

URBAN LIT

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Dianna
Bletter
SPECIAL
Interview

WHAT'S
COOL
NOW

SEASON'S
BEST BOOKS,
WEBSITES,
REVIEWS
AND MORE

Reading
Quiz!

How much do
you know?

CARL
WARD

author
interview...

Publishing?

100 Hot New Reads...
And 50 Ways To
Be A Successful Writer



Editor's Note



Interviews

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Meet Ryan Hill

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Urban Lit is a new literary magazine that features both new and best-selling authors. The latest information on books, editing services, publishers, and much more can be found in our monthly issues. We strive to help promote, inform, and to entertain our readers. I hope that you all will find our issues helpful.

Sincerely,

Danielle Urban

@urbanliterary

<http://urbanliteraryagency.wordpress.com>

NEW
ROMANTIC
THRILLER

Unfinished Business is a newly released novel written by Olamide Ojo.

Unfinished Business by Olamide Ojo is a suspenseful new start to an edge of your seat thriller. Readers won't know what happens next until it happens. I love how Olamide keeps you guessing. The main character will lead you thinking one way only to be tossed in the opposite direction. Exciting, bold, and romantic. Overall, a five out of five stars for this new novel.



Author Interview

Meet Carl Ward author of Rx (Dawn of the Hybrids)

Me: What inspired you to begin writing your debut novel?

CW: One day I was just sitting around and decided that I was going to write a book. After flirting with a few Ideas, I settled on the Sci-fi genre and the creativity took over from there. While working on it, I found out that 3 of my family members suffered from 3 different medical conditions, and instead of letting the disappointment get the better of me; I used the news to fuel my story and create an alternate universe where as those

who suffer are the heroes and not burdens.

Me: Can you tell us readers briefly what Rx (Dawn of the Hybrids) is about?

CW: Well first and foremost, we have to establish what Rx is before we move into Dawn of the Hybrids. As I stated earlier, the situation with my 3 family members made me rethink about the way I was writing and what I was writing about, so I took their conditions and combined them into one super condition that had the symptoms of every condition that people suffer from. I chose Rx because of course it is the symbol for prescription. Now, the story is about a small group of humans that survive a reshaping of the earth and are

accidentally cured in the process. They also develop heightened senses, reflexes, and strength, which they will eventually need because they run into a new enemy that is equally as strong and fast, and also hard to kill. I think that it's a unique new take on Sci-fi and I had fun with it

Me: Which characters in Rx would say were the toughest to create and which were the easiest?

CW: I really didn't have much trouble with my characters. Every one of them is based on my family members. I just took their traits and put a little creative spin on it and they came out better than I could have imagined. Milo, though, was the one that I felt the most pressure with because he is based on my nephew Bobby, who passed away at a young age. Needless to say, Milo is my favorite, and I think the readers will like him too.

Me: What is your advice for other writers in science fiction?

CW: Any advice that I would offer would not be specific to just science fiction writers. I would say that any writer in general should remain humble to criticism of their work. As writers we all think that our work is perfect, but there is always room for improvement. As far as science fiction goes the possibilities are endless. Since mostly everything is made up there aren't many limits to what you can do, however if you want to touch on things such as world events or diseases, then you want to make sure you do a little bit of research first so that the fact checkers out there don't try to contradict the thing that you talk about even if they are made up.

Me: What was the whole writing process like for you when creating Rx (Dawn of the Hybrids)?

CW: I think for me, the writing process was fun exciting but it was also stressful at times. There were many times when I had the dreaded writer's block and I went for weeks and even months but I'll write anything down. Especially when I was done my first draft because I thought that it was perfect and it was nothing and nobody can tell me to make me think any different. But, after reading through again and again and again I seen that there were many flaws and I basically had to start from scratch to get it to where the story that I was trying to tell made sense.

Me: What is your current career besides writing a stunning novel that instantly lures readers in within the first page?



Find author Carl Ward on:

Twitter: @mrcarlt128

Email him at: mrcarlt128@gmail.com

CW: Well right now I am a chief Gunners mate United States Navy, and I teach small arms maintenance and repair to both military and civilian personnel to help keep their equipment functioning correctly.

Me: What are one of your favorite parts of your novel that you wouldn't mind sharing with us readers? And why?

CW: I think the bridge scene where Milo, Fiah, and Javier are trying to get to the JCW building is my favorite part. In this scene three of my main characters start to get the sense that something has definitely changed about their bodies and they get to use their new abilities and a violent altercation with a small group of looters. I had a good time writing it and I was laughing the whole time. But, wants the readers meet Milo they will understand.

Me: What would say are three qualities every writer should possess?

CW: I think for science fiction writers the imagination is the most important thing, especially when you're working on an original manuscript. Second thing would be patience. Getting published is not an overnight process and we writers are eager to share our gifts with the world. As with anything it is a process, so we have to be patient. The other would be writing skills. I think that being able to put a story together goes a long way. Plus I don't think a lot of readers would appreciate reading a bunch of mumbo jumbo that doesn't make any sense.

Me: Can you share with us readers what your future writing plans are?

As I stated earlier Dawn of the Hybrids is the first installment of the Rx series. As we speak I am working on Rx world at war and after that will be 24 hours 2 sunlight. I will have to see how the readers react to dawn of the hybrid before I decide on maybe a fourth or fifth book in the series. Also have a few more ideas but the Rx series is my focus at this point in time.

Me: I think it's amazing how you can write a stunning yet brilliantly well written novel that takes readers out of this world and into the next and still leave behind a heart felt message:

“It's a unique story inspired by the world's real heroes; people with conditions that require extra attention and care, and those who go out of their way to ensure that they get it.” – Carl Ward

Me: Where can readers find your debut novel Rx?

It is still in the production stages, but as soon as it gets put out I'll announce it on twitter and Facebook.

Me: Where can reader find you to connect with you about your novel? On twitter @mrcarl128, or just email me directly at mrcarl128@gmail.com

The Latest In Science Fiction

Currently on Amazon

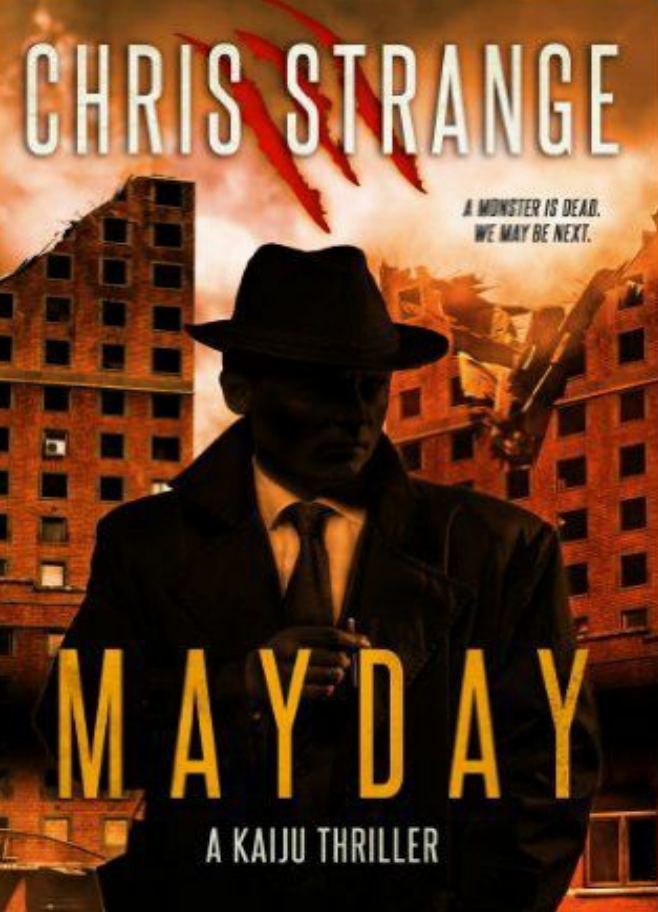


New Authors

Carl Ward

**Daniel J.
Darcey**

Karl Bertain



Mayday by Chris Strange is an exciting thriller that will forever lure readers into its plot. The plot itself is complex and fast-paced. A well written story that will leave readers at the edge of their seats. The novel is just as intriguing as its cover.

Inside Chris Strange's debut novel, *Mayday*, readers will follow along as humanity is almost extinct, world is ruined, and a sinister plan that is taking place that will be led to an unwinnable war for the humans. Monsters that attacked them are now the humans slaves, but as the lead investigator finds out more readers will be locked in the biggest war of war of all. Suspense, crime, and action are found on every page. Readers will fall in love with this masterpiece. I loved reading this debut novel and know that reader will love it too. Overall, I rate this a five out of five stars.

Book Reviews
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Universal Creativity Inc. is a proud company that serves both readers and writers alike. We provide many free services as well as paid ones. Unlike other companies we care. If your budget is preventing you from having a sought after service completed we work with you instead of turning you away. Our goal is to help advertise, promote, educate and to inform our readers and writers worldwide.

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Author News

Recently
Published



Coming Soon!



MEET YA AUTHOR

RYAN HILL



Me: What inspired you to write your debut novel, *Barking Madness*?

RH: A large combination of things inspired me to write *Barking Madness*. I had the idea for the story years ago, and it was eating at me, so I really wanted to put it down on paper to finally get it off my mind. My teachers in high school inspired me the most, though. If it wasn't for their support, I don't think I would have started writing. I also drew a lot of inspiration from young adult authors like Stephenie Meyer and Christopher Paolini. Their novels really sent my imagination for a ride.

Me: How would you describe your main characters, Rose and Michael?

RH: I wanted Rosetta to be the typical new hot girl. Although it's hard to say what's typical of a new girl, because they're all so different, I would say most people have an image in their head of what a hot girl should act like. Rosetta, for example, is gorgeous, flirty, and self absorbed and, for me, that's the image of the typical hot girl...the girl you will never get. So in your head, or in this case Michael's head, you have to make her out to be something you don't want. In my book's scenario, Rosetta was good looking, everybody liked her, and so I had to make her undesirable from a personality standpoint in order for her to fit the common image of the typical hot new girl. Of course, I wanted to flesh her character out, so as the story went on, I turned the girl who had it all into the girl who had nothing. Whether this made the reader sympathetic to her as a character, I don't know, but it did make her appear more real. I don't believe anyone is that one-sided, which is why I made Brittney, another character like Rosetta, an alcoholic, and Chloe, the other popular girl, suicidal. Everybody has their own problems whether they show it to people or not. I really wanted the reader to get far into the psyche of my character Rosetta, and it was fun doing this. Her character change from beginning to end is also very drastic, which is a part of growing up.

Michael is a lot like Rose in his own way. He's very different as a character, but they both share loss and severe pessimism. I'd also say they're both self absorbed, but most teenagers are like that. Michael's not popular though, and his friends are true friends. He's a very misguided kid, but he learns to cope with his demons slowly, and Rose helps him with this. I wouldn't say they're there for each other, but they do need each other. All in all, Michael is a very troubled character who strives to be noticed by others, but he learns what he needs in the end.

Me: What are 3 things that you would say is important when writing?

RH: Having an outline is helpful, if you ask me, because I think it's good to know what you want out of your story. Music is also very helpful. It really triggers my imagination. Lastly, time. I prefer to work in long sessions because it allows me to revise while I'm writing without me feeling pressured to put things down on paper. Time lets me think things through.

Me: What are your future writing plans, if any?

RH: I'm working on a project now. It's much bigger than the one I just accomplished, so it's going to take me more time. I hope it surpasses my first novel in quality, though. I would like to be on the path of self-improvement.

Me: Where can readers find you and your novel, Barking Madness online?

RH: You can find me in college. I'm located in Central Housing at UMASS Amherst. You can find my book at: http://www.amazon.com/Barking-Madness-Ryan-Hill-ebook/dp/B010GDGZ6S/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=&qid=

RYAN HILL



BARKING
MADNESS

Meet Author Jennifer Renson



Q: What inspired you to write your debut novel, *Carousel*?

JR: *Carousel* was an experiment of sorts for me. I've been writing since childhood and usually I keep to the same formula while creating new characters, places, and plots. I wanted to write something completely different and out of my element to see if I could. To see what would happen. I wanted to focus on something that was whimsically scary. Something I found beautiful while at the same time would scare me.

Q: Would you say that your education and career have helped shaped your writing?

JR: While attending Monmouth University obtaining my degree in Public Relations/Journalism my writing expanded. By participating in the literary magazine (*The Monmouth Review*) and university newspaper (*The Outlook*), I was able to spend more time writing thus spending more time on my own story ideas. The classes I took, helped me to discover my writing style, what I preferred to write and not write and why I loved it so much. Being able to write for *Lost Treasure Magazine*, has enabled me to write about my favorite subject when I have the time.

Q: Can you tell us readers briefly what your novel, *Carousel*, is about?

JR: *Carousel* takes place in an alternative Lucca, Italy where a young man Princio returns to the small kingdom upon the dying orders of his grandfather. Princio, having lived in the countryside with his family is unaware of his past and the people living in Lucca. He befriends the mysterious doll maker Feletti and is soon discovered by a young and curious Marian. As their friendship grows at the carousel, abandoned in the annexed building next to the old palace, it becomes clear to Princio who he can and cannot trust, unraveling Feletti's true intentions.

Q: Can you share with us readers about any up coming novels you may be working on?

JR: I recently finished the prequel to Carousel titled The Cottontail which Pulse LLC will be publishing as well in the near future. Readers will be able to get more insight into Feletti and what Lucca was once like while meeting two new characters thrown into events that change their lives. Aside from that I finished another story and am working towards getting more of my stories complete. I recently finished my third book of poetry Uncharted, which will be my last book of poetry for awhile as I want to focus on my unfinished books.

Q: How would you describe the life of a writer?

JR: Like books, every life of a writer is different. I can say that my life as a writer is very fulfilling. To be able to create worlds and stories that people will read, or watch on a television show or movie is a amazing feeling. The life of a writer is driven by one thing: passion. We are passionate about what we do, we live it, we love it. There is no apology for passion.

Q: Where can readers connect with you and find your novel online?

JR: Readers can find me on Twitter @JennyRenson, Facebook on my page Books and Poetry by Jennifer Renson and on Tumblr as jenniferdarjeeling.

I use those social media sites to connect with readers and post updates about my book, events I attend, interviews, photos and more.

Readers can find my book Carousel on Amazon.com, Google Play and pulsepub.net. I greatly appreciate that those who read my book review it and share it with others. Thank you for your support.

CAROUSEL

JENNIFER RENSON



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"A story about the bonds of friendship and family; how they are made, broken, and come full circle. Diana Bletter writes such lush and insightful prose that a foreign landscape and culture becomes warm and familiar."

—AMY SUE NATHAN, AUTHOR OF *THE GOOD NEIGHBOR*

A
REMARKABLE
KINDNESS

a novel

Diana Bletter

P.S.
INSIGHTS,
INTERVIEWS
& MORE...

Meet Author Diana Bletter



Diana Bletter # 103

Credit must read. Photo © Sybil Estrada

Me: Can you briefly tell us readers what your debut novel, *A Remarkable Kindness*, is about?

DB: *A Remarkable Kindness* is the intertwined stories of four American women who are members of a burial circle in a small beach village in Northern Israel. As they participate in this mostly hidden, ancient, sacred rite for the dead, they come to understand what it means to truly be alive.

Me: Who were your hardest characters to create and which ones were your easiest?

DB: These four women are delightful and they all emerged from my imagination in their own time. Readers can identify with Lauren's homesickness as she moves to a place thousands of miles away from her hometown; Aviva's grief over the death of her son; Emily's spontaneity and desire to experience all that life has to offer; and Rachel's idealism and hope.

Me: What are three words you would use to describe your novel?

DB: spiritual, powerful, inspiring

Me: What are your three tips that you would give to other writers?

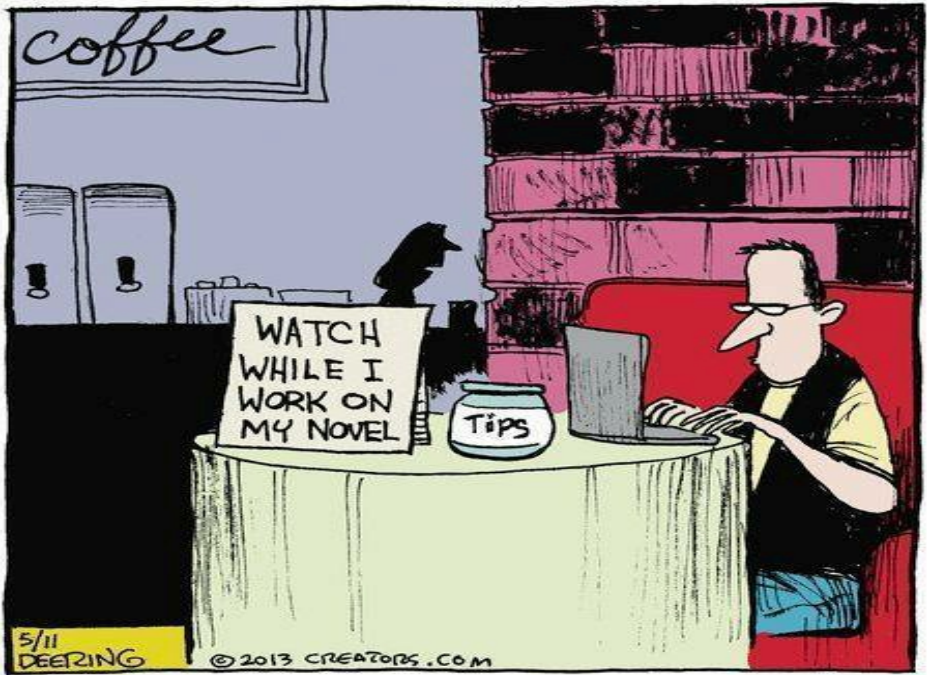
DB: Don't give up. No matter what. Just keep writing, revising, editing, hoping. Believe in yourself even when you have no reason to believe. Find a trusted person to read your work before you send it out. If someone suggests you change something in your writing, don't be defensive or self-defeatist and try to change it. The best words we write often have to be saved and then recycled for the next work. Turn off the TV and read, read, read. And then write some more.

Me: What are your future plans for novels, if any, that you can share with us readers?

DB: I am working on a novel about a mostly-unknown part of American history—a story set in New York City in the early 1900's.

Me: Where can readers connect with you and find your work online?

DB: Amazon and on Goodreads.



**“Writing is not just an art
nor a science, but the
creativity of one very
talented individual.”**

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What's It Like Working with Authors?

Working with authors on a daily basis is both a pleasure and an honor.. An author's time is sensitive because of all the tasks it takes to accomplish a successful book launch.

It doesn't matter what genre or how big or small the author's work is...but how that author works with those around him or her.

Here we accomplish many things such as book reviews. Right now, we have 50+ book reviews waiting to be read, posted, and shared worldwide.

We also do free interviews. Currently, I have had to work with 6 authors and had the pleasure to interview each one of them to get the latest scoop on their debut novel(s) and what it was like for them to write that novel.

What was their perspective on the characters as the plot developed? This question and many more can be answered by working with these authors. I love hearing their stories and what they have to say.

"Writing is not just an art nor a science, but the creativity of one very talented individual."

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Great Books
Are Always
Worth a Look.

I GET FREE BOOKS
TO REVIEW FROM
BOOKLOOK BLOGGERS



 BETHANYHOUSE

Blogger Reviewer

Meet Literary Agent Amy Synoracki

My Adventure as a Senior Publisher

I was honored to have had the opportunity to intern/work as a Senior Publisher at a local publishing company. My professional background is in Elementary Education and so this was a new venture for me. Not knowing much I jumped in with both feet and hit the ground running. I researched a lot on the Internet about what this position would entail as well as what was trending at that moment in the literary world.


During my time with this company I was in charge of finding new authors, reading their manuscripts (hoping they would be ones I could sign), sending my signed authors' manuscripts off to my editing team and assigning each author a marketing representative to help them promote their book from pre-release and beyond. I was blessed to have the most amazing editing and marketing teams anyone could ask for and my authors were just as amazing. I met so many talented people in this position that it made me want to do my job to the very best of my ability and I gave it my all because I knew my team was and my authors deserved nothing but the best. Everyone that I worked for knew that I was only an email away if they had any questions or concerns along this journey. A perk about this position was also that I was able to work from home.

I was honored to be able to help release four books by very talented up and coming authors. I held a Facebook launch party for the division of the company (young adult novels) that I was in charge of so that my marketing team could see what they needed to do for their authors when holding a Facebook launch party for their authors. It was a great learning experience and when I attended all of the launch parties for each of those books I could see that the marketing team had taken what they had learned from the launch and took it to the next level. I was incredibly proud.

I am no longer in that position and have started on a new adventure in the publishing world as a literary agent. I am very excited about this because working with and getting to know my authors was by far one of my most favorite parts of my job as a Senior Publisher. I am grateful for the experience and knowledge I gained as Senior Publisher and know that it will only help me grow as an agent.

My advice for anyone looking to become a Senior Publisher is to know your job and know that it is something that you want to do. Be passionate about it. Know what your responsibilities are and when you need to delegate so that you don't become overwhelmed. Finally, get a support system in place of other Senior Publishers at your company as well as other companies. Having people to bounce ideas off of and lean on is key to success.

Mia



Lucy Mitchell

Mia

I never gave Mia Smith a second thought. Why would I? She was the freak from school.

Once I left school my life accelerated and the past quickly became a dot in my rear-view mirror. I left a top university with a first class degree, which earned me a place on an exclusive graduate training programme, for an investment banking firm. With a flat in a trendy part of the city under my belt, an eye watering salary, a penchant for dining out and a collection of noisy, fashionable friends, there was no time for me to stew over the things I did in the past.

I met Jerry and fell in love with his mop of unruly black hair, cheeky boyish smile and his chiselled face. He proposed to me, after a whirlwind six month relationship. We got married in Spain. Friends from around the globe travelled to watch us wed standing on the edge of a cliff with a stunning view of the sparkling aqua blue sea below us. You see, there was no time to reflect on what happened all those years ago.

It was the day before our house warming party. A hot and sticky July day. Jerry and I had been in our new house, the one with the much sought after address, for just under two weeks. Our friends were dropping hints about us throwing one of our legendary social parties the day after we moved in.

My soft top car glided out of our gravel drive way and I indicated before pulling out onto the road. The sun tried to get my attention by prickling my neck. I raised my face to greet its warm rays as I joined a small queue of traffic. My mind was littered with plans for the house warming party. Jeff and Sue our friends rang earlier to ask whether they could stay over in one of our six bedrooms. I wondered whether there was enough time to nip to the luxury linen shop and pick up some designer bedding for them.

A broken down car ahead reduced everyone to a crawling pace. The air was sticky and reeked of exhaust fumes. After applying some pink lip gloss in the mirror I noticed grey ominous hurrying across the blue sky, like theatre curtains signalling the end of a performance.

A fork of lightening shot across the sky as I turned into the busy supermarket. A low rumble of thunder was followed by a series of droplets of rain on my head.

“Oh no” I snapped as blobs of rain pelted the leather passenger seat. The car park was rammed with busy shoppers and a queue of cars were waiting in front of me for spaces. I ordered the electronic roof to reappear. By the time it was back in place I was drenched.

My eyes darted about for a space. I spotted a car reversing out of a space down the 3rd isle. I wearily rubbed my temples as I waited for the elderly

gentleman to pull out. My head throbbed and my mouth was dry enough to warrant my tongue sticking to the roof.

The space became empty. I swung the car into the space and ...THUD. Something hard hit my car, I slammed on the breaks causing the car to lurch forward. A horrid sinking feeling uncurled in my stomach.

“Oh god please let it not be a person” I said frantically scrabbling for the door handle. I gasped as I caught sight of the hooded figure sprawled across the ground in front of my car.

The air in my lungs evaporated. My body, paralysed to the spot. Nausea enveloped me. What will Jerry to say when I phone him to say I have killed a pedestrian in a supermarket carpark? Tears pricked my eyes and I realised I was still standing with my mouth open.

A crack of lightening overhead made me jump. As if by magic the figure moved, it sat up and turned towards me. Relief flooded over me. I rushed to their aid and helped them to their feet.

Are you ok?’ I shouted nervously. ‘Oh I am terribly sorry, I didn’t see you, are you hurt? I knew I was rambling.

The figure was a woman, of about my age with a mass of frizzy brown hair, which poked out of the side of her maroon hood in clumps.

“Shall I call an ambulance?” I asked breathlessly.

“No I am fine, it wasn’t a big knock, sort of took me off guard” she said brushing some dirt from her coat.

‘Quick let’s get you into my car’ I said taking her by the arm and opening my passenger door.

I parked the car into the space properly. After I switched off the engine I turned towards her.

The woman removed her hood, shaking her mass of curls. My brain started to process her appearance; auburn frizzy hair, tall, slim, piercing blue eyes and pale white skin. There is a sense of familiarity to her face.

“Are you ok?” she asked.

“I am sure I know you from somewhere. You look really familiar” I said remembering a time when those same blue eyes stared up at me from the ground, as I raised my foot in anger.

The woman laughed and pulled down my car mirror to check her appearance.

She looked directly at me, her eyes widening and like a penny dropping in my head I know who she was. I gulped.

“Oh my god you are Mia Smith from school” I said awkwardly. Hundreds of memories of Mia Smith from school bombarded my mind.

The things we did to her, the name calling, punching, kicking, and stealing her stuff, the hair pulling and the stone throwing.

I reassure myself. She was Mia Smith. The freak from school.

‘Hannah Browning, I knew it was you’ said Mia, the stony expression on her face breaking into a smile.

“I am Hannah Richards now” I said quietly gripping the steering wheel, turning my knuckles white.

“Oh” she said rubbing her head.

“Are you ok?” I asked wondering whether she needed to see a first aider.

“I am not sure” she said running her bony fingers over what looks like a small reddish bump to her forehead.

We sat in silence.

“I don’t feel very well Hannah” she said after a while.

My heart quickened. I should call an ambulance or the police. My lunchtime glass of wine reappeared in my head. It was more like half a bottle. As I breathed out I can smell the Merlot.

“Have you been drinking?” asked Mia reading my mind and making me jump in my seat.

“No, of course not” I said straightening my top and avoiding her gaze.

“I can smell alcohol on your breath” said Mia, gesturing towards my mouth. I felt my stomach heave with fear.

'Listen Mia" I said "I feel terrible for knocking you over, let's go inside and have a coffee. My treat?'

I have to sort this situation out fast.

"Oh ok, that would be nice" said Mia smiling warmly.

We hurried through the car park. I didn't have an umbrella so by the time I entered the supermarket my hair was stuck to my face. Mia had her hooded coat and was almost dry.

She ordered a black coffee. I ordered an espresso.

We sat down near the window. Outside busy shoppers loaded heavy bags of food into cars in the rain.

"So Mia, what you up to now?" I asked trying to not look directly at her.

"Well I am in between jobs. I work with children" she said before blowing on her coffee and then taking a sip.

"Oh how nice" I said, trying to sound interested.

"And you Hannah?" she asked with a sugary tone to her voice.

"I don't work anymore. I have two kids and they are really demanding" I said raising my eyebrows to add emphasis to the word demanding.

"Yes kids can be a little tiring. I should know" and she laughs. Her long pale fingers circle the brown cup.

“Are you married?” I asked.

“No I have never found the special person. And you Hannah?”

“Yes I am married, I ended up marrying Jerry Richards, the football captain?” I gushed proudly.

She turned away to stare out of the window.

“So” I said finishing my espresso and fighting the urge to run away.

“My mum died you know” Mia blurted out suddenly. Her eyes boring deep into my soul.

“Oh I am sorry” I said vaguely remembering a teacher announcing Mia Smith’s mum had passed away. I reached over and touched her lightly on the arm.

“That’s why I left school so suddenly you know” she continued. “I was put into foster care after she died and my foster parents lived miles away”

Guilt made me check my watch and think about something else. The kids needed to be collected in half an hour. We needed to say our goodbyes and go our separate ways.

“Listen Mia, I have to dash. It’s been lovely seeing you again” I said lifting myself off the chair.

“Hannah, I still don’t feel very well” she said rubbing her head. “I think I should tell someone at the store about the accident in the car park”

“No” I said abruptly, surprising myself. “There really is no need Mia”. My mind became awash with the repercussions of Mia telling someone about the car park incident. I would be breathalysed and deemed under the influence of alcohol. I may have to appear in court on a drink driving charge. Our family name would become stained overnight as word would get out I was drunk whilst on my way to collect the kids. Jerry and I would become social pariahs.

“Thanks for the coffee Hannah but I really need to find someone who can check out my head” she said rising from the table.

I grabbed her hand and our eyes met.

“Mia come home with me” I said.

Afterwards the enormity of what I said would hit me like a fist to the stomach.



It was work day as usual on the USS Mars Navy ship. The navy supplies us the heaviest yet darkest coffee muck to drink. It's black than black and the bitter hot taste makes you want to spit it all out. But when it's cold out and you need the caffeine, it's all we got.

Some can't handle it all all. Wusses. But for sailors like myself, we can drink it.

So, it was strange when one moment a fellow sailor was sipping his coffee and just as I turned around he was nowhere to be seen. Only a huge spot of what looked to be and smelled like the coffee I was drinking.

Strange.

"Hey, Stuart it's time for us to.." Patrick looked down at me wiping the coffee up.

"Where's Stuart?" Patrick asked.

"I don't know. He was right here and then the second I turned around he was gone only this mess was left behind."

"That's strange.."

"What is?" I asked.

"I have been hearing rumors that sailors on board are disappearing left and right. One second they're there the next time you look..they're gone."

Patrick started stepping out backwards and then ran off to who knows where.

I stood back up, tossed the dirty paper towel into the garbage bin and was about to leave.

The coffee machine was turned off. Or I could have sworn it was. I walked over to turn it off, but it wouldn't budge. I weighed about 160 and was 6 foot 2. I worked out everyday and did many laps in the pool to stay fit. Turning the coffee switch should have been easy. But it was proving harder than one could imagine.

Shit. Why is this damn thing stuck.

Ping! Shit. Major shit. I just broke off the switch and now a huge mass of coffee came pouring on out of the machine. But instead of being the causal liquid...it was coming out like a glob. Just like the spot on the floor. Next thing I see is the coffee glob reaching upward forming into a human body shape..

What the f**k!

Coming to life the glob like coffee monster came walking up to me. Growing larger until it towered above my six foot frame. I stood still. Frozen on the spot just from what I was witnessing. Never in my 10 years as a US Naval Officer have I ever witnessed something like this..

The coffee killing monster.

Red came up into the mess room. Right before him he saw a huge black human like glob structure towering over his six foot friends body. It was about to...eat his friend. Not on his watch!

Running with a broom nearby, Red charged into the black glob only to disappear. The monster before Will grew larger. Running out of the mess room he shuts the door, only to see the glob after him.

This time larger yet. Men all around were shouting, Will kept on running..

What to do? What to do?

Will turns the corner and the coffee glob follows after him. Eating fellow sailors as he walks, the monster continues after Will.

Damn it. Does this thing ever stop?

Just as Will runs down two steps at a time, the monster catches him..and Will falls.

"Is he up yet?"

"Shh.. the doctor says, he'll be okay. But that bump on his head will take a while to heal."

"I guess we better make some more coffee then."

Will shot up on the lunge and screamed, "No! No coffee! Don't turn it on!" and without further words Will got up and tossed the coffee maker on the floor where it crashed into many pieces. His fellow mates just stood in shook silence watching their long time friend.

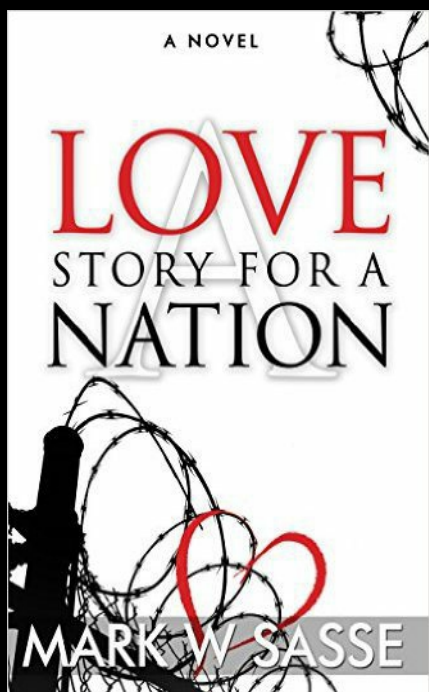
"The monster will not attack us every again!" Will informed them. Then straightening his uniform he headed out of the mess room.

"No more coffee for that guy!"

"Yeah, no kidding. Monster?"

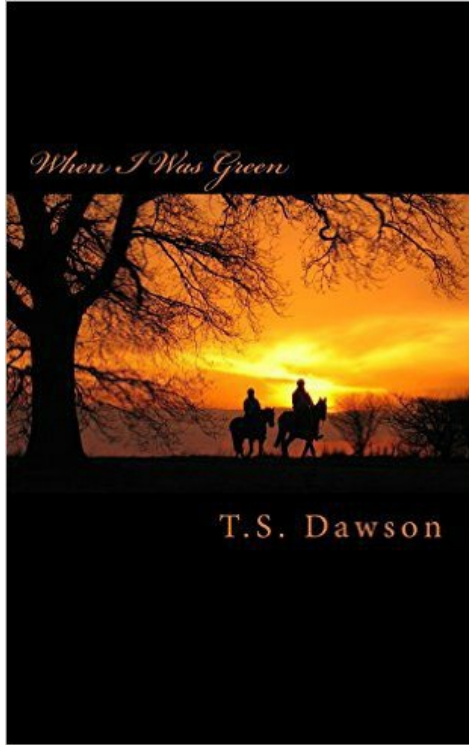
"Must have hit his head too hard."

Laughing the guys left the mess room leaving the coffee flashing on...



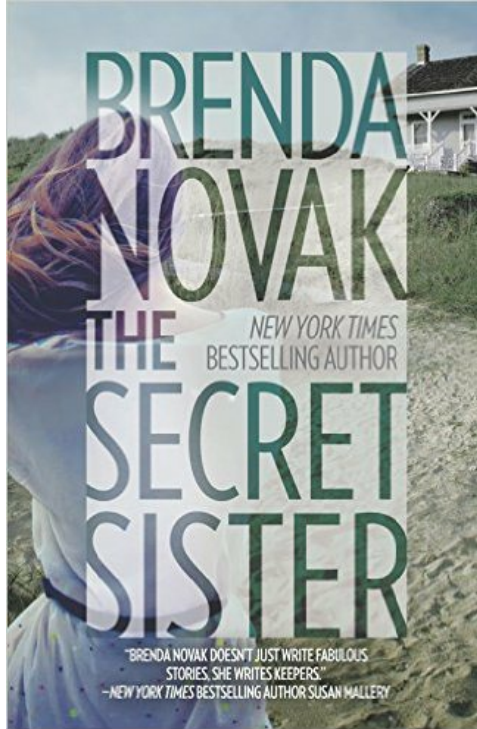
A Love Story for a Nation by Mark Sasse is one of those novels that readers won't ever forget. For fans of The Fault within Our Stars, this is a must read. Though the plotlines differ it holds the same value and heart melting power as the famous book turned movie. I found the mystery of the plot incredible. The scenes and history all wrapped into one another was something that made this quite an exceptional read. I received this novel in exchange for an honest review and I have to say, I am pleased to have had it passed into my hands. This story will take readers deep into the plot and leave with breathless like one feels after a roller coaster ride. After one ride you want to go again and again. The same applies to A Love Story for a Nation. It lures you in and grips onto your mind and heart and doesn't let go until the very end. By the the time you reach the end you will be waiting for the next stunning well written adventure by Mark Sasse. It's the first time that I have read any one of his novels and now, I plan to read each one of his previous novels before this one.

A Love Story for a Nation is about a writer how has suffered great loss. He lost a son before he was born, and then to lose his wife. His wife has made Gerald Sanpantri pick up his pen and to begin writing once again. He finds a note from his wife telling him to smile and he does exactly that. It's one amazing emotional action packed thriller that will keep readers turning the pages and asking when the next novel is coming out for reading. I was stunned at how remarkable the story turned out to be. Loss, love, danger and the meaning of courage can all be found as secrets are unveiled. Definitely, would recommend this novel to readers world wide. Highly engaging read that all readers will love. Overall, I rate A Love Story for a Nation a five out of five stars.



When I was Green by T.S. Dawson is a must read romance unlike others in its genre. The story itself is about a young 16 year old's journey in discovering the truth behind the secrets of her past. A hot sexy horseback instructor who is wiser than most his age, takes on the task of helping Lucy uncover it all. What they will find is something readers will have to read on to figure out themselves.

I loved reading this story by T.S. Dawson. The main character draws readers in with her attraction to Edward. Edward being the horse back riding instructor with many other girls chasing after him. Lucy finds herself just as attracted to Edward as the others are to him. Edward wants to help Lucy find out about her past. Did her father really commit suicide and how is that her small town area keeps it hidden so well? When I was Green is one novel readers won't be able to put down. The ending was a major cliff hanger. Readers will puzzle themselves crazy over what happens next between Edward and Lucy. T.S. Dawson has done a beautifully job in spinning a realistic and intriguing tale that will keep readers coming back for more. I can't wait to read more by T.S. Dawson. The story will capture readers in from all over the world. I highly recommend reading this brilliant romance novel. Overall, I rate it a five out of five stars.



The Secret Sister by Brenda Novak is indeed the best romantic thriller I have read. Readers will be taken deep into the main characters' past. Secrets that have been hidden forever come out and those that were blamed are innocent. A hot steamy novel that will lure readers in further with each passing page. I loved reading this story. Brenda Novak has a raw talent in bringing her novels to life. I have read every novel by Brenda but this one, is the most stunning of her creations. Realistic, suspenseful, and an edge of your seat romance that will have readers coming back for more.

Brenda Novak's debut novel, The Secret Sister, is one that I highly recommend to readers worldwide. A family so torn apart are trying to unite and fix what troubles them. However, it will be dangerous in stirring up a bee's nest after so many years of the accident. A sister who was pushed off a cliff, a brother who is an addict and blames himself, and another sister who is divorced and wants answers. But that isn't all. Maisey is determined to find the answers and another part of her past comes out to tease her. Rafe was the older guy every girl talked about and the only one the Maisey spent her first time with. Now back home, Maisey meets Rafe again and their passion burns hotter than coals. Can Maisey have love and help her family? Overall, I rate this novel a five out of five stars.



After, taking a moment to remember, honor, and pray for all of those who died let's write a story about remembering our loved ones.

#1 Write a story about a young teenage couple who fall hopelessly in love with one another. The guy always told his girlfriend, "I love you." She would always respond back and say, "I love you too." Then one day her boyfriend goes to work with his father. Right before the the first bomb hit the towers, he texted her saying, "I love you." As the day wore over, his girlfriend didn't see the text until after both towers were destroyed. He never got to hear her last words, "I love you." Now, it's been two years since that horrifying day. The girlfriend still has her boyfriend's last text on her phone. Her sorrow, deepens each passing day. Her life completely falling apart. Then a man steps into her life and she is torn between letting go and holding on. Will she be able to overcome her loss to find happiness again? Or will her grief totally consume her until she no longer feels anything anymore?

#2 It was that fatal day inside the towers when many were killed. Many others died in trying to rescue others who were trapped inside an unleashing world of death and terror. MiMi, saw before hand what was going to happen inside of a dream. She kept shaking it aside telling herself that it won't happen. Nothing that bad could happen..but what if it does? And when? Will MiMi learn to accept her gift of sight before the most terrifying moment becomes a reality? Or will her ignorance cause the death of millions?

URBAN LIT



ISSUE 02 / OCT 2015

AUTHOR
SPECIAL
INTERVIEW

WHAT'S
COOL
NOW

SEASON'S
BEST READS,
REVIEWS,
AND MORE

Reading
Quiz!

How much do
you know?

AUTHOR
INTERVIEW
MEET NEW
WRITERS

What's Your Story?

100 Hot New Books...
And 50 Writing
Prompts