
Leslie Connor

Waiting for Normal
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Waiting for Normal Interview with Leslie Connor

1. What inspired you to write *Waiting for Normal*?

I feel as though this story was inspired first by setting, then by imagining a cluster of characters living in that setting. The plot came from imagining the circumstances that brought them all there.

2. What qualities do you admire most in Addie?

I admire Addie's resilience and her ability to make something out of nothing.

3. Are you going to write more stories about her?

Although I think about Addie often, I don't expect to write more about her. I'm more interested in what the readers think happens next.

4. How did you come up with Soula's character?

Honestly, Soula seemed to bloom into view as my answer to wanting a good and caring neighbor for Addie. She is something of a composite of several people I've met, including two remarkable women who bravely battled cancer.

5. Where is your favorite place to write?

I love to sit on our screen porch with my dogs on either side of me. Sometimes when the weather is cool, I'll take a sleeping bag and a thermos of tea out there with me. For one week of each of the past ten summers, my writing group has held a silent retreat in a beautiful cabin on a pond in Maine. That's my other favorite place to write.

6. Do you have any writing rituals?

My writing day actually begins during my morning "chicken chores" and on my walk with my dogs. In darker months, I love to light candles. And tea: There must be tea.

7. If you were on a desert island and could only take one book with you, what would it be?

An empty journal!

8. Where did you grow up?

I was born in Ohio and spent most of my very early childhood there. When I was in fourth grade, we moved to upstate New York, where I stayed until my college years.

9. What was your childhood ambition?

Well, I wanted to be an artist and a gymnast, and I wanted to eventually become a mother. I also wanted to be Laura Ingalls Wilder.

10. What is your life motto?

Hmm. For life, I guess it's something along the lines of "passion and proactivity." In terms of writing, I go by this: "If it cannot be ignored, it should be written down."