

More from Dan, on Dan: a Q&A with the Author of *Through The Wall of Rain and Fog*

Who is Daniel Moore? "Daniel Moore is an unique individual who strongly believes in getting all you can out of life, for you only get one shot at it. Plays baseball, grew up in Walnut Creek, CA, is now 18 and wrote ***Through the Wall of Rain and Fog*** when he was 16."

Why were you compelled to write this book? "Writing the book sort of came naturally. I didn't write it to publish a book; I did it because writing is what I do. It's who I am and if I hadn't been writing this book I would have been writing something else."

Your next book? "My next book is called ***The Summer of Billy Stevens*** - it's about an 18 year old who moves to San Francisco."

What do you most want to communicate to readers? "I hope that the things I describe in my books might somehow help those who read it as much as it helped me to write it."

Pets? "I have a dog named Charlie, who is morbidly obese, and a cat name Herby, who looks like he's in the same boat."

Aspirations? "I have aspirations to live life the way I want, and to get as much out of it as I possibly can. I'll be writing about my adventures along the way, and hopefully they'll get published and make a little money."

Inspirations? "My biggest inspiration comes from my Dad, Mom and my friends."

Are your characters based on real people? Will you bring us more about Chris and Dave and friends? "My characters are mixtures of different people, although in ***Through the Wall*** Chris and Dave are actually somewhat based on real people. And I definitely have had many restless nights thinking about the next story, for there is one mapped out in my mind, but I'm not sure if or when I would start putting the manuscript together. After I finish my next book I'm going to take a little break and after that, we'll see."

What was the hardest thing about writing the book? "Doing each character justice, as each one was someone real in my mind."

What surprised you the most about the process? "How easily I got caught up in a world that didn't exist. I almost didn't care about the one I actually lived in when I was writing it."

What do you most wish you had known when you started? "That it would take so long. If I would have known I would have to stay up till 3 in the morning every night I might have done some things differently."

What will you be studying at school? "Creative writing and film."

Do you believe one can learn to write compelling fiction? “Anyone, I think, if they are writing about something they really care about and can see in their mind, can write compelling stuff. As for compelling fiction, yeah, as I'm still learning.”

You write dialogue, which can be hard for many writers, very well. What is your secret? “Ha, I just try and listen to the conversations I've had and would have in a situation in a scene.”

What can you tell us about Billy Stevens? “Billy Stevens is a suburban stoner who thinks he would enjoy life more on his own and quickly learns how wrong he is when he moves out to San Francisco. The book is about that summer he spends in San Francisco.”

How have your friends reacted to the publication of the book? “It's funny because everyone other than my best friends was surprised and excited to read it. My best friends lived it so they didn't really care.”

Your family? “Everyone was pretty surprised, as most of them didn't really even know I was writing a book. But they've been very supportive.”

Your teachers and community? “My favorite reaction was from my vice principal when I was in his office. He was giving suspending me from school for the rest of the day for my antics at the basketball game the night before, and came across the website for the book when I was in his office. He looked at my transcript and the suspension papers in front of him and didn't believe it either.”

Are there times when you stare at the age and have nothing to say? How do you handle that? “Ha, I have various ways of inspiration...”

I hear you wrote your first book in second grade. How did that process influence you? “Disco Cow. I don't know how much it influenced me, but I still look back on it as my best work.”

You write about teen despair. How can parents and teachers help students facing crises? “Just give advice when applicable. In the end it's the kid's life and all that people like teachers and parents can do is try and influence the kid's decision. If they can influence it in a positive way then fine. But if not then don't make any situation worse than it has to be.”

What else would you like to tell your readers? “Be kind.”

Thank you, Dan. We're looking forward to more.