

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF RILEY CARNEY

Riley Carney is seventeen years old and she has been writing since she could hold a pencil. Riley is a published author who has already written eight novels and she is the founder and executive director of a nonprofit for children's literacy called Breaking the Chain. Riley speaks at schools around the country, inspiring students to take ownership of their education. She is an avid reader and she spent most of her childhood reading and playing elaborate make-believe games, often with her older brother, Nick.

Riley writes for teenagers from a unique perspective - she is a teenager. Her stories are, therefore, based on genuine adolescent ideas and emotions. Her stories are fresh, exciting, and filled with action and humor. Her characters are vibrant and appealing, and she deftly weaves a captivating adventure story. She feels that fantasy adventure stories engage young imaginations and encourage kids to dream more than any other genre.

The Fire Stone: Book One of The Reign of the Elements is a fantasy adventure story for ages 9-14, it takes place in the imaginary world of Mundaria. When three terrifying creatures attack fifteen-year-old Matt, he is rescued by a wizard, kidnaps a baby alorath, and is befriended by elves, Matt's life transforms overnight from dreary to astonishing. Unwittingly, Matt joins a quest to find the Fire Stone, one of the elusive Stones of the Elements which have the power to destroy the world. He is thrust into a string of perilous adventures; a journey of courage, friendship, and danger, as a group of teenagers attempt to save their world from an evil elf who can exploit the power of the elements. Matt discovers that he has extraordinary abilities that can change his destiny and determine the fate of Mundaria.

The Water Stone: Book Two of The Reign of the Elements has a publication date of June 15, 2010. The adventure continues in *The Water Stone*, as Matt and Sam, his alorath companion, and their friends, set off on another quest, following the clues of a long-dead dwarf adventurer in hopes of saving lives as they desperately race against time and Malik's forces to find the Water Stone before it's too late.

Riley has written all five books of *The Reign of the Elements* series. She wrote the first three books in *The Reign of the Elements* series, *The Fire Stone*, *The Water Stone* and *The Wind Stone*, while she was fifteen. The last two books in the five-book series, *The Immortality Scroll* and *The Final Alliance*, were written after Riley turned sixteen. Riley is currently working on an urban fantasy trilogy for older teens. She completed the first two books of the series while she was still sixteen.

In addition to her writing, Riley is very involved with eliminating illiteracy and poverty for children around the world. She believes that teaching children to read breaks the cycle of poverty and exploitation of children. When she was fourteen years old, Riley created a non-profit organization called Breaking the Chain with the goal of eliminating illiteracy for children. Thus far, she has raised over \$100,000, enough to build three schools and water purification systems for villages in Africa and a children's literacy center in a woman's shelter in Colorado. Currently, Breaking the Chain is focusing on their program Bookin'It, which is putting books into classrooms in low-literacy/underfunded schools in the United States.

Some of the proceeds from Riley's books go toward her literacy program for children.

Riley has won a number of national and local awards, including T.A. Barron's Young Heroes Award Distinguished Finalist, Prudential Spirit of Community National Award for Colorado, NBC Colorado Affiliate 9News Kids Who Care, and Skipping Stones Multicultural Magazine Top Youth Writer Award, to name a few.

Riley is currently a junior in high school. She attended traditional schools until she was a sophomore, at which point she left the college prep school she was attending to studying at home through Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Duke University's Talent Identification Program, and other online programs, so that she would have time to write, raise money for her non-profit, and speak at schools and libraries around the country. She hopes to attend either Princeton University, Davidson College, or Harvard College.

Riley lives in Colorado with her parents, her older brother, when he is home from college, and her giant Bernese Mountain Dog.

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