



D. M. Simons

Q: What were you like at school?

A: When I was 7 and 8 I used to imagine fairies sitting on the classroom windowsill instead of listening to the teacher.

Q: What did you want to be when you were a child?

A: I wanted to live on an island in the middle of a lake and keep pet lions.

Q: Which three words describe you best?

A: Mother, dreamer, animal lover

Q: What is your favourite word?

A: 'Mama' for obvious reasons!

Q: What makes you cringe?

A: My father talking about me as a baby to strangers with babies (I am nearly 50!).

Q: What are you afraid of?

A: Accidentally uncovering a nest of maggots! I have done this once.

Q: What is your most treasured possession?

A: The irreplaceable photos of my children.

Q: What do you do as a hobby?

A: I have always been fascinated by miniatures and collect delicately handmade things for my 1/12 scale dolls house.

Q: What strange habits do you have?

A: Hmmm...I think my kids would say that it is going into the 'zone' where there is a delay before I answer them. I call it day dreaming.

Q: What's your favourite food?

A: Cereal

Q: What's the most outrageous thing you've done?

A: When I was 10 I build a cardboard school for my dolls and set fire to it. All dolls survived but a couple had to get wigs. Don't try this!

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

A: I've always fancied archaeology...quietly digging up bones and tickling them with

brushes...

Q: Do you feel younger or older than your current age?

A: Younger - I can still fool around with my children and have sleep overs with my 13 year old daughter.

Q: If you could meet one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: Sir David Attenborough, because he has seen so many amazing animals and plants in such wonderful places.

Q: What quality do you most admire in a person?

A: Kindness

Q: What is the most interesting place you have ever visited?

A: The Canadian Rockies

Q: What is the best advice anyone has ever given you?

A: Enjoy your children while you can because you can never have that time back.

Q: What has life taught you?

A: You can never go too far wrong by following your heart.

Q: How long have you been a writer?

A: I started writing about three years ago when an idea for a story seemed to come to me out of the sand dunes at my local beach. I started a correspondence course at that time.

Q: Where do you do your writing?

A: I usually write at my laptop in a bay window with a view of the North Sea. Other times it will be in the car while I wait for a child's music lesson or sports activity to finish.

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

A: I think it likely that all writers write because they love it - that is the best thing. The worst thing is not being able to write when you want to.

Q: Where do you get your greatest ideas from?

A: Ideas can spring from anywhere, our life experiences, work, family and what we read in newspapers too.

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

A: Nikki, because she is the only girl in the story and while I wrote the story through her eyes, I had to imagine her feelings.

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

A: I remind myself how precious time is and how I mustn't waste it.

Q: What was your favourite book as a child?

A: An Otter's Story

Q: What book do you wish you had written?

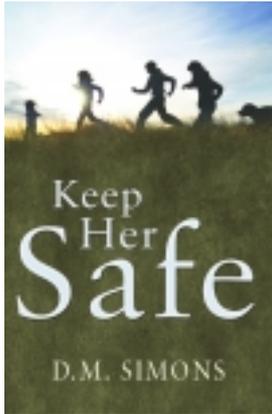
A: 'Children of the Dunes' a ghost story that I have started but not finished.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

A: Read and write lots and take a course - it is amazing what you do not pick up from reading

alone.

My Books



Keep Her Safe

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