

meet the author.

RAÚL QUINTO



1 • WHAT IS YOUR KRYPTONITE FOR WRITING?

Work, parenting, household, in other words, the finiteness of time and energy of this body that drives me.

2 • IF YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING TO YOUR YOUNGER WRITING SELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Be prepared for the mysteries and miracles that literature will bring you, and keep calm because your illness with books is contagious.

3 • WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR FIRST ADVANCE?

I paid back a loan given to me by a relative in order to pay my rent.

4 • AS A WRITER, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE AS A MASCOT/AVATAR/SPIRIT ANIMAL?

On the desk where I work I have a small wire figure of Fernando Pessoa writing on a table in A Brasileira. I think it protects and guides my writing. I can think of no better animal than a poet with a thousand masks.

5 • HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE NAMES OF YOUR CHARACTERS?

I usually write about real people, so the names are given to me.

6 • WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD BOOK?

Tolkien's Silmarillion. My obsession with Tolkien as a child may be captured in the latest DSM with a picture of me making diagrams of the Noldor house.

7 • HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE YOU WRITTEN AND WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE ONE?

I have written seven books of poems, of which my favourite is "White Noise, and five books of narrative and I could not choose among "The Song of NOF4" and "Martinete of the Shadow King", both of which have given me much joy and connected me with many people.

8 • IF YOU COULD SPEND A DAY WITH ANOTHER POPULAR AUTHOR, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I would be happy to meet for a coffee with Thomas Pynchon or Mircea Cartarescu

9 • HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR BOOK?

It's a strange feeling that mixes panic, euphoria and emptiness, as well as the feeling that the book is never quite finished. I don't allow myself to celebrate until it is published and I make the first presentation, but then I do, of course, because literature is always a celebration when it is shared.