



August Theme: If you met your heroine or hero, what would you ask that person?



Barbara Ehrentreu -- If I met my heroine or hero, it would depend on where I met them. At a party, there might only be time for small talk. My first question there is always, how do you know the host or hostess? If I think about it, I have too many heroines and heroes to decide on one. However, one of my heroines, Golda Meir, I would ask how she found the courage to lead a country that was so young and vulnerable? If I met Rosa Parks, another heroine of mine, I would ask her what was going through her mind when she decided to sit in the front of the bus? Or maybe if I met the unsung hero who

shot the woman who was going to attack our lawmakers, I might ask, did you feel any pain when you had to shoot her?

Sarah Darer Littman -- George Orwell (currently working on a non-fiction graphic novel about his essays on political speech) From his essay: *Looking back on the Spanish Civil War (1943)*

"It was in Spain, for the first time, I saw newspaper reports which didn't bear any relation to the facts. I saw troops who had fought bravely denounced as cowards and traitors, and others who had never seen a shot fired hailed as the heroes of imaginary victories; and I saw newspapers in London retailing these lies and eager intellectuals building emotional superstructures over events that never happened. This kind of thing is frightening to me, because it often gives me the feeling gave that objective truth is fading out of the world. After all, the changes are that those lies, or at any rate similar lies, will pass into history...some kind of history will be written, and after those who actually remember the war are dead it will be universally accepted. So far all practical purposes the lie with have become truth."

Sarah to George: How does it feel to see your name used by people who are spreading lies - like this meme of a quote you never said which circulated before the 2016 election? How does it feel to know that you predicted "alternative facts" and the "fading" of objective truth in aid of totalitarianism, something you fought until your dying breath, whether it came from the right (Fascism) or the left (Stalinism)?

George, do you think there is hope? Can writers in search of objective truth still make a difference?

Doris Mady -- Eighteen-year old Greta Thunberg deserves my vote. Each and every one of us has been impacted by her valiant efforts to make our world a safer place in years to come. What courage it takes to tell the truth, to remind us that we must take care of our planet. My question for her: As a little girl, what was the determining factor that made you decide to try and save our planet?



Margaret Esme Simon -- One of my heroines is Mary Cassatt. Her work is so expressive, the portraits so intimate. I would ask her how she decides on the composition and incorporates the space around her subjects. The angles are often unusual and the views unique.

I am including one of my pastels, *Tara in a Red Robe*, but it cannot compare to the luminous work of Mary Cassatt. [Editor: we disagree.]

September Theme: What did you create that surprised you? Why?



GUIDELINES --- Original artwork and photographs: Jpegs no larger than 500 kb. *Proofread* stories, essays and poems: 150 words *more or less*; photographs related to your story are permitted. Music: one page scores only, with text. Send your submission no later than the 20th of the month for the upcoming month. i.e., for January send Dec. 20th; February send Jan. 20th, etc. Email: dorismady42@gmail.com.

Let's hear from YOU!

dorismady42@gmail.com