

WPM

At the age of 13, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes wrote her sixth book entitled *White Wine*. When she was 15 years old, it was re-titled and published as *In the Forests of the Night*. She received her manuscript acceptance call from Bantam Doubleday Dell on her 14th birthday. A year later, in 2000, a second novel, *Demon in My View*, was published. At the time her first novel was published, she had a dozen or so other novels at various stages of completion sitting on the shelves of her "office" - her closet. She has had novels published each year from 1999 through 2007 and has been featured in magazines, newspapers, and television shows.

Her fascination with *Dracula* movies and *Interview with the Vampire* inspired Amelia to use a supernatural theme in most of her books. Some of her characters have been witches, ancient Egyptian ghouls, and vampires. The inspiration for her characters comes from unlikely sources, such as the lyrics of a song or the tone of voice used in an overheard conversation. She often listens to music while writing stories; she finds it inspires her.

When asked in a 2001 interview "Where and when do you do your writing?" Amelia responded "Currently, my office is on the floor of my closet. I've also been known to write in the back seat of my car, or on my bed. I write wherever I'm comfortable. As for when...whenever I can, which is just about always. When I take a walk, I think about my characters. When I'm drifting off to sleep, I work on dialogue. And

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when I have an idea, I go to my computer - no matter what the time, day or night, or how much or how little sleep I've had." 308  
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An avid storyteller from a very young age, Amelia credits her success to her family's encouragement. When she was a student in second grade, her stories were written down by her cousin because she was too young to write them herself. Also, while in the second grade, she and her best friend began to write a novel titled *The Hope to Get Out*. She wrote dozens of stories throughout elementary school, experimenting with different worlds and characters of her imagination. 334  
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She also credits her teachers for the invaluable assistance and encouragement they provided which greatly helped to launch her successful career. Of particular note was her eighth grade teacher (whose secondary career was that of a literary agent) who represented her in her dealings with publishers and who was successful in getting *In the Forests of the Night* published. 427  
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Born in 1984, Amelia grew up in Concord, Massachusetts and currently attends the University of Massachusetts majoring in English and Psychology. She aspires to be a teacher and also enjoys playing the piano, belly dancing, cooking, gardening, and carpentry. 504  
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Skateboarding came about early in the second half of the 20th century when California surfers were looking for something to do after a day of surfing. The first rudimentary skateboards were by fastening roller skate wheels to empty wooden boxes so they could "surf" in the streets. The boxes were eventually replaced by planks, then decks which eventually evolved into today's skateboards. It's difficult to determine who actually invented the earliest form of skateboards because different types popped up simultaneously in different areas.

A decade or so after the invention of skateboards, leading skateboard companies organized competitions encompassing downhill slalom and freestyle events. The 1960s style of skateboarding was totally different from today's skateboard maneuvers.

Skateboarding died out for a while, but in the mid-70s, a new type of urethane wheel similar to the wheels used today was invented that greatly improved the safety of skateboards and ultimately led to a resurgence in the popularity of the sport. Also at that time, the art of riding the board low and smooth was introduced at a competition event demonstrating to the public that skateboarding had evolved from a hobby to a serious sport.

In the late 1970s, the "ollie," a key move employed by skateboarders in most of their maneuvers, was invented. Over the next decade and a half, skateboarding waned two more times,

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The Dawn of Skateboarding and Beyond

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but each time it experienced a resurgence  
either when new companies opened their doors or  
when new moves were developed. Also, vert  
skating and street skating took turns waxing  
and waning in popularity.

In the mid-90s, skateboarding took a giant  
leap by becoming a competition in the X-Games.  
This initial big-time exposure to the public  
eye has contributed to its current popularity  
as a spectator sport.

Today, skateboarding is in the mainstream  
with more skateboard competitions taking place  
and more skate parks (both indoor and outdoor)  
being built, all with a paramount emphasis on  
safety. Skateboarding continues to evolve with  
the production of new, lighter boards and the  
development of new maneuvers by skaters. Where  
will skateboarding go from here? We don't know,  
but we can be fairly certain that, as evidenced  
by the last six decades, it'll be an exciting  
ride as skateboarders take this sport to the  
next level.

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Facebook

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Facebook is growing in popularity, both nationally and internationally, and is used by people from all age groups and demographics. There are currently more than 350 million active users on this social networking site. In the United States it ranks as one of the top ten most visited sites on the Internet and the most popular site for photo-sharing. Originally allowing only college students to sign up, Facebook eventually opened registration to high school students, workplace communities, and finally to anyone over the age of 13.

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Facebook is one of the top 20 search engines on the Web and the most used “people” search engine. The developers of Facebook designed its search engine results to display in “social proximity” order; this means that the people or events that occur closest to the user’s geographic area are ranked first so that the displayed search results are more relevant to the user.

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When a registered user logs on, the most recent photos and the latest messages and news from friends in his or her Facebook network are displayed on the home page. Users are reminded by their friends of upcoming birthdays and provided with articles of interest to them. To address privacy, an individual’s Facebook profile is only available to friends and people within the network and each network is based on a workplace, region, high school, college, etc.

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A very exciting aspect of Facebook is that, for a small fee, members may poll a

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Facebook

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particular demographic population from a pool of 350 million people on just about any subject: the projected winner(s) of a reality show or a political race, or questions about the latest in fashion, music, or sports - the list is endless.

Facebook continues to rapidly expand its network of members because people have an innate need for connections and to communicate naturally and effectively with friends and coworkers. If you want to keep informed about the doings and opinions of the people who matter most to you and share your most recent photos (2.5 billion photos are uploaded to Facebook each month), log onto Facebook and start socializing.

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