



“They will confront the reality that getting back home may be impossible...”

Question: First, tell us what inspired you to write *The Time Cavern*.

Fonseca: Growing up, I was one of those kids that did not enjoy books. I remember having reading assignments in school and I'd count the pages to the end of the chapter assigned—it was definitely a chore. Then I read *A Wrinkle In Time*, by Madeline L'Engle. I was completely engrossed in the story. Before I knew it, I had finished the book and subsequently became an insatiable reader. Years later, I re-read the book and relived not only the wonderment of the story from when I was younger but also appreciated it on an entirely new level as an adult. It was *A Wrinkle In Time* that inspired *The Time Cavern*. I wanted to write a book that featured everyday kids, not the jock or the beautiful girl. A book that would let them experience something as grand as their imaginations—but be real. Like Madeline L'Engle, I wrote it as a piece that does not talk down to young adults, but rather challenged their intellect while being entertaining.

Question: So this book is targeted at young adults?

Fonseca: The main character is a ten-year-old, so primarily the book is targeted at pre-teen and young adults. However, I've found that many adults are enjoying the book. One older adult wrote to me, “You know why I'm liking this book? Because I can read it without any 'surprises' coming out of the woodwork. Language, sex, violence...kinda like going back to my own childhood. I'm no prude, but sometimes its nice to just read a good story.”

Question: The story takes place in rural Amish country. Why did you choose this setting?

Fonseca: I grew up in northern Indiana near a large Amish community. My dad enjoyed taking the family for a Sunday drive and many times we found ourselves going through rural Indiana. Fascinated by the horse and buggies, clothes, and lifestyle, I questioned everything. I think I drove my parents crazy. The Amish I came across were so friendly always waving as we drove by. Here were kids my age but living such a different life. I think it really made me appreciate what I had but also it gave me great respect for them. For *The Time Cavern* the setting was perfect, as it allowed both literally and figuratively a journey through time.

Question: Not only does the reader learn a lot about Amish culture in the book, but you've woven in information about astronomy, genealogy, and science. How did you integrate all of this information in the novel?

Fonseca: Having four children of my own, it's easy to see the world through their insatiably curious minds. They are questioning machines. As Aaron and Jake uncover the mystery of *The Time Cavern*, I simply followed the types of questions my own children would ask along the way so it seamlessly follows the story. I think the result is not only an entertaining but educational read.

Question: This is the first in a three part series. What comes next for our main characters?

Fonseca: While this is only part one, the story is complete by itself. The main questions posed at the beginning are resolved. However, the end clearly lets the reader know, more has and will happen. I don't want to give away any spoilers. Let's just say that there will be a number of role reversals for the main characters. While they believe they understand the secrets of *The Time Cavern*, they'll quickly learn that their journeys through time aren't as straight forward as they expected. They will confront the reality that getting back home may be impossible.

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