

# MEET THE AUTHOR

Lancashire author **Vera Waters** on reading and writing books and what inspires her



**If there was one book you would recommend to a friend what would it be and why?** The book that I give to friends is Jonathan Livingston Seagull written by the American aviator Richard Bach. His manuscript was rejected by several publishers but then sold over one million copies in 1972 alone. Reading it made me appreciate even more the way in which we can experience a deeper meaning to life. A book to be read many times each re visit giving more food for thought.

**What was the last book that made you laugh?** Some books make me smile but I wouldn't expect a book to make me laugh. A dry sense of humour runs in my family and has passed on into another two generations. I am a comedian's nightmare!

**Which was your favourite book as a child?** I read 'The Magic Scissors' a Chinese fairy tale written by Loiss Spaander. It had a blue cover with a beautiful illustration. I remember sitting hugging it after I finished reading. The other 'Prelude' is based on the life of the Australian pianist Eileen Joyce who reached world wide fame. She came to live in England supporting the WW2 effort. She is the pianist playing the sound track for the old black/white movie 'Brief Encounter.'

**What book are you reading now?** At the moment I'm reading Alan Titchmarsh's Marigolds, Myrtle and Moles A Gardner's Bedside Book. He writes in a cheerful and positive way without being too heavy. I've enjoyed reading all of his books. Also I'm re reading Edith Egers 'The choice' her story of being sent to Auschwitz as a teenage ballerina is so inspiring. A book to be read as a reminder that we are all individuals with unique gifts and strengths.

**Whose biography would you like to write?** I would not want to write a biography, too much time spent researching and interviewing, not for me (although I'd love to spend time with Richard Bach). I gladly leave that to those writers who specialize in that genre! They are to be respected provided of course that their writing holds the interest of the reader.

**Which book have you read that surprised you and why?** In 2006 I read Diane Setterfield's gothic mystery 'The Thirteenth Tale'. Within months she became a best selling author. The book is full of surprises I could not stop reading. Her use of words and language is a delight. Obviously if I were to describe the way in which I found her story surprising I might possibly spoil the mystery of the book for you. Why not put it on your reading list.

**What inspired you to want to write?** My mother taught me to read at a very early age. We lived in the suburbs of Manchester. WW2 raged, my escape was books and writing. By the time I was seven I was making notes about what was happening around me trying to describe how people felt. My writing I hoped would make them feel better despite the hardship and challenges they faced. I decided to become an author there and then to transport my readers to a place of safety and peace.. My first poem was published when I was ten years old. A few years later the Home Service broadcast my views regarding school uniform. The members of my family gathered around their radios to listen. I believed that school uniform was a great leveller, disguising the fact that poor children did not have decent clothes. I knew that even then church groups were trying to provide second hand uniforms. Although I dreamed of becoming a famous writer my life became one of caring, the need for total confidentiality limiting my writing to professional journals and official research. It was not until 1990, by popular demand, that my first book was published. I'm still writing now, working on another book.

**What are your top tips for people wanting to write a book?** Begin by asking yourself why? Why do you want to write a book? Then test yourself by writing about something that you do or feel as part of your everyday life.

Travelling to work, time spent on social media, making a bed, living alone, your morning run, attending meetings, walking your dog, your own feelings, interacting with people, returning home

As you write put yourself into your words  
Paint the scene, if you are eventually to have readers, they need to be encouraged to engage with the stories you write.

Set the scene, make it inviting.  
You can do it!

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