

An Interview...

with Annie Douglass Lima

1. How old are you?

I'm 38.

2. Favorite genre to read?

YA fantasy

3. What is your favorite book?

I have too many to count! One of my favorite series, though is the *Tales of Goldstone Wood* by Anne Elisabeth Stengl. They're awesome!

4. What are you currently reading?

The Moonglow Café, by Deborah Garner. It's a mystery – not my usual genre, but I'm quite enjoying it.

5. What are you doing in Taiwan?

I teach 5th grade in an international school, Morrison Academy. This is my 10th year here, and I LOVE it!

6. Why did you decide to have all proceeds go to translating the Bible?

I just felt that was what God wanted me to do. It didn't seem right to keep the proceeds from this one – after all, I didn't actually *write* the book. ☺ I'm friends with a missionary family who are translating the Bible for a particular ethnic group in a nearby country, and it's been wonderful hearing about what God has been doing through them in the lives of these people who had never heard His word before. The idea that I can play a small part in that ministry by donating the proceeds from this coloring book is thrilling to me! Besides, the book is all about God's word, so it seemed appropriate for it to be used to bring God's word into people's lives in more ways than one.

7. Where'd you get the idea for the coloring book - it isn't what you normally publish?

A few months ago, one of my colleagues was leading us teachers in staff devotions before work (as a Christian school, we do that twice a week). As a part of her message, she handed out markers, colored pencils, and little slips of paper on which she had printed the Bible verse she was talking about. It was written in several different fun "outline fonts", and she turned on some music and suggested we spend the last few minutes meditating on the words as we colored them in. It was so much fun, and as she mentioned, coloring the words really made them stand out in my mind. The activity wasn't even over before I thought, *Someone should make a whole*

coloring book like this! People would love it, and it's such a good way to really think about each word and phrase! And so I decided to be the one to do it.

8. Is this only for a limited time?

Nope, *Hide it In Your Heart* will be out there indefinitely, with all the proceeds continuing to go toward the Bible translation project.

9. If you could say only one thing about this project, what would it be?

The process of creating each colorable verse really made me focus on its meaning as I tried to choose fonts and sizes that would appropriately emphasize every word and phrase. I pray that as people color those words and phrases, God will likewise use the process to make His message sink into their hearts in ways that it otherwise might not.

10. Have you won any awards?

Two of my books (*Prince of Malorn* and *The Collar and the Cavvarach*) won my school's "Tu Shu Award" (voted on by students). ☺ Pictures attached. *Prince of Malorn* has also won a 5-star Reader's Choice Award.

11. Do you keep the proceeds from your other books?

Every year I put together an anthology of my students' poetry, and the students get to vote on a worthy cause to donate the proceeds to from that. But for my own books, for the most part, I do keep the proceeds. However, I usually choose a missionary or Christian organization to donate the first couple months' of royalties to when each new book is published.

12. What is your greatest dream/goal?

For God to use me to help fulfill the Great Commission and bring more people to His kingdom.

13. What is your greatest fear?

I suppose it's that I'll lose sight of that in pride over my own accomplishments or in my enjoyment of the blessings God has put in my life.

14. Having experienced everything you have - traveling, becoming a published author, marriage - what is one thing you would say to a younger version of yourself?

In everything you do, ask yourself if you're bringing glory to God or just doing it for yourself. Nothing will end up being as fun or fulfilling as you think, if you aren't doing it for the Lord.

15. What piece of advice do you have for someone just entering the self-publishing community?

Find a good community of authors to be a part of. Clean Indie Reads and other Facebook groups have made SUCH a difference to me! Nothing can compare to the support, encouragement, connections, and practical help that you can both receive and give through groups like that.

16. What genre do you normally write? Tell us one of your books to look up!

Most of my books are young adult action and adventure. The Annals of Alasia series are also fantasy, and the Krillonian Chronicles are a sort of alternate reality. (They're set in a world almost exactly like ours, with just a few key differences – for example, slavery is legal.)

If you prefer fantasy, I recommend [*Prince of Malorn*](#). (Prince Korram is heir to the throne of Malorn, but Regent Rampus is determined to stay in power at all costs. Korram treks into the Impassable Mountains to try to recruit allies from among the one segment of Malornian society not under Rampus's control. But can he lead a band of untrained hunters and gatherers to victory, or will they all be crushed before the prince can claim his crown?)

If the alternate reality ones sound intriguing, I believe my best book yet is [*The Collar and the Cavvarach*](#). (Bensin, a teenage slave and martial artist, is desperate to see his little sister freed. But only victory in the Krillonian Empire's most prestigious tournament will allow him to secretly arrange for Ellie's escape. As danger closes in, can Bensin save Ellie from a life of slavery and abuse?)

17. What did you do in Kenya?

My parents were missionaries there. I lived there from age 3 to 17 (minus a few furloughs). Talk about a WONDERFUL place to grow up! I still miss Kenya.

18. Where can people buy your coloring and activity book?

Hide it In Your Heart is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1537310771>, or if you're anywhere other than in the US, you can access it in your own country's Amazon store at <http://smarturl.it/hideit>. It costs \$8.99, BUT, you can get it at a 15% discount if you go to <https://wwwcreatespace.com/6265769> and use coupon code **JZBVVBH8**. Because CreateSpace gives higher royalties than Amazon, the latter option will actually result in more money going to the Bible translation project, even after the discount. Win win!

19. Give me contact/social media links!

Email: AnnieDouglassLima@gmail.com

Blog: <http://anniedouglasslima.blogspot.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnnieDouglassLimaAuthor>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/princeofalasia>

Goodreads: <http://bit.ly/ADLimaOnGoodreads>

Google+: <http://bit.ly/ADLimaOnGooglePlus>

Amazon Author Page: <http://bit.ly/AnnieDouglassLimaOnAmazon>

Smashwords: <https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/AnnieDouglassLima>

Sign up for my mailing list and receive a free copy of a book of “interviews” with characters from my fantasy series: <http://bit.ly/LimaUpdates>