



Interview mit Jennifer Cervantes



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Die amerikanische Autorin Jennifer Cervantes lebt mit ihrer Familie im US-Bundesstaat New Mexico, in der Nähe der mexikanischen Grenze.

Jennifer Cervantes glaubt an Magie. Besonders faszinierend findet sie die Kultur der Maya. Die Geschichten und Götter dieser alten Hochkultur spielen auch in ihren Büchen *Sturmläufer*, *Feuerhüter* und *Schattenspringer* eine wichtige Rolle.

Now as we're reading your novels here in Austria: How does that feel for you?

Amazing. I love hearing about readers from all over the world, and how they experience the book. It's so surreal.

Have you ever been to Austria? If so, where? If not, would you like to go there?

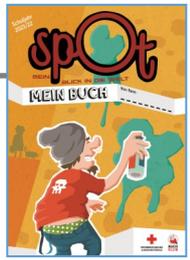
I have not but would love love love to visit. The closest I've been is Switzerland. Vienna!

Sadly, especially the genre of fiction – at least in Europe – is often connected with male writers. Why did you decide to write fiction and would you say that it's common – maybe more common than in Europe – for female writers to write fictional novels?

So interesting that this is the case in Europe. Here in the U.S. the field is flooded with amazingly talented female writers, thankfully. I chose fiction because I have always been a storyteller, even as a child. I used to gather the kids in the neighbourhood and we would act out the adventures I would make up. Fiction is a place of magic and possibility!

Do you have any role models who influence you in your writing?

Of course! I have always admired Rick Riordan's work. In addition, Sharon Creech and Pam Munoz Ryan really influenced my earlier writing.



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Storm Runner is full of the Maya mythology. As you grew up and live near the Mexican border, you might be surrounded by this mythology in a way. For us here in Austria, it's very far away. So, could you maybe just give us a short insight into this mythology and also explain why it is so fascinating for you?

I LOVE Maya mythology as well as Aztec. My grandmother used to tell me tales of Ah Puch, the god of death, darkness and destruction and I was captivated. It's also a mythology that has been all but lost due to the colonization by the Spanish when they destroyed most written records. What most people don't know is how incredibly advanced this ancient civilization was from astronomy and engineering to mathematics and discoveries like chocolate!

Zane has a limp and walks with a cane, which might seem very untypical for a "hero". Why did you choose to include these details and in how far is that important?

Ah. I didn't choose. As odd as it sounds my characters come to me fully formed and this is how Zane arrived. And while he struggles with how others treat him because of it, his limp does not define him.

There are two further sequels to The Storm Runner – The Fire Keeper and The Shadow Crosser. Without revealing too much: Which adventures do Zane and his companions experience?

In *The Fire Keeper*, Zane and friends will go on an epic journey to save a certain someone. There will be new godborns, a death magician, a bat god, a red queen, and a jaunt through a couple of places I love in Mexico. In *The Shadow Crosser* Zane and friends are up against their greatest enemy yet and the stakes are higher than they have ever been. They will battle great evils and you can expect an all seeing calendar, a faceless goddess, giants, ghosts, air, mountain, and earth spirits, time travel, and maybe a first kiss.

When you imagine children reading The Storm Runner. What would you like them to feel afterwards?

Hope, joy, a world of possibilities—the belief that they can do and be anything.

If there's anything else you want to tell our kids in school, please feel free to do so!

I am so excited that you all are reading TSR! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope you enjoy the adventure!