. But, everyone is also human and they have human flaws. Each book focuses on a specific team member; digging deep into their characters and bringing out the best and the worst in each of them. For instance; you have Chase, he's the team leader. He's a born and bred Georgia boy who has no intention of letting his widowed mother know what he does with his evenings. By day he's a sixth-grade social studies teacher, by night, he leads a team of bloodline uccisore who's destiny is to fight vampires and protect innocents. He's so focused on his own destiny, he doesn't realize that his life is about to change drastically when he meets Rae Chandler. Rae is a contemporary city girl from NYC and has no intention of staying in Savannah any longer than she absolutely has to. Two characters who are completely opposite in both thought and design yet, when they join forces against a common foe, are practically undefeatable.

Q: *What did you enjoy most about writing this book series?*

A: Getting to know each of the characters. I fell in love with some of them and hated others. Some of the characters I could empathize with because of the pain they had gone through to

get to where they were in the book. Other's I couldn't help but admire their inner strength for that same reason.

Q: If your book was made into a film, who would you like to play the lead?

A: That's a really good question. I think Chris Pine would be a great CHASE NIGHTLY.

Q: What makes a good story?

A: To me, a good story will pull you in and grip your heart. I want to sympathize with the characters, empathize with them, get angry because they do something stupid and cheer them on when they rise victorious. I want to not only read what they are feeling, I want to feel it myself. I want to feel my heart pounding when they're in danger, cry real tears when they are hurting and feel their joy when their fondest wishes come true. If I can turn that last page and think to myself, "Wow, I need to share this with . . ." That is a great story, in my opinion.

I cannot stand to read a book that just stops and has no real ending. I don't care if it's part of a series or not, it has to have some sort of resolution for the characters involved even if the final conflict of the story hasn't happened yet. I've started reading this one series and it just stopped. If I wanted to see what happened to the character I had to buy the next book. I have no problem following a book series, I love continuing sagas, but I need to be motivated because the plot is being furthered, not because I'm left hanging when I turn the last page and see there's nothing there. That just ticks me off.