

# WRITERS

GUILD

OCTOBER 31, 2026

HINTS &

BITES

10 WAYS TO HELP  
IMPROVE GRAMMER

FALL

FANTASY LIST

TOP 100 FANTASY  
BOOKS OF THE YEAR

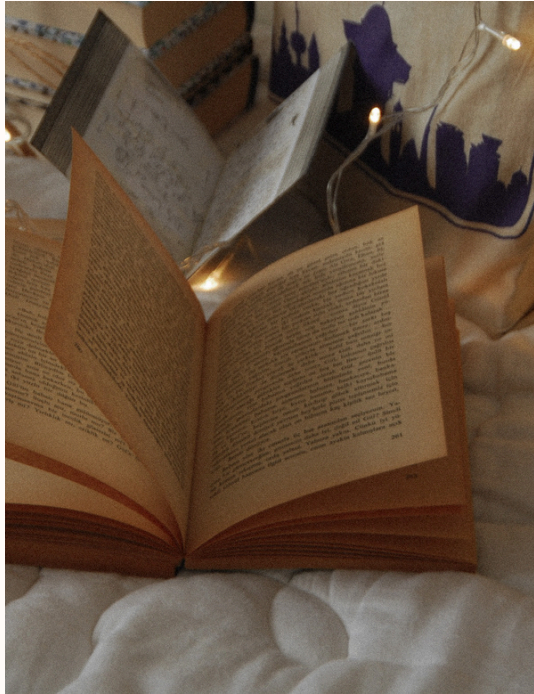
MEGAN  
VANDERMEER

Emerging Fantasy  
Author Writes  
Number One Story!



ISSUE 100

*Emerging Author wins prize for best startup fantasy series.*



## *A Talk With Fantasy*

Award winning startup fantasy author, Megan VanderMeer, sits down and answers some questions for us. We enjoyed getting to know the new author and hope our fellow readers come to see her as funny and down to earth as we do. We started off simple with our questions to get to know the new author.

### **When did you know what you wanted out of your career?**

Oh that's a good question! Honestly it took me a while to really figure out what I wanted to do, you know? But I think deep down I always knew I wanted to publish fantasy books. I mean they helped me get through some dark times and I was hoping I could do the same for others.

### **What's your creative or strategic process?**

I don't really have a strategic or creative process. Unless of course you consider listening to music to fit the mood I write in or creating Pinterest boards for my mood board and storyboard?

### **What's one soft skill you leverage in your work?**

A soft skill I leverage in my work is my empathy. I have always been an empathetic person and I've noticed it's helped me with my writing a lot. I'm able to get inside the heads of my characters and write them to connect with the readers.

### **Do you draw from real-world mythology, history, or cultures when building your world?**

I pull quite a bit from real-world material for my stories. I took a class in college that helped me refine my research skills for this exact reason, and learn how to incorporate them into my stories more effectively.

### **What themes do you find yourself returning to in your fantasy stories?**

What themes do I find myself returning to? For me, it typically is found family, because you can choose your family, no matter what others say. I also always try to have my characters be morally grey because the world is never just black and white; it is simply shades of grey.

### **Our last question: Which authors or books had the most significant influence on your writing?**

This is always a tricky question to answer! But I greatly enjoyed Harry Potter as a kid. I also enjoyed anything by Rick Riordan. They were the two most significant influences on me.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know this young new author, just like we here at the Writer's Guild have.