

Ross Montgomery

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Dear Becca,

Thank you so much for your letter. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you – your letter had to go through my agent first before it got to me, but rest assured it arrived first thing this morning!

I'm so glad you like the sound of my book. In answer to your questions:

- *We think* my cat is six years old, but we're not sure! We got him from a shelter – they said he was two when we got him, but he doubled in size in just a few months so think they might have been wrong!
- The way I plan my books tends to change with each new book I write. Usually I'll start by working out what I want to happen in the beginning, middle, climax and end, then I'll break it down into chapters to work out where important bits of information are going to go. Of course, it never goes quite to plan!
- I think the thing which inspired to write was how much I've always loved stories! I was brought up reading lots of BEANO annuals and so loved doing my own cartoons, which is basically the same as writing stories – you still create characters, you still have plots, dialogue etc. I soon started reading lots of different books – I remember LOVING a book called GING GANG GOOLIE, IT'S AN ALIEN, which was really funny and mixed cartoons with writing. I loved the HORRIBLE HISTORIES

books – I even wrote to Terry Deary! – and I was a HUGE fan of Jacqueline Wilson. I even got to meet her a few years ago! I totally freaked out. Then when I was about 10 or 11, I discovered a book series by an author called Terry Pratchett called the DISCWORLD series. There are over 40 books in it, and they blew my mind – they were funny and imaginative, but also very moving and beautifully written. I had no idea books could do all those things at the same time! I think reading those books was the exact moment I realized I wanted to be a writer more than anything else.

- I've written seven books so far – well actually, I've written seven books that have been published! Who knows how many stories I've written in my life... I've just signed a contract to make two more picture books, which should hopefully be out in 2020!!
- I always write on my laptop – I'm writing on it now! My handwriting isn't very good and I like that I can fix any mistakes I make quickly and easily, as I make lots!

Thanks again for getting in touch with me, and I hope those answers helped! Do write again if you'd ever like to.

Best wishes,



Ross Montgomery