

Danika K. Stone

AUTHOR PRESS KIT



ABOUT THE AUTHOR (Short Bio)

Danika Stone is an author, artist, and educator who discovered a passion for writing fiction while in the throes of her Masters thesis. A self-declared bibliophile, Danika now writes novels for both teens: [*Switchback*](#) (Macmillan, 2019), [*Internet Famous*](#) (Macmillan, 2017) and [*All the Feels*](#) (Macmillan, 2016); and adults: [*Inescapable*](#) (Stonehouse, 2023), [*Edge Of Wild*](#) (Stonehouse, 2016), [*The Dark Divide*](#) (Stonehouse, 2018) and [*Fall of Night*](#) (Stonehouse, 2020).



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Switchback was selected as one of the “[*best YA books of 2019*](#)” by The Canadian Children’s Book Center and featured as a “Top 10 YA for Everyone” in [*Canadian Living Magazine*](#). Her Waterton mystery series was selected by [*Chapters*](#) for their “Our Favourite Canadian Fiction” category.

When not writing, Danika can be found hiking in the Rockies, planning grand adventures, and spending far too much time online. She lives with her family and a houseful of imaginary characters in a windy corner of Alberta, Canada.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR (Full Bio)

Danika Stone is a multi-genre author who writes strong female narratives. A technology educator by trade, Ms. Stone's writing includes YA, contemporary fiction, and mystery. In the last ten years Ms. Stone has tailored her career to the ever-evolving landscape of modern publishing. She has worked as a freelance journalist, spearheaded an indie press, published a mystery series with a literary press, and written a series of young adult novels for Macmillan.

Her YA novels are technology-focused and engage readers with their multi-media format. In *Switchback*, a die-hard RPG gamer and his best friend are lost in the Canadian Rockies and must use their skills to survive. *All the Feels*



Photograph © Holly West, Macmillan

NEW YORK COMIC CON OCTOBER 5-8, 2017™

Geeky YA FTW: Stories of Cons, Cosplay and Crushes

October 08, 2017, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

1A18

Whether it's obsessing over finding the perfect chafe-free Spidey costume or the Han to your Leia, teen geek life is rife with complications—be they of the fan forum or IRL variety. YA authors Sarvenaz Tash (THE GEEK'S GUIDE TO UNREQUITTED LOVE), Brian Katcher (THE IMPROBABLE THEORY OF ANA & ZAK), Danika Stone (ALL THE FEELS), Laurent Linn (DRAW THE LINE) and Lily Anderson (THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN ME IS YOU) discuss how their own die-hard geekdom inspired their fictional fanboys and girls. Moderated by booktuber Kristin Hackett (@superspacechick).

Speakers: Sarvenaz Tash, Brian Katcher, Danika Stone, Laurent Linn, Lily Anderson

Books featured: THE GEEK'S GUIDE TO UNREQUITTED LOVE, THE IMPROBABLE THEORY OF ANA & ZAK, All the Feels, DRAW THE LINE, THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN ME IS YOU

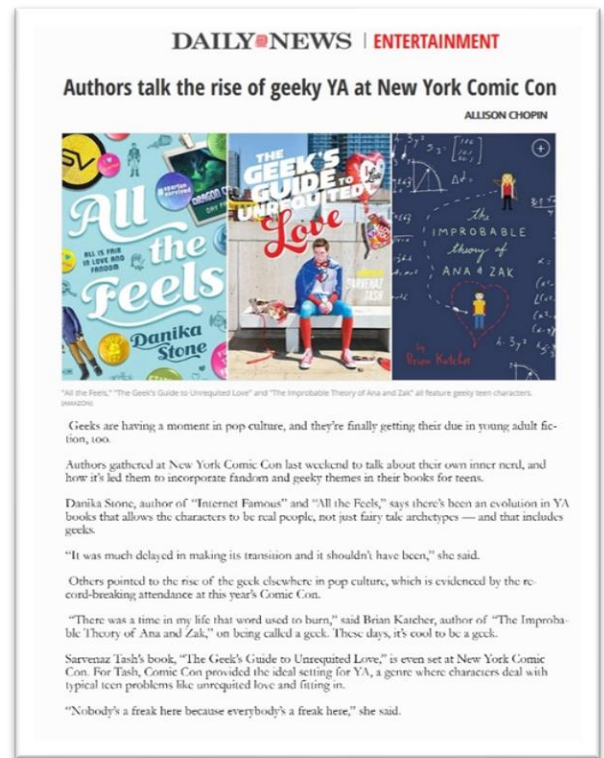
celebrates the impact of fandom on a dwindling movie franchise when a fan initiates an online movement to bring her favorite character back from the dead. *Internet Famous* follows a blogger forced to confront an online troll determined to destroy her life.

Ms. Stone's writing has received recognition and literary praise. *Edge of Wild* (previously entitled *Tathagata*) was a quarter-finalist in Amazon's Breakthrough Novel of the Year Award (2013), a finalist in the Horatio Nelson Fiction Prize (2015), and took second place in the Publish or Perish contest (2015). *All the Feels* was selected for Swoon Reads' fourth list (2015) and was nominated for YALSA's Quick Picks for

Reluctant Readers (2016), and for CYBILS' Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards (2016).

Edge of Wild was included in Chapter Indigo's "Our Favourite Canadian Fiction". It also made the Crazy for Canlit longlist for the Giller Prize. *Internet Famous* was selected as one of Fierce Reads' "9 Perfect Summertime Reads" (2017) and it also received a coveted "Highly Recommended" ranking from CM Magazine. In 2018, Ms. Stone was nominated for the R. Ross Annett award for Excellence in Writing by an Alberta author and her second mystery title, *The Dark Divide*, was nominated for the High Plains Book Award. *Fall of Night*, the last book in the Waterton series, was nominated for The Banff Mountain Books Award, The Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, and The Scotiabank Gillar Prize. *Inescapable*, a critically-acclaimed exploration of grief, reached the Edmonton bestseller's list for June 2023, and was described by author Christopher Beuhlman as "an engaging supernatural romance with credible characters and a nuanced grasp of grief and its complexities".

Switchback was praised for its portrayal of an aroace teen. It made Publishers' Marketplace's "Buzz Books", Barnes & Noble's "35 Most Anticipated LGBTQAP YA Books", 49th Shelf's



"2019 Books for Young Readers Review" and A Thousand Worlds' "Most Anticipated LGBTQ Books of 2019".

Ms. Stone's books have been reviewed by VOYA, CM Magazine, Teen Reads, and School Library

Journal. Danika has been featured in the BN Teen Blog, Fierce Reads, Clash, Quillable, The Lethbridge Herald, Lethbridge Living Magazine, The New York Daily News, CJSR Word, and on CBC Daybreak. Ms. Stone has a strong online following in the cosplay and comic con communities. She has shared her writing journey at Dragon Con, San Diego Comic Con, and New York Comic Con, as well as various smaller venues.

When not writing, Ms. Stone enjoys hiking, painting, and travelling. She lives in a windy corner of Alberta, Canada, with her three sons, her husband, and a houseful of imaginary characters.

SAMPLE Q & A

Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? What do you do besides write?

I'm a multi-genre writer with a passion for unique stories. Although writing 'different' novels can make it tricky to get them into the right hands, I've been incredibly lucky in being able to write what I want and make a living at it.

Personality-wise, I'm best described as an extraverted introvert, meaning I spend almost all my 'socializing' time online. I keep my Clark Kent life (as a technology teacher) and my Superman life (as a writer) separate. I was born and raised in Western Canada, close to the mountains, and although I've lived in a number of different cities, I'm now settled close enough to the Rockies that I can spend my weekends at our family's cabin in Waterton. If you live in Lethbridge, you've probably seen me drinking coffee at Tim Hortons (while I plot my next novel), or hiking the coulees with my husband and three sons.



Photograph © Cirrus Stone

How long have you been writing? How did you get into writing?

I have been writing as long as I can remember. I recall being two or three and learning to make the letters of the alphabet. I wrote a bunch of random letters on the back of an envelope and asked my father to read it to me. I recall him saying “but it doesn’t actually say anything.” I was so disappointed, because in my mind, there was an entire story caught up in those scribbles.

When I was little, my writing was mostly snippets, journal entries, or poetry, but as I got older, it expanded into short stories and then longer fiction. My most productive writing period was in university. In one very prolific eighteen months, I wrote approximately a million words! (I remind myself of that when editing slows my words down to a trickle.)

What is your writing process?

- Think about the story I’d like to tell.
- Consider which characters would tell that story.
- Do a bit of pre-writing (to get their voices down pat.)
- Make a point-form list of plot points using a three act structure.
- Write like hell for two months. Lose all my friends. Never do laundry.
- Put it away and forget about it for another month.
- Reread the manuscript and tear it to shreds. Rewrite it. Hate everything about it.
- Send the revised copy to my beta-readers for feedback.
- Rewrite anything that more than two readers have mentioned.
- Send the first draft off to my editor. Tada!

What’s most challenging about the writing process? What’s the easiest?

I’m a first drafter, through and through. While I can edit—very well, actually—it never has the same excitement that I get when I’m writing a first draft and the words are coming so fast I can barely keep up with them. In a perfect world, I’d *never* have to edit.

Not surprisingly, I find editing the hardest. I'd rather write ten first drafts than a single polished manuscript. For me, the only way to get through it is to make a list of edits and force myself to do one each day. (This requires a lot of self-rewarding!)

What's the biggest difference between writing teen books and adult books?

At its heart, a good story is a good story, so I have to say that for the most part teen and adult writing have more similarities than differences. Having said that, they have different audiences. That matters.

I have the same writing process, but I keep my audience in mind as I write. Since I teach at a high school, I often ask myself if I'd be comfortable with my students reading what I've written. *Edge of Wild* and *The Dark Divide* (Stonehouse, 2016 and 2018) include a number of violent murders. That's obviously not okay for my students! But *All the Feels*, *Internet Famous* and *Switchback* (Macmillan, 2016, 2017 and 2019) are definitely teen-friendly and appeal to both boys and girls. I am thrilled whenever I hear that one of my students has read my books.

What things, other than writing, do you do for fun?

I grew up in the mountains and I love being outdoors. Taking long walks or hiking is when I get my best ideas for books. Beyond that, I'm also an artist, and love to paint. It's a completely different way to express oneself, but I find the same kind of escape I get from writing. Creative flow is my addiction!



Photograph © Cirrus Stone

PRESENTATIONS & SCHOOL VISITS

I love meeting my readers! If you'd like to arrange a presentation or school visit, contact me directly. Costs include travel, hotel room and a stipend of \$250 (for presentations with less than 50 people in attendance), \$500 (for 50 to 99 attendees), and \$750 (for 100 people and up). Presentations generally last one hour with a book signing to follow.

For teachers, if a physical visit to your school isn't feasible, I'm always happy to arrange a Skype talk with your students at no cost. These digital visits generally last 20 to 30 minutes. Email me to set one up!



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"We invited Danika Stone to come and speak to our writing group about her writing process. The talk was informative, insightful and most of all - inspiring. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed having her join us for the night."

Leslie Johnson, Leader for the River Bottom Writers

"[Ms. Stone's] book was well received by our book club... We also spoke with Danika Stone through Skype and had a great experience! She was more than willing to answer student questions about the book and her writing process."

Gross High School Media representative

"Danika Stone is an engaging and insightful writer, whose interest and support of other writers is genuine and deeply impactful. She is a gifted speaker and was a godsend of a panelist at WordBridge: Lethbridge Writing Conference in 2019. We look forward to working with her in the future."

Alicia Visser, WordBridge Coordinator



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Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/authordstone/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/danika_k_stone/

Fandom-focused Tumblr: <http://cylonqueen.tumblr.com/>

Writer-focused Tumblr: <http://danikastone.tumblr.com/>

PURCHASE BOOKS BY DANIKA STONE

Macmillan: <http://tinyurl.com/DanikaStoneMacmillan>

Stonehouse: <https://www.stonehousepublishing.ca/>

Amazon: <http://tinyurl.com/DanikaStoneAmazon>

Raincoast Books (Canadian Distribution): <http://tinyurl.com/DanikaStoneRaincoast>