

## The 7 Question Interview with Skyler White



Skyler White is the author of dark fantasy novels and *Falling, Fly* (Berkley, March 2010) and *In Dreams Begin* (Berkley, December 2010). The child of two college professors, she grew up in an environment of scholarship and academic rigor, so naturally left high school to pursue a career in ballet. She has a master's degree in theater and work experience in advertising, won awards as a stage director and appeared on reality TV. She's mother to a tall red-headed athlete and a short blond Lego master, and married to a Mohawk-wearing inventor, and they all live in Texas. She wrote *Falling* because she wanted to tangle with Desire – with what it means to want and not get, with what turns desire into craving or addiction, and what takes it away. Her research ranged from feminist accounts of female sexuality to scientific abstracts on the neurochemistry of attraction. Writing changed the way she thought about herself, her body, and her brain.

Some of her novels are:

- *and Falling, Fly*
- *In Dreams Begin*

Her official website can be accessed here: <http://www.skylerwhite.com>

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## The WritingRaw.com 7 Question Interview

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

I'm a debut author with my first book coming out this month. 'and Falling, Fly' tells the story of Olivia, the fallen angel of desire and a vampire, and Dominic, a self-medicating neuroscientist. Olivia, depressed by her realization that everyone you don't love tastes the same, returns to the Hotel of the Damned in Ireland. There she meets Dominic, a radical neurochemist whose research is fueled by his attempts to cure secret, inexplicable flashbacks to things that happened before he was born. He tries to enroll Olivia in his research study. She says medicine can't cure mythology, and that his "seizures" are memories of past incarnations, which is completely unacceptable to him as a scientist, even if it would actually explain what he's been experiencing.



Any news you would like to share concerning upcoming projects:

I'm tremendously excited by March's release of 'and Falling, Fly', so it's a little hard to see too far beyond that, but my second book, 'In Dreams Begin', comes out in December. It isn't a sequel, but occupies the same universe as 'and Falling, Fly' and includes a few of the same secondary characters. It's a time-travel story about a contemporary graphic artist who falls asleep on her wedding night in Portland, Oregon and wakes up in the body of Maud Gonne, a famously beautiful, six-foot tall, red-headed Irish Victorian revolutionary who may have been part faerie. The amateur occultist who channeled Laura into Maud then introduces her to WB Yeats, a fellow member (along with Aleister Crowley) of The Golden Dawn, and the two – Victorian romantic poet and time-shifted, modern cynic – fall rather helplessly in love.

Thoughts concerning the current state of the literary world:

Well, if you can separate the literary world from the publishing industry (and I know you can't really) then I think we're in great shape! Actually, even with all the change and wringing of hands in publishing, I think we're doing pretty well. It feels a bit like the Wild West at the moment. Lots of opportunity. Lots of uncertainty. The problem, as it probably always has been, is how to tell signal from noise. There are more places to share writing publicly, and more people reading more things in more venues than ever before, but there are also more people writing in each of those spaces.

Who is/are your favorite author/s and why?

I have very few perennial favorites. I'm sort of a serial obsessive. Right now, Margret Atwood, Neil Gaiman and Yeats are my first line of obeisance-inducing writers.

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

No. I wrote a book I'm embarrassed by that I was unable to publish, mercifully. But I've been very fortunate. Leis Pederson at Berkley was willing to take a chance on me. I have two books in which to prove her right, or I expect all the next books I want to write in the future will fall into that dreadful 'loved-but-unsold' pit.

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

Talk back! My favorite thing about being a writer at this interesting, interactive and volatile time is how much easier it is now for a book to be the beginning of a conversation rather than the entirety of a monologue.



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

I love it! Writing isn't (and IMHO shouldn't be) the solitary pursuit of isolated misanthropes. I can't imagine trying to write without a community of fellow scribblers online and IRL to support and challenge me. I love this. I need this. It's something I hope to see continue and expand and bring new writers in. What we do is hard enough. No reason anyone should suffer alone!

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<http://www.skylerwhite.com>

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