
AN INTERVIEW WITH LAUREN LYNCH

TimeDrifter Series Author

Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: I was a quiet, bookish kid—the firstborn of two bookworms—so I spent a lot of time alone, lost in fantasy worlds. I also enjoyed historical books featuring courageous girls: the Little House on the Prairie books, Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, Corrie Ten Boom's The Hiding Place. My family moved a lot when I was young and these stories helped me approach each new situation with as much bravery as a shy girl could muster. Starting over every couple years wasn't easy as a kid, but it taught me flexibility and gave me a spirit of adventure. I've lived in about a fifth of the United States and been through most of the rest of them during the cross-country moves. The true-life stories I read inspired me to rise above my circumstances. Fantasy tales from authors like J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle provided an escape from reality and never failed to fuel my imagination. Now, I enjoy creating stories that combine the inspiration of history with the limitless adventures of fantasy.

I was a big city girl for much of my life—born in Philadelphia, going to art school in Chicago and also living in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. I currently live in rural North Carolina with my husband, son, two dogs, a cat and five chickens. I do believe I've embraced the country life and may never turn back to city living.

Q: How did you end up writing books?

A: Writing was always a part of my life. Even before I learned to write, I would dictate poems to my mother. It seemed a natural extension of my love for reading. I initially studied fine arts before gravitating towards graphics. I enjoyed a 25-year career as a graphic designer where I often ended up providing copywriting and also dabbled in writing for fun. I now have the luxury of writing full-time—something I'm daily thankful for and truly enjoy. I'm still able to squeeze design projects in on the side once in a while and enjoy other artistic pursuits in my free time.

Q: What writers have inspired you the most?

A: I enjoy fiction inspired by the Bible. Madeleine L'Engle's Many Waters, a time-travel story centering around Noah's family shortly before the flood, intrigued me with its depiction of nephilim interacting with humans. Later, I read Tracy Groot's Madman, a fictional account of the demon-possessed man of Gerasene. I have been especially influenced by Tosca Lee's Havah: The Story of Eve and Demon: A Memoir. Her well-researched novels examine characters from Christian history from a place of great empathy. I admire the risks she takes and look forward to each of her novels with great anticipation! I appreciate a story that brings ancient history to life for me. These ladies succeeded in colorful detail.

Ted Dekker's writing style and branding influenced me even more than the enjoyment of reading his books (which I enjoy very much). I loved the idea of series leading into spin-off series and hope to do that myself. I really admire his creative continuity.

I guess there is a darker side of me intrigued by the timeless conflict between good and evil, the unseen spiritual world surrounding us and the faith required to navigate great challenges in our path back to an intimate relationship with our Maker, the Source of it all. Although history is fraught with change, our human struggles remain essentially the same since the dawn of time.

Most of all, I think it's great that we can emulate Christ in the writing process. He was a great storyteller and managed to give us profound messages in small, simple stories. What better model could we have for meaningful writing?

Q: If you could co-author a book with someone, who would it be?

A: Tosca Lee—no hesitation there. I probably go way overboard on research and truly enjoy that aspect of the writing process just as she apparently does. I am intrigued by her style and topic choices. I admittedly have a bit of a creative crush on her work, so I'd be content to simply be a fly on her writing room wall for a day.

Q: What are your writing habits and hang-ups?

A: I'm a morning person. I also like to write at night when the rest of the house is asleep. I hear about writers playing music while they're writing for inspiration, but I can't imagine doing that myself. I write and think best in silence. I do love the birdsong of early morning work in my writing cabin, but even that can distract me. Maybe I have an undiagnosed attention deficit? And don't try to talk to me while I'm writing. Once I'm going, I'm very focused, lost in the story environment in my brain and I'll barely know you're there. This is usually done with a big cup of tea. I can't sit still after a cup of coffee.

Q: What inspires your stories?

A: The world is such a fascinating and mysterious place. Ancient history and exotic locations really intrigue me ... lost cities, archaic cultures, dead languages. In my opinion learning is one of the most enjoyable parts of life. I also have a tendency to be curious about the unusual, quirky or misunderstood.

Whether we want to admit it or not, humans are very spiritual beings, always searching for greater meaning in life, trying to fill the void of our separation from God. We each develop a distinct worldview based in our unique experiences. I enjoy examining that journey of growth and enlightenment.

I love digging into recorded historical events and filling in the blanks in my mind—imagining the unique perceptions of those involved. Weaving in fantasy elements entertains me. It's just a little added icing on the cake of reality.

In personality or gifts evaluations, I consistently rank highest in empathy. I think this God-given ability, more than anything, enables me to glean insights on a character's life and weave together probable feelings, perspectives and actions they would likely take. Drawing out captivating details from their points in history really brings bygone stories to life for me—and hopefully for those who read my stories.

Q: What message do you hope to convey in your writing?

A: The battle against evil is real, Satan exists—and we are each deceived by him at some point. God is love and all we have to do is learn to rest in him and rely on his strength for protection and guidance. Our struggles bring us closer to him. As big as they seem in the tiny slice of eternity we call a life, they are never greater than our ability to survive them if we learn to lean on our Creator instead of trying to rely on our own limited understanding and power.

Q: What locations and time periods do you plan on using in upcoming books?

A: You know—I'd love to get reader input on that! My first book explored the ancient Mayan city of Mutul (know today as Tikal in modern day Guatemala). Much of book two takes place in Pompeii and book three will take Anna and Brendan through the first century Middle East and Cappadocia. While these locations might seem like odd choices for books with a Christian worldview, I wanted to explore what happens in areas least influenced by Christ. Humans scattered after the flood, our languages were confused after the tower of Babel. As much as the world has changed over time, human nature remains the same. We are disparate, yet connected on some level. Our lives are a journey back out of that confusion—a search for greater meaning and purpose. Each individual journey is fascinating.

I have a few other cultures and locations simmering on my back burner, but I'm also very open to reader suggestions. Email input@laurenlynch.com if you have any ideas you'd like to throw out there! (or connect with me on Twitter [@LaurenRLynch](https://twitter.com/LaurenRLynch)).

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