

10 Interview Questions that are Fun to Answer

The following are questions that have come about from interviews and speaking engagements regarding the craft of fiction and non-fiction writing.

1. Q: *Who is Nancy Quatrano?*

A: I'm a creative writer with extensive business management experience—like more than 30 years. And, I'm a speaker. I love putting people back in touch with what's possible in their lives. Great to see that light back in their eyes when they tell me I've gotten them "fired up."

2. Q: *You say you're passionate about speaking to people about their dreams. Why do you feel dreams are so important?*

A: I grew up in a challenging middle-class home. I escaped by reading, envisioning myself in faraway places, slaying the dragons, solving the mystery. But my reality was that life was hard and we didn't do a lot of talking. We certainly never talked about dreams. I was in my early forties, struggling to raise two daughters on my own, when I dared to start dreaming. Thank God for books by Zig Ziglar, Dale Carnegie and Norman Vincent Peale. I realized that dreams ARE power. They get us out of bed, help us to shrug off the hard, dark days. Especially for women. We expect an awful lot of ourselves and it's easy to lose sight of the dreams that once fueled us. I love seeing that spark re-ignite in people.

3. Q: *What's the difference between goals and dreams?*

A: For me, the difference is that before I can set up goals, I have to have a dream. Something that's so big the goals fit inside it. A dream is bigger, without any limitations or parameters. To get to that dream, I have to get down to business and set up the goals and milestones that have to be accomplished to reach the dream. Maybe it's all the same, I don't know. In my mind they are important to each other, but not the same thing.

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4. Q: *Who are some of the people who have mentored you in your career?*

A: Which career? I've started over more times than Donald Trump. God has blessed me with some great mentors, though. In fiction writing, I've been privileged to learn from generous and talented authors like Sharon Sala, Kathleen Woodiwiss, Caridad Piniero, and Christine Bush just to name a few. Anne Walradt taught me to have courage despite the odds. In business, the writings of Carnegie and Ziglar were important, and I love Steve Harrison and any program he's part of! I'm also blessed with friends who are extraordinary.

5. Q: *How do you get ready to write? Do you do anything special?*

A: I write every day, either in my freelance business or on my fiction projects, so I've taken to starting every day with meditation and prayer. I ask God to help me shed my ego and write what needs to be written that day. That grounds me so I can get the job done that day. Otherwise my head is all over the place and I waste a lot of time. Usually some soft jazz or something in the background, but I'm someone who needs it pretty quiet to be creative. Oh, and I need a large cup of hot tea.

6. Q: *What's the most important thing for success, do you think?*

A: I think tenacity. You know, whether the dream is writing or music or anything else, there's going to be rejection, and disappointments and things won't go right, but don't give up. Get up, brush yourself off, put on a smile, and get going again. Tenacity is **very** important to success.

7. Q: *What do you think were your largest obstacles to success?*

A: Myself. Self-doubt. Listening to the little devil on my shoulder that whispered, "you don't have what it takes, kid." Lack of self-assurance has probably killed more careers than a bad resume has.

8. Q: *What would you like to say to people who might want to follow in your footsteps?*

A: Gads, you don't want **my** footsteps! Now if you want to learn something from me so you don't have to fall down as often as I have, I think the most important thing is to follow your dream and don't listen to anyone who says you can't do it. Surround yourself with people who believe in you, won't let you quit. Read empowering authors and topics, put out a positive attitude at all

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times, and you can't lose! Oh – and remember to be kind to yourself!! Once in a while, go to the movies, visit with your friends, go fishing, whatever.

9. Q: *What would your readers not know about you?*

A: Oh boy, I hope there's a LOT they don't know. I think because I work hard to provide value when I'm speaking, or I edit a million times to produce a polished short story, people say I seem pretty easy going and balanced, but I'm not. My husband is my balance—he can play all the time and I can work all the time. But I'm working at something I really love, so it's not work for me and I just keep going. Almost to the exclusion of all other things. He'll only be ignored so long, and then he wants to go camping, or motorcycle riding or something. And I love those things, I just also love to read and write.

10. Q: *What are you working on now?*

A: I've got some exciting projects going on. (Feb 2011) I'm an honorary member of the Rogues Gallery Writers. We've got an outrageous project in the works: Four writers, four methods, all woven into one kick-butt novel. We're about 1/3 complete and working on marketing now. Also, I'm collaborating with JJ Dumont from NJ on a Southern women's fiction series called Amazing Grace Trucking Company. That's about 3 estranged sisters who have to find a way to live and work together when their father suddenly dies and all they've ever held precious is in jeopardy. Book One is "Merciful Blessings" and we're in edit number two at the moment. Looking for an agent, too.

I'm a member of some wonderful writing organizations including [Florida Writers Association](#), [Liberty States Fiction Writers](#), [Mystery Writers of America](#), and [Sisters in Crime, Inc.](#)

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Thank you!!