

ShenanigansW/SuperG

General Podcast questions

You do not have to answer all the questions. These are general questions to help prepare you for the interview. Please feel free to add anything you want to talk about. And type them up in what ever program works best for you and email them to me at gwen@preferredadvisors.com please send in a pdf format. Thank You and I look forward to visiting with you.

1. **What makes you feel inspired or like your best self?**
 - **The freedom to daydream**
2. **What's the most important thing you've learned in your life?**
 - **Patience – I'm like the cursor. I can out-wait anything**
 - **Write it down immediately, otherwise it's gone in a split second**
3. **What is your best tip for making the world a better place?**
 - **Be kind**
4. **What is the best compliment you have ever received?**
 - **I'm already successful**
5. **What is your business? How long have you done this?**
 - **Artistic Origins, my writing and publishing company has been alive and well since 1995.**
6. **What is your greatest achievement in this business?**
 - **Transitioning from my technical writing career to writing, editing, formatting and publishing my own books**

7. **What would you like to share with everyone about yourself?**
 - **I'm a bit reclusive**
 - **The difference between me and everyone else is that I write down my fantasies 😊**
8. **What do you wish your younger self knew about your current profession?**
 - **Should have started publishing my work years earlier instead of waiting for an agent or publisher to accept my work**
 - **Go ahead and get that degree**
9. **If you had 10x the budget you have now, what would you spend it on?**
 - **Marketing and PR**
10. **What's something everybody in your industry should stop or start doing?**
 - **Read your clients work**
 - **Don't publish junk that has never been edited**
11. **What's the biggest challenge writers face today?**
 - **Getting reviews of their books**
12. **What do you wish everybody understood about your job?**
 - **Writing, editing, formatting and publishing takes concentration and the ability to organize**
13. **What's one tool that you always carry in your toolbox no matter what project you're working on?**
 - **Imagination**

14. What has fundamentally changed about your work from when you started until now?

- **I don't do everything myself. I use contractors to help with the process**

15. How do you get yourself out of work slumps or ruts?

- **Slumps? What are those? My problem is I have so many of my own projects lined up I don't know how I'll be able to get through them. I have file folders with slips of paper with ideas. I also have fully outlined projects just sitting there... waiting to breathe their own life.**
- **Washing dishes in hot soapy water beats everything**

16. Do you have any writing quirks or themes that constantly crop up in your stories?

- **A common theme is family. Family is very important and always wins hands-down**
- **You'll see dogs in many of my stories**

17. What do you find the most difficult thing about writing? And what do you find the easiest?

- **Difficult? Knowing when to quit.**
- **Easiest? Coming up with ideas. I have folders filled with little scraps of paper to full sheets with story ideas.**
- **Letting my characters tell me what they want to do.**

18. What sort of research do you do to write your books?

- **Everything from character professions, locations, facts, subject matter experts for specific things, to foods, houses, neighborhoods – everything you can think of.**

19. Are there any nuggets of wisdom that you can impart to other aspiring writers?

- **Never quit. Stay away from anyone who does not support what you are doing. You can't afford to let someone poison your budding career because we are very tender when it comes to negativity and our words.**
- **Find and join a critique group. Not a book club or book reading group – they just read books. You need**

constructive criticism and people with experience with writing to help you along. You'll get this with a critique group.

- Find an editor! When you finish your book, do not use your Aunt Sue, an English teacher, or anyone other than a book editor. After you make changes from the editor's notes, consider a proofreader to make sure you have not left any stragglers on the page.

This is the only question that you must answer. This is the last question for everyone.

20. **If you could have a billboard with anything on it, what would it be and why?**

- **My website address, my picture, my book covers & my awards**
- **If that doesn't get people to read my work, I don't know what would!**