

[Hometown Living, May 9, 2002]

People in the News Young writer's passion for vampires

Always fascinated by the dark side of life that especially includes vampires and the folklore surrounding the ghoulish creatures, a local writer has published her first work of fiction; needless to say the novel is about vampires.

Erika Knudsen has written and published *Beyond the Threshold of Death*.

The book is quite entertaining for those who enjoy works by such writers as Anne Rice, stories that delve into the side of the blood-seeking creatures.

Knudsen gives her vampire characters feelings and emotions that actually has a reader wanting them to find happiness.

Admitting to gaining "quite a bit of useless info about vampires over the years" and researching much of the folklore surrounding vampires, Knudsen had always been fascinated with movies and absorbs any books she can on the subject.

"You can take an idea that has been around for a long time, and can really twist it because it isn't real," says the former Spruce Grove resident, and now a hairdresser at Lin's Place in Stony Plain.

"And I love my characters. Actually each one is a little bit of me probably..."

Knudsen use to write only at night but now working on her second novel, Knudsen writes anytime she can. She takes her laptop with her and in between customers at the hair salon, and only if no one is around, she will write. Knudsen's dream is to one day be able to make a living from writing.

It took her two years to write the first book plus another two years before it was published. She sent it to 30 book publishers but got tired of rejection letters. Finally she spent her own money to publish the book.

Today *Beyond the Threshold of death* is in a few bookstores. The 26 year old hasn't made any money yet but she has broken even.

Her book is available at Story Teller in Stony Plain, Coles in some Edmonton stores. The Sanctuary on Whyte Avenue or you can check out her website at www.erispublishing.com.