



**Do you write under a pseudonym?**

No. Why or Why not? I've worked hard to write and ultimately find a publisher for my novel. I want everyone to know that my determination paid off, and I made my publishing dream a reality.

**What is the name of your latest book, and what's it about?**

*Dead Like Me*. Homicide Detective Kate Springer is on edge after a two-week mandatory leave due to an officer involved shooting. Her first case back, she's blindsided when she discovers she shares a link with Tampa's newest murder victim. A troubled teen found strangled and dumped in a remote part of town. The bond between them threatens to expose Detective Springer's past—a past she's been hell bent on keeping secret. When the killer finally emerges from the shadows, Kate's secrets aren't the only thing on the line. So is her life.

**What genre/s does your latest book fall under?**

Mystery/Suspense

**What website and/or social networks can people use to keep up with you?**

Website: <http://www.kellymillerauthor.com>

Blog: <http://apps.kellymillerauthor.com/blog>

Facebook Fan Page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Kelly-Miller/218746298149725>

Twitter: @MillerMystery

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/ksmill7/>

Goodreads: [www.goodreads.com/KellyMillerMysterries](http://www.goodreads.com/KellyMillerMysterries)

**If you could say anything to your current and future readers, what would it be?**

No matter what your dream may be, never give up on it. I'd always wanted to be a writer but somewhere along the way, I lost my voice. I "grew up", got married, had three children, and adopted a Black Labrador. It was only in my search for my own identity after staying at home with the kids that ultimately lead me back to my love of writing. It was extremely difficult finding time to write my first novel and even harder trying to find a publisher once it was finished. But I never gave up. Through all the rejection and all the low points, I kept imagining what it would feel like holding the novel that displayed my name on it. So never give up.

**Where can readers buy your books?**

Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Dead-Like-Me-Kelly-Miller/dp/1612961509/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1356883793&sr=8-1&keywords=dead+like+me+kelly+miller](http://www.amazon.com/Dead-Like-Me-Kelly-Miller/dp/1612961509/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1356883793&sr=8-1&keywords=dead+like+me+kelly+miller)

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/dead-like-me-frederic-p-miller/1104601569?ean=9781612961507>

Black Rose Writing: <http://stores.blackrosewritingbooks.com/-strse-297/Dead-Like-Me-by/Detail.bok>

**Are you a trained writer (degreed) or a natural?**

I have my college degree in marketing with a minor in communications, but I've always loved to write. I even wrote back cover book copy for other authors at a sports and fitness publishing company . . . a long, long time ago. Though not formally trained in writing, I feel like I've been researching the mystery and suspense genres for years. As a voracious reader, I've devoured the written words of best-selling authors, studying their sentence structure, word choice, pacing. All the details that make a good story great.

**What point of view do you typically write from and why?**

For my debut novel, I chose first person point of view. I really wanted to let readers get into the head of my protagonist, Detective Kate Springer. This was her story. I wanted to show what made her tick. Without knowing her thoughts, knowing what she'd lived through, on the surface some of the choices she made would have seemed illogical.

**What if anything is your worst quality as a writer?**

Ironically enough, marketing copy. Even though I'd done it professionally, writing it for your own work is a whole other story. It's extremely difficult to narrow down a 252 page novel into a few descriptive yet intriguing sentences.

**What is the best reviewer comment or compliment you've received about this book to date?**

When I was querying agents and publishers, I had an acquisitions editor who requested to read the first three chapters of *Dead Like Me*. To finally get some interest in my manuscript already had me over the moon but the words she wrote back in her email had me beaming for days afterwards. She had loved what she'd read and told me my writing voice reminded her of Sue Grafton's. What a compliment!

**What has been your biggest challenge to overcome as a writer?**

Not taking critiques and rejection personally. In the early days of trying to sell my book, I wasn't getting much interest. I decided to join a critique group to get some much needed feedback on the problem areas of my story. You can't imagine how difficult it is to sit across from someone who's explaining why the dialogue you wrote is flat and word choice weak. Even when the comments are given from a place of love and desire to help you make the work better, it's still a hard pill to swallow. To get through it, I would remind myself that they were critiquing my work, not me.

**What has been your most exciting moment as an author?**

I have to pick one? That's like asking me to pick my favorite candy bar. If forced to answer, I guess I'd have to say the moment I opened the box containing my printed books. Holding my first novel in my hand, touching the cover, running my fingers over my name was very gratifying. You couldn't have wiped the smile off my face if you tried. But I have to say, I'm still waiting to see what it feels like when I walk into a bookstore and see my title sitting on the shelf. Can't wait for that one.

**Is there anyone/group you would definitely not want to read your book and why?**

Children. This book is intended for adults only. I don't use foul language or include graphic scenes in my novel; however the story deals with the serious topic of childhood sexual abuse. I wouldn't feel comfortable letting my eleven-year-old read the book, and I wouldn't want yours to either.

**What is the most negative thing ever said to you that you've turned to a positive?**

Again in the early days when I was querying agents and publishers, I got a one sentence rejection letter that caused the air in my lungs to catch. It said, "We are looking for exceptional writing, and I'm afraid yours is not." Ouch! So what did I do with that? I allowed myself to mope over it for about a week. Then I put on the attitude that I would show them! I took steps to figure out what was wrong with my novel, fixed it, and ultimately ended up winning a writing award for the unpublished manuscript of *Dead Like Me*. Complete vindication.

Book Review Talk thanks you very much for this interview and encourages our followers to be sure to connect with author Kelly Miller via social networking, purchase her latest book *Dead Like Me* and follow us on twitter, facebook and wordpress for more BRT news!