

# L. Marie Wood Q&A

**Q: For those who don't know you, could you please introduce yourself?**

**A:** Hi! My name is L. Marie Wood and I love to write. Here is my official bio: L. Marie Wood is an award-winning dark fiction author, screenwriter, and poet with novels in the psychological horror, mystery, and dark romance genres. She won the Golden Stake Award for her novel *The Promise Keeper*. Her screenplays have won Best Horror, Best Afrofuturism/Horror/Sci-Fi, and Best Short Screenplay awards at several film festivals. Wood's short fiction has been published in groundbreaking works, including the Bram Stoker Award Finalist anthology, *Sycorax's Daughters* and *Slay: Stories of the Vampire Noire*. Her poetry has been showcased in the critically acclaimed collection, *Under Her Skin*. She is also the founder of the Speculative Fiction Academy, an English and Creative Writing professor, and a horror scholar. Learn more about her at [www.lmariewood.com](http://www.lmariewood.com) or join the discussion on Twitter at @LMarieWood1 or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LMarieWood](https://www.facebook.com/LMarieWood). That's a lot of words to say I like to write. 😊

**Q: If you had to describe your writing "brand" in three words, what would they be?**

**A:** Engaging, Authentic, Unsettling

**Q: When did you first develop a passion for horror?**

**A:** At the ripe old age of 5. Seriously. I always knew I liked stories that unsettled me – I didn't have a word for it then and it wasn't that I was particularly excited to be frightened... it was just that I was entertained by the off-kilter. And still am.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a female author in the horror industry?**

**A:** This is a fantastic question. There are so many things that I love about being a female author in the horror genre, but often I don't look at it through that lens. I love being a *horror* author – period. I say that, stripping away gender and race, because to be a writer who gets the chance to impact people with the words I spun, to put together a story that stays in someone's mind, makes them think twice about walking around the house at night without the lights on, makes them keep their hands and feet under the covers instead of out, dangling off the side of the bed – to be that person is all I ever wanted to be. That I am female, that I am African American – these aspects of my being don't relate to this passion. They may relate to how my words are received, but not to why I wrote them - and if this is true, that is quite telling.

**Q: What differences do you believe women bring to the table within the horror industry, and why are those differences impactful and important, in your opinion?**

**A:** Women experience realistic and existential horror in ways that men don't. But even more directly, consider menstrual cycles, hormones, childbirth, aging – if these are not elements that can be used in body horror, I don't know what can! We have the same hopes, fears, dreams, worries, and disappointments that men do, yet have had our voices restricted in a genre that is tailor-made for us. Could it be a marked ignorance of women and what their bodies, minds, and souls—their very existences—endure on a daily basis? Perhaps. But it's time to change that narrative.

**Q: Recently, you were awarded mentor of the year at HWA's awards ceremony. Tell us what inspires you to mentor and help others?**

**A:** I have always been interested in sharing with others. Learning was never anything I felt was mine alone to do. So, I have always discussed concepts and topics I've learned along the way with anyone who expressed an interest. In that way, mentoring feels natural.

**Q: What led you towards the horror genre over others?**

**A:** Psychological horror straddles the line between suspense, mystery, thriller, and horror. I can't say why I lean more towards horror, but I definitely include elements of all of these genres in my work.

**Q: What is your life motto? If you don't have one, can you use one word to describe your outlook on life?**

**A:** Every day is a good day.

**Q: Who is your favorite author and why?**

**A:** Ira Levin. His comfortable flow really spoke to me when I was trying to find my own voice. He connects with readers in a way that makes you feel like you are chatting with him over a drink on a casual Sunday afternoon. That ability to engage readers, to unsuspectingly get into their space and under their skin, has influenced my style considerably.

**Q: What is the scariest book you've read and what about it frightened you? (As much as you can say without spoilers.)**

**A:** I'd have to say *The Monk* by Matthew Lewis. Old, old, old tome (written in 1796) but it relates today in ways that are still terrifying. It has everything – temptation, obsession, murder. Mounting dread. Unbelievable twists. It is a wonderfully frightening read because the character arc is scarily

identifiable.