

Matt Forrest Esenwine



Bio: The short version

I have been a voice artist for over 20 years, so you may hear me on a national hotel chain's on-hold telephone message one minute, and a local car dealer's television commercial the next! I've been in recording studios, on theatre stages, and in front of TV cameras as well, and have always managed to leave before security arrived.

At various times throughout my life, I've also been an actor, copy writer, DJ, country dance instructor, radio news reporter, cook, telemarketer, ice cream scooper, and photography sales dude...and through it all, I have yet to figure out how to make a living doing any of this. But I'm having fun, so that counts for something!

Just to back up for a moment, I discovered poetry when I was in high school. More accurately, I had read children's poetry when I was young, but I never really paid attention to what poetry really was until high school. Then a free-verse poem I wrote was selected for inclusion in a local college's literary magazine – and I was hooked.

Over the years, I have had several adult poems published in various independent collections (see "credits" for the complete list), and I have had a number of children's poems published, as well (again, please see "credits" for the complete list). A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) since 2010, my debut picture book, *Flashlight Night* (Boyd's Mills Press) was released in 2017.

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Matt Forrest Esenwine

Bio: The extended Director's Cut

I have been a voice artist for over 20 years, so you may hear me narrating a pool company's corporate video one minute, a national hotel chain's on-hold telephone message the next, and a local car dealer's television commercial the next! I've been in recording studios, on theatre stages, and in front of TV cameras...and have always managed to leave before security arrived. I've done voicework and audio production for clients around the country, and my voice can be heard from Maine to Florida, from California to New Jersey, from the U.K. to Dubai.

At various times throughout my life, I've also been an actor, copy writer, DJ, country dance instructor, radio news reporter, cook, telemarketer, ice cream scooper, and photography sales dude...and through it all, I have yet to figure out how to make a living doing any of this. But I'm having fun, so that counts for something!

Just to back up for a moment, I discovered poetry when I was in high school. Sure, I had read children's poetry long before then, but I never really paid attention to what poetry really was or how it was written until my English teacher, Mrs. Jencks, got the class excited about Shakespeare and Chaucer...and pretty soon I was hooked! I loved the imagery and the flow of words and rhythm of formal, metered verse. Ironically, a free-verse poem I wrote during this time was selected for inclusion in a local college's literary magazine – and as a young kid seeing my name and poem in print, that was all it took to get me rolling.

Over the years, I have had several adult poems published in various independent collections (see “credits” for the complete list) and in 2009 I decided to make a concerted effort to break into the world of children's literature. When I left the security of a full-time paycheck in 2012 and quit my regular job to work from home and become a stay-at-home father to my 2-year-old son, I wasn't sure if it was the right decision. As one can imagine, it was a rather stressful undertaking – but I built up my voiceover business while devoting more time to developing my writing (in-between diaper changes and naps!) and before long, I was settling into my new routine.

A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) since 2010, I have had a number of children's poems published (again, please see “credits” for the complete list) and my debut picture book, *Flashlight Night* (Boyd's Mills Press) was released in 2017.

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