

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF RILEY CARNEY**

Riley Carney is eighteen years old, and she has been writing since she could hold a pencil. She is an avid reader and spent most of her childhood reading and playing elaborate make-believe games, often with her older brother, Nick.

The Reign of the Elements is a five-book fantasy adventure series for ages 9 and up and takes place in the imaginary world of Mundaria.

*The Fire Stone: Book One of The Reign of the Elements* is the story of fifteen-year old Matt, who knows how to shovel hay, dig trenches, and dodge his father's whip, but when three terrifying creatures attack Matt, and he is rescued by a wizard, he kidnaps a baby alorath, and is befriended by elves, Matt's life transforms overnight from dreary to astonishing. When he unwittingly joins a quest to find the Fire Stone, one of the elusive Stones of the Elements which have the power to destroy the world, Matt is thrust into a string of perilous adventures. He soon discovers that magic does exist and that he has extraordinary powers that can change his destiny and determine the fate of Mundaria.

*The Water Stone: Book Two of The Reign of the Elements* and *The Wind Stone: Book Three of The Reign of the Elements* are a continuation of the adventures of Matt and his friends, and were released in 2010 and 2011.

*The Immortality Scroll: Book Four of The Reign of the Elements* was released July 24, 2011 and *The Final Alliance: Book Five of The Reign of the Elements* was released March 30, 2012.

Riley wrote the first three books in *The Reign of the Elements* series while she was fifteen. The last two books in the five-book series were written when Riley was sixteen.

In addition to her writing, Riley is passionate about children's literacy. 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 \$150,000, enough to build three schools and water purification systems for villages in Africa, create a children's literacy center in a woman's shelter in Colorado, and purchase over 25,000 new books for high-need elementary school classrooms across the U.S.

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

Riley has won a number of awards, including the Coca-Cola Scholarship, AXA Equitable/U.S. News & World Report Achievement Scholarship, Build-a-Bear Huggable Heroes National Award, Davidson Fellows Honorable Mention in Literature, Skipping Stones Multicultural International Magazine Top Youth Writer Award, T.A. Barron's Young Heroes Award Distinguished Finalist, Prudential Spirit of Community National Award for Colorado, and NBC Colorado Affiliate 9News Kids Who Care.

Riley graduated from high school in May 2011. She attended traditional schools until she was a sophomore in high school, at which point she began studying at home through Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth and other online programs, so that she would have time to speak at schools and libraries around the country, write, and run her non-profit. She is now in her freshman year in college.

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