



The 7 Question Interview with Ivy Pochoda

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Ivy Pochoda is a debut novelist. She grew up in Brooklyn, New York in a house filled with books. In high school she fell in love with playwriting, poetry, and classical languages. She attended Harvard University, where she studied classical Greek. In 1999, she moved to Amsterdam, where she got lost for six years among the narrow streets and misleading canals. While there, she worked a number of different jobs and began to write *The Art of Disappearing*. She was the writer in residence at the James Merrill House in Stonington, Connecticut from February to August 2009. Her debut novel is:

- *The Art of Disappearing*

Please visit her official website: <http://www.ivypochoda.com>

The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

Please let us know who you are and how we might know you:

My name Ivy Pochoda. I am novelist from Brooklyn, NY. My first novel "The Art of Disappearing" will be published by St. Martin's Press on September 15, 2009.

Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

Clearly, my book release is the biggest thing I've got going at the moment. I'm reading in New York, Connecticut, Boston, Vermont, Ann Arbor, and Chicago. So, if you want to check it out, consult my website www.ivypochoda.com

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

People are still reading and writing which will always be the case. I think that literary endeavor gets lost in all the other media white noise, but that doesn't mean it has diminished or gone away. I think that literary culture has in many ways gone viral. There are so many social networking sites, Librarything, Goodreads, WeRead, Shelfari,



that are testament to the amount of readers and consumers of books out there. I'm not as discouraged as most people are about the state of the literary world, but then again, I can't afford to be. That said, there is no shortage of recently published books that I've been thrilled to read. People are still writing amazing works of literature and as long as that is the case, others will read what has been written.

Who is your favorite author and why?

There are many authors whom I love but can not imagine writing like—Henry James, Don DeLillo, Edith Wharton, Dickens, Tolstoy. There are few that I imagine, quite foolishly most likely, I might be able to emulate in some way in my own writing. I've always been thrilled by the work of Haruki Murakami. His ability to blend fantasy with impeccable details of the everyday astounds me. His books are both out of this world, quite literally, and mired in the passion and heartbreak of the everyday.

Have you written a book you love that you have not been able to publish?

Well, I haven't been able to sell my young adult novel that is based on my experiences on the Harvard Varsity Squash Team. It'll happen.

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

Read early and read often.

How do you feel about what WritingRaw.com and other literary sharing sites are attempting to do for new writers?

I think that this is a great forum. As I said before, writing culture has gone viral and digital. The internet, especially sites such as this, are essential to promulgating continued interest in books. It is such an amazing development that now, more than ever, writers are able to reach out to their readers and vice versa. Never has there been this amount of access and dialogue. I'm thrilled to be a part of it.

WritingRaw.com would like to thank Ivy Pochoda for taking the time out of her busy schedule for this interview.