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Story Monsters Ink



The Literary Resource for Teachers,
Librarians, and Parents

TEEN AUTHOR

SARAH FRANK

INSPIRES KIDS TO FOLLOW
THEIR DREAMS

JOSH SHIPP

PENS A HEARTWARMING
TALE OF BELONGING

JESSICA KIM'S

DEBUT NOVEL TAKES THE STAGE

CATCHING UP WITH

AME DYCKMAN

DANIEL NAYERI

WRITES A STORY YOU
WON'T BELIEVE

SEAN STELLATO

SCORES A LITERARY
TOUCHDOWN

CARRIE FIRESTONE

ENCOURAGES GIRLS TO
FIND THEIR VOICES

THE POWER OF

ONE SMALL STEP

JUDY NEWMAN

WAITING FOR WHAT'S
HER NAME?

TEACHING TOOLBOX

MUSIC IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Q&A WITH

MARYLOU QUILLEN

ALANE ADAMS

FROM FIRST DRAFT TO FINAL
DRAFT: REVISE. EDIT. REPEAT.

RAVEN HOWELL

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE
AN INTERVIEW





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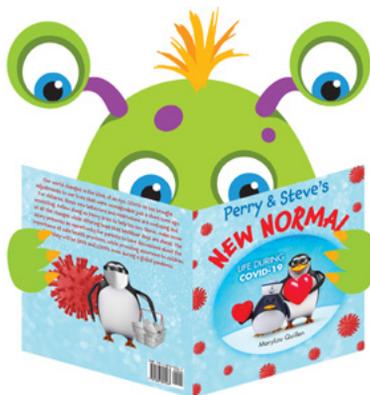
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Teen Author

Sarah Frank

Inspires Kids to Follow their Dreams

by Melissa Fales

When Sarah Frank was in the fifth grade, she self-published a book of poetry. At 14 years old, she signed a publishing contract for her first novel, *One Chance*. Now, at age 17, Frank has released her second novel in the *One Chance* series, *Two Secrets*. The *Once Chance* series is based on Frank's favorite things to read about: magic, mystery, time travel, and history. "I started writing because of my love of reading," she says. "I always thought it was so cool that an author could put a pen to paper and put all the right words in the right order to make the reader feel something. I wanted to do that, too."

Frank started writing when she was in the first grade and never stopped. In 2014, she self-published *What Really Happened in Elementary School! Super Silly Poems Scribbled in a Notebook*. “I wrote it as a parting gift to all of the amazing teachers I had in elementary school,” she says.

Fifth grade was a challenging year for Frank. “I was diagnosed with a life-threatening peanut allergy,” she says. “It was a direct threat to my survival. As a fifth grader, you don’t know a lot about mortality. It gave me anxiety. One wrong move could end my life. The idea that I could go into the cafeteria and someone could high-five me with some

peanut butter on their hand and I could die was beyond scary.”

That year, in addition to learning about how to manage her allergy, Frank underwent emergency appendix surgery and sustained a serious ankle injury that left her in a wheelchair for some time. “Writing got me through all of it,” says Frank. “Writing was just what I needed. In a world full of things I couldn’t control, and still can’t, writing is something I can control.”

But fifth grade wasn’t all bad. It was also the year Frank started handwriting what would become *One Chance* in a red spiral notebook. The inspiration behind *One Chance*, says Frank, was to write a story which would include elements of all of her favorite books she’d ever read. “I wanted it to have a little bit of *The Magic Tree House* and of course, some *Harry Potter*,” says Frank.

The protagonist of *One Chance* is 12-year-old Sandy, whose parents mysteriously disappeared when she was young. Sandy and her friends find a magical stone, the Stone of Discedo, that allows them to travel back in time. “They decide to travel back in time to stop her parents from leaving her, but there’s a catch,” says Frank. “The Stone of Discedo requires them to stop three terrible events in history. They have to stop Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, they have to stop the Titanic from sinking, and they have to warn everyone at Pearl Harbor about the impending attack.” If Sandy and her friends are able to prevent each of these tragedies, Sandy will be reunited with her parents.





“Writing is such an amazing outlet. It gave me freedom from everything that held me down and all the things I had to overcome. There are so many different ways to write and so many different kinds of writing. I hope that kids will experiment with writing and find the kind that works for them.”

In 2015, Frank attended a kids’ writing summer camp at the University of South Florida where BeaLu Books CEO Luana Mitten was a guest speaker. Mitten had heard about Frank’s poetry book and invited Frank to sit on a panel

of authors to answer the summer campers’ questions about writing. “The panel was made up of adults,” recalls Frank. “I was the only kid. It was my first big speaking engagement. I have anxiety about a lot of things, but public speaking

has never been one of them. I like talking and I like people, so I think public speaking is kind of fun.” Impressed with Frank’s performance on the panel, Mitten gave Frank her business card and expressed interest in working with her on her next book. “We signed a publishing contract for *One Chance* in 2017 at the end of my eighth-grade year,” says Frank. “That was one of my best days ever. I couldn’t believe it was really happening.”

That summer, Frank was invited to be a keynote speaker at Follett’s ReadingCon: Collaborating for Literacy event in Chicago, alongside acclaimed authors such as Gene Luen Yang and Kwame Alexander. Her presentation, directed at teachers of kindergarten through grade twelve, was entitled “Let’s Put ‘Creative’ Back in Writing!” and closed out the event to rave reviews.

BeaLu Books published *One Chance* in 2018. Frank's latest book, *Two Secrets*, was released in January of this year, picking up Sandy's story nine months after where *One Chance* leaves off. "At the end of *One Chance* there's a mysterious figure introduced into the plot," says Frank. "In *Two Secrets*, readers will see how Sandy and her friends handle that villain. *Two Secrets* has more mystery, more time travel, and more magic." Early next year, look for *Three Quests*, the third in the series.

One Chance won a silver medal from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association (FAPA) in 2018 in the Juvenile Fiction category for ages 7 to 12. *Two Secrets* has also won a FAPA medal, but Frank won't find out until the virtual awards ceremony in August whether it's a bronze, silver, or gold award. The two books also earned first and second placements in the 2020 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards.

Next, Frank is collaborating with a friend, illustrator Katie Bell, on a picture book called *Cloudy Days*. "We're writing this book for kids with anxiety," says Frank. "We're giving them the tips and tricks that have helped us to overcome our own anxiety." Frank says writing continues to be one of the best ways for her to deal with any form of stress. "For me, writing poetry is a form of expression and writing fiction is a form of escape," she says.

This fall, Frank will be a senior and student body president at her high school and intends to pursue a career in creative writing. "Writing

has always been my dream," she says. "It would be a dream come true to write for a living." She says she prefers writing for children. "They have this ability to suspend disbelief that adults don't necessarily have in the same way," she says. "I love magic and creating new worlds that other people can get lost in and explore. I think children sometimes have an easier time doing that."

One of Frank's favorite things to do is visit elementary and middle schools to talk to students about her experiences as a writer. Since 2018, she's spoken to over 5,000 students, parents, librarians, and teachers. "It's been amazing," Frank says. "It's one of the best experiences of my whole life. I try to inspire kids to read, write, and follow their dreams. I wish someone had done that for me. I tell kids that

no matter what their 'thing' is—writing or playing music or painting or whatever—they can achieve their goals if they are willing to work hard. If I go to a school and I'm able to inspire even one kid to follow their dreams, it is so worth it."

Whether or not young people find their "thing" in writing, Frank hopes they'll give it a try. "Writing is such an amazing outlet," she says. "It gave me freedom from everything that held me down and all the things I had to overcome. There are so many different ways to write and so many different kinds of writing. I hope that kids will experiment with writing and find the kind that works for them."

For more information about Sarah Frank and her books, visit sarahfrankwrites.com. ●

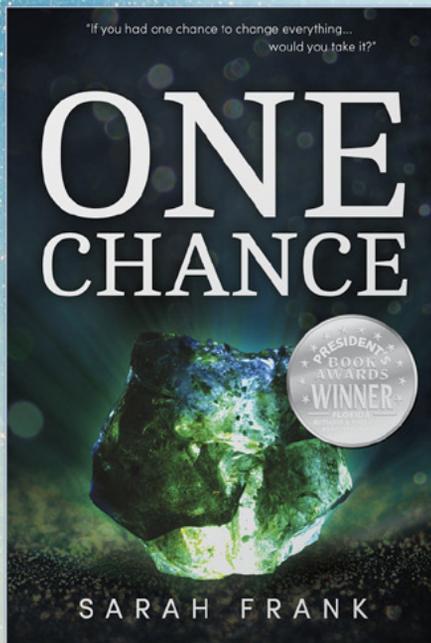


Teen Author Holds Character Naming Contest!

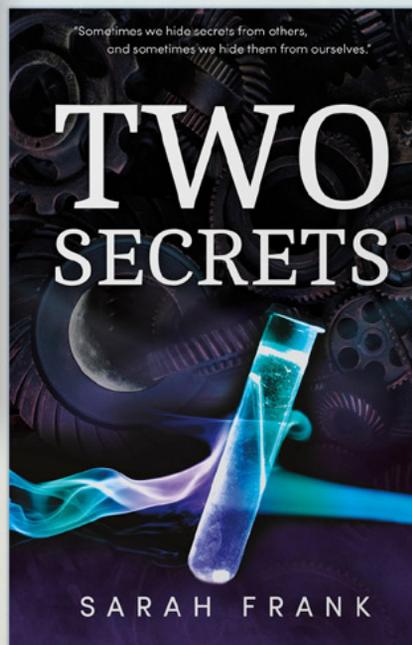


Spark your creative fire with BeLu Books' Name a Character Contest!

The contest will be judged by *One Chance* author and celebrated teen writer, Sarah Frank.



First-place winner will name their own character and land a signed hard copy of *Three Quests* when it debuts later this year.



The contest is open to readers in grades 3-7 located in the U.S. and Canada.

Available in ebook and print!

Deadline to enter is August 28!



To enter, contestants should email Sarah Frank (SarahFrankAuthor@gmail.com) a 1,000- to 4,000-word, double-spaced story set between when the *One Chance* book concludes and *Two Secrets* begins. The story can be a complete creation of the author's imagination but should be relevant to the characters and plot of the *One Chance* series.



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