

Q & A with Annelies George



(photo: Vincent Kos)

You started to write as a child. Then you took on writing again at a later age while working in management functions for a variety of large US IT companies. How did you manage to do this, in addition to a pretty intensive, stressful job?

For me it was a form of relaxation. I really wanted to write again and with a bit of self-discipline I actually got things started. Whenever I had time, I wrote for a couple of hours after work. I probably began in August 1999, but only finished the first novel in 2009, which I decided not to publish.

What was the reason why this first novel, Nice doing business with you, ma'am, was never published?

The story is based on true characters. One of them died and since he played a key part in the book I had to rewrite the whole story. Since it took me ten years to complete it, I wasn't too thrilled at the notion of starting all over again.

Will it be published one day, assuming you eventually complete the rewrite of the story?

Actually, I don't know, to be quite honest. At the time I published the Dutch version of *Quest to the Unknown*, I was contacted by a former colleague who wanted to have a serious word with me since he had learned that there were some "explicit" words written about him in that particular book. Of course that was rubbish, since *Nice doing business with you, ma'am* hadn't been published. But it made me realize that I can expect those kinds of reactions should I decide to publish it after all. Since I worked with hundreds of men during the period the book is addressing, I am not thrilled at the idea of dealing with such "complaints" on a daily base. I prefer to spend my energy on more productive topics.

Then you met a psychic with an extraordinary story. The rest is history. The Jessie Golden 21st Century Earth Series became a fact.

Correct. The amazing thing I discovered along the way was that not only this psychic had endured so many extraordinary things in life. To my utter astonishment a whole bunch of other mediums I met during the years of research had gone through similar life experiences, like being abandoned by one of the parents as a child, severe misuse, miscarriages (one of them lost more than 10 babies), terrible diseases and many other things. And just like the character Nancy in *Quest to the Unknown*, they all found the strength to cope with these very rare and unusual events, standing strong, continuing to share the benefits of their supernatural gifts with others.

The past years were a crucial turning point. What happened?

Due to a reorganization of the region I managed for a large US IT company, I was made redundant for the first time in my life. That was quite a shock since I always had been headhunted throughout my entire career as a high performer. Around the same time my father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He was doomed to spend the last months of his life in a hospice. Since my mother was in the beginning phases of Alzheimer, I decided to take them both into my home and nursed my father, with the help of others, during the last four months of his life.

What happened to your mother after he died?

She is still living with me. It made me realize what really matters in life. For years I had focused almost single-mindedly on deadlines and the overachievement of targets. Now suddenly I was not only confronted with the loss of a parent, but with a demented mother slowly slipping away in her illness. So I decided that for as long as it is possible I will take care of her, with the help of a team of professionals and the rest of the family, besides my fulltime job.

It also had an impact on your writing, didn't it?

That's correct. Confronted with the volatility of life, I decided to pursue my own "dream", i.e., to get published in the US. Over the years I had already started to translate the Dutch books I wrote into English. Encouraged by Kitty, the mother of my friend Pascal, I completed the translations, got my work edited and connected with Karen Strauss, my current publisher. Furthermore, I try to write more than only a couple of hours now and then.

What can readers expect from Quest to the Unknown, the first part of the Jessie Golden series?

Quest to the Unknown is set in the present in the fast-moving business world, introducing the main characters of the saga. At the same time it takes the reader on the life quest of the leading character, a journalist named Jessie Golden, that starts when she wants to unravel the mystery behind a manuscript she finds belonging to an unknown woman and her son, who later appear to be more closely related to her than she ever would have expected. In parallel she is confronted with the world of the mob when she suspects that her soon-to-be father in law has close ties with some suspicious characters, leading to an unexpected twist in the story.

The Jessie Golden series consists of 5 parts. You have finished 3 books so far, with the first translated English version published in the fall of 2017. Any other topics you plan to write about?

Sure. I am currently working on a standalone fiction book, with a link to today's interesting world of speed and Internet dating. While it's again fiction, I used some true events and facts in the book, together with an underlying message to be mindful with whom you are engaging via the Internet. Even a psychic plays a small part in this novel!

What is it with you and the supernatural? Are you a psychic?

My father was born in Indonesia and told me all kinds of stories during my childhood of things that happened to him while he was still living there. The supernatural is therefore not strange to me and I do believe there is more between Heaven and Earth. As for the second question: what is the definition of a psychic anyway? Is it an instinct some master better than others, developing into hearing, smelling and sensing things to a greater extent than people with a less-developed instinct or is it indeed a special gift only a small group of humans have been given by birth? If the first is applicable I think most of us are a bit psychic in some way or other. If, however, the latter is the true definition, I have to disappoint you. My instinct only developed rapidly after a mountain bike accident in 2005 so I am definitely not a special, gifted person in the sense of the last definition of the word!

Finally, you state you are also writing nonfiction. What's the subject and when can we expect this book to be published?

Actually, the first draft of the book is completed, but for the moment I have put it aside. Based on all the things I researched during the past years in the area of the supernatural, combined with my own "truth" and experiences in relation to the paranormal stuff, I wrote a book with the title *Learn to understand your original self*. It will definitely be published one day, when I believe the timing is right!

Do you want to interview Annelies and learn more? Please feel free to contact her: pr@anneliesgeorge.com and Carla Petersen will get in touch with you. You can also fill in the contact form displayed on the website.

Thank you for your interest,

Annelies George

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(photo: Vincent Kos)