



Author Q & A

JoAnn Rackear Goldrich

Q. How do you get inspired to write?

A. (laughing) Life has a way of taking care of that. For instance, when I was a kid (and actually to this day) I was always losing stuff around my house. I'd look for my homework, or my dog's leash, or my dog, and none of them were ever where I swore I'd left them. This often got me in trouble. I was inspired to write "The House Ate It!" for kids just like me, so that whenever something "came up missing" they could go grab the book, read it with their teachers or parents, and just shrug and say, "I guess the house ate it!" With my post-apocalyptic sci-fi fantasy novel, "The Last of Her Kind," I pondered the state of our world, and where I think we're heading. The book was my attempt to wake humanity up before it's too late.

Q. What are you currently working on?

A. I'm really excited to once again be collaborating with a brilliantly talented artist, Alden Thomas. Alden and I collaborated on my first fully illustrated children's book, *The House Ate It* and right now we're working on the next book in our Gnorplop Series. Gnorplop is *House's* setting. I'm also working on my next novel, *The Light Always Returns*.

Q. What's your advice for aspiring writers?

A. Don't despair while you're trying to get your work to market. Keep writing. Dedicate yourself to the process, and find joy in the work itself.

Q. What's the best thing about being a writer?

A. Selfishly, it's the wonderment and beauty of the ethereal world--- that magical space in which the writer becomes immersed at the height of the creative process.

Q. How do you deal with writer's block?

A. I sit in quiet and intentionally open my heart and mind to my Muses. During those times when no words or characters appear, I allow myself the freedom to journal... to write for the process alone, so that my "channel" remains open and welcoming. This isn't to say that writer's block is by any means anything less than torture. For more on that, folks can read my post "Writer's Block" on my blog at j.r.goldrich.com

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