

Sample q + a



L. STARLA

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUTHOR'S WRITING

How do you develop your plot and characters?

The concept comes first, followed by the characters. I like to flesh out my characters using detailed character sheets. Once I know how they behave, these characters drive the story. As a plotter, I plan using beat sheets and outlining.

Have you always wanted to be a writer?

No, even though I have loved reading and storytelling since I was little. My original career ambitions involved science, but my life travelled some unexpected paths. It took me a while, but I believe I have finally found my true calling.

What inspired you to start writing?

The idea for my first story came to me in a series of dreams during my recent studies in Accounting. When the semester finished, I sat down and started writing the book.

How do you do research for your books?

Don't ever look at my Google search history! I'm sure it would be horrifying. Aside from lots of internet research, I also study people and the news. Sometimes reality really can be stranger than fiction.

Describe your perfect book hero or heroine.

My perfect heroine is strong and sexy, but like all of us, she has flaws. As for the hero, I like him flirtatious and sexy.



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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUTHOR'S
CURRENT BOOK: *Crystal's Crucible***

What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

Temptation and destruction. Both Crystal and her sister are tempted to taste the objects of their destruction, whether this be sexual desires or harmful substances. Other themes include the heart-break of betrayal, love and sacrifice, and greed as a downfall.

What is the significance of the title?

It is a play on words. The crucible is a dish used by chemists for heating substances, but it also symbolises a trial by fire. Crystal, the protagonist, is a chemist and puzzle sleuth. Her skills are put to the test when she attempts to unravel the conspiracy threatening to end her life.

What is the future for the characters? Will there be a sequel?

I am planning a few books that will incorporate characters from *Crystal's Crucible*: a prequel that tells Lucinda's tale (Adam's ex-wife), Jackson will get his own book, and there will even be a bonus short story with juicy details about three other characters.

Can you give us some insight into what makes Crystal tick?

Like a typical mastermind (INTJ), Crystal is analytical, strategic, and determined, but she is also anxious and clueless in romance. She is motivated by a need to succeed in her job, a thirst for knowledge, and a need for love.

What was the highlight of writing this book?

The thrill I felt when I finished the first draft in record time. 80,000 words in just under 7 weeks!



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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

What do you like to do when you are not writing?

Reading mostly, but also gaming, watching Netflix, belly dancing, and scrapbooking.

What was your dream job when you were younger?

From the age of 15, I wanted to do something scientific, so I studied a double degree in microbiology and chemistry when I first went to uni. At the time I had no idea how hard it would be to get work in this field.

What's your favourite spot to visit in your own country? And what makes it so special to you?

I love Melbourne. It is so full of culture and the public transport system is awesome. This is partly why I have based the Phoebe Braddock books there.

Who is your hero?

Anne Rice, a powerful role model for female authors and one of the great writers of magical realism and paranormal romance.

Share something your readers wouldn't know about you.

My first name, Laelia, is the name of an orchid my father used to grow.

