



Hazel Riley

Q: Where do you do your writing?

A: I can write anywhere, but need privacy and not too much noise (unless it's music I've chosen). I like to write in bed in the morning. When I'm working on a novel I have breakfast in bed, then go straight to my computer. In the summer I also like to write outdoors. To sit and write on a beach or in a park can be very freeing. My stories are often inspired by places, but recreated in my imagination.

Q: What are the best and worst things about being an author?

A: Writing and writing. Writing a novel is the most wonderful thing as you are transported into another reality. When the words and ideas are flowing it's exhilarating, but when nothing is working it can be very frustrating.

Q: Which of your own characters do you most identify with?

A: Sam, the heroine of *The Crying*, because she overcame a serious illness and fought for her independence. Luckily, I've never had to share my flat with a ghost... or not one I know about.

Q: What do you do to combat "writers' block"?

A: I think everyone has an inner voice that criticises and discourages them. I don't know if this happens to artists and painters, but writing seems to provoke a lot of negative feedback. I've learned not to listen when it starts and to have more self belief. Believing in my characters helps a lot too. Once a character has taken on a life of her own, I feel confident that I will be able to tell her story and send her out into the world.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

A: Feed your imagination. Spend time doing whatever inspires you. For me, this might be swimming in a lake, walking my dog, watching old movies. Keep a notebook for ideas, dream up plots and characters...try to have fun.

Q: What do you do as a hobby?

A: I do voluntary conservation work on Hampstead Heath in London. It's wonderful to be in the middle of a huge city, look up and see a bird of prey hovering high up in the sky. I get to go to the secret places on the heath and learn how to protect the environment.

Q: What strange habits do you have?

A: I'm a bit addicted to vampire books and watch *Buffy* whenever I can

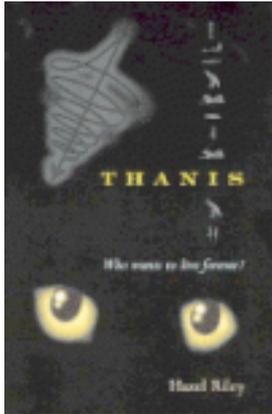
Q: What's your favourite food?

A: chocolate

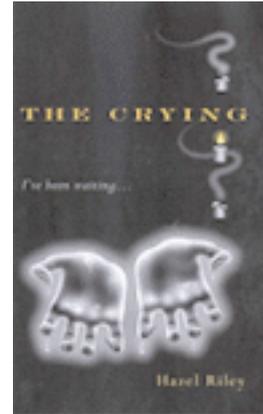
Q: What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

A: I'd like to work in movies or TV, finding locations, buying props and costumes. I used to have a market stall selling 1950's and 60's clothes, shoes and jewellery and would love to help recreate that period.

My Books



Thanis



The Crying

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