

## Interview Questions for Author DJ Geribo

### 1. ***When did you know writing was your passion?***

I didn't think of myself as a writer when I was younger, I guess that really didn't dawn on me until I was in college. Growing up, I didn't think I was good at anything. What I do know is that, from a very young age, I've always had a passion for books which has stayed with me my entire life; both reading them and owning them. Getting my Bachelor's degree majoring in English was simply my choice because of my love for books. But, writing books came later. It's kind of been a natural progression.

### 2. ***Were you encouraged to pursue this career path?***

No, I wasn't. Women in my family didn't go to college. They got married and had kids and worked at blue collar jobs. I'm not sure where my ambition came from as I certainly had no role models. I just knew, deep down, that I wanted a different life and saw that having a college degree was a possible way to get it. So, I became the first woman on both sides of my family to get a college degree and I'm very proud of this.

### 3. ***When did you write your first novel?***

As I've mentioned, college was the first time that I began writing with any real conviction. I had attempted writing some stories before I started writing more in college, even though I wasn't very good. But I continued to read and write and actually started liking my stories. I have notebooks full of stories and ideas and also at least fifteen stories in various stages of completion, anywhere from 1000 words to 30,000 words. My first novel, *The House at the Top of the Trees*, was completed in 2014 and that was a middle-grade chapter book.

### 4. ***What other jobs did you have?***

I worked at a publishing company in Boston, working for the controller as his assistant. When a job in their computer department opened up, I then worked as a computer operator. My career path then became more computer and technically oriented working at several startup companies. This was during the 1990's when a lot of high-tech companies didn't survive more than a few years as there was fierce competition in the industry. I eventually was employed at Cabletron in NH, working in their Technical Publications department where I retired as a Senior Technical Writer and embarked on my second, and far more creative, career.

### 5. ***Where does your inspiration for your novels come from?***

Anywhere and everywhere! I may meet somebody and something about them – a mannerism, a virtue, or a physical trait – sticks with me and I'll maybe jot down a few notes. I'll build an entire character around this singular facet and these are the characters that eventually show up in my novels. I've taken notes on most people I've met in my life. I've written entire stories about people I've worked with; usually taking just one tiny piece of information I know about them and then building an entire fictionalized story around that single detail.

### 6. ***Do you ever do research for a story?***

I do. I recently wrote a novel as a collection of stories that took place over nearly a century and I had to make sure that I didn't make reference anything that would not have existed in each story's time period. For example; a cell phone in the 1950's. I've had to check this kind of information for other books as well, like in *The Mart*, since my timeline in that novel was somewhere in the 1980s.

### 7. ***What one story do you want to tell that you haven't written yet?***

I started taking notes on, actually writing some of the conversations between a man and a woman about freedom. Kind of like a "My Dinner with Andre" story. This is also one I'm doing some research on, reading philosophy, and gaining an understanding the many ways we think about freedom. I feel I still have a lot to learn about this topic before I can write the novel.