



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH KATIE POWNER

**1. *The Sowing Season* focuses on an unlikely duo—a retired dairy farmer in his sixties and a stressed-out teenage girl. What made you decide to bring these two characters together for a story?**

Gerrit and Rae are not as different as they seem. They're both struggling to find their place in the world and navigate difficult relationships. They each offer a unique perspective that helps the other character learn and grow. Gerrit is kind of a composite of a long list of farmers and retired farmers I know, such as my uncle. And Rae's character is definitely inspired by my own teenage experience. I was also a Type-A perfectionist who thought she needed to have everything figured out. I've spent the last twenty years learning no one ever has everything figured out.

**2. You have lived in Montana for almost twenty years, but *The Sowing Season* is set in Western Washington. Why did you choose this setting?**

I've lived in Montana a long time now, but I grew up on a dairy farm in Western Washington. Farmland is shrinking there—and everywhere, it seems—but there are still a lot of farms in that area, as the climate is ideal for growing. I think the years I spent on the dairy lent authenticity to Gerrit's and his family's struggles in *The Sowing Season*.

**3. Which other authors of contemporary fiction do you admire?**

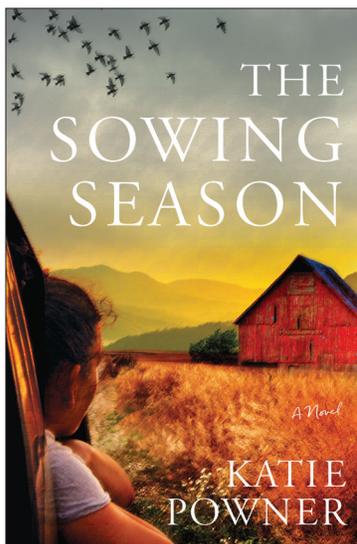
There are so many amazing contemporary authors that it's almost impossible to answer this question, but I'm a huge fan of Dale Cramer. His book *Summer of Light* changed the course of my life when I read it for the first time and realized what kind of writer I wanted to be. I've read it a couple more times since then. I also greatly admire Charles Martin, Chris Fabry, and Amy K. Sorrells. They write the kind of books you think about for a long time.

**4. One major theme that comes out of *The Sowing Season* is discovering what really matters in life. What other themes will readers find in your story?**

The theme of forgiveness and how forgiveness leads to freedom really permeates the story, as well as the theme of reaping what you sow. None of these themes were intentional when I started writing, but I think because they're so prevalent in life, they easily and naturally found their way into the story.

**5. What can readers expect next from you?**

Being a published author is a dream come true for me, and I hope to keep writing books for many years to come. My second book, a contemporary story set in rural Montana, is scheduled to be released in fall of 2021.



***The Sowing Season***

by Katie Powner

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