



Live & Local: Authors Read from Home



#delraybeachpubliclibrary



@delraybeachpubliclibrary

Author Name: Alexandra Goodwin

Local City: Coral Springs

Book Title: *Exchange at the Border*

ISBN: 978-0692393659

Author's website: www.alexandragoodwin.com

This book is also available on Amazon.

DBPL: What inspired you to write this book?

Answer: *I've always been interested in Russian history, and reading about the last of the Romanovs in particular led me to learn a lot about Rasputin. I found him to be a fascinating figure, and through my research discovered that although he's considered evil he did a lot of good deeds as well. As a writer, I'm always thinking "what if?", so I posed the question: What if he had a chance to come back to life and vindicate his name and reputation by doing something good? The way I chose to bring him back was through the process of transmigration of souls, whereas the soul of a dead person attaches itself and occupies the body of a live person. And the way this could happen was by having him share the body of a farmer who dies crossing the border with Mexico illegally but comes back with two souls: his own and that of Rasputin. Now an inner struggle develops between the two characters living in the same body: one is good and the other, being evil, tries to influence the good one to do bad things, thus forgetting his initial intention to come back and do good.*

DBPL: How long did it take from first word to publication?

Answer: *About 5 years. Two years in my head, getting acquainted with the characters that kept popping in my mind, two years of research about illegal crossings and Russian history, and one year to publish it.*

DBPL: What is your favorite part of the writing process?

Answer: *To me, it's being "in the zone." It's magical to be transported to the setting of your story and inhabit an imaginary place. It allows you to do all the things your characters are doing. You become them. And that's a lot of fun.*

DBPL: What was your favorite book when you were a child?

Answer: *Heidi, by Joanna Spyri; Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott; and Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Brontë.*

DBPL: Are you working on anything new?

Answer: *I've been working on my memoir for the last four years with a writing coach that resides in Spain. She's from Argentina, like me, and I've taken many writing courses with her which made me realize she would be able to midwife my new project. It entails deep introspection and digging, and she has facilitated exercises to extract the past and bring it to today in the form of a story that will have meaning for readers and also for myself. It's a slow but therapeutic process.*

DBPL: Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?

Answer: *Yes. I always wanted to write and used every excuse under the sun not to. I always sat waiting for inspiration to hit. And when it did not come, I blamed it on writer's block. My advice to aspiring writers is: Writer's block does not exist. Sit down and just write. Write whatever comes to mind. Forget the rules. Allow yourself to write garbage. All of a sudden, you'll feel like you're beginning to fly. Stay there, and you'll write something great.*