

N. A. LE BRUN

author



PUBLISHED NOVELS

The Lunegosse Tales Trilogy
- The Search for Lana
- The Journey Home

UPCOMING BOOKS

The Stolen Generation (2017)
The Lunegosse Tales Trilogy
- The Last Battle (2018)
Odes to A Cabbage (2018) (Poetry Book)

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ABOUT

N.A. Le Brun is an author living in a small West Yorkshire town and looking to move to London in the New Year. Growing up they lived on the small island of Jersey and that is why the first book in the Lunegosse Tales begins there. Life on an island can be very insular, particularly when the island is only 45 square miles in size. But even a small drop in the English Channel can hide many secrets.

Jersey has a history lined with myths of mysterious creatures, witches, and devil worship. What it didn't have up until now is a tale of mysterious humanoid aliens fighting to save their race. N. A. has always loved both Science Fiction and Fantasy and also writes short LGBT stories and screenplays/theatre scripts.

N.A. dislikes gender labelling and prefers to use neutral pronouns, such as they and their, feeling more comfortable in their skin without the question of gender being raised. This in part stems from their belief that women and men should be treated equally, in part from the fact that identify as gender non-binary (neither male nor female). It's also why their protagonists are often female, giving girls the chance to find role models in a male dominated world.

They have fibromyalgia, arthritis, Asperger's Syndrome, and a few other medical conditions, but don't let any of that hold them back, choosing instead to write for *The Mighty* and share their own experience.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS, JOINT HONOURS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND DRAMA

King Alfred's College 2003

JOINT HONOURS 2:2

PUBLISHED UNDER NAT ROSLIN IN:

KICKED OUT ANTHOLOGY
Homofactus Press

2010

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FAQ



WHY SCI-FI AND FANTASY?

Science Fiction and Fantasy allow us to look at things from a different perspective without feeling like we're being forced to look at our own world. I grew up in a difficult place, as a young person who was abused and uncomfortable with who I was, Science Fiction and Fantasy allowed me to escape. But they also helped me to examine the world in which I lived. I had an amazing English teacher who handed me books within the Science Fiction genre that taught me how to be critical of the world around me and to look at things differently. I touch on that in *The Stolen Generation*. And in fact the character of Mr. Rawlinson is based on him.

WHERE DID YOUR LOVE OF WRITING/BOOKS/READING/ETC COME FROM

I needed an escape as a child. It was that simple. Television was all well and good, and now as an adult, I have some favourite shows, which usually fall within the Science Fiction and Fantasy genres, but books will always give me more of an escape. One of the first times I recognised myself in a book, was Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. I identified heavily with the titular character. My father didn't understand me, and he certainly didn't like me being independent. Like her, I used books to escape.

As an adolescent though, I realised that books had the power to do more than allow you to escape. Thanks to Mr Harvey, whom Mr Rawlinson in *The Stolen Generation* was inspired by, and Mr Crosby, our head of English, I learnt that books can be used as political weapons, they can be used as statements, and to create a way of saying 'Hey you aren't the only one.' I'm hoping that with my writing, I can help LGBT+ and disabled youth realise they aren't alone. So far my concentration has been on the LGBT+ young adults, but I have a couple of projects in mind for future books that will include disabled main characters.

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY WITHIN THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY

To be honest, I have an issue with the labelling we apply to people within any community, and I know I'm guilty of it myself, but it's something I work on. If pushed to ask, I'll tell people that my sexuality is lesbian, because I'm physically attracted to women about ninety percent of the time, and I am female bodied. Romantically, I identify as Bi-romantic, because a soul is something that anyone can fall for, regardless of the body it's packaged in. My gender identity is Non-Binary. I'm not female, and I'm not male. I'm me. If you were to ask those close to me they would tell you that I'm equal amounts of both, and I guess they're right. I just wish labels weren't so much of a big thing. Can we not all be human?

TELL US HOW THE LUNEGOSSE TALES CAME ABOUT

The Lunegosse Tales originally came to me when I was in my first year at uni, so I was eighteen when I started writing *The Search for Lana*. That seems like a lifetime ago now. I was sitting in my room one night, feeling particularly exhausted, as you're likely to do around exam time, and this young girl kinda just showed herself to me, and said hi. I think that's the way most of my characters appear. They're not there one minute, and they're there the next. With Lana, I'd just run the gamut of my first lot of uni exams, I'd had a night out with a group of friends to celebrate and was a few days away from lectures starting up again. Suddenly I had a notebook and pen in hand and I was writing. It somewhere along *The Search for Lana* was transferred to a computer, and forgotten about for a long time. It wasn't until a couple of years ago that I found that file and a half finished *The Journey Home* and realised I should probably do something with them. Initially the idea behind writing her story was to give a female protagonist a voice, and things slowly developed from there.

YOU DON'T TOUCH ON LANA'S SEXUALITY UNTIL BOOK 2 OF THE LUNEGOSSE TALES, WHY NOT?

First and foremost, when we meet Lana, there are other things that are important to establish before we even begin to touch on her sexuality. Secondly, most teenagers are still coming to terms with a lot of other things at the same time as they come to terms with their sexualities. There's a huge amount of information that teenagers have to assimilate as they grown, and Lana has a lot more than most when her biological family turns up on the scene. This book took over a decade to be published, and when I did come back to it, I thought about introducing her sexuality earlier than I did, but I realised that it would be unfair to her to do so. Sexuality isn't the only part of a person, and if the focus is heavily placed upon that aspect of a character, we lose the other parts of them.

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BOTH THE LUNEGOSSE TALES AND THE STOLEN GENERATION FEATURE JERSEY AS A STARTING PLACE, CAN YOU TELL US WHY?

I was born there. I don't think you can underestimate the power of the place you were born in forming who you are, especially if you spend most of your formative years there. And being an islander, there's something intrinsic about having the vrait in the veins as it were. It doesn't matter that I've been living on 'the mainland', as we islanders call England, for almost a decade now, Jersey is still very much a part of my heart and soul. You can take the boi out of Jersey...

YOU ARE NON-BINARY, BUT YOUR MAIN CHARACTERS APPEAR TO BE MOSTLY FEMALE/FEMALE BODIED, WHY?

Well, if you hadn't noticed, I'm also female-bodied. *laughs* So I write from a perspective I'm fairly familiar with. But as I've said earlier, it's also about giving female protagonists a chance. In Science Fiction and Fantasy we often see females as the people who need rescuing. The Princess in the tower, Sigourney Weaver's airheaded character in *Galaxy Quest* who only becomes powerful when she realises that she plays the bimbo and owns it. I grew up searching for the strong female leads. In literature that meant looking at Matilda, George in *The Famous Five* series by Enid Blyton, Scout in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Mostly though, I found them in the nineties television science fiction series, Susan Ivanova in *Babylon 5*, Samantha Carter in *Stargate SG-1*, Dana Scully in *The X-Files*. I want to give young adults the chance to find these characters in books as well as on television screens. Television and film can ignite our imaginations, but, in my honest opinion, books can stretch those imaginations so much further and allow us to challenge ourselves on a completely different level.

YOU SAID THAT LANA JUST WALKED UP TO YOU, WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER CHARACTERS?

Some of them just appear in my mind, like Lana, others are inspired by people in my life. Rachel Higginbottom in *The Lunegosse Tales* has an element of my GCSE drama teacher in her, and as I said earlier, Mr Rawlinson in *The Stolen Generation*, is most definitely based on Mr Harvey, my Year 8 English teacher. That man introduced me to dystopian political literature in a big way. Classics like *Brave New World*, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, *Animal Farm*, *Z for Zachariah*, they were all passed to me by him, and they all made me see the world in a completely different light. I was fortunate that he and our head of English, Mr Crosby, loved to provide me with a challenge. Kam in *The Stolen Generation* is inspired by a dear friend of mine, Kate Black-Spence who is a Chicago based actress. She and I came up with Kam's name together, I just couldn't envision anyone else in that role.

YOU HAVE A PATREON SITE YOU'RE SERIALISING THE STOLEN GENERATION ON, TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT.

Being an indie author means I'm paying for everything, from print runs to marketing, to everything else, and a friend suggested Patreon as a means of sharing my work with fans and helping cover the costs of the aforementioned marketing, etc. So far it's only just getting off the ground, but it's fun to do, and patrons get extra perks from regular readers. There are short stories and poems posted on there that won't be published in the long run, as well as first look at the chapters of *The Stolen Generation* before anyone else. And depending on how much people support me by each month, they get different perks too. There's some ebooks and paperbacks up for grabs. And there's also the chance to get a story written just for you.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO READ THE STOLEN GENERATION?

The Stolen Generation is due for release towards the end of November. I'll have an exact date for everyone shortly. And that will be followed by news about my other upcoming releases, so head over to my website, where you'll be kept up to date with everything, or follow me on social media.