

Stevie Mack

April 2026

<p>Interviewer: Your work often dances on the edge of the extraordinary while remaining deeply rooted in domestic or historical reality. How do you determine the exact moment a narrative requires a "magical" intervention versus a purely realistic one?</p>	<p>Stevie Mack: It is really where my mind takes me. I find that when a situation becomes so extreme that it feels almost laughable—or so overwhelming that it seems impossible to bear—the narrative needs a "shot of escape." That is usually the moment where magical realism enters the frame. It serves as a necessary release when the reality of a scene becomes too heavy.</p>
<p>Interviewer: Place often acts as a character in its own right in your fiction. How does your physical environment influence the cadence of your prose?</p>	<p>Stevie Mack: When I feel myself becoming completely submerged in a place, I want to evoke that same immersion for the reader. As a setting becomes more vivid to me, it begins to present its own metaphors.</p>
<p>Interviewer: You have a penchant for exploring the lives of women in traditional or structured roles. What draws you to the "hidden" internal lives of these characters?</p>	<p>Stevie Mack: I relate to the ways women have been historically oppressed or pushed into specific roles by those around them and by society at large. I want other women who might be feeling that same weight to know they aren't alone. I want to show that feminism isn't a "dirty word"—it is the realization that you don't always have to follow the status quo.</p>

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Interviewer: You've mentioned that you make writing a priority every single day. How do you carve out that space while navigating the all-encompassing nature of motherhood?

Stevie Mack: Writing is my escape from the everyday. I love my life, my family, and my children deeply, but motherhood is a role that can consume you. Because I am the type of person who gets 100% involved in whatever I do, I have to be very strict with myself. I dedicate time every single day to writing and reading; I don't allow myself to skip it, even if it's only a few minutes here and there. It is a non-negotiable priority.

Interviewer: If we were to look at your "literary DNA," which authors or works have most influenced your perspective on narrative?

Stevie Mack: I am drawn to works that play with the boundary between the real and the imagined. One of my favorites is *Time's Arrow* by Martin Amis. It explores the changing reality of a narrator experiencing time in reverse—moving from death toward birth—while still processing events forward. The way he describes the "magical" in the everyday—like food reforming onto a fork—is fascinating. It's that blend of the mundane and the impossible that fascinates me.

Interviewer: As you move toward the completion of your latest manuscript, *Broken TradWife*, what is the central truth you hope readers take away from the story?

Stevie Mack: The one truth I hope readers find is that your life is not over at 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80... No matter what stage you are at, there is always a chance for change. You are not stuck in your circumstances. Even if you are in a situation or a relationship that feels impossible to leave, there is a way out. There is always a way to make a difference in your own life, and there will eventually be an end to whatever struggle you are facing.