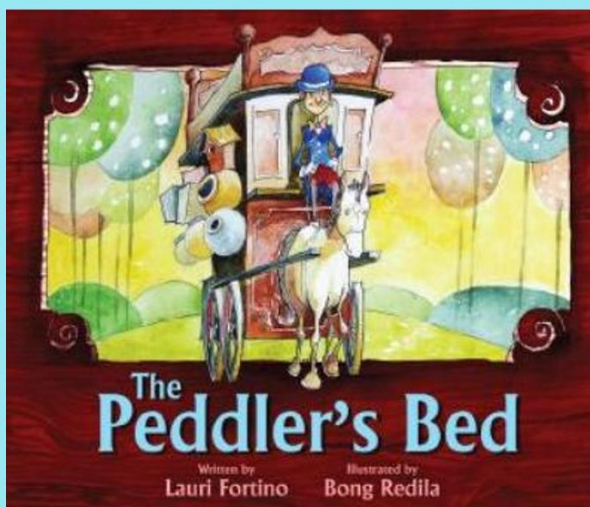




Author Spotlight: Lauri Fortino



Lauri, When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

I knew at age 11 that I wanted to be an author. For an autobiography assignment in fifth or sixth grade, on a page entitled What I'll be Doing in 1998, I wrote "I want to write children's books mainly about animals." It took a few more years than that—17, to be exact—before I got my first published book. But even before age 11, I was writing and illustrating my own stories.

Where do you write? Do you like to be by yourself in the quiet, or do you like to write in a noisy space?

It's easier to concentrate if I'm alone in my office. I like having my dog asleep at my feet. He's good company.

What do you use to write – pencil and paper or computer?

I almost always use my computer to write my stories, with the exception of notes—ideas, titles, words, sentences—that I jot down in little notebooks or on scraps of paper.

When do you write?

I work full-time as a library assistant at my local public library, so I primarily write in the evening when I get home, or on weekends.

When do you get your ideas?

An idea can come to me anytime, but most often while I'm getting ready for work in the morning or while I'm out walking my dog. Then I have to hurry and write it down before I forget.

Do you think of the story in your head before you write it?

I usually have the beginning and ending worked out before I sit down to start writing.

What gave you the idea for *The Peddler's Bed*?

The idea for *The Peddler's Bed* grew out of a sense of gratitude I felt toward family and friends for their generosity. When my husband and I got married and moved into our house, a lot of our furniture was given to us, including our bed. The fact that my husband and dog both snore may have had an influence on the story as well.

What do you like best about *The Peddler's Bed*?

I really like how the illustrator, Bong Redila, took my vision and enhanced it. He brought the story to life through his vibrant use of color, playful characters, and unusual angles.

How would you like teachers to present *The Peddler's Bed* to children?

There's a teacher's guide available on my blog at frogonablog.net/teachers-resources. In it, you will find all sorts of ways to use *The Peddler's Bed* in the classroom. The guide offers activities relating to reading, writing, mathematics, science, and more. In addition, the book has a folktale-like feel and could be introduced as part of a lesson on folktales or fables.

Are there any messages you would like them to discuss?

There's a subtle message in the story about treating others with kindness and generosity, no matter their socioeconomic status.

Do you have any advice for teachers in their role as writing guides?

I encourage teachers to include more story writing in their curriculums. Allowing children to use their imaginations and write about whatever they choose will help them learn to enjoy writing instead of viewing it as work.

Do you have any advice for children as writers?

Write about the people, places and things that interest you. If you do that, you'll always do your best writing. If you dream of one day becoming an author, know that your dream can come true.

What is your favourite picture book? Who is your favourite author?

I have far too many favorites to name just one. I read dozens of picture books each month and am always discovering new books, authors, and illustrators to add to my list of favorites.

To find out more about Lauri,
visit her Blog/Website: Frog on a [B]log www.frogonablog.net
or connect with her on social media

Twitter: [@Lauri140](https://twitter.com/Lauri140)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LauriFortinoAuthorPage

The Peddler's Bed is available at the following links:

[Amazon](#)

[Amazon UK](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[IndieBound](#)