

It's no secret. Independent authors are growing in number and popularity. Krista Noorman is one to watch. Her debut novel, *The Truth About Drew* (CreateSpace), is an exciting book for teens. She answered our questions about the novel, her upcoming projects, and her life as an indie author.



***The Truth About Drew* is your debut novel. Can you tell us what inspired this book?**

About 10 years ago, I had an idea for a story about a girl with an imaginary friend—don't worry, that's not a spoiler—but I never did anything with it. After completing a novel during National Novel Writing Month '08, I decided I wasn't going to take part in that again. It was a fun experience writing a novel in 30 days, but I didn't really think I had another novel in me. A week before NaNoWriMo '09 began, I was driving my kids to school and that imaginary friend story popped into my head again. I let my mind wander, and the idea sort of changed and shifted and took me in a completely different direction. I came up with what I thought could be a really wonderful story of a young girl's journey to faith with a great twisty ending. Most

importantly, I believed that God gave me that little nudge, because it was a story He wanted me to tell.

Why do you enjoy writing YA novels?

The young adult years, especially high school, are full of so many changes, lots of ups and downs, and so many wonderful memories, so it's a great age group to write about and for. I think I will always connect strongly with that time in my life, and I hope that my young adult readers will relate with my characters and their stories.

Do you write in other genres as well?

I do. I've got lots of stories bouncing around in my head right now, some contemporary romance and even a dystopian novel that I'm excited to work on soon.

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What are some themes that readers will see in *The Truth About Drew*?

There are so many themes in *The Truth About Drew* that many will connect with, including the strong bonds of family and friendship, first love, teenage peer pressure, repentance, forgiveness and the journey to faith in God.

Since you are an independent author you have walked a different path towards publishing. What advice would you give to anyone considering self-publishing?

I would definitely encourage any author who wants to publish independently to do their research, have many people you trust read your manuscript and give you feedback, and hire an editor and cover designer if you are not skilled in those areas. Take your time to make it the best book it can be. There are many online resources to help you.

Read all you can about the process.

It took me five years to decide (and get up the nerve) to go forward with self-publishing my first novel, but I strongly believed that this little book needed to be shared instead of hidden on my computer. Self-publishing is a lot of work, between the writing, editing, formatting, proofing, and marketing, but for me, it's been a very fulfilling experience.

Do you currently have any projects in the works?

I'm very excited about my next novel, a contemporary romance called *Goodbye, Magnolia*, that will be released on May 19, 2015. It's a sweet story about a wedding photographer who hasn't been so lucky in love, and her story of letting go of past hurts and learning to trust again.



THE TRUTH ABOUT DREW
Krista Noorman
CreateSpace