

What is your usual writing routine?

I usually write in the afternoon or late at night. Either way, it is right before or just after my chaotic mornings, which include a workout and a coffee date with my three year old son. (On a side note, my son drinks milk during the "coffee" date).

I like to write during these times because I am not on "mommy duty" and free to let my mind wander. I don't have any rituals per se, but I find that I work best in silence. I wrote *My Life in Loubies* in my home office, aka my sanctuary! It's a beautiful, toy-free room with bookshelves and a terrace, a place to zone out from the norm. But when I needed a "change of scenery," I headed over to a local coffee house. I write on my computer, on my iPad and on good-old looseleaf paper!

How do you spend your time when you are not writing?

I love spending time with my family. We have one son and I adore watching him grow into an inquisitive toddler. He keeps my feet moving and my mind working at all times! I am also a room mother at his preschool, which keeps me very busy during the year. As for hobbies, I love to workout, read and shop. But my guilty pleasure is tweeting! I love to connect with my readers and "twitter friends." You can find me at <http://www.twitter.com/MyLifeInLoubies> and, I tweet back!

What was your biggest challenge while writing *My Life in Loubies*?

SPOILER ALERT: I struggled with humanizing the Vanessa that I knew existed below the designer labels. It took a great deal of time, patience and writing exercises to humanize her to a point where readers might not feel bad relating to her, sympathizing with her or even giggling with her. It was during the content editing stage where I found myself struggling, but at the same moment this "struggle" up'd the ante, forcing me as a writer to see eye-to-eye with my protagonist.

If "*My Life in Loubies*" were made into a movie, who would you cast for lead roles?

Vanessa: Leighton Meester or maybe Rachel Bilson?

Emily: Isla Fisher or Emily Blunt?

Ethan: Orlando Bloom

Carmen: a Jimmy Smits type of character?

What do you consider the perfect shoes for a night out?

I am assuming that we are talking about a night out on the town and not the family nights out that I now know, where a tantrum-free dinner is like winning the World Series! So, on a night on the town, I would have to say the Christian Louboutin Satin & Lace Slingbacks. And on a family night, ballet flats are my first choice!

What is your favorite all-time children's book?

It is so tough, almost unfair to choose one, but "all-time," I would have to say "Corduroy." And now looking back, it makes complete sense: a cute bear in a department store!

What is the biggest fashion faux-pas you have ever made?

Crocs. I purchased a pair awhile ago for in-flight purposes during an overseas flight.

Yeah, big mistake. They are solely--no pun intended--for kids, like my son.

What is your favorite store?

I am a huge fan of Neiman Marcus, Saks and Intermix for the must-haves, but I love shopping at local boutiques! I would say that at the moment one of my favorite boutiques is Lola Rouge in Newport Beach. And, I am also a huge Lululemon fan! For everything else, I head to Target!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?

Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré! My favorite street in the world! I love Paris, from the lush gardens to the history to of course, the shopping. I don't think I can ever be done with Paris! Plus, I was a French major.

If you were not a writer, what would your ideal job be?

I would definitely be teaching reading to children. I have a Reading Specialist credential along with my other teaching certifications which would enable me to teach and assess reading skills. One of the best moments of my life was watching a student read for the first time!