

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Q. How did you start writing *A Series of Unfortunate Events*?

A. For various personal and legal reasons, I began researching the terrible things that happened to the three Baudelaire children following the death of their parents. The good people at HarperCollins offered to publish my findings, both as cautionary tales and for the general good.

Q. Did your own childhood inspire aspects or events in your books?

A. What happened to me in my childhood in no way resembles what has happened to the Baudelaire orphans. When I was very young, however, I was taught the power of the written word and the importance of exposing evil wherever I found it, which are two of my highest guiding principles.

Q. What were some of your hobbies as a child?

A. Taxidermy and playing the harpsichord.

Q. How do young people respond to your books?

A. People, young and old, have responded to my books with a mixture of shock, horror, melancholy, resignation, and enthusiasm.

Q. What was your favorite book as a child?

A. Dino Buzzati's *The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily*.

Q. What advice do you give to children who want to be writers?

A. Avoid wearing squeaky shoes when listening at keyholes.

Q. What do you do to prepare to write?

A. I look at the only photograph I have of my beloved Beatrice, and I say to myself: If you do not write these books, her wrongful death will go unpunished.

Q. Are you a real person?

A. Of course. Aren't you?

