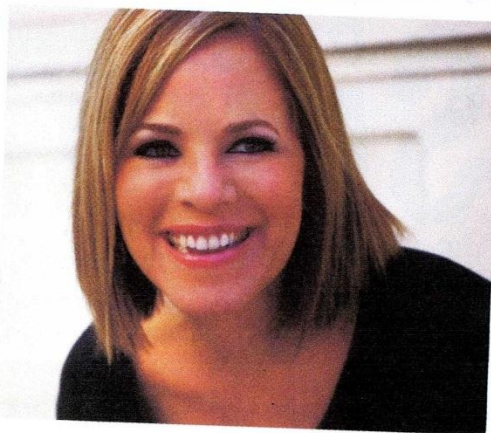


Alyson Noël

We first met Alyson Noël by reading her heartfelt relationship books, *Cruel Summer* and *Saving Zoe*. Next she stole our hearts with the fabulously romantic *Immortals* series. Now our little sisters have embraced Ever's hilarious little sister Riley as their own in *Radiance* and *Shimmer*. Is there anything Alyson Noël can't do?



What inspired the leap to paranormal romance with *The Immortals* series?

A few years back I went through an extended period of grief after losing three people I loved in five months and then I nearly lost my husband to leukemia. At that point I was ready to write *Evermore*. In a quest to heal from my grief, I read a lot of books on metaphysics, the afterlife, psychics, mediums, reincarnation, etc., and Ever and Damen's epic love story was born from there.

What is it about Ever's sister Riley that made you feel like she needed her own series (*Radiance*/ *Shimmer*)?

I had so much fun writing Riley's character in *Evermore* that she ended up getting a much bigger role than I'd planned. She kept showing up, usually in some kind of crazy wig and costume, and I kept allowing it because she was great to have around. Riley is an especially fun character to write—partly because she's such a bundle of contradictions! She's overconfident, sassy, more than a little bit snarky, and not one bit happy about dying just shy of her 13th birthday—but she's also incredibly vulnerable—

she misses her sister tremendously. Also, her being dead means she has no boundaries at all. She can travel anywhere she wants and can deal with ghosts from any period in history, which keeps the storylines fresh and fun.

Which character is most like you?

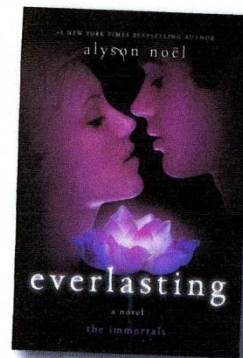
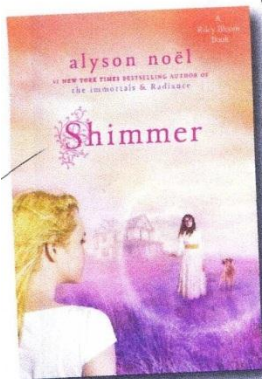
While Ever's grief over losing her family was directly channeled from my own grief, Riley's the one I relate to the most. I know what it's like to be the annoying little sister who totally idolizes her older sister, and then chooses to express that admiration by "borrowing" her clothing, makeup and jewelry!

Your books are so visual and we could easily see them turned into movies or a TV show like *Vampire Diaries*. Any plans in the works?

Yes!! I'm thrilled to announce that both *The Immortals* series and its spin-off *Riley Bloom* series have been recently optioned by Summit Entertainment!

With the release of *Everlasting*, the sixth and final installment in Ever and Damen's epic love story, are you going to miss them as much as we are?

I feel a little corny saying this, but I already miss them! Typing "the end" was so much harder than I ever imagined. I'd lived so closely with these characters that they became very real to me, like imaginary friends. But at the same time I feel really satisfied with the way things worked out for them, and I definitely think they deserve a break from all the torture I put them through!

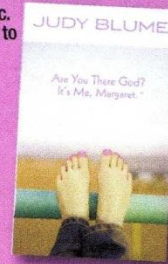


"My readers have suggested Ben Barnes from *The Chronicles of Narnia*."

Book that inspired you to be a writer?

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.
"... so authentic. I knew I wanted to write like that."

Who would you cast as Damen for the film?



ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Publishers, Hollywood Take Liking to Laguna Niguel Author's Novels

By ALISHA GOMEZ
Sunday, May 22, 2011



Laguna Niguel resident and author Alyson Noël is helping to fill a seemingly insatiable appetite among publishers and Hollywood producers for young adult novels featuring teens facing the supernatural.

Noël, a contemporary and young adult author, recently struck a deal with Summit Entertainment—the studio behind the “Twilight” movies—to turn her “The Immortals” and “Riley Bloom” books into TV series or movies.

The six-book “The Immortals” series follows a young woman who escapes death and returns with the power to read people’s thoughts when she touches them.

“Riley Bloom” features a secondary character from the “Immortal” novels.

Summit Entertainment paid six figures for an 18 month option on both series’.

“It’s an area of the market that remains big,” said Rachel Deahl, a senior news editor at trade publication Publishers Weekly.

Booming Market

“Harry Potter,” “Twilight” and now “Hunger Games” all have fueled interest in the young adult and children’s market, according to Deahl.

Noël’s also sold rights to a contemporary novel, “Fly Me to the Moon,” to director Ridley Scott’s production company.

Part of the lure for Hollywood and publishers: paranormal or fantasy books appeal to a broad audience.

“About 40% of my readers are adults,” Noël said. “I love that these boundaries don’t exist anymore, and that the books are just engaging for people who want to read them.”

The young adult market is one publishing area where there’s still a lot of money being spent, Deahl said.

“There’s a lot of high-figure acquisitions being done,” she said. “That speaks to the intense popularity of the market.”

For Noël, film or TV rights also means better publishing deals. She recently struck a \$3 million deal before bonuses with St. Martin Press for a new series, “Soul Seekers,” due in 2012.

An Orange County native, Noël grew up in Yorba Linda with little money. She dabbled in college but left to start work.

She’s held a number of jobs, including flight attendant.

She became inspired to write “The Immortals” series after losing three loved ones in five months. Shortly after, her husband found out he had leukemia. He’s now in remission.

Five years ago, she quit and started writing full time.

“I just couldn’t live in the world the same way anymore,” Noël said. “I was sort of on a quest to find comfort and answers, and I started reading metaphysical and afterlife books. That’s how I got the idea for the ‘The Immortals.’”

There was a lot of early rejection, she said.

“I got rejected by just about everybody,” Noël said. “As much as it hurt, it forced me to figure out why. They were all saying the same thing: You have a great voice, but the plot needs work.”

So Noël went back to the drawing board. She attended writing classes. She took the advice of one agent and read a book on plots, “Story,” by Robert McKee.

By page 25 she said she knew what she was doing wrong.

“I was ruthless with my manuscript,” Noël said of the editing process.

She’s been with her publishing company—St. Martin’s Press, part of Britain’s Macmillan Publishers Ltd.—since the beginning.

She started pitching her first novel back in 2002. In 2004 it got picked up by an agent.

Her first seven books were contemporary stories. She kept coming back to the young adult genre, somehow always finding a teen protagonist in her stories. Her first agent who sat her down and said she had the makings of a young adult novelist.

Childhood Influence

Writing about teens is close to her heart, Noël said.

She grew up poor with divorced parents, the youngest of three girls.

Noël said she is driven by her upbringing.

“Because of my background, I don’t know if you ever reach any amount of money where you feel secure,” she said.

It was right before “Evermore,” her first book in the “Immortals” series, was published in the U.S. that she noticed things taking off. The book already was big in Germany and was being bid on by several publishers there and in other countries. Then the New York Times and Publishers Weekly noticed.

“That was the moment that I went, ‘Huh, maybe I can make a living off of this,’” Noël said.

It took 15 years to write her first book, Noël said. Now it takes three to six months to write a book, she said.

Noël works every day, weekends and holidays, too, she said.

Her literary agent serves as her film agent. She has one assistant. Her husband acts as her lawyer and manager, though she used an entertainment lawyer for the Hollywood deals. She also has a foreign rights agent.

“The Immortals” books have been translated into more than 37 languages and have been sold in 50 countries.

Gomez is a former Business Journal editor and freelance writer based in Long Beach.

MEDIA

Movie Studios Smell Out Teen Spirits

By MICHELLE KUNG

Sequels and prequels are Hollywood summer staples, powering some of the biggest hits that are popular with young-adult viewers. But with the final installments on the way for some big series, studios are hunting for new properties.

Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter" franchise this summer winds down with its eighth movie, closing out a series that has brought parent Time Warner Inc. nearly \$6.4 billion world-wide. Next year, the fifth "Twilight" movie will mark the end of Summit Entertainment LLC's lucrative foray into the world of vampires and their teenage lovers.

To continue winning over those audiences, studios have been snapping up the rights to science-fiction and fantasy book series that have the potential to spin off sequels—and lucrative ancillary products like clothes and memorabilia. A movie from a trilogy of books by Suzanne Collins is one of the most hotly anticipated waiting in the wings, as are films with personnel from the "Twilight" movies.

"The competition for young-adult material and the market for speculative fiction, including books and packaging deals, are picking up," says Erik Feig, Summit's president of world-wide production and acquisitions. "Our biggest challenge now is to

find innovative voices without repeating ourselves so fans don't feel like we're giving them something that's a duplicate."

Like many studios, Summit has bought rights for some series of novels even before they hit bookstores, such as the dystopian thriller "Divergent," due to be published next month.

Popular fantasy novels, comic books and hits from other media are desirable because of their established young fan bases. Studios often option all the titles in a book series at once, so if the first film adaptation is a success, the studios quickly can churn out sequels.

The highest-profile of the new candidates is Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.'s adaptation of Ms. Collins's popular "Hunger Games" trilogy, which has more than 8.8 million copies in print. The series' first film, about a teenage girl forced to compete for her life on a reality television show, has a production budget of roughly \$75 million and is slated for release next March.

Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures recently enlisted the screenwriter who adapted the "Twilight" series to do the same for "Earthseed," the first book in Pamela Sargent's trilogy about futuristic teenagers born from the genetic bank of a spaceship.

News Corp.'s Twentieth Century Fox and specialty division Fox 2000 have at least three

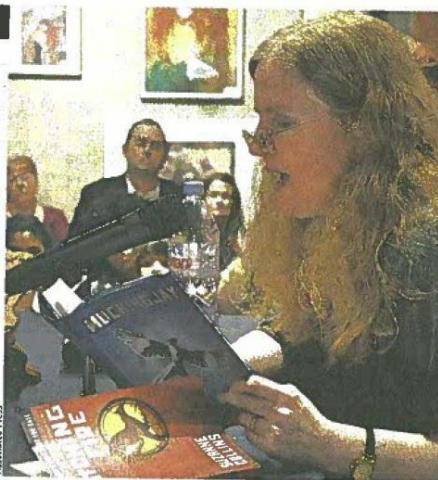
In the Pipeline

'Divergent'
By Veronica Roth
Book series debut:
May 2011
Studio: Summit
Ms. Roth is 22.

'Earthseed'
By Pamela Sargent
Book series debut: 1983
Studio: Paramount
'Twilight' screenwriter
expected to write, produce

Trylle Trilogy
By Amanda Hocking
Book series debut: 2010
Studio: Media Rights
Ms. Hocking, 26, self-published nine e-books.

Lions Gate hopes books in the 'Hunger Games' trilogy by Suzanne Collins, pictured, will form a new franchise among young adults. Some series on which other studios are banking are listed.



Associated Press

young-adult franchises in development. One of them, the "Incarceron" series, about a teenager caught in a futuristic prison, has "Twilight" heartthrob Taylor Lautner attached to star in the movie. Warner Bros., Walt Disney Co., Comcast Corp.'s Universal Pictures and Sony Corp.'s specialty division Sony Screen

Gems also have young-adult fantasy or science-fiction properties in the works.

Developing and producing a successful franchise is far from easy. For every success story à la "Twilight," there's at least one bust like 2007's "The Golden Compass," which cost over \$180 million to produce but generated

just \$70 million in domestic ticket sales for New Line Cinema. After that debut, no sequel was planned.

"Many of these studio options are speculative," says producer Roy Lee, whose Vertigo Entertainment is developing several young-adult series for film and TV. "They wait to see which ti-

ties blow up as blockbusters, and if they don't take off, they don't bother following through."

Studios adapting popular books also now must please young readers who have created devotional websites and faux trailers and communicated with authors via blogs, Twitter and Facebook.

"My fans will put together and send me videos of themselves in film trailers and email me their head shots," says author Alyson Noel, whose "Immortals" series, about a 16-year-old who can learn peoples' thoughts by touching them was recently optioned by Summit in a six-figure deal.

"Movies are not a novelty item anymore; they're a distribution platform and method of communication," says producer Bob Shaye, who has two young-adult fantasy adaptations in development.

When he was co-chief executive at New Line, Mr. Shaye endured flops like "The Golden Compass" but also oversaw one of the most successful fantasy adaptations in recent times, the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Mr. Shaye warns that the genre may have an expiration date. "I don't expect we're going to be spending the next five years looking for young-adult material," he says. "But for the moment, we believe it's a genre worth pursuing."

COVER STORY

Alyson Noël

No. 1 New York Times Best-selling author of young adult novels

20 WOMEN TO WATCH, CONTINUED ...Published: March 01, 2011



Hometown: Laguna Niguel

Age: 46

Family: Married, no kids

First job: When I was 16, I was a member of the Bullock's Department store Teen Board, which led to a job in the Women's Suits department.

Worst job: During my 20s, I lived in Mykonos, Greece, for seven years, where I spent one summer helping to open a new hotel – a job that involved, among other things, everything from working the front desk, to tending bar, to cleaning rooms. Cleaning rooms was, hands down, the absolute worst job I've ever had!

Biggest break: Well, there were two – selling my debut novel, "Faking 19," in a two-book deal to [St. Martin's Press](#) back in 2004. I'm now under contract with them for 21 books. And "Evermore" hitting the New York Times best-sellers list for 41 weeks – 10 of those weeks at No. 1. It opened up a whole new world of readers that I hadn't accessed before.

Secret to your success: Perseverance is key. When I first started out, I had no idea how difficult it was to break in, but instead of getting derailed by those early rejections, I vowed to work harder.

Advice to other women in business: I know it's a cliché, but always go with your gut. I've yet to regret a decision that was based on my instincts, though I've regretted plenty that were led by my head!

Favorite all-time book: The two books that changed my life early on are "Are You There God? It's Me,

Margaret,” by Judy Blume. I read it in sixth grade and was blown away by its realness, and I knew that someday I wanted to try to write like that, too. And “Catcher in the Rye,” by J.D. Salinger. I was a high school misfit and could really relate to Holden’s feelings of isolation. Both of those books made me realize that a good story could be a transcendent experience.

With more than 5 million copies in print, [Alyson Noël](#)’s books have been published in 36 countries and have been best-sellers here and abroad.

In 2010, her middle-grade “Immortals” spin-off, the “Riley Bloom” series, sold to St. Martin’s Press for seven figures. Most recently, Noël signed another seven-figure deal for a new young adult series, “Soul Seekers,” to be published by St. Martin’s Press in 2012.

As if that wasn’t enough, film rights for her adult novel “Fly Me to the Moon” have been optioned to Fox 2000, and rights for the “Immortals” and “Riley Bloom” series have been optioned by a major studio.

“I may be biased, but these days some of the best writing out there can be found on the Young Adult shelves,” Noël says. “There’s such poetry and immediacy to the storytelling, and it’s the only way for an adult to experience all of those wonderful firsts once again!”

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Published: February 28, 2011



Alyson Noel, Monarch Beach

Alyson Noel, New York Times Bestselling Author

Author Alyson Noel is an Orange County native who left home after high school to travel the world. Visiting locales from Paris to Marrakesh, Noel lived for extended periods in Mykonos and Manhattan, and has worked as a babysitter, sales clerk, office manager, jewelry maker, T-shirt painter, hotel front desk clerk and flight attendant. She found her niche as a writer, and is now a best-selling, award-winning author with over 5 million copies in print. Her books have been published in 36 countries, have hit the New York Times, USA Today, Publishers Weekly, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, NCIBA, and Walmart bestsellers lists, and won many awards including the *National Reader's Choice Award*.



Following the international success of her young adult paranormal *Immortal* series, the author signed a seven-figure deal for her new four-book *Soul Seeker* series. Her only adult novel, *Fly Me to the Moon*, was optioned for development by Ridley Scott. Noel now lives in Orange County, where she is working on her new series.

Peter Albæk



»Der er brug for nytænkning – ikke nye pointsystemer« S8

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**WikiLeaks løfter
sløret for
nye hem-
meligheder**
» S11



**Vil du passe din
gamle mor?**

» S8



**På flugt ind
i fantasien**

Interview med
bestsellerforfat-
teren Alyson Noël
» S20

**Hvordan
dufter
lykken?**

» S10



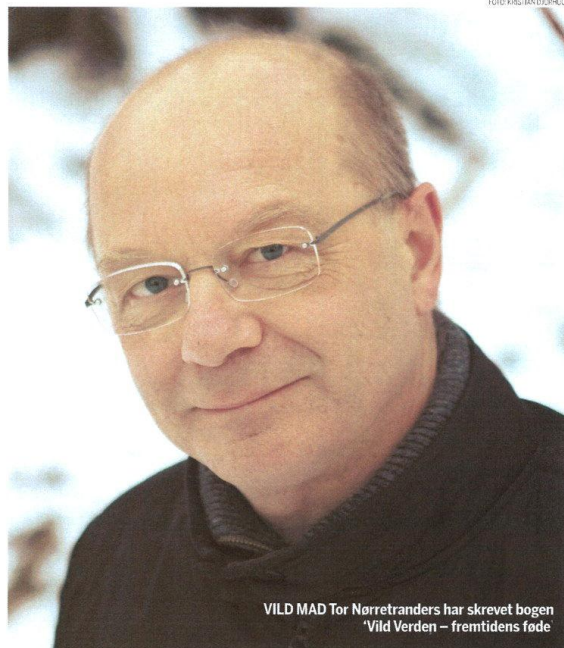
Bliv vild med det vilde

- Landbruget står foran et vendepunkt på grund af klimaproblemer, advarer professor
- Det bliver vildt mad fra naturen, der skal redde os fra sult og sygdom, mener forfatter Tor Nørretranders



- Vildt mad kan måske være en del af løsningen på en kommende fødevarerremangel, erkender Michael Stevns, Dansk Landbrug & Fødevarer
- Læs stjernekokken Claus Meyers guide til, hvordan du selv får tjek på den vilde, gratis mad

LÆS MERE » S67



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Flugten ind i fantasien

Overnaturlige fortællinger kan være en tiltrængt flugtvej væk fra virkeligheden, mener den amerikanske bestsellerforfatter Alyson Noël, der står bag ungdomsserien 'De udødelige'. For hende selv har skrivningen virket som terapi, når de svære teenageår og familiemedlemmers død skulle bearbejdes



Af Katinka Agger og Louise Leth-Espensen (foto)

Det er ikke, fordi Alyson Noël's egne teenageår var for morsomme. Hendes far forlod hende, hendes søstre og mor, og pengene i den lille familie var små.

Og som om det ikke var nok, blev Alyson oven i købet drillet i skolen. Alligevel er teenageårene blevet en tid, forfatteren igen og igen vender tilbage til helt frivilligt.

»Indeni er jeg stadig 16 år – lige meget hvor mange gange jeg har haft fødselsdag. Jeg er en teenager, der er endt med hus og mand uden at vide hvordan,« fortæller forfatteren, da hun gæster København i anledning af, at tredje bind i hendes bestsellerserie 'De udødelige' for nylig er udkommet på dansk. I alt har hun skrevet 13 bøger, og kun en af dem var ikke for teenagere.

»Jeg har skrevet én voksenbog, og det var meget sværere for mig at komme ind i hovedet på min hovedperson end ellers,« forklarer forfatteren og tilføjer, at hun skam gerne ville skrive mere for voksne, men at ungdomsbøgerne bare falder hende mere naturligt.

Og så nyder hun kontakten med læserne, der ifølge forfatteren bliver langt mere direkte med den aldersgruppe, hun skriver til. Det

ALYSON NOËL

■ Alyson Noël er født og opvokset i Orange County i Californien i USA. Hvornår hun er født, holder forfatteren imidlertid hemmeligt.

■ Efter en rygsækrejse kort efter high school slog hun sig ned i Grækenland, hvor hun arbejdede flere år i turistindustrien. Tog derefter en uddannelse som stewardesse og boede i New York, mens hun arbejdede for Delta Airlines i mere end 10 år. Hun opgav jobbet og begyndte at skrive på fuld tid efter terrorangrebene den 11. september 2001.

■ Bor i dag igen i Orange County.

er langt fra usædvanligt, at hun modtager e-mails fra teenagere, der selv har prøvet at blive mobbet eller kendt til andre af de problemer hun skriver om.

Skrivning var terapeutisk
Oprindeligt begyndte Alyson Noël da også at skrive, fordi hun ønskede at bearbejde sine egne teenageår. Men med serien 'De udødelige' gik hun skridtet videre efter to familiemedlemmer døde af kræft, en god ven druknede, og hendes egen mand fik leukæmi – alt sammen inden for få måneder.

»Døden og hvad, der mon kom efter, fyldte pludselig utrolig meget i mit liv. Og det var det, der gav mig ideen,« siger hun og forklarer

rer, at det overnaturlige derfor fik lov at gøre sit indtog i hendes bøger. Og endnu en gang havde skrivningen en næsten terapeutisk effekt.

»Det var at skrive de bøger, der hjalp mig igen med det. Min mand er rask i dag, men jeg fandt alligevel ud af, at jeg tror på en form for udødelighed – at vores sjæl lever videre, efter vi er borte,« siger hun. At 'De udødelige', også ramte lige i hjertet af hendes unge læsere, forstår forfatteren sådan set godt.

»Den har det overnaturlige element og på samme tid også nogle realistiske elementer. Ja, min hovedperson Ever er ganske vist udødelig og synsk og kan løbe helt utroligt stærkt, men hun er også en ægte teenager med helt normale problemer,« siger forfatteren og tilføjer, at det overnaturlige desuden giver læserne en flugtvej ind i fantasiens verden, som mange nok kan have brug for.

Og det mener hun nok også er en af grundene til, at genren er så stor netop nu i en usikker verden med økonomisk krise og krige, der varer i det uendelige. En usikkerhed, som hun mener man kan lægge oven i alle de problemer, de fleste teenagere i forvejen går og kæmper med.

Men selv om engle, vampyrer og dæmoner synes at være højeste mode inden for litteraturen, så advarer forfatteren, at hun har tænkt i trends, da hun begyndte på serien.

»Jeg begyndte på 'De udødelige', netop som den trend begyndte at tage fart, men alligevel var jeg faktisk ret nervøs for, om bøgerne ville falde i god jord. For de var så meget anderledes end de andre bøger, jeg havde skrevet,« siger hun.

I dag kan hun glæde sig over, at det gik trods alt, for flere af seriens bøger har siden ligget på New York Times' bestsellerliste.



SKRIVETERAPI Dødsfald i familien inspirerede Alyson Noël til at skrive historien om den udødelige pige Ever i serien 'De udødelige'.



'SKYGGELAND' OG 'DE UDØDELIGE'

■ 'Skyggeland' er tredje bind i ungdomsserien 'De udødelige' og udkom i Danmark i oktober. Serien har seks bind i alt, som alle er udkommet i USA. De sidste tre bind kommer på dansk i løbet af 2011. Flere af bøgerne har ligget på New York Times' bestsellerliste.

■ Serien handler om den 16-årige Ever, der opdager, hun er udødelig, da hun er eneste overlevende i en trafikulykke,

der slår hele hendes familie ihjel. Hun er desuden synsk og finder sin sjælemage i den rige mand Damen, der ligesom hende selv er udødelig.

■ Alyson Noël har udgivet syv bøger, inden hun begyndte på serien. Hun arbejder lige nu på en serie for tweens, hvor hovedpersonen også har optrådt i 'De udødelige'.

katinka.agger@24timer.dk



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KULTUR

»Bøgerne hjalp mig ud på den anden side«

Der skulle et terrorangreb, tre døde familiemedlemmer og en kræftsyg mand til, at Alyson Noël begyndte at skrive fantasybøger for teenagere. »Når jeg er ude at møde mine læsere, er omkring 20 procent af dem voksne,« siger forfatteren, der er oversat til 35 sprog.

Af Jeppe Bangsgaard

Teenagepiger kaster sig forsløget over bøger, hvor spøgelser færdes blandt mennesker, og hvor romancer mellem vampyrer og skolepiger er det mest naturlige i verden. Særligt Twilight-serien af amerikanske Stephenie Meyer har både som bøger og film fået overvældende succes.

En anden superstjerne inden for genren i kølvandet på »Twilight« er amerikanske Alyson Noël. Hun har på verdensplan solgt over tre millioner eksemplarer af fantasyserien »De udødelige«, der er oversat til 35 sprog og har ligget på The New York Times' bestsellerliste uden ophold i langt over et år, ligesom den har modtaget en strøm af priser. De tre første bind er udkommet på dansk og er allerede solgt i ni oplag.

Men hvad er det, der gør især unge piger så fascinerede af magi, mystik og parallelle universer? Spørger man Alyson Noël, handler det blandt andet om trykthed i en usikker verden.

»Vi lever i en tid, hvor vi hele tiden hører om krige, økonomisk krise og miljøkatastrofer. Nyhederne, vi bliver bombarderet med, er meget dystre for tiden. Fantasylitteratur bliver en måde at slippe væk fra virkeligheden på,« fortæller Alyson Noël, da hun besøger København. I hendes serie »De udødelige«



Alyson Noël mener, at fantasygenrens succes skyldes, at vi søger trykthed i en usikker verden.
 Foto: Christian Als

er hovedpersonen den 16-årige pige Ever. Da hendes familie kommer ud for en trafikulykke, er hun den eneste overlevende, og i forbindelse med den hændelse udvikler hun overnaturlige evner. Blot ved en flygtig berøring af et andet menneske kender hun hele vedkommendes livshistorie og kan læse tan-

ker. Senere møder hun den udødelige, eksotiske Damen, der kan se ind i hendes sjæl. Netop det romantiske spor er afgørende for pigerne, der læser bøgerne, mener Alyson Noël.

Søger sjælevenner

»Twilight« var romancen central, og det er den også

i mine bøger. Der er noget utrolig romantisk over tanken om to sjælevenner, der er bestemt for hinanden og kommer tilbage til hinanden gennem århundreder, som det er tilfældet i mine bøger. Der er så meget håb i ideen om, at der er én person derude et sted, og det appellerer til teenagepiger. Og så er

der også det aspekt, at man særligt i de her usikre tider fokuserer på det, der virkelig betyder noget, nemlig relationer mellem mennesker og ikke det materielle.

Men selv om temaet på den måde kan minde om »Twilight«, er Alyson Noël ikke inspireret af sin kollega Stephenie Meyer.

»Da jeg startede på serien, var jeg ikke klar over, at jeg var del af en ny trend, jeg skrev bare det, jeg følte, jeg skulle skrive.«

Forinden havde Alyson Noël skrevet syv bøger, der foregik i et realistisk univers. Egentlig er hun uddannet stewardesse og har arbejdet nogle år med at rejse verden rundt. Der skulle en dramatisk begivenhed til, før hun turde kaste sig over den gamle drøm om at skrive.

Terrorangrebet 11. september ændrede fuldstændig vilkårene for arbejdet. Man søgte efter bomber i hvert eneste fly, og lønningerne faldt, så jeg tænkte, at nu ville det være et rigtig godt tidspunkt at se, om jeg kunne lykkes med at skrive en bog. Så det blev virkelig et vendepunkt for mig.

Dødsfald i familien

Det var dog ikke før, hun mistede tre familiemedlemmer på kort tid og hendes mand

blev alvorligt syg af leukæmi, at hun selv begyndte at skrive bøger, der bevægede sig ind i det paranormale. Som en slags terapi oven på de voldsomme personlige oplevelser op søgte hun alt, hvad hun kunne finde af information om metafysikken, tog kurser i det og var også flere gange i hypnose.

»Derefter følte jeg mig klar til også selv at inddrage det paranormale i mine bøger. Bøgerne hjalp mig med at komme ud på den anden side.«

Alyson Noël skriver fortrinnsvis for teenagepiger. Men hun har også mange voksne læsere.

»Når jeg er ude at møde mine læsere, er omkring 20 procent voksne. Efter Harry Potter-bøgerne er fantasy ikke længere noget, voksne skammer sig over at læse.«

Når det netop er litteratur til unge piger, der er blevet Alyson Noels metier, skyldes det, at hun selv føler sig i målgruppen, selv om hun for længst er blevet en etableret forfatter og en gift kvinde.

Jeg har indset, at jeg har en svagthed for den periode af livet, jeg har aldrig følt mig som en voksen, men som en teenager, der bare er havnet i et hus med en mand.

3

AF ALYSON NOËL – »DE UDØDELIGE«

Serien består af i alt seks bind. Bind fire udkommer på dansk til marts.



Bind 1: Evermore

Da den 16-årige pige Ever opdager, at hun kan læse andres tanker, lukker hun sig inde i sig selv. Men da hun møder den drømmeagtige fyr Damen, bliver det endnu mere mystisk – for han kan se ind i hendes sjæl.



Bind 2: Blå måne

Den blå månens opstigning varsler et uhyggeligt valg for Ever – skal hun skruer tiden tilbage og frelse sin familie fra den ulykke, der tog livet af dem, eller skal hun blive i nuet og redde Damen, der bliver svagere dag for dag?



Bind 3: Skyggeland

Evers elskede, den udødelige Damen, er blevet forbandet af en hævnerrig rival fra sin fortid. Nu kan selv en flygtig berøring mellem Ever og Damen vise sig fatal – og et kys kan kaste dem begge ned i evig glæmsel i det uhyggelige Skyggeland.

JULY 26, 2010, 2:00 PM ET

Immortals author Alyson Noël Signs 7-Figure Deal For New Series

By Gina Bernal



Nancy Villere

While other publishers continue their search for the next Stephenie Meyer, St. Martin's Press is putting its money behind a certifiable home-grown success. Alyson Noël, author of the internationally bestselling Immortals series, has signed a new four-book contract with St. Martin's Griffin imprint, brokered by Bill Contardi of Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents. A spokesperson for the author shared the details of the deal exclusively with Speakeasy, saying Noël will receive a "healthy seven-figures with additional performance bonuses that could double that." The exact amount was not revealed but confirmed to be a "multi-million" dollar advance. St. Martin's hopes to publish the new Soul Seeker series starting in 2012.

Noël has been with the publisher since her 2005 debut, but it was 2009's *Evermore*, the first book of the young adult paranormal Immortals series, that catapulted her onto bestseller lists. Currently, the Immortals can be found at #5 on the *New York Times* Children's Series list—just under media-fueled franchises *Twilight*, *Percy Jackson*, *Pretty Little Liars* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. The latest book, *Dark Flame*, debuted at #6 on *WSJ's* best seller list and *Radiance*, the first in an Immortals spin-off series, releases in September. Noël's only adult novel, *Fly Me to the Moon*, was recently optioned for development by Ridley Scott's Scott Free Productions.

We spoke with the author about her new series, making it big and writing paranormal in a *Twilight*-dominated market.

Can you tell us about the series you've just signed a new deal for? Is it set in the Immortals world?

It's a young adult supernatural novel and it's a completely new world. The Immortals is set in Laguna Beach, California, and this book is going to be set in the Southwest, most likely New Mexico. So it's going to have a very different atmosphere, landscape and feel, and it'll explore themes of Shamanism and the ability to walk through the Upperworld and the Underworld and to walk amongst the dead. It's about a 16-year-old girl who is quite different from Ever, the protagonist in the Immortals series, who starts suffering the symptoms of what appears to be a psychotic break. But her grandmother recognizes it for what it is: her heredity ability—her father had it as well—to walk between the Upperworld and the Underworld.

What do you think was the moment you really felt you'd arrived as a writer?

I think there were two. Seeing *Faking 19*, my debut novel, on the bookshelf; I had a very nerdy moment where I went to all the local bookstores with my mom just so we could stand in front of it and gape. I was raised by a single mom and we really struggled financially growing up and she sacrificed a lot in order to keep a roof over my head. She's the one that shared with me the joy and magic of books, so sharing that moment with her and going to all those bookstores and geeking in the middle of the aisle was a pretty 'I-can't-believe-this-is-happening' moment. That was the first one, and then I would say getting the phone call from my editor and finding out about [*Evermore* making] the *New York Times* and *USA Today* lists.

With *Twilight* having saturated media in general, there are people who roll their eyes and think this genre needs to go away. What would you say to naysayers?

Anytime anything becomes as hugely iconic as *Twilight* has, there is always a backlash effect that follows where people roll their eyes at everything else in the genre as well and think it's a 'me, too' or copycat. But there's so many different paranormal variables out there in these stories that we're telling, and for mine I really explore a lot of metaphysical themes. I explore reincarnation. I explore the question of mortality versus immortality. And I think—other than the books sharing a love story—that the theme and what the books are really about and the questions I explore are entirely different from what [Stephenie Meyer's] doing and from what a lot of other people are doing as well. So I wouldn't be so quick to group all the paranormal books as *Twilight* copycats and wannabes. There's so many great stories out there and they all have something interesting and unique to say.

Immortals' author thanks Troy High teacher

By LORI BASHEDA

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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Story Highlights

[Read a Q&A with Alyson Noel in July, 2009.](#)

Take note, high school English teachers.

The next time you ask your students to write, say, an essay on Tolstoy, and some student instead turns in a short story that has nothing to do with anything remotely Russian, go with it.



Author Alyson Noel poses with her published books at the Laguna Beach Bookstore.

ANA P. GUTIERREZ, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

[MORE PHOTOS »](#)

That's what a Troy High School teacher did back in 1983.

And best-selling author Alyson Noel says that if he hadn't, there's a good chance teens across the country wouldn't be gobbling up her new hit book series, "The Immortals."

"I didn't fit in," Noel says of her high school days. "I didn't belong. I couldn't wait to get out of high school."

But then one day in her senior year English class, the one class she didn't routinely cut, the teacher announced that a student had turned in a story that was very good and he wanted to read it aloud.

"Oh, he's gonna read a story, she remembers thinking. "Nap time."

Then she heard the words. Gulp. The story was hers.

Twenty-two years later, when Alyson got her first book, "Faking 19," published in 2005, she returned to Troy High to hand a copy of it to that teacher, Mr. Fares Sawaya, opening it up to the page where she thanks him for sending her on her way.

That's not to say that Alyson stopped cutting class after that magical moment when she heard her teacher reading her words aloud. She just started using her down time while cutting class to write stories.

...

I met Alyson for lunch one afternoon at Olamendi's Mexican Restaurant in Monarch Beach, just down the road from the Laguna Beach house where she and her husband Sandy live. She was well put together, warm and friendly. And I had a hard time envisioning her as a high school slacker.

Alyson said she didn't start to slide until seventh grade when her dad, an architectural engineer, left her homemaker mom. Suddenly, the girl who once had a horse named Lucky in the backyard of her showy Yorba Linda home was eating frozen waffles for dinner.

Her mom, Elaine, went to work for minimum wage at JCPenny. And to help put food on the table, Alyson got a job when she turned 16 in women's clothing at Bullock's after school and on weekends.

Feeling alienated from her classmates for the first time ever, she worked out her feelings by writing diary entries, poems and short stories, mostly at night while listening to old Bowie or Clash records, at a desk in a corner of her bedroom.

After high school, Alyson bounced around, at one point living in Mykonos, Greece, making jewelry and hand painting T-shirts. In 1994, she got a job as a flight attendant based in Manhattan. Five years later, while visiting Newport Beach, she met her future husband. Alyson told him on their first date that she wanted to be a writer.

"He said, 'Oh, what are you writing?'"

"I thought, 'Oh my god, I'm not writing anything. I'm just talking about it.'"

She had taken a few classes at Fullerton Community College after high school but never graduated. Now she signed up for an online writing class. A classmate, Susanne Dunlap, who has since written best-selling historical fiction, read one of her short stories and referred her to her agent.

"Your voice is great but the plot is a mess," the agent wrote back. He told Alyson to read a copy of "Story," by screenwriting guru Robert McKee. She finished it in two days, went back through her story, cutting ruthlessly, and sent it back in.

On Feb. 4, 2004, she says, laughing that she remembers the exact date, she got a call while returning a rental car at John Wayne Airport after a trip to Las Vegas. St. Martin's Griffin was signing her as its first young adult author, giving her \$10,000 plus royalties for her first book.

"I cried and screamed and all those things," she says.

"Faking 19," a story about two high school friends, was published in 2005 and Alyson was signed to write more teen novels.

Then her life took a dark turn. Within six months, her first love, skipper Gary Edwards, was killed when his crab boat, Big Valley, sank on the reality TV show, "Deadliest Catch," her mother-in-law died of thyroid cancer, her husband's twin brother died of pancreatic cancer and her husband was diagnosed with leukemia (he's in remission).

Searching for answers and comfort, Alyson turned to books about the soul's journey, reincarnation and the afterlife. And that is how she gave birth to the protagonist of "The Immortals," a series of page turners which has sold about 3 million copies and landed her on The New York Times' bestseller list for 55 weeks.

Ever is a girl who loses her parents and little sister in a car wreck and almost dies herself. Through her near-death experience, she gains psychic powers and becomes "an immortal," reading her classmates' thoughts and auras at a fictitious high school called Bay View in Laguna Beach, while falling under the spell of the one boy whose mind she can't read.

During this time, Alyson underwent hypnosis herself, doing some past life regressions with Yale-trained psychiatrist, author and frequent TV talk-show guest Brian Weiss. She doesn't want to get into specifics about the experience.

"I saw some very interesting events that when all pieced together made some kind of interesting sense," she told me, laughing at how vague she was being. "Whether a past life or an archetype, I don't know. But it was interesting."

She also did a three-day psychic development workshop with celebrity psychic (and Laguna Beach neighbor) James Van Praagh. During one telepathic exercise, she said, she was able to read an image someone was holding in their mind: A fluffy white dog. "It was really weird."

The first book in "The Immortals," series, "Evermore," was published in early 2009. The fourth one, "Dark Flame," hits stores Tuesday (June 22). On Monday, Alyson will be at the Borders in Mission Viejo to sign copies.

All high school slackers welcome. Contact the writer: 714-932-1705 or lbasheda@ocregister.com



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ALYSON NOEL. PHOTO: NANCY VILLERE.

BEA 2010 Show Daily: Alyson Noel Steps onto Middle-Grade Turf

By Sally Lodge

May 25, 2010

With more than 1.8 million books in print, Alyson Noël's the Immortals series has clearly scored a hit with teen readers. In *Radiance* (Square Fish, Sept.), the author makes her middle-grade debut, launching a paranormal series that's a spinoff of her bestselling YA series. At the center of the new story arc is Riley, first introduced in *Evermore*, the first Immortals novel, who is the younger sister of protagonist Ever. St. Martin's/Griffin will release *Dark Flame*, the fourth Immortals novel, next month.

The idea for the middle-grade series came from Square Fish publisher Jean Feiwel, says Noël. "When Jean proposed this to me, I jumped at the chance to write about Riley again," she recalls. "Riley ended up having a bigger part in *Evermore* than I'd envisioned because I enjoyed writing her so much."

But the author had an initial moment of self-doubt. "Before I began to write *Radiance*, I went into a panic," she says. "I'm so used to writing for teens, and that's my state of mind anyway. No matter how old I really am, I am a teen in my head, so I thought, 'How am I going to write for 12-year-olds or in the voice of a 12-year-old?' But I told myself not to worry about Riley's age, just recreate the character, and that worked." Noël calls *Radiance* "one of the easiest books I've ever written. It really flowed, and I enjoyed the entire process. And, honestly, that is not true of every book I write."

Noël published her first YA novel, *Faking 19*, back in 2005, while working as a flight attendant. "We'd have a lot of downtime between flights, and of course delays, so I was constantly writing—on cocktail napkins or anything I could find," says the author, who had been determined to become a writer since reading Judy Blume in sixth grade. She turned to writing full-time after September 11: "I knew that my job as flight attendant would never be the same. When we had to take pay cuts and do bomb searches, I realized that it was time to get serious about my writing."

After writing six subsequent novels, Noël decided to venture into paranormal fiction with the Immortals and didn't know how her readers would respond. "I didn't know what to expect, but it was a great and almost surreal moment when I realized that readers embraced it."