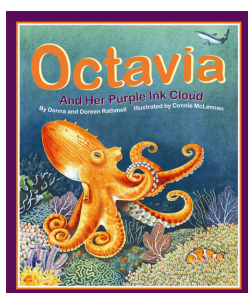


# *A Conversation with Doreen Rathmell* *co-author of Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*



## **What inspired the writing of *Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*?**



My sister and I have always loved children's literature and thought it would be fun to write a story together. We would often toss book ideas back and forth. The idea for ***Octavia*** just stuck and we went with it.

The biggest personal experience that influenced my writing of ***Octavia*** was a National Geographic video on octopuses. When my children were little, they went through a phase where it was their favorite movie. I confess we watched that movie many times.

Another huge influence was the fact that my sister and her family spent five years living on a sailboat while sailing around Caribbean. Donna picked up a lot of fascinating ocean facts during that adventure.

## **What is the most frequently asked question you encounter as an author?**

Children always have wonderful questions. Several have asked if I have a pet octopus. No, I don't, but I think it would be neat to hold a small one.

## **What sparks your creativity?**

I do my best writing early in the morning when the house is quiet and my mind is clear of all the daily activities.

## **In your experience as a children's author, you've had the opportunity to be around a lot of children. Do you have any advice for their parents?**

My tip for parents is to read, read and read some more to their children. Even older children love to be read to. When my children were "tweens," we enjoyed the "Chronicals of Narnia" collection, "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Ring" trilogy. It even made bed time a fun and wonderful family time. But an important fact about reading to your children is that it increases their vocabulary which helps them with their own reading and writing.

## **What are you doing when you're not busy writing?**

I have three wonderful kids — Dylan, Kyle, and Gwen. I enjoy going to the boys' wrestling matches and to Gwen's volleyball games. I also teach first grade. I think first grade is the best grade because it is such an exciting year of watching the children grow in their reading skills. In my spare time, I love to read books!

## **What has been the most rewarding part of writing for Sylvan Dell?**

The most rewarding part of writing for Sylvan Dell is being part of a team that publishes such exceptional children's literature. All of the books are creative, well written, educational and beautifully illustrated. I am honored to have my book, *Octavia*, be part of such an outstanding collection.

**Want to continue this conversation?** Schedule an interview!

**Contact Sylvan Dell publicist, Sara Dobie:**

SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com

(877) 958-2600