

INTERFUSION

An Interview With... **Kim Cameron**

By *Tiana-Sharlotte Parry*



If like me and you're still a seven year old on the inside, then you will LOVE the new book 'Seaper Powers' by Kim Cameron and John DePatie. 'Seaper Powers' is a magical tale about a little girl named Emma who uncovers a special power to talk to fish! With her newfound ability, Emma searches for buried treasure with the help of two sea creatures. Along with the book comes a unique take on an audio book with a variety of voice actors including a seven year old and a sing-a-long song. What more could you ask for? I had a great chance to ask Kim Cameron about the book, as well as a few other things.

Interfusion Magazine: How did you get into writing?

Kim Cameron: Writing began very naturally for me. I was always the person looking forward to English and Latin classes in school. In college, I majored in Broadcast Journalism and minored in English, so I guess, you could say that was my destiny. Professionally, I began writing commercial copy for KRNU in Nebraska. Then, I edited news copy at KHAT in Kansas. When I moved to the east coast, I was writing marketing materials for the Smithsonian. When I began my original music project 5 years ago, after writing several songs, I had a story idea, and turned it into a musical using my own score. I guess I developed a bit of a thirst for the story creation process at that point. The thirst grew stronger after my latest Caribbean tour in the fall when we met a little girl who had a fascination with octopi.

IF: How did you and John DePatie think up the idea of 'Seaper Powers'?

KC: The little girl we met on the island during tour was about 12. She was as cute as you could imagine and told us how she was enamoured with sea life, octopus in particular. Since we were in song mode, we got inspired to write a song on the island (on the beach, as a matter of fact), called "Mr. Octopus." It is this perfect tropical kid's song, but once we were done, we did not know exactly what we wanted to do with it. After a few discussions, John suggested I write a story around the song, and we turn it into an audio book. Once I had written the book, the title was kind of easy since it is about magic powers in the sea.

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IF: Have you based any of the characters on individuals in your own lives?

KC: As a matter of fact, it is. The main character is based on two little girls I met. One I met on tour, and the other I just signed to my record label. The other two main characters are several children I grew up with, all rolled into two sea creatures. Everyone had those friends who were unfairly picked on or ignored because they either looked different or acted different. I have always been one to rally around the underdog.

IF: Are you working on another children's piece together?

KC: I am writing the *Seaper Powers* sequel at the moment. It will have more complexity, and the reading level will be a few years higher, but the story, I am hoping will be a great read, full of suspense and adventure.

IF: Would you like to venture out the audiences you write for?

KC: I am not sure. Right now, kid's adventure books are so fun to develop that I do not have a desire to go a different direction, but I never thought I would do this, so, you just never know.

IF: Finally, do you have any advice or tips for aspiring authors?

KC: Always write down your ideas. Never lose them, and never throw them away.... you just might find a bit of gold stuck in-between the lines.