



3AW Afternoons

With Denis Walter



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INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR/WRITER CHRYS PHILLIPS.

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Transcript of audio

Radio Voice Over: Denis Walter. Talking Melbourne in 3AW 693.

Denis: Twenty-eight to three. Twenty-nine degrees in Melbourne and Dr. Jack in soon. The Magic Wars Series has taken the sort of, teenage years by storm and joining me on line is the author of Magic Wars Chrys Phillips. Chrys, good afternoon.

Chrys: Good afternoon Dennis. How are you?

Denis: Good! Where did it all come from and how many magic wars books have there been?

Chrys: There's uh, this is the first one in the series that's being launched and there's approximately six in the series in total that we're looking at.

Denis: So, quite a few to come?

Chrys: Quite a few to come. Currently working on the second one at the moment.

Denis: Umm. Now how do you get through to this age group? This sort of young teenage age group?

Chrys: Well I find that they really like, like all the mystical side of the magic, like, you've seen in lots of different genres that have come and gone over the years, whether it's Merlin from the seventies to Twilight and Harry Potter at the moment. So basically, the teenagers that are in there speak true as well, so they can relate to some of the teenagers in it that go through teenage life issues and fun things and parties and such and then we bring in the magical creatures whether their evil or good and the wars begin!

Denis: Is this a very tight part of the book market?

Chrys: Well I think in Australia we haven't had many types of genres and authors writing in that area...

Denis: No, that's what I wondered...

Chrys: Yeah...

Denis: I haven't heard of many and I wondered if that's because there difficult to cut through with?

Chrys: Uh, well I don't think anymore there difficult to cut through with. I think this is like the new fad, this is something that will be around for a while. It has been around for a while but you probably found it more in like graphic novels and comics more than mainstream literature.

Denis: You're also giving your readers a chance to name a character in the next book!

Chrys: Yeah I think that's really cool. It gives kids and teenagers an opportunity to tell me what they think a name should be and also be a part of something forever and be immortalized in the book when it's being printed. There's a big competition starting as of last week everywhere! [Laughs]

Denis: And is there much interest already?

Chrys: Much interest on the web! We've had a few entries coming in from school and individuals we're launching it officially on the 14th of November at Angus & Robertson bookstore in Westfield Southland at about eleven o'clock.

Denis: Ok. Are you a Melbourne girl?

Chrys: Yes I am.

Denis: Ok. So born and bred in Melbourne and studied in Melbourne?

Chrys: Well no I grew up in New South Wales and then moved to Melbourne. [Laughs] So I'm a yeah, now I'm a Melbourne girl.

Denis: Alright. Now with a series like this, when you start out like this, do you already have a series in mind?

Chrys: Yes I do. I have the characters and where I want it to flow to and at the moment when I'm writing the second book which is much larger than the first issue, there's millions of things happening that I'm more excited about and more fun. So yeah, it's already envisioned in my I don't know, bizarre [laughs] or overly imaginative mind.

Denis: No nothing wrong with that. Is the first one a smaller one simply to try and keep the attention for the first one and then you can, once you've got them converted you can uh, afford to go into a bigger book with more time consumed.

Chrys: Well, that's an interesting outlook. I was more by a publisher's and agents request for PR, so it might have been based on that but I think if I went in too far in the first book, it would have ended up as big as a yellow pages. So we had to condense it and edit it in the first one.

Denis: Chrys how do you compete? I mean, movies are such a huge, huge thing, maybe this will end up in movie form who knows? Maybe that's what you would like in the long term, but it must be hard to compete against the visual media.

Chrys: In some ways it is because we already have some people asking me Dennis, is it going to be a movie? Is it a cartoon? Or is it anything like that? And I kind of sit back, where I'm still writing several

books in the series but when I envision and writing it, because I have a theater background as well, I imagine it as a film in my head and how it would be done. So, it would be fantastic if that happens!

Denis: People always say, the film was nowhere near as good as the book

Chrys: [Laughs] They always do and who knows what a producer would take in or a director would take out.

Denis: That would be a nervous time wouldn't it?

Chrys: It would be very nervous.

Denis: The other thing is, when I say to you the visual media is a huge competitor at the same time there probably not enough out there that is using the theater of the mind.

Chrys: No there isn't. That's very true and I think that's why you've seen the types of things that have come through, like everyone keeps talking about the Harry Potter or the Twilight's because they just took a big boom over the Walt Disney things I grew up with. So I think that's the next step I hope.

Denis: Was there any moment, perhaps a Disney moment or a book that you read where you went this is what I want to do?

Chrys: Um, no seriously I've been writing for years and all different characters and this was other than doing all different theater productions this was my third book that I was really like this is the one I want to do a whole series on, these characters are fun, some are scary that come to life, so I think it just came from years and years of writing different things.

Denis: Have you...are you allowed to? You're probably not allowed to...tell me any of the names, the suggestions for a character of being?

Chrys: Um hang on. I just need to get approval... Yes I can...

Denis: Alright.

Chrys: Yes I can give two!

Denis: [Laughs] Alright good!

Chrys: Okay I can give two.

Denis: You don't have to. There's no pressure.

Chrys: One was like they've taken it from Greek Mythology which I have here is spelt Hercules. I don't think I would have a character named Hercules and the other one we have is Triad. So I don't think we're getting anything imaginative enough. At the moment nothings winning yet. We really want some young kids to go on the webpage and enter away or come to a book signing and give us an entry!

Denis: Well, parents, grandparents, anyone who's in the age group...well what' the age group you're aiming for?

Chrys: The book is between ten and fifteen.

Denis: Ten and fifteen year olds, tell them about Magic Wars Book Series

Chrys: That's it. Perfect!

Denis: Okay. Magic Wars Book Series. Chrys, good luck!

Chrys: Thank you!

Denis: I hope one day I'll see Magic Wars the movie!

Chrys: Yeah so do I!

Denis: That's after number six in the series.

Chrys: [Laughs] Well I hope they all come through but thank you so much for today as well

Denis: It's a pleasure.

Chrys: Take care.

Denis: Chrys Phillips. What a fantastic, vibrant girl! Magic Wars Book Series and perhaps someone in your family, a youngster will be able to name one of the characters for the second in the series.