

PROLIFIC

BY BRIAN SCHWARTZ



KALYN JOSEPHSON GREW UP IN SAN LUIS OBISPO. And, despite being a *New York Times* bestselling author of seven published works, she also maintains a full-time job as a technical writer.

Her first novel was published in 2019 and she's living proof that query letters are still a viable option for first-time authors. While examples of authors getting signed after they've amassed a large social media platform make headlines, she encourages aspiring authors not to be discouraged and to continue refining their query letters, while targeting agents who are the right fit for their work.

In 2023, Book 1 of the "Ravenfall" trilogy became a *New York Times* bestseller and was nominated for a Goodreads Choice Award—this despite her not having a large social media following. Her most recent duology "This Dark Descent" is her second entry into the young adult genre.

Writing has been a passion for as long as she can remember. Her cover designs are breathtaking. If people judge a book by its cover, Josephson makes a great first impression.

Pursuing two full-time careers seems fitting for someone who's also earned two degrees, one in Biology and one in English. Evidence of her hard work and determination, Josephson typically dedicates two to three-hour blocks each day to writing. Often switching to her personal computer at the end of her work day, she maintains her productive flow. On weekends, she sticks to a nine-to-five writing schedule, and most of her vacation time is allocated to editing. Josephson regularly takes writing retreats with her critique partners, giving her longer blocks of uninterrupted focus time.

The author, who has published seven books in five years while working a full-time job, has discovered that outlining has been crucial to managing her writing process and meeting deadlines, as publishers often attach progress milestones to the outlines she submits. Josephson sets daily goals, aiming to complete one chapter per day.

Integrating her own background adds depth and personal significance to her writing. In her earlier work, she addressed the subjects of depression and mental health. She draws inspiration from her surroundings, such as Linnaeas Café, a place she frequently writes, which has become the model for the cafés in her stories. Josephson's appreciation for her Jewish-Irish heritage is evident in her "Ravenfall" series, where she incorporates elements of Irish mythology in the first book and a blend of Irish and Jewish mythology in the sequels.

As a fantasy writer, creating immersive and cohesive worlds while maintaining an efficient writing process can prove challenging. With a work in progress for adults, Josephson is traversing genres from middle grade to adult, and in turn "growing up" with her readers **SLO LIFE**

You can learn more at kalyjosephson.com and follow her on Instagram @kalynmosephson. She will be teaching a session on 'World Building for Fantasy Writers' at this year's Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference on October 5.