



**Author:** Kristina Coia **Date:** August 13, 2008

**Titles:** *Lymeria, Falcon's Prey*

**Moderator** Welcome to Authors @ Abunga

**Moderator** We would like to welcome Kristina Coia author of thrilling fantasy novels "Falcon's Prey" and "Lymeria." She is a talented 16-year-old high school student from New Jersey - who is also a singer and motivational speaker. Welcome Kristina!

**SharonP(Q)** Hi Kristina, I am very impressed with all that you have done at such a young age. What motivates you to write?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I have loved reading ever since I was little. Whenever I run out of books to read, I tend to write my own stories!

**JulieS(Q)** Hi Kristina! What is your favorite place to write?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I try to write whenever I can. Sometimes I find myself writing in the back of my school notebooks! So, I don't really have a favorite place.

**Alicia P(Q)** Did you read fantasy books as a child? What was your inspiration to write fantasy books?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I couldn't read enough fantasy novels when I was little! I was totally into Disney princesses and fairy tales, so all of those things definitely led to my writing.

**SharonP(Q)** do you have any advice for other young authors

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I think that anyone who thinks that they are able to do something, like write, sing, paint, or play soccer, should just 'go for it'. If

you feel that your writing is good enough, then absolutely do what you can to achieve your goal.

**JeanV(Q)** How do you find time for everything (writing, school, activities, etc.)

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I try to balance everything out as best I can. School comes first, of course! Then, I make sure that I find time to be a normal kid and hang out with my friends. Writing is a hobby for me, so I always find time for that!

**JulieS(Q)** Who are your favorite singing artists? Authors? Do you find any similarities between the style of music you like and the type of stories that you write -- with regard to their theme or movement or story?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I listen to pretty much all types of music, but my favorites are country music and showtunes. Yes, showtunes! I think I like them because they often tell a story. It's almost like reading a book, but with rhythm.

**SharonP(Q)** what are your favorite books?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I love anything written by Gail Carson Levine, especially 'Ella Enchanted' and 'The Two Princesses of Bamarre'. I grew up loving them, and I still pick them up to read today!

**Alicia P(Q)** How long does it usually take you to finish writing a novel?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** It all depends on how much time I dedicate per day. When I was writing 'Falcon's Prey', I had no idea that it would eventually be published! So, it took me over a year to finish. But 'Lymeria' took me only three months!

**Alicia P(Q)** Do you plan to branch out and write any other genres? Is fantasy your favorite?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I'm not quite sure. I love writing fantasy, but I read all different genres. Maybe if I find the right inspiration, I'll write historical fiction or something!

**SharonP(Q)** Has faith played a role in your writing?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I think that faith has played a role in my

perseverance.

**Alicia P(Q)** Is anyone else in your family writing books?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** Not exactly, but we are all 'readers'! So I think that's where I got it from.

**RichardK(Q)** Tell us more about Falcon's Prey--who's your favorite character in this novel?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** 'Falcon's Prey' is part adventure story and part classic fairy tale. My favorite character is the main character, Princess Ana, who has to flee her kingdom in search of safety. I wrote her character as an inspiration to myself as well as others. She learns throughout her journey that she is capable of anything, as long as she has the confidence to do so.

**Alicia P(Q)** You speak to girls about self-esteem and confidence. What is the most rewarding thing to come out of those experiences?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I think that knowing that you helped someone is the most rewarding thing of all. I hear feedback from participants of my programs, telling me about their personal experiences, and how they learned about themselves through the programs. It's wonderful to hear from such diverse groups of people and learn from them as they learn from me.

**JeanV(Q)** Have you had the opportunity to meet any authors that you admire? If so, who? If not, who would you enjoy meeting most?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I met my favorite author of all time, Gail Carson Levine! It was so fantastic! I even got a picture with her. It was wonderful meeting the person who helped to inspire me to write as a child.

**Alicia P(Q)** I read in an interview that wrote a song about Falcon's Prey that you have performed. Is it harder writing lyrics or writing a book?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** If you will believe it, it's harder to write lyrics! In a book, I never know where the characters will take me next. In a song, I need to make sure that everything rhymes and flows evenly! Writing songs is another of my hobbies, though, and I love doing it as much as I love writing stories.

**SharonP(Q)** I know some teachers and would like to recommend your books to

them. What can I tell them about your books?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I've heard from some of my readers that they make great book reports! They're fast, easy reads with characters that readers can relate to, as well as stories that present positive messages, like the power of friendship in 'Lymeria'.

**Alicia P(Q)** Did the Lord of the Rings books inspire your writing?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** Actually, yes! I had read 'The Hobbit' when I was younger, and I love the trilogy! So, I'm sure they inspired my writing in some ways.

**RichardK(Q)** What do you think inspired you to read so much as a child? Where do you currently find your inspiration?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** When I was little, I was surrounded by a family of readers. My grandfather would read at the kitchen table, my older cousin would pass down her books to me when she was finished, etc. My family was a big influence on me! Today, I try to create a character before even beginning a novel. Then, I use their idea to create their story. But it usually turns out that, as I write, the character begins to tell me their story!

**ArrielleR(Q)** So could you maybe give us a clue to what your 3rd book is about?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I can say that it is based off of a very old fairy tale! But I can't reveal too much about that one! I am also working on a series of novels for younger readers, each based on a virtue. There will be plenty of new books coming soon, I can guarantee!

**JodiC(Q)** Even though you write fantasy novels, what underlying themes/messages in your writing apply to the real world?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** 'Falcon's Prey' is all about finding the courage to be yourself and to do the things that you never dreamed were possible. While Princess Ana discovers that she, too, can fight a dragon, readers will learn that they are capable of making their dreams a reality. In 'Lymeria', four unlikely friends have to use the best of their abilities to save an entire world from crumbling. Readers can learn from these four heroes that working together can work wonders.

**ArrielleR(Q)** Now i heard your song that you wrote, does that connect to any of your books?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** Yes, it does! I had written a piece of a song into 'Falcon's Prey' as part of the storyline. One day, I was playing around on my piano and decided to write a tune to go with the song. Soon enough, I had finished the song and recorded it!

**SharonP(Q)** what advice can you give to young children who do not necessarily like to read?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I think that everyone needs to read something, anything. If you're not into fiction novels, there's always articles in fashion magazines! There are always biographies about sports stars! The more you read, the better you become at reading, and the more you will learn to enjoy all types of genres.

**SharonP(Q)** How can we learn more about you. Do you have a website or MySpace page?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I have lots of info about my novels and motivational programs, as well as games, quizzes, and downloads on my website, [KristinaCoia.com](http://KristinaCoia.com). You can also find me on MySpace! [MySpace.com/KristinaCoia](http://MySpace.com/KristinaCoia)

**RichardK(Q)** You can relate to Princess Ana then? Do the other characters in your books relate to your other friends and family members?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I haven't really based any characters on anyone specific in my novels, but in one of the novels I am working on, my dog found her way in! The main character in the first book of the series I am writing has a little dog who was entirely based off of my toy poodle!

**Alicia P(Q)** What do you want to accomplish in the next 10 years when it comes to your writing?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** I want to make sure that, however hectic my life turns out, I still find time to write. Writing is something I love to do, whether it be books, songs, or poems, and the ability to turn it into a career is amazing to me. So, I definitely want to keep writing.

**SharonP(Q)** What advice can you give to other authors who are trying to write

and get stuck (writers block)!

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** My solution to that is to walk away for a while and don't force anything. Do something mindless for awhile, like walking your dog or watching a movie. Then, come back to your work with a fresh mind. It works for me!

**JulieS(Q)** Can you tell me about your self-esteem program, Shine Through?

**author\_kristina\_coia(A)** 'Shine Through' is a motivational program that I give to students nation-wide. It has now branched off into three programs: 'Shine Through' for girls, 'Shine Through 4 Guys Too' for both girls and guys, and 'Mirror, Mirror On the Wall' for elementary-age kids. All the programs focus of self confidence and making the right choices based on what's right for you.

**Moderator** I would like to take the opportunity to thank Kristina for joining us today and for giving us some insight into her writing. You may purchase Kristina's books "Falcon's Prey" and "Lymeria" on Abunga.com at <http://abunga.com/featuredauthorcoia>.

Please join us on Wednesday August 27 for the Authors @ Abunga chat with Geoffrey M. Gluckman. <http://abunga.com/?l=featuredauthorgluckman>.

Thank you to all who have joined us.

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