

Afterword

Inspiration comes from crazy places. The inspiration for Missy Maker and this book comes from my enduring love of math and science, my love of learning and my longtime desire to write a book for young people. When I think about my early education, I have lovely memories of attending St. Cecelia's Catholic Elementary School. There I was taught Earth Science along with multiplication and division by nuns and lay teachers.

One of my fondest memories is the exact moment when long division just clicked for me—when all the times' tables' memorization finally paid off. Sister Ann taught third grade math at St. Cecelia's. One sunny afternoon she spent showing the class how to set up long division statements and how to work out the answers. At first, it seemed so strange, so foreign. I didn't believe it could work at all. What kind of math sentence was this? And why did we have to use multiplication and subtraction in division? Then it clicked. It all made sense, and I begged for extra homework. How strange is THAT? I begged for homework just to have more long division problems to practice solving!

While many of my friends never believed or even understood my true love for long division, they did appreciate my mean math skills! To this day, I still enjoy a really juicy long division problem. Don't you?

I poured that love of math (and so much more!) into my character, Missy Maker. I hope you enjoyed meeting her, and I hope you will come along with us for another adventure. Missy Maker has many great escapades ahead of her.