

Author Background, & the Story Behind Habitan

Cheryl says that she has “*always treasured the ‘world imagined’, and like so many people, loves a great story*”. From a young age, she enjoyed not just reading great stories, but also writing her own material.

A proud Canadian, Cheryl has a multi-cultural background that includes not only Canadian settlers of various European descent, but also one-quarter Cree Indian/Inuit mix from her maternal grandmother. Her grandmother’s spirit and grace were inspirational to the creation of the Habitan story, and the reason behind the decision to use Cree as the basis for the magical language of Habitan. The scenery behind the story is drawn from the naturally varied and beautiful landscape that we all share across Canada, and all animals described in the book are native to Canada as well.

Cheryl holds an Honors degree in Child Psychology, and a Masters of Health Sciences in Speech-Language Pathology. Her first career as a Speech Pathologist allowed her to work with children of all ages for over 25 years. Cheryl says she learned a lot from the children and youth that she worked with, and recalls how much she really enjoyed the opportunity to come up with creative and entertaining approaches to her treatment.

After her second decade as a therapist, Cheryl made the decision to found a home health care company, a place where great people could bring their skills and be appreciated and motivated to be the very best they could be. She personally ran this company, called Exceptionalities, for seven years. Once again, she learned a lot from this experience, for she found that health care was more than just giving someone a prescribed treatment... everyone wants to be listened to and to be respected, to be treated as more than just a number. So often, she says, “*what these clients really wanted most was to tell you their stories*”.

Throughout this period, Cheryl continued to write, even incorporating story telling into her company's meetings. She also created a tradition of making up bedtime stories for her two children, to teach and entertain them each night before going to sleep, and spun these tales on the spot based on characters the children wanted to see each night.

One day, her daughter Melissa asked Cheryl to imagine for them a 'longer' story; a novel in which she and her brother could be the inspiration for key characters. This led to the birth of Habitan. Cheryl began writing the story and reading the chapters to the children as she went along.

Soon after beginning the book, Cheryl decided to sell her successful health care business, which allowed her to focus her efforts full time on writing. Cheryl is very excited to be launching the Habitan series, and promises a story that will span the lifetime of her characters. She hopes that the magical land of Habitan will provide an escape that will enthrall and consume readers, and surprise them until the very end, just as it did for her children.

Cheryl is currently working on two books; the second book in the Habitan Series, titled “Parallel Futures”, and an adult science-fiction fantasy novel.