



ARTS

Vampire book launched

BY CHRISTOPHER NASH

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Three years ago, a beautiful Irish woman named Deirdra O’Dea joined the world of the undead, and eventually triumphed over a Blood God bent on killing all vampires.

But is he really gone? And is the vampire hero actually falling in love with and losing herself to her vanquished enemy?

Answers

Readers who long for the darker side of things will be diving into those questions, and their troubling answers, with the release of local author Erika Knudsen’s new book.

Resurrected, a sequel to her first novel, *Beyond the Threshold of Death*, was launched last weekend in Stony Plain during a small ceremony at Main Street Market.

“I like my scary stories,” confesses Knudsen, a young woman who is prone to smiling. She operates Serenity Hair studio on Stony’s Main Street.

She published her first novel three years ago.

The writing process for the follow-up began years ago as well, progressed in irregular spurts of inspiration, and was finished as late as last month. Knudsen had it printed at an Edmonton press under her own publishing company.

Ability

While she has shopped her stories to major publishers, and received feedback on her work, she says the ability to do it all herself means she doesn’t have to wait for a corporation to get behind her.

“It’s basically because I’m really impatient,” she says.

“If I can do it myself and publish the book on my own, it’s better to try it than eventually be an old woman with a manuscript under the bed.”

Book

Beyond the Threshold of Death introduced the world to Knudsen’s central character, O’Dea, who is saved from illness in 1790’s Ireland by a close friend, who happens to be a vampire.

The story climaxes with a battle against an ancient Blood God, whom Knudsen describes as the very first vampire. Deirdra wins.

In *Resurrected*, a much darker book, Knudsen picks up the story four years after *Threshold* ended.

“The Blood God isn’t really dead. There’s a separation of body and spirit, and he’s enamoured with Deirdra, and seeks her out,” she said. The downward spiral into despair and evil that follows will take readers on a more emotional ride, she added.

Resurrected is available at Story Teller bookstore on Main Street in Stony Plain, at Knudsen’s hair salon, and online at [www.erispublishing.com].