

## Q&A WITH AUTHOR ANNIE FOX



### Q: Where did you get the inspiration for Leeta Simtar?

**A:** I've always been interested in the challenges of being a stranger in a strange land. With Leeta, I decided to add a whole other level to her strangeness by making her a one-of-a-kind interspecies hybrid who's a stranger on her home planet. You've gotta feel for this girl and root for her! I love creating characters who are outsiders so I can see how they handle the challenges of being who they are in spite of everyone else telling them who they ought to be.

### Q: Do you see yourself in Leeta Simtar or any of the other characters?

**A:** When a movie is made of this novel, I'd like to play the part of Angela. She and I are similar in that we're both nurturing types who love our dogs and look out for kids.

### Q: Sid isn't your typical romantic lead. How did you dream him up?

**A:** Typical romantic leads are boring. I love Sid because he's not typical or boring. He's fun and playful and he's got a really good heart. Sid's sensitive and super creative. He sees Leeta and pretty much falls for her instantly. She's a foot taller than he is, but who cares? He's heard she needs a friend, and he wants to prove himself to be the kind of person she can count on 100%. Who wouldn't want a friend like that? In some ways, Sid reminds me of my husband David. He's about a foot taller than me and yeah, he's my best friend.

### Q: What are your favorite sci-fi books?

**A:** I've read and enjoyed sci-fi classics like *Earth Abides* by George R. Stewart. *When Worlds Collide* by Phillip Wylie and Edwin Balmer, *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein. Also more recent books like *The Martian* and *Project Hail Mary*, both by Andy Weir. I don't read a lot of sci-fi, but I've always been fascinated by the idea of life on other planets. At one point as a kid, I wanted to grow up to be an astronomer.

When I was 12 I saved up my allowance and babysitting bucks and bought a used telescope. I loved looking through it and imagining someone my age on a distant planet, looking through a telescope at that same moment. She'd be thinking about life on Earth while I'd be thinking about life on whatever planet she was on (Fure?). Thinking about our place in the Universe fascinates me.

**Q: How did you come up with the title?**

**A:** I read a brilliantly honest autobiography by Jennifer Finney Boylan called *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*. That stuck with me because of the idea of two sides of a life. When I dreamed up *Leeta Simtar* and thought about her being an interspecies hybrid, I knew she'd want to understand both parts of her genetic make-up. To do that she'd have to leave one world and explore another. That's when the subtitle came to me, *A Life on Two Planets*.

**Q: Are you currently working on a new novel?**

**A:** Yes, I am. It's a YA romantasy called *Paige Turner and the Happily Ever After Wars*. It will be published sometime in 2027. Or maybe sooner.



**Q: What do you like to do when you're not writing?**

**A:** These days I've been painting—mostly abstract stuff, though I did paint a portrait of Leeta Simtar that I rather like. When I'm not writing or painting, I love to hike through forests or any totally immersive natural environment with David and Gracie the Dog. I love taking photos while hiking, though the images I capture are never as good as being there. I also love to travel internationally. If I didn't get motion sickness, I'd probably sign up for an intergalactic flight!

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

**LEETA SIMTAR**  
**A LIFE ON TWO PLANETS**  
*The Unauthorized Biography*

By Annie Fox

 [@AnnieFoxAuthor](https://www.tiktok.com/@AnnieFoxAuthor)  [@AnnieLFox](https://www.instagram.com/AnnieLFox)  [@AnnieFox.com](mailto:AnnieFox.com)

 [AnnieFox.com](https://www.AnnieFox.com)