

Interview with Karen Siplin
Author of Such A Girl
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AMAG: When writing *Such A Girl*, is Kendall's position as a telephone operator vital in the story line as the definition of one's goals?

Siplin: Kendall's job as a telephone operator was vital to the storyline. When we meet her, Kendall is content. She's an intelligent woman who doesn't define happiness and fulfillment by her work. As a former telephone operator in a luxury hotel, I faced people - in and outside of the hotel - who didn't respect my job. With Kendall I wanted to explore how people judge others by their work and how much money they make, and I wanted Kendall to question her choices in life because of it.

AMAG: I personally enjoyed Kendall's laid back, go with the flow attitude. Is he mirrored after anyone, or created strictly from imagination?

Siplin: Kendall is a fictional character with hints of my own personality. I'm not completely casual, but I've never felt a desire to be an overachiever. I don't care what people think of my life choices. It's my life. But there's always someone who can come along and plant a seed of doubt. With Kendall, I wanted it to be someone she once loved and hurt.

AMAG: I see you have a degree from NYC Hunter College in Film Production, Are you also writing any screen plays??

Siplin: I've written two screenplays and have outlines for three more original scripts. I would love to adapt *Such a Girl* for the screen at some point. Film is one of my greatest passions!

AMAG: What is one way you enjoy volunteering your time?

Siplin: I donate money to my favorite charities. Ideally, I'd like to do something with children who have cancer and I'd eventually like to help with missing person cases.

AMAG: You are quite talented. When did you decide to start writing as a career/or is it your second career?

Siplin: I wrote my first novel when I was thirteen. I've always wanted to be a writer and I hope I can continue to write for a living.

AMAG: Was there any reason you made Jack's fiancé so fickle? Flakey and not liked?

Siplin: I wanted to take my readers inside a luxury hotel room and I wanted to show them different types of guests I've encountered. Rae was the perfect scapegoat for this. I also wanted to make it easier for Jack and Kendall to explore getting back together.

AMAG: What style of writing has yet to be a huge hit-in your opinion (i.e. Horror, fantasy, relationships)

Siplin: I think all genres are popular within their own fanbase. I'd like to see more genre writers-of-color move into the mainstream media, but there are few genre writers in mainstream media as it is.

AMAG: Cooooooooooooooooo!