

K. L. Dimago Author Interview

Kellan: What are the title and genre of your book(s) PUBLISHED with Kellan. If you don't have anything yet published, say 'none'.

Dimago: *Amethyst*, a fantasy novel with paranormal and romance aspects

Kellan: What are the title and genre of your books that are GOING TO BE PUBLISHED with Kellan?

Dimago: Hopefully *Iolite*, sequel to *Amethyst*, currently in the works!

Kellan: Briefly tell us a little about yourself; where you were born, where you live, work, hobbies, married, children etc.

Dimago: I was born in Lubbock, TX where my mother taught me to write before reading. She passed away when I was eight, and so I took care of my younger siblings when we weren't in school while my dad worked. I then grew up in North Georgia and participated in group writing with friends in middle school and high school as well as going on outdoor adventures. I attended Texas Tech University for a B.A. in English (still in process). Now I live in Lubbock, TX with my husband and two boys (four, and almost two). While not working, I enjoy writing, reading, outdoor activities, singing, video games (occasionally), drawing, crochet, and watching almost anything on Netflix.

Kellan: Do you have a nickname? If so, what is it and how did you get it?

Dimago: None at the moment.

Kellan: What or who inspired you to write?

Dimago: I grew up reading Tamora Pierce and Walter Farley. Tamora was the key element in my dreams of creating my own creatures and worlds for characters. I spent much time group writing, also called roleplay in the writing communities, and over several years of developing my writing skills and ideas, I realized that writing was my passion.

Kellan: What is your favorite genre to write in, or do you have one?

Dimago: I enjoy fantasy, romance, drama, and stories of salvation (Christian).

Kellan: What is your favorite book(s) and why?

Dimago: None because to name all of them would take an eternity.

Kellan: Who is your favorite author(s) and why?

Dimago: Tamora Pierce, Walter Farley, J.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, J.K. Rowling, Stephenie Meyer, and Gaston Leroux. Tamora Pierce provided much of my inspiration to write and I have yet to read anything written by her that I did not fall in love with. Walter Farley fed into my passionate love for horses and all of their majesty. Reading the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings were some of the fondest and greatest memories of my childhood. Same goes for the Chronicles of Narnia. Later, I got into some of C.S. Lewis' more serious works, such as the Screwtape Letters, and have always greatly respected both Lewis and Tolkien. I immensely enjoy the Harry Potter books and the Twilight books and find the success stories behind Rowling and Meyer to be both amazing and inspiring. Gaston Leroux wrote the Phantom of the Opera, which is among my top favorite works of all time for the book, the movie, the plays, and everything associated.

Kellan: Who is your favorite character, out of all of the books you've written? Tell us a little about them and why they are your favorite.

Dimago: My favorite character is in a book yet unwritten, but for the book already written, it would have to be Akaisha. She is feisty, stubborn, and deeply loves the main character, Cadell, but knows their relationship will always be more like siblings than lovers. I love her because as a support character, she provides much for the main characters, but her secret story is not really told. She is a character barely recognized by the main characters, except a little by Cadell, but as the author, I am acutely aware of her story and how much she gives without expecting return.

Kellan: Do you have a special place to write, or a certain routine? Tell us about it.

Dimago: I enjoy finding a quiet table at a coffee shop, though that does not happen very often. Most writing days, I get up before anyone else, make myself a cup of coffee, put on either the Blackmill Pandora station, Thomas Bergersen's Illusions album, or a youtube playlist of movie scores, sit down on the sofa, and sink into writing mode. I also sometimes do this after putting the kids to bed, but usually I spend nights drawing or doing some other activity while watching a show or movie with the husband.

Kellan: How long have you been writing?

Dimago: Since I was about three years old.

Kellan: What other published works do you have besides with Kellan Publishing?

Dimago: None officially. I have many writings online, but I would not consider them published works but rather works as part of my writing communities.

Kellan: Have you ever based a character on a person you know? Tell us about it; who the character is, who it's based on and why you chose that person to make a character.

Dimago: Yes, several. I'll choose one. In one short story I wrote a couple years ago, I designed a character based on a coworker of mine. The character is a successful, charming businessman who is also a ladies' man. The person he is based on is much the same. A friend of mine was telling me about her romantic encounter with him and how she afterward discovered that most girls around him succumbed to his charm and fall for him quickly, but he usually seduces a girl and moves on to the next. He can't get over a past girlfriend and this must be his way of coping, she deduced. Unable to get this shocking news out of my head and also thinking that it could make for a drama filled plot, I made a character based off of this coworker.

Kellan: What inspires you for your stories?

Dimago: It depends on the story. After writing down all of the ideas for stories that I've had, I decided to divide them into two categories. Stories based off of fantasies or dreams and stories based off of real life experiences. The titles of these categories are my two main sources of inspiration.

Kellan: Okay, tell us about your secret crush (movie star, musician etc). Who is it? When did you become such a fan? Why did you become such a fan? What kind of memorabilia do you have of theirs? Have you ever met them? If so, explain how and what happened.

Dimago: Gerard Butler, hands down, is my favorite movie actor of all time and my biggest star crush. I became a fan when Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera came out and I thought Butler was the hottest thing I'd ever seen. As an enamored young girl, I researched everything I could about him and I was sold once I learned that he once saved a young boy from

drowning. I have since seen almost every movie he has acted in, whether the star or not, and I find him to not only be attractive with his heavy Scottish accent, but also a very good actor. And he can sing. I do not have any memorabilia nor have I ever met him, though it is definitely on my checklist of things to do.

Kellan: What do you do to get out of writer's block?

Dimago: If I am stuck with one story, I simply work on a different one or work on other things that are necessary other than the actual book. For example, I like drawing character designs.

Kellan: What do you want to be when you 'grow' up?

Dimago: A stay-at-home mom and published author. I want nothing more than to spend my days caring for and teaching my children and spending my free time writing books for others to enjoy.

Here is where we will talk about the book(s) you have published or will be publishing with Kellan Publishing. Be sure make a separate answer for EACH book, if you have more than one.

Kellan: Tell us about your book:

Dimago: Since I only have one completed novel so far, I will be discussing that one, Amethyst. It is a story about a woman who tries to escape her abusive past by becoming a pirate captain. Not only does this provide a way to experience freedom and escape from those who would try and find her, but it also provides a way for her to exercise control. Eventually; however, she meets someone who will cause her to change everything, Cadell. She falls in love, albeit hesitantly, and begins healing from past wounds. Eventually, tragedy befalls her and for a time she falls back in a rut. Until Cadell crosses her path again. She regains herself and finally begins to truly face her problems instead of running from them. At last, she must decide what she really wants for herself and for her future.

Kellan: What inspired you for this story?

Dimago: Originally, this story began in one of my writing communities with a friend of mine and our excitement about Pirates of the Caribbean. Over time; however, she moved on but I still wanted to make something of our ideas.

Kellan: What was the most difficult part writing this story?

Dimago: Piecing everything together. I knew where the story was going and what major parts were going to happen, but it was truly difficult to flesh parts of it out and tie the strings together for the conclusion.

Kellan: Do you plan to have any sequels for it? If so, give us a little hint what to expect.

Dimago: Yes. I plan to write a story set a few years in the future with Amethyst's daughter, Iolite, coming to hunt her down with a vengeance. It will be a story of abandonment and reconciliation.

Kellan: Why did you choose Kellan Publishing to publish your book(s)?

Dimago: I saw the article on LinkedIn looking for submissions and thought I'd go for it. After investigating a little more, I found that I really liked the message of Kellan Publishing and the fact that Kellan is open to multiple types of books, and I am excited about helping to market my book.

Kellan: What is your biggest pet peeve when reading a book and why?

Dimago: I really dislike lack of description. Whether it be of a character, a place, or a manner in which something is done. I'll admit that one of my flaws might be too much description in some places, but I want my reader to know what's going on and be able to truly visualize what they're reading.

Kellan: Would you like to make any shout outs to your fans, readers or family?

A: A big shout out to my husband for bearing with me when I was writing instead of spending time elsewhere and encouraging me to push past obstacles or giving me ideas that made me laugh when I was frustrated. Also a shout out to a few local friends who have been patiently and eagerly awaiting my book's release and supporting me through each step of the process. Finally a shout out to each of the friends of mine who have supported my writing dreams in general since long before this book was even started.

Thank you for taking the time to interview with us.