

**J. Aday Kennedy**  
**The Differently-Abled Writer & Speaker**



[www.JAdayKennedy.com](http://www.JAdayKennedy.com)

## **Sample Interview Questions**

### **Did you always want to be a writer?**

No. When I was a little girl I wanted to be Big Bird. I'm tall enough and my feet are big enough. After I grew up, I decided to be a history teacher, but luckily I had a stroke and fell in love with and discovered a talent for writing.

### **Tell us about your children's books.**

I have nine picture books under contract with [Guardian Angel Publishing](#). They are a mixture of humorous fantasy and Christian stories. All share a positive message and are geared to attract reluctant readers.

### **What other things do you write?**

I write essays for Chicken Soup for the Soul. Five essays have been published in their anthologies. Christian and inspirational articles are among many of my writing credits.

### **Tell us about Stella the Fire Farting Dragon picture book.**

Stella's nerves threaten her chances of winning a talent contest, but she marshals her nerves and does her best. A lesson of perseverance wrapped in a humorous bite makes the most reluctant readers gobble up this story. They'll giggle themselves silly as Stella Dragon performs and farts fire.

### **What are you working on now?**

I have several picture books I am writing. My memoir, [101 Ways to Torture a Quadriplegic: A Journey of Laughter Through Tears](#), is in progress [After Patty Killed Her Daddy](#) is a tween novel and the beginning of a series.

### **Describe your working environment.**

I am blessed to have my house on 4.5 acres of land on a private lake in East Texas. I have only to look out the window to be inspired. My adventure picture book, [Juggerum](#), about catching a bull frog came from listening to them at night.

I'm a legally blind ventilator-dependent quadriplegic. (It's a great excuse to stay in bed.) When I began to fall in love with writing and discovered where my computer could take me, I found a computer desk that slides over my bed at [www.ergoquest.com](http://www.ergoquest.com), I have my goals, inspirational messages and Herb, my trusting writing bug, attached to the edges of my computer monitor.

### **Tell us about your family.**

I have three older sisters. Their names are Tomorrow, Yestrada (Yesterday) and Tada (Today). Among them they have eleven children. I'm Aunt Squeaky to them and adore them all.

I live with my mom, Lee Kennedy and my adopted father Steve Kennedy. The thought of living with my mom and dad after I grew up horrified me when I was younger, but they are my best friends. I thought it would be a fate worse than death. Age and circumstances supplied me with a new perspective.

### **What is the best advice on writing you've ever received?**

When you have written something let it rest. Do not look at it for weeks or months before you begin the editing process. Then you can look at it with fresh eyes. Have someone read your manuscript aloud to you. I use a text reader, TextAloud from Next Up. It is a real eye opener.

### **Can you share the origins of your disabilities?**

In 1998, I caught bacterial pneumococcal spinal meningitis. It began with an earache. I visited two doctors. Neither diagnosed the disease. Within one week I was rushed to the emergency room; correctly diagnosed with spinal meningitis, suffered a respiratory arrest and brain stem stroke; descended into a coma; pronounced brain dead and regained consciousness a ventilator-dependent quadriplegic. It was a busy week.