



Meet Author Alyce Joy



Alyce Joy was blessed with four children for whom she composed bedtime verses every night. That inspired her to publish a children's book of prayers, entitled, "Priceless Gems." When her children were grown, she began to write stories for her grandchildren.

Always fascinated with arts and crafts, she taught herself the art of pyrography. This fired her imagination, and she started burning life-sized pictures of wildlife onto all the doors of her home. Her wood burnings are scattered through the U.S. and Canada.

After deciding to put away her burning tools and torches, she enrolled in, and graduated from the Institute of Children's Literature.

Alyce Joy hopes every child who reads her stories will look forward to each new adventure, as her favorite fairy becomes entangled into many, outrageous happenstances.

Please share your bio with us and anything else you would like readers to know.

I know I've always been creative. If I didn't have something the other children had to play with, I made my own version and played with that. We didn't have a play-house, so dad got us some huge boxes and we made our own playhouse. I had two baby siblings when I was 13 yrs old. I started baby sitting for friends and neighbors when I was that age also. I was telling stories for children way before then. When I married, and had children, I made up verses for them while getting them ready for bed. When my grand children came along, I wrote them stories. They all got on me about writing a book.

Can you share some writing experiences with us?

One summer evening, I was trying to write about our four and five year olds, running away to live in the school bus shed at the top of our driveway. Someone

knocked at the door. It was one of our campers. She asked if they could borrow a roll of toilet tissue. I said, "of course." I gave it to her and she said, "watch out the window, the natives are getting restless." It had been a rainy cold day.

The next thing I knew, she had them all lining up in single file, adults and kids. They passed the roll of toilet paper over their shoulders and started walking around the dam of our lake, singing songs. No one broke the tissue as they tromped around the park. It was hilarious. I had to write about it.

Tell us briefly about your book and what you feel is the most important topic/sub-message you share.

My book *KA-BOOM!* is about a little fairy that runs into trouble quite often. She has a shoe fetish, but is one of the queens favorites because, in the end she gets the job done.

Sprout meets Taylor. Taylor doesn't trust Sprout because the fairy blew up Taylor's dollhouse. Sprout doesn't give up. She and Taylor finally become friends. Sprout shrinks Taylor and together they have a fantastic adventure. Taylor never thought she would be talking to Sir Leapsalot, let alone ride on his back, hopping lily pads. The message? Never give up.

Please describe to us your relationship between you and your editor. What makes an author/editor relationship a success?

My editor, Virginia, is so kind and helpful above and beyond the call of duty. By not knowing my computer well, I have had some eloquent scenes at this desk. Virginia made it better. I try to make all my deadlines. I'm sure that is a help to her. I'd say trust.

What inspired you to write?

I had to write a story in 6th grade. The class turned it into a play, which was put on at the school and

also at a local church. It was a success and I was smitten.

Do you consider yourself a born writer?

I think people are born with talents. My mother's brother was an excellent artist. My father's sister was very well known for her artistic abilities. None of us had any training. I'm not sure if there are any other writers in the family, except for my brother, Kelly. He is a very good writer of historical mysteries or thrillers. They are novels. I'm very proud of him. He is also an excellent artist. My sister, Sandy, paints on porcelain. She painted mugs for me with wild life on them. I'm very proud of her work also. Yes! We are born writers and artists in this family.

Have you had any training to become a writer?

Yes, I decided that if I was going to be an author I had better learn the right way to put my thoughts on paper. I took a course at the Children's Institute of Literature. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

It has been my experience, some things come quite easily (like creating the setting) and other things aren't so easy (like deciding on a title). What comes easily to you and what do you find more difficult?

I become very close to my characters, even the bad ones sometimes. I want to be fair with them all. I try to give them all good scenes and parts. That isn't always easy to do. Titles have to carry a punch. You have to give your punch lines and actions to the right characters. Study them and they will steer you in the right direction.

Like all authors, you have had your fair share of rejection letters. You obviously did not let the letters deter you. How did you keep your determination without getting discouraged?

Oh, I got discouraged, but I marched to my writing space (the loft) and wrote another story, or another episode of a story already written.

Who is your favorite author and what is your favorite genre to read?

I don't have a favorite author. One of my favorites is Agatha Christie. I like tasteful murder mysteries, if there is such a thing. No blood and guts stuff and no gangland cruelty. I also like humorous books.

Does your family and friends inspire any of your books, characters, or plots?

Yes, I have a grandson Eddie, who inspired me a lot. He was a perfect specimen for some stories. I burned a picture of an Indian girl by a pond holding a fawn. I used my 12 year old granddaughter to pose for her. I widened her nose and cheekbones for the picture but it was her eyes I wanted to capture. I was showing the picture at a sportsman show where my husband had a booth. A man kept coming to the booth to buy the picture, which was not for sale. I kept telling him no, I finally asked him why he wanted to buy the picture, he said he couldn't stop looking at her eyes. Wow! I told him her name is Doe Eyes.

What do you like most about writing?

Writing relaxes me. It also gives me, a chance to see what I can do with the ideas I come up with. When I write, one idea can lead into more episodes. It amazes me when these ideas turn into stories. I keep a notebook and pen on my bed stand, I never know when an idea may pop up.

Do you find it hard to balance your personal writing time with your other job(s)?

My husband helps me when I am writing. It is true a lot of things wait while I write. I have to be sure to keep up my laundry, because he has a tendency to pile the laundry in the basket or hanging up or folding. He is a good cook and bottle washer when I need him, so I don't complain. It's been 54 years and he keeps getting mellower.

Tell us about your writing space.

I used to write in the loft, but since I have been published I knew I had to get away from the stairs. I had a studio on the main floor where I did my wood burnings and paintings. I had not used it in years. I called my boys to move my stuff and so we gutted the studio. I gave the tables and shelves to them and my art supplies to the local grade school. After I cleaned the room we moved all my writing supplies, computer and files, down from the loft. I moved an antique library table into the room for my desk. I have an antique black wicker chair with tapestry upholstering next to an antique stand. Then I took a bunch of prints of wild animals that I had burned on wood, and made a collage on the wall behind the sink and cupboards.

The sink was there for my wood burning, as a safety precaution. When I was finished, I put a large vase of flowers in the sink. I like it!

Is there anything you'd go back and do differently now that you have been published, in regards to your writing career?

Yes, be much more organized.

Do you do first drafts on a computer or by hand?

I always do it by hand. I've been forced by my family and Halo Publishing, kicking and screaming into modern technology. Believe me my heart stopped more than once learning this new tech. And probably will again.

What is your creative process like? What happens before sitting down to write?

When I go to my office, I have the feeling pleasure. I read the last chapter I wrote and that is all I need. I am ready, my mind is already working on the next chapter.

Do you have any book signings, tours or special events planned to promote your book that readers might be interested in attending? If so, when and where?

I have a daughter, friends and granddaughters getting me setup for visits to Elementary Schools, when school resumes this fall.

The World of Ink Network & Halo Publishing, Int. is touring my fantasy adventure children's chapter book, *Ka-Boom!* throughout August 2012. You can find out more about my World of Ink Author/Book Tour at <http://tinyurl.com/8q5vw74>

Book Signings:

Sept. 8, 2012 3-5PM United Methodist Church,
Copley, Ohio, on Cleveland Massillon Road

Oct. 13, 2012 9AM – 3PM Johnson's Corners United
Methodist Church, on Johnson Road, Barberton, Ohio

Anything you want your readers to know?

You can purchase my books on the following websites:

Amazon.com
Halopublishing.com
B&n.com



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Sprout meets a little girl named Taylor after blowing up Taylor's dollhouse. Sprout doesn't give up trying to get Taylor to trust her. She and Taylor finally become friends after Sprout shrinks Taylor and together they have a fantastic adventure. Taylor never thought she would be talking to Sir Leapsalot, let alone ride on his back and hopping lily pads. The message? Never give up.

Title: *KA-BOOM!*

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Fantasy Adventure

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Get a sneak peek of the book at <http://youtu.be/Hq9sfmzH0-w>

Available wherever books are sold and online.