

K.C. Tansley



*Author
Appearance Kit
School Visits
2016-2017*



Author K.C. Tansley

All About K.C.

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I am someone who pursues my dreams with gusto, but I also accept when dreams change. Mine have. I've been a management consultant, an auditor, and a risk manager on Wall Street. I even had a short stint as a news desk aide at the Washington Post when I first graduated college. I am proficient at writing and speaking Mandarin Chinese and received a Master of Pacific International Affairs with a concentration in international risk and a regional focus on China from the University of California, San

Diego. I received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a double major in finance and international business and a minor in Chinese from Georgetown University. I grew up in Connecticut, but lived most of my adult life in New York, NY, Washington, D.C., and San Diego, CA. Being an author is something I've stuck with for years because it's my passion and getting to do it every single day is amazing.

Under my pseudonym K.C. Tansley, I'm an Amazon Bestselling author for teens and an award-winning author. As Kourtney Heintz, I'm an Amazon Bestselling and award-winning author for adults. Most people wonder why I have two different author names. My books are incredibly different in style, content, and character. As Kourtney Heintz, my novels cross genres with more of a literary bent. They are character-driven stories that contain things that are best suited for adults (violence, sex, swearing, etc.). As K.C. Tansley, I write stories that are time-travel mysteries for teens. These are plot-driven adventures that a teen, a mom, and a grandmother will all enjoy reading. They are very PG-12.

Because I write series, I want my readers to know what they are getting when they pick up one of my books. A K.C. Tansley book will be very different from a Kourtney Heintz book. I also don't want angry parents emailing me, so I try to keep the lines between my books clear by using different author names.

I blame J.K. Rowling for my becoming an author. When I found out the Harry Potter series was ending, I was distraught. I would never go on a new adventure with Harry and Hermione. Sure, I could reread the books, but there would be no new ones. I decided to write my own stories so that I could hang out with my characters as much as I wanted and only have to let them go when I wanted to.

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts (written as K.C. Tansley) is a time travel murder mystery for teens. It's about a prep school student who accidentally time travels and must solve a murder and break a curse. This story has been with me most of my life. My best friend and I came up with the concept for it when we were eleven. We worked on character sketches, but got mired down in them. We abandoned the project after a few months.

At 29 years old, I emailed him and asked if we could work on it. He was busy being a Fulbright Scholar in Croatia, but said to go for it and he'd help when he could. That was back in 2006. I kept going with it until I sold the book to a publisher. Now I'm working on the second book in the series. (If you're interested in more details about my journey, check out my website: <http://kourtneyheintz.com/about/>)

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts has been on the Amazon Top 100 Lists in Time Travel, Mysteries & Thrillers, and Horror for teens. It's the first book in The Unbelievables series.

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts has been a finalist for several awards, including:

- **2015 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards Finalist**
- **2016 National Indie Excellence Awards Finalist**

- **2016 International Book Awards Finalist**

The Six Train to Wisconsin is a cross-genre novel for adults. When Kai's telepathy spirals out of control, her husband Oliver brings her to the quiet Wisconsin hometown he abandoned a decade ago—Butternut, Wisconsin—where he must confront the secrets of his past to save their future.

The Six Train to Wisconsin (written as Kourtney Heintz) has been on the Amazon Top 100 Lists for Psychic Mysteries and Paranormal & Urban Fantasy. It is the first book in The Six Train to Wisconsin Series.

The Six Train to Wisconsin won several awards, including:

- **2014 National Indie Excellence Awards Winner**
- **2014 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards Bronze Winner**
- **2014 International Book Awards Finalist**
- **2014 EPIC Ebook Awards Finalist**
- **2013 USA Best Book Awards Finalist**
- **2012 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards Semifinalist**

As Kourtney Heintz, I've been a panelist and presented writing workshops at writing conferences, universities, high schools, bookstores, libraries, non-profit organizations, and fantasy conventions. I'm a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Romance Writers of America. I've also been featured in the *Republican American*, on WTNH's *CT Style*, and *Everything Internet* on the radio.

All About My Author Visits

My workshops are in-depth explanations of how I create my books. They are designed for grades 7-12. Using PowerPoint slide shows, I focus on different aspects of the writing process, including: experiencing inspiration, generating ideas, developing concepts, writing rough drafts, revising, and creating final copies with the publisher.

I explain how the writing processes are linked for me. I emphasize the importance of all the revising and editing I do to my work while creating it. During my revision workshop, I share drafts with the students and demonstrate why it's so important to keep working and reworking the writing.

I also discuss what it's like to be an author and share what authors really do all day.

The workshop sessions are limited to 40 students per session so students can have a chance to get involved and receive hands-on feedback during the workshop.

In addition to the workshops, I also offer a general presentation on the author life. The presentation is more informational and suited to a larger audience. The interactive component is limited to a Q&A session. Presentation sessions are limited to 80 students per session in order for me to be an effective presenter.

I offer four different workshops:

Finding your Story: Going from Inspiration to Idea to Concept (45 minutes)

Every person has at least one story inside them. You just have to discover yours. I will show you how to find your story. We will start with inspiration and how it can give you an idea.

Then we'll take an initial idea (character, setting, situation, or conflict) and discuss how to develop it into an actual concept, which is made up of all four types these of ideas. At the end of the workshop, students will write a one-sentence summary of their concept, which is the hook for their story.

Revision: Getting It Right on the Fourth Try (45 minutes)

The secret to great writing is revising. We all like to think we can do it in one draft, but great writing requires time and multiple rounds of revisions. I will walk you through my process for revising a first draft.

You will get a peek at the actual editorial notes from my editor and a chance to see how the opening scene changed from first to final draft in my book. You will grasp the importance of revision to take your writing to the next level.

Flash Fiction Writing Workshop: Telling a Story in 50 Words or Less (45 minutes)

I will introduce the basic principles of story: character, situation, conflict, and stakes. Then I will walk through an example of flash fiction, where I tell a story in a few sentences to illustrate how these four elements come together to create a story.

We will have a hands-on writing workshop where students will be given five words and ten minutes to draft a fifty-word piece of flash fiction. We will apply drafting techniques

at warp speed to understand the fundamentals of storytelling.

Juggling Priorities: Time Management Techniques from a Former Management Consultant (45 minutes)

Time management skills are something we need at all stages of our lives. I will share techniques that will help students do more in less time. While working full time on Wall Street, I wrote two novels. We will discuss how to set realistic deadlines with measurable and reachable goals. There will be tips about how to manage real life intrusions and prevent them from derailing you.

Over the years, I've developed a process for scheduling and planning all my writing projects from drafting to revising to querying. Students will leave this workshop with the tools to help them manage their time and a method to plan any project and complete it on time.

I offer one general presentation:

An Insider's Peek at the Author's Life (45 minutes)

Ever wonder what an author really does? In today's ever changing publishing industry, authors can no longer just write. We must also be publicists, event planners, bookkeepers and our own assistants. Most of us even have a full-time or part-time job. I'll share my paths to publication, including my traditional publishing deal that ended before publication, what it's been like to work with a small press, and how my experience with self-publishing went.

I'll give you a peek into what my author workday encompasses: writing, revising, storystorming (brainstorming a story), processing orders for signed copies, tracking personal sales, maintaining social media, and setting up events to keep the promotional wheel in perpetual motion.

Workshops or General Presentation Pricing for School Visits

Single session (Day or Evening) - \$150

2 sessions - \$275

3 sessions - \$400

4 sessions - \$500

1 hour Skype writing workshop/general presentation - \$75

Each workshop session is limited to 40 students to ensure that all students have a chance to participate.

Each presentation session is limited to 80 students to ensure an effective presentation for the students.

Block Booking Discounts Available

The discount can be shared by multiple schools.

Travel fees apply for schools beyond a one-hour drive
Driving - \$0.50/mile for each mile beyond a 50 mile drive

For schools requiring overnight stays or long-distance travel, please contact me for details.

Author K.C. Tansley Is Coming To Our School!



**“Those who enjoy suspense, ghost stories, and a little hint of romance are sure to devour Tansley’s novel.”
—Foreword Reviews**