



# Nerine Dorman

THIS IS THE WORLD OF AN AUTHOR, EDITOR AND MAGICIAN.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

## The woman behind Blood Fare, JA Steel

If ever there's a woman who deserves honours for making a go of it in a industry that's traditionally male-dominated, it's JA Steel. For the last while I've been watching the progress on this amazing woman's work on the horror film *Blood Fare*, which I'm totally looking forward to seeing. Steel took a break in her busy schedule to stop by my blog today for a little Q&A. Welcome, lady!



Where did you strike the initial spark for *Blood Fare*? Is there a bit of a story behind it?

JAS: I wanted to do a movie that covered some of the local folklore of Utah. I came across the "Legend of Jean Baptiste" who was real-life grave robber who was imprisoned on the "unescapable" Antelope Island in the middle of the Salt Lake. But he did escape - and his body was never found. Unfortunately, at the same time the LDS church came up with a similar "redemption" type story. So, we changed ours - and like all my movies - I had a dream that I was visited by my dead cousin who was killed during the Civil War. Christian Koch, who's been working with me since 2002, helped me flesh out the story. I then sat down and wrote the screenplay in about a week.



Can you sum up the film in sixteen words or less?

JAS: A story of family and honoring your history, not a ghost story like you would expect.

I've been following the production for *Blood Fare* via Twitter. This is quite a long and involved process. How does the final product measure up to your initial vision? Did the film evolve along the way?

JAS: The film evolved every step of the way. There's the initial script that took a week to write and all the rewrites. Then, we had the shooting script and that changed. One of my key actors (literally) got trapped hunting in the mountains and couldn't make it to set to film, so the story changed. There are only about 10 people that have seen the final script, which became the final film.

I'm proud of the final product. In some ways it meets and exceeds my

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BLOOD FARE - Tyler Mitchell

expectations. In others, we had some technical challenges that were unfortunate. Filming in High Definition is a little less forgiving than shooting on film. Every detail has to be exact. Some details were missed, but catching every little aspect is difficult in an independent feature. Choices had to be made on the basis of the technical proficiency of a shot rather than performance in some cases.

Tell us a little more about how you went about choosing the locations. Were there any unique challenges there that you faced and overcame?

JAS: The hardest part was finding locations in Utah that actually looked like Northern Virginia/Pennsylvania. I was intrigued by a Civil War group that does re-enactments locally. So, we went and saw them at a State Park called "This is the Place". We then shot a bunch of stock footage.

Finding fresh water for the rivers/lake that wasn't surrounded by scrub brush was also hard. Utah is the second-driest state in the United States. Derek Mellus at the Utah Film Commission helped us out with a list of names of location where we could film. We got lucky and found Fort Buenaventura in the middle of Ogden.

And your choices in cast?

JAS: We had the hardest time casting the lead role of Tyler. We had approached three other actresses, but they all turned the role down. They were uncomfortable with some of the thematic elements of the story. I was like "this is ACTING people. That's why it's called ACTING." Frustrated, I opened the casting call up for an "open" call for Tyler. We were so lucky when Brandi Lynn Anderson walked in the door. Tyler was originally supposed to be a brunette - but Brandi had just dyed her hair blonde - and it worked.

We had a really successful Kickstarter/Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign and managed to attract some more investors so I sat down and did the "who have I always wanted to work with?" list. Gil's name was at the top. It was one of those "why not" moments. I took a chance and I sent the script off to his manager. The rest they say, is history.

Are there any anecdotes and/or bloopers that you care to share?

JAS: It was the film of "oh we forgot to tell you". We had permits (that we paid for) for filming at our various locations but consistently we had LOUD events that were right next door. School pep rallies and wedding receptions are typically very loud and not conducive to clean production sound. Needless to say, we are still in the process of some ADR.

I can't really remember any. I was more serious on set with this film than I was with my first three features. On *The Third Society*, *Salvation* and *Denizen* we were prone to more bouts of laughter after a take. On the blooper reel for *Salvation* they have me laughing for a solid five minutes and to this day I have no clue what I was laughing at.

What's the future for Blood Fare after its Dragon\*Con premiere?

JAS: I still want to go back and do a lot of sound work. We are getting there slowly but surely. I'm also toying with redoing some of the Charon effects. There were some compositing issues in post between some of the green screen and the plates. A lot of it will depend on the distributor - which we're hoping that we will be able to find after Dragon\*con.

You're a woman who wears many hats in the film industry. Tell us a little bit about a day in your life.

JAS: The day depends on what stage the film is in, but on a typical

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#### BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2012 (96)
  - ▼ September (1)
    - The woman behind Blood Fare, JA Steel
  - August (12)
  - July (19)
  - June (14)
  - May (9)
  - April (10)
  - March (11)
  - February (11)
  - January (9)
- 2011 (79)
- 2010 (31)
- 2009 (11)

#### ABOUT ME

**NERINE DORMAN**

Published dark and contemporary fantasy author, fiction editor, newspaper sub-editor and writer. Full-time snark. Very grumpy most of the time. Editor: Bloody Parchment (eKhaya, Random House Struik); Editor: Dark Harvest (Dark Continents Publishing) I occasionally review books.

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

editing day:

I always start off with coffee - no matter what. Then it's online catching up with Chris Koch on the overnight events. He's in Germany so there's the eight hours to catch up on when either of us is sleeping. Then there is the ever-dreaded "day job" as a systems analyst that takes about eight to ten hours of the day.

At the end of the day I catch up with Fred Mercer, who's acted as an executive on all four features, plus all the shorts and documentaries since *The Third Society*. Then dinner. Then editing 'til midnight. Then up at 5am.

If I'm between clients for the "day job" or it's the weekend. Straight to editing and only taking breaks for lunch and emailing potential "day job" clients.

Now that post is pretty much over, it's doing press and publicity and working out.

My "vacations" are either filming or going to conventions.

See the Blood Fare trailer [here](#).

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 11:20 AM NO COMMENTS:  
LABELS: BLOOD FARE, FILMMAKING, HORROR, JA STEEL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012

## The White Oak by Kim White #review

Title: *The White Oak*  
Author: Kim White  
Publisher: Story Machine Studio, 2012  
Buy link



From the outset, the premise of Kim White's *The White Oak* grabbed me but, as I read, I found myself a bit torn over how I felt about the style of the storytelling. The gist of the novel is that the main character, Cora, falls into the Underworld through a sinkhole during her father's funeral. This understandably upsets the order of things for the despotic ruler, Minos, and Cora, aided by the many-faced Minotaur and Sybil, the librarian, embarks on a journey to escape.

What would have improved the narrative for me vastly would have been additional layering. I needed to have more insight as to Cora's motivations and emotions. Also, it is hinted that her brother, Lucas, a genius computer programmer, takes a more important part but if he's to be more than a secondary character, I'd have liked to have seen him get a bit more of a proactive role from the outset.

White certainly has given much thought to her world-building in this tale that offers a nod at the legend of Persephone. And for that alone, for the bizarre and very much surreal landscape, the story kept me turning the pages. White's vision is reminiscent of a Dali-esque landscape with a whiff of Neuromancer thrust in. At first I wasn't quite sure I could suspend disbelief for the cyber theme, but White handles this well, and it added an extra dimension I found quite enjoyable once I got used to it.

The pacing lagged a bit once I got past the initial start, and while I can see White intends for this to be part of a series, I myself as a reader wasn't sufficiently motivated to want to invest myself in what follows. I feel she could have written a longer story and concluded with better resolution, even if she wanted a cliff-hanger. Yes, the vision is nightmarish, and will probably stay with me for a long while, I just never truly engaged with the telling. The story flows like one dream sequence into another, and at times it felt like I was reading someone's journal as opposed to really immersing myself in the adventure.

There could also be parallels to Alice's journey through Wonderland, and for White's supremely inventive imagination, *The White Oak* is

worth reading. I just felt I needed a bit more oomph from the text to truly make me care about the protagonist, Cora. I give her five out of five for concept, but *The White Oak* falls down in execution. Still, I enjoyed this story a lot more than some of the YA offerings that are currently trending as bestsellers.

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 12:29 PM NO COMMENTS:  
LABELS: KIM WHITE, STORY MACHINE STUDIO, THE WHITE OAK

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

## In Touch with his Inner Child

*For those of you who weren't able to pick up copies of the Pretoria News or The Star this past month, here's a teaser of my interview with bestselling*



John van de Ruit

*Spud author John van de Ruit (click through to the IOL link at the end for the full piece).*

Many of us can identify with the issues the now-legendary Spud Milton has faced. These vary from the horrors of his maths exams, or the pains of the pre-cellphone and social networking era of waiting by the phone for that special girl (or boy) to call - then worrying when they don't.

And perhaps that's where the attraction of John van de Ruit's series of Spud books lies - that he taps into the magic of nostalgia, and strikes a chord with young and old.

Little did Van de Ruit know when he wrote the first of the Spud novels how his character would step out of the pages and into the imaginations of so many who eagerly followed Spud's progress.

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 2:34 PM NO COMMENTS:  
LABELS: JOHN VAN DE RUIT, SPUD

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012

## Joan De La Haye's world of darkness #guest

Joan De La Haye is no stranger on my blog, and I decided to have her over again because she's recently celebrated two releases. Welcome back, Joan, tell us a bit more about your latest titles.

JDLH: My two recent releases are *Requiem in E Sharp*, which is a rather dark thriller set in Pretoria, and *Oasis*, which is a post-apocalypse zombie novella also set in South Africa. They've both been published by Fox Spirit, a small indie publisher in the UK.



ND: How does Pretoria lend itself to a dark thriller?

JDLH: Being South Africa's capital city, Pretoria is full of intrigue, it's also the nations capital for all our policing screw ups. Most South African thrillers are set in either Johannesburg or Cape Town, and Pretoria is often over-looked. Which is rather sad. Pretoria has a lot of atmosphere. It also has a very high murder rate and the unit responsible for solving serial murders is stationed in Pretoria.

ND: And what makes South Africa grand for a zombie story?

JDLH: We've already got zombies running the country, it's not much

of a leap for them to take over completely. Another great thing about zombie stories is that it doesn't really matter where you set it. It won't matter where you are if there's a zombie apocalypse, they're going to get you no matter where you hide.

ND: What were some of the moments you particularly enjoyed?



JDLH: After having written *Shadows* and *Requiem in E Sharp*, which are both pretty dark and harsh, *Oasis* was a lot more fun. I really enjoyed writing it from Max's perspective. She wasn't as damaged as Sarah and Natalie. She's just a nice girl stuck in a really bad situation, trying to survive the end of the world. I also really enjoyed writing the twisted ending for *Oasis*. I got to be rather evil.

For *Requiem*, I really

enjoyed the research part. I got to spend some time with the head of the SAPS psychology unit, which was fascinating.

ND: Can you name one or two locations in Pretoria and tell us more about what makes them lend themselves specifically to your story?

JDLH: There's an area close to where I grew up called Silverton. It's a stone throw away from the Koedoespoort train station and if the wind blows from the right direction you get a whiff from the Silverton tanneries. It's your standard lower middle class suburb where you can imagine an older woman with a drinking habit, curlers in her hair and a cigarette dangling from her mouth and wearing slippers with a hole at the big toe. It's the perfect place for my killer to stalk his victims. Most of the areas I used in *Requiem in E Sharp* are suburbs I knew while growing up in Pretoria or have lived in. None of them are affluent. They're places you'll find a cross section of society.

ND: And your zombies? Tell us more about what makes them tick. Are they lurkers who hang about indefinitely? Or are they rotters who slowly grow grosser and stinkier as they eventually decompose?

JDLH: My zombies are fast, filled with rage and damn ugly. They're also very hungry for human flesh. I'd say they're lurkers who just keep coming and devouring the living.

ND: And how do you define being really evil in your novels?

JDLH: I'm not sure that my novels define evil as being quite that black and white. My novels explore the very darkest of human nature as well as the demonic, but also give them a very human side. There are varying shades of dark grey and under the right circumstances the most normal of people are capable of committing the most evil of deeds. It's just a matter of finding that tipping point that will push someone far enough. Evil can be relative.

ND: And hanging out with the SAPS psychology unit. Wow! How did you go about organising that? Can you share any interesting anecdotes of that time?

JDLH: A friend of mine knew that I was doing research for *Requiem* and she knew Prof Gerard Labuschagne and was kind enough to put me in touch with him. He was then kind enough to read *Requiem* and let me know all the mistakes I'd made. When I was in his office, he asked if I was squeamish. I said, rather flippantly, "I write horror. What do you think?" He just nodded and pulled out a file with photos of dead people who'd been found in water, much like the victims in my book. Now, seeing photos of real people who were brutally murdered and left to rot in water is very different to seeing a violent movie where actors pretend to be butchered. I have a sneaky suspicion he was expecting me to freakout or be unable to look at the pictures, but I didn't freakout in fact I found them fascinating, which makes me a little worried about my own mental well being. I think I may have tendencies towards psychopathy.

ND: What's next on the cards? Care to spill the beans with regard to any upcoming or current WIPs?

JDLH: I've got a short story in an upcoming anthology called *Tales from the Nun and Dragon* being published by Fox Spirit. It'll be out

later this month. And at the moment I'm working on a novella called *The Race*. It has swords and lots of blood. It also raises the question: What would you do to survive?

People can find me on my website: <http://joandelahaye.com/> or follow me on twitter: <http://twitter.com/JoanDeLaHaye>

My books are available to download on Amazon.com: *Oasis* and *Requiem in E Sharp*

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 1:48 PM NO COMMENTS:  
LABELS: HORROR, JOAN DE LA HAYE, SOUTH AFRICA, ZOMBIES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2012

## LK Below - release announcement #guest

*Today I hand over my blog to a guest who's visited before, LK Below, so, without further ado, I hand over the rest of this post to her.*

*33 Days until the release of This Blackened Night, The Order: Book 3!*

Every author has a set of characters more dear to their hearts than any others. In most cases, this stems from these characters being among the first ever created. I won't claim Lori and Terrence were my very first, but they did come close. Their first book, *Stalking Shade*, which released in 2011, was originally written in 2007. And rewritten. And rewritten.



And now it feels like a dear friend is moving away. With the release of *This Blackened Night* on September 24th, 2012, the trilogy will come to an end. Lori might be a prickly character, not easy for anyone but Terrence to love, but I had a lot of fun with her. When I wrote this third book late last year, I dragged my feet to see it finished for the same reason. I didn't want to let the pair of them go. A not-so-secret part of me is hoping for an overwhelming response from readers asking me to continue so I have an excuse to revisit my favorite characters.

For now, I'm counting down the days until the third book releases. Maybe you'll fall in love with Lori and Terrence every bit as fiercely as I have. Lori might be stubborn in pushing people away, but Terrence is the most persistent character I've ever written. Good thing, too.

Join me in celebrating the release of the third book a bit early with this short, sweet teaser excerpt:

*This Blackened Night* by LK Below

*With murders cropping up all around, who should she trust?*  
After months of searching, Lori finally scrounges up a clue as to the whereabouts of the missing leader of her secret organization. But her vision isn't encouraging--it points to her vampire companion Terrence as the culprit.

Terrence is adamant that he isn't at fault. Even though she knows she might be walking into a trap, she follows his lead to a shabby island port. When her informants start turning up dead with puncture wounds in their necks, Lori wonders just how well she knows Terrence. And why does he act different during the search than in their hotel room?

Lori doesn't know who to trust anymore. She only hopes that she won't be the next victim.

\* \* \* \*

*Six Sweet Sentences from the book:*

There--The Mastiff Hotel. The sign loomed just down from the bus station. Resettling her bag on her shoulder, Lori strode toward it.

Doubts assailed her. What if Terrence had only asked her here to

separate her from those she knew? Was she walking into a trap?

\* \* \* \*

Learn more about the series as a whole on the Lyrical Press, Inc. website: <http://bit.ly/TheOrderSeries>.

Read a longer excerpt from *This Blackened Night* at <http://bit.ly/ThisBlackenedNight>.

\* \* \* \*

Bio: If L.K. Below gets far too attached to her characters, well, that's because they're interesting people. Read two of her favorites in her urban fantasy series, *The Order*. Join her online at [www.lbelow.net](http://www.lbelow.net) to learn more. Want to keep up to date with her tour stops? Follow her on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 2:53 PM 1 COMMENT:  
LABELS: LK BELOW, LYRICAL PRESS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012

## The Watchtower by Lee Carroll #review

Title: *The Watchtower* (*Black Swan Rising* #2)

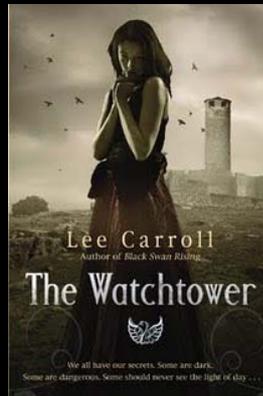
Author: Lee Carroll

Publisher: Bantam, 2011

Buy link

Never judge a book by its cover, and this one definitely shouldn't be. Nothing on the cover of *The Watchtower* indicates that it is any different than the slew of "skinny white chick in a prom gown" examples currently flooding the market. And I started reading, filled with severe misgivings that I'd just found yet another Fallen clone.

Fortunately, the cover is misleading.



First off, yes, some of the standard young adult paranormal tropes "are" present - the impossible romance between mortal and immortal, with a whiff of a love triangle. Then I've always held the opinion that it's not having the tropes present, but what the author "does" with them, and writing duo Lee Carroll (husband-and-wife team Lee Slonimsky and Carol Goodman) succeed in engaging my attention. At no point did I want to hurl the book across the room.

Although this is the second book in the series (the first being *Black Swan Rising*) the story doesn't suffer. There's just enough narrative summary to sketch in the past without leading into reams and reams of exposition. Carroll keeps up a good pace from the get-go, the stakes growing higher as the story progresses as a sort of treasure hunt. Fairies, and definitely not the cutesy sort, abound, as well as the ubiquitous vampire, all wrapped up in a tale of time travel garnished with a Shakespearean theme.

What made the story for me was that Carroll paints a vivid picture of the surroundings, and characters all tangled with history and literature, so that I soon forgot I was reading. The story shifts in perspective between the main character, Gareth, presented in first person, alternating with Will's past in second person, as a sort of prequel leading up to how he became a vampire. I must admit at first the segueing took a little getting used to but by the time I got past the first few chapters, I found I enjoyed this swinging between tales - almost like reading two books simultaneously.

Garet, as a character, has far more depth than the standards such as Bella Swan or Lucinda Price, in equivalent genre novels. Although it's clear she's madly in love with Will Hughes, it's refreshing to see a main character who has interests and ambitions other than just being defined by the unfortunate male with whom she's romantically entangled. Will is not squeaky clean and there were times when I wanted Gareth to kick his butt for him for being so self-absorbed. I must admit I did struggle to find his redeemable qualities, and often wondered what Gareth saw in him, that she was willing to go to the ends of the earth to rescue his sorry posterior.

Overall, when it comes to the actual quality of the prose and narrative, this is possibly the better of the current crop of similar tales that I've encountered as reviewer, and an enjoyable read with a wicked little twist near the end.

POSTED BY NERINE DORMAN AT 12:59 PM NO COMMENTS:  
LABELS: LEE CARROLL, PARANORMAL ROMANCE, THE WATCHTOWER

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2012

## In Conversation with a Vampire, Xan Marcelles. #guest

Xan Marcelles and I've had many long conversations. We're lucky enough tonight that we've hatched up one to share specially with you peeps. Today is the official day we celebrate the release of *Crooked Fang*, which is available in print and electronic format.



ND: So, dude, your story's been out for a bit now and I hear you're a hit with the ladies. What have some of them said about you?

XM: They seem to have a thing for bass players for some reason. And I dunno, like they think that I'm hot? I'm just a dude with fangs so [shrug]. I mean it's flattering and everything, but I don't see what the big deal is. I just like talking to everybody.

In *Crooked Fang*, I'm not as popular as you might think. I get assaulted in different ways, not all bad but still. Hah. Keeps things interesting.

ND: Haha, a dude with fangs. Let's put you on the spot then. How do you reckon you measure up compared to other popular vamps? If you were to be in the same room as say, Lestat, Edward and the Count himself. What would you have to say to these dudes?

XM: Count Dracula would probably scare the shit out of me. Considering he's like a million years old, really creepy looking and has a castle. But he's got a ton of weaknesses to balance the odds. The whole sun-thing, has to carry around dirt from his homeland, sleep in a coffin, dead to the world when he sleeps...yeah. I don't think I would say much to him at all besides this:

X: "How's it going?"

[Dracula hiss]

X: "Well alright then..."

Lestat I have a lot of respect for, I gotta say. Except he's French and kind of...French and probably talks with a snippy French accent. Not that I got a thing against the French. I'm sure he'd be all arrogant with me, or maybe not. Maybe we can jam and he could shriek some vox and make Serv (my singer) look like a kitten in the vox department. Lestat is undeniably cool, but if I had to guess who'd I'd get along with better? Louis. But. BUT. If I was put in a situation with Lestat I think it'd go like this:

X: "How's it going?"

L: [sneer]

X: "I heard you like to sing and tried to expose the entire vampire race. Plus, damn. Akasha. What a rush huh?"

[Lestat punches me in the gut or bites me or something]

X: "It sucks you can't get laid to relieve those frustrations, man."

I get murdered on the spot. The end of Xan.

Edward Cullen. Do I really have to answer this one? I think I'd just sit there and hum the tune of "One of These is Not Like the Others"...

No, really. Considering he's like fatally deformed and useless as a vampire. And thanks to him, I get to hear the sparkly vampire jokes. Maybe I'd punch him in the teeth. Maybe.

ND: Haha, oh shit I think I can almost smell a fanfiction mash-up at this point, that's if Rice would allow her fans to play nicely with her vampires. So, speaking of fanfiction, how would you feel about that? Especially if folks were to take it to the *Fifty Shades* degree?

XM: Fanfiction will happen whether you like it or not. It's the slash that I'm kind of like O\_O; at. Or any variation thereof, you know? Like *Blood and Fire*. Ash and I...just eww. Seriously. I can't even.

I like females. I'm sorry. I apologize to the whole world for being straight as a board in advance. If fanfiction comes along, it'll be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Because I think while it encourages people to be creative, it can border on plagiarism and that's not only uncool, it's illegal.

ND: Slash. Ugh. [scrubs eyeballs] So, if there were to be a merry mash-up (sans the slash), which characters would you be flattered to share space with?

XM: Damn. You really have me at a disadvantage because I don't know much about other characters in my genre. Give me a break, I'm fictional, right?

Ok. I have one. Shane McAllister in Jeri Smith-Ready's *WVMP* series. A musician, a quiet dude and a vampire. Well wait, we'd probably bore the readers by being stoic and musician. Although his maker Regina? I'd hit that. Goth chicks are hot.

Killer story with Shane and Regina right here.

Plus, c'mon. They love music. They DJ at a radio station. My kind of crowd.

ND: Getting back to the novel, *Crooked Fang*, did you expect to have your living past so tied up with the undead present? We're dealing with a lot of time disjunction, you holding onto your "for now", while the rest of the world moves along. How do you cope?

XM: Definitely not. A man thinks that he can just up and leave everything behind--not true at all. It will bite you in the ass if loose ends aren't tied. And it hurts like hell. Seeing people get old, especially like when I haven't been around to have it happen gradually...man, it's a shock. It separates me more and more from who I used to be. I mean the first who. Not the second. I'm on my third who now.

I think a lot. A damn lot. And the more I think, the worse I feel, so it's an endless circle of thinking and maybe drinking because drinking helps numb the mind to the point of dumb. Not like it's gonna hurt me anyway. I throw myself into my band, or stupid me, I try and help somebody else out. That rarely works out well but I can't just stand by and let people in front of me be in pain.

It sucks being stuck in a place where I'm standing still, yet time goes on. And the thought of losing the rest of what I know makes me sick.

You want to know how I deal? One night at a time.

ND: So, where do you see yourself headed out to in say ten or twenty years? Where is your "for now" then? Hard questions, I know, but you're a lot deeper than your facade.

XM: New place. New identity. One night here whenever, I'll decide it's time, pack my shit and leave Pale Rider. Sooner rather than later if questions start popping up. Or, the alternative is to tell them all. Would they accept me? Could I stay anonymous as the bass player in this or that band?

Maybe twenty years ago I could've. These days, people have real nice cameras in their phones. The internet is nosy. People are suspicious and way more open-minded, which is a double-standard. And then there's the others like me. If I divulged and stayed put, eventually they would come for me and drag me off anyways. That's just how shit is. It's how it's always been and always will be. Even I have to submit just a hair to the big dogs. And there are very big and very old dogs.

So, my twenty years from now? I'll be someplace else and anybody I knew before will probably either be dead or no longer know where I am. I'll end up someplace in Mexico, or Russia, or any other location. But not here. Not in Colorado.

ND: Why have vampires remained so secretive? Why don't you guys

take over the world? Do you really have something to fear from the humans?

XM: Hmm. How to answer that without giving too much away...

In my world, a vampire has to be a certain age, which varies with type, to make a new one worth a shit. Else you end up with...you know what I'm talking about. So, there really aren't too many of us, except for the Nesferata which seem to be spawning like termites. But even then, not nearly enough to take over the world, like you're saying. Making enough hellspawn to do something that crazy would dilute the strength in vamps so much across the board we wouldn't be able to fend off an old lady armed with a handbag. And most vamps aren't the type to need to be out there. We take our drinks in private to avoid consequence because that draws attention and even people can't kill people without penalty.

There's the weakness to sun. Fire, etc. It benefits my kind to just stay in the shadows or operate from places so high nobody questions a damn thing. At least that's what I know, been told, or can say freely.

ND: And now, to ease up on all the hardcore shit. So, your writer tells me there's wiggle room for another story. If and when that happens, what do you think your fans can expect? What would you like to do now that you've had a couple of misadventures?

XM: Well no. The rabbit hole just goes deeper. In *Crooked Fang*, all you saw was me and my immediate issues with maybe a little glimpse into the supernatural world, or whatever the hell people call it now. Paranormal? Way to make me feel better about myself. Anyways.

The second book I still have to deal with problems from the first. I can't just ignore some problems and hope they go away. Without giving spoilers from either book, I'll just probably get in even more trouble and be forced to look at my vampire self again. Maybe show more from those missing years when I was living the vampire lifestyle. I'm sure it'll be gouged out of me someday or another. Readers wanna know, and what readers want, readers get. Within reason, you know?

ND: So, any parting shots for your readers?

XM: Besides a huge, humble show of gratitude and appreciation? That they even bother to look at my site or read my book?

Well there's that, and there's me seeing a lot of lonely people in pain and I just wanna say to them, they aren't alone. Everybody is somebody: fat, skinny, young, old--it don't matter. For the people that were there in the beginning and still there now, shit...wow. You know. There's no words to express how good that makes me feel.

For the new ones coming along, hey, nice to meet you. Come talk at me on Twitter @crookedfang. Tell me what you think. Let's talk music or whatever. Listen to me bitch about Auto-Tune. Come see my website at [www.crookedfang.com](http://www.crookedfang.com). Lots of fun ways to dig into what Crooked Fang is, who I am, etc. Blogs, merch, books, other shit.

I love you all. Keep it real.

Lates.

-Xan

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