



Smith-Obolensky Media Interviews the Bookstagrammer @ThrillableReviews

During research on the bookstagram community on Instagram, Joanna connected with a remarkable person who had diligently kept up their account, [@thrillable reviews](#). Through the Direct Message feature, Joanna discovered that they shared a love of [Little Free Libraries](#) and the bookstagrammer had set one up in their community (pictured above). Thrillable Reviews agreed to this interview to help support others in the bookstagram community, and to shed light on the power of the Little Free Libraries across the country.

* * *

It's impressive that you have already reached almost 1,000 followers since starting your account two years ago. What led you to become a bookstagrammer?

My passion for books led me to become a bookstagrammer. I love talking to people about books, especially thrillers and mysteries. Since I have started my bookstagram, I have expanded my reading genres. I have read/took an interest in some books that I would have never picked up, if it wasn't for my bookstagram. The bookstagram community is truly special and I'm honored to be a part of it.

How would you recommend new people start their bookstagram accounts?

I would tell people to just go for it. If you stay committed, then you will be successful. I had no experience whatsoever with reviewing or any other aspects. I knew that I wanted to share my viewpoints on books with people while I also wanted to see other viewpoints on books. Once I made my first post and announced my bookstagram, the book community made me feel welcome. I would give the following advice on starting a bookstagram:

1. Reach Out to Fellow Reviewers and Authors. You will make so many friends and will learn from the best of the best.

2. Stay Committed. Prioritize your bookstagram and your reading time.
3. Be Honest in Your Reviews. The reviews help fellow authors and readers.
4. Do Not Be Afraid of Failure. You never truly fail if you are doing something that makes you happy. Yes, other people may not have the same opinions as you, but do not let that deter you from something that makes you happy.

Did you follow any particular accounts that have been helpful to you?

One of the best parts of the bookstagram community is the people. I don't have a particular page like mine that I looked at, but I just remained open to new ideas when I came across new bookstagram accounts. I have made many author friends along the way. S.C. Shannon ([@s.c.shannon.author](#)) gave me a chance, and I won't ever forget it. She sent me my first review copy ever. She gave me the chance to be an "official" book reviewer, and she kickstarted my bookstagram. After I reviewed her book, it seemed easier to get chances from other authors to review their work. I remain in contact with her, and I reviewed her second novel a few weeks ago.

Could you give us a glimpse into your reviewing process?

I'm very honest in my reviews. I analyze every aspect of the book from the writing style to the plot twists. I will say, I typically review my thrillers and mysteries harder than my other genres. I feel that I am very familiar with thrillers and mysteries, where I have higher expectations. I believe that the plot twists in thrillers and mysteries are crucial and must be executed perfectly. In those genres, I believe the twists can make or break the book.

What is the "code of conduct" you subscribe to as a reviewer?

As a reviewer, you must honor the author. Especially, if it's someone that has trusted you with their work of art by offering you a review copy. I have a policy as a reviewer that "if I don't like a particular book, that doesn't mean that someone else won't like it." I never bash the author and I won't ever do that. We all have different opinions on books and that's okay. That is what makes each of us unique. Also, you must be honest. Honesty helps readers and reviewers so much.

Your family works at the local school and you have set up a Little Free Library. What do you consider the most important thing you do in supporting literacy?

I believe it's important to get the younger generation into reading. The Little Free Library is in front of the Petros Joyner Elementary School, Kindergarten through Eighth, so many students have access to it. I'm particularly biased towards the school. I spent most of my

childhood there. My mother is the secretary for the school and my father is on the school board. I believe that providing books to the Little Free Library is my way of supporting the school and community. Poverty affects many of the students in the area, so supporting the Little Free Library allows me to give many students the opportunity to read, otherwise, they wouldn't get the chance.

How do you manage your time between work, family life, and reading?

It can be difficult at times, but you must stay committed. I'm a paralegal, so it can be difficult at times especially with the workload. Once I get off work, I prioritize my time to my bookstagram late into the night. I remain on a strict schedule of time, so that also allows me to prioritize special things in my life.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

Thank you to everyone that supports Thrillerable Reviews. Thrillerable Reviews would not be where it's at today if it was not for you. Thank you to all the authors and companies that allow me to review their books. Thank you to all my fellow readers for enjoying and interacting with my account.

* * *

For more about this bookstagrammer, you may follow [@thrillerable_reviews](https://www.instagram.com/thrillerable_reviews) on Instagram.