

# [PDF] A Countess Below Stairs

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## Books Details:

Title: A Countess Below Stairs

Author:

Released: 1992-05-01

Language:

Pages:

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## Description:

**About the Author** Eva Ibbotson, born Maria Charlotte Michelle Wiesner (21 January 1925 – 20 October 2010), was an Austrian-born British novelist, known for her children's books. Some of her novels for adults have been successfully reissued for the young adult market in recent years. For the historical novel *Journey to the River Sea* (Macmillan, 2001), she won the Smarties Prize in category 9–11 years, garnered unusual commendation as runner up for the Guardian Prize, and made the Carnegie, Whitbread, and Blue Peter shortlists. She was a finalist for the 2010 Guardian Prize at the time of her death. Her last book, *The Abominables*, was one of eight books on the longlist for the same award in 2012.

The following interview appeared in the Fall 2001 *Preview Magazine*

**Do you have any rituals?**

I can write anywhere if I have to because I still use a pen and paper -, but when I am at home I go to the old carved desk I inherited from my mother who was a writer too, and told some fantastic stories. The morning is best for ideas, and I have to be wearing warm clothes because when I am thinking hard I get cold. And I have to have a waste paper basket handy for all the pages that have gone wrong.

**Whom do you share your writing with first?**

I don't really share my work until it is published, I feel too uncomfortable about unfinished work.

**When did you know you wanted to be a writer?**

I don't think I ever knew, it just happened. One day I wrote author' in my passport and that was that..

**What were you doing when you found out that your first book was going to be published?**

Cooking supper for my husband and children. My agent phoned and I shouted and we all danced about, except my husband who saw to it that the sauce did not burn.

**What did you treat yourself to when you found out that your first book was accepted for publication?**

My first money as a writer came from a short story in a magazine. It was a very small sum, and I bought Mars Bars for everybody in the family.

**What was the first book you remember reading as a child? Did you have a favorite book as a child?**

I don't remember the name of my first book, but I know it had a picture of very bright berries, green and red in a forest- and people lived inside the berries... Perhaps that's where my passion for forests comes from!

**Do you read reviews of your own work?**

Yes, when I am sent them, but I don't go out and look.

**What's the best question a teen has asked about your writing?**

I don't know what the best question is, but by far the most common is 'Where do you get your ideas from?' - and the answer to that is very difficult (and therefore interesting).

**What are you reading right now?**

The Wizard of Earthsea, by Ursula Le Guin.

**Susan, your editor, tells me Journey to the River Sea is a book you've wanted to write for years. How did the idea first come to you?**

Journey to the River Sea was written quite quickly but it spent years and years inside my head. It started with my hearing about this fabled opera house a thousand miles from the mouth of the

Amazon and I thought it was one of the strangest things I had ever heard - I meant to go there and see for myself but then I realised it would mean going back into the past because everything is quite different there now. So I went on reading and dreaming and researching and then one day, I picked up my pen to start a new book about witches and ghosts and found I had started to write an adventure story set in the jungle.

--This text refers to an alternate edition.

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