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'STORIES HAVE ALWAYS
STOLEN MY HEART. FROM MY
INTRODUCTION TO THE
WHIMSICAL LAND OF NARNIA,
TO THE INCREDIBLE DEPTH
AND COMPLEXITY OF
TOLKIEN'S MIDDLE-EARTH
AND SANDERSON'S COSMERE,
THE ABILITY OF STORIES TO
CHALLENGE, ENCOURAGE,
INSPIRE, AND DELIGHT, WILL
FOREVER ENTRANCE ME'

## About Brooke

Brooke has always loved reading - from the days of sturdy baby books to the day she picked up The Lord of the Rings at age 11, she's never looked back.

Her desire to be an author is nearly as old, and in those early years she spent afternoons and weekends at her computer, tapping away on her novel ideas.

Since then she's grown up, studied, and worked in radio, print, and online journalism. These days, Brooke spends her days an admin and marketing assistant for a local company.

All the while, her stories have been bubbling away - tales of adventure, fantasy, romance, struggle, sacrifice, and emotion - all infused with her faith and homeland.

As a Christian, Brooke aims to craft stories that are accessible to everyone, whilst imbuing the tales with courage, compassion, sacrifice, faith, perseverance, and personal growth.

She's utterly thrilled to bring her first novel, *Seregn*, to publication.



# About The Blog

Brooke also hosts a blog, available at brookemartinwriter.com.

In her discussions, she focusses on the author life, with topics that include everything from crafting a story idea to book marketing, travel to how faith can influence your fiction.

As she looks ahead to writing her next book, she has begun a blog series on how to write a novel - which will chronicle the author journey in real time.

#### Christian Author, or Author who is a Christian? Balancing faith and fiction

AUGUST 22, 2022 / BROOKE MARTIN

As I draw near the publication of Seregn, I've been reflecting on how my faith works into my writing. It's an interesting discussion, and dives into the purpose of story, and what readers look for in a tale. In fact, I've been pondering this right from the first draft/editing phase.

When it came to Seregn there was a very fine line that I felt I had to walk, or rather, that I wanted to walk.

Ever since the first draft of Seregn, there's been a struggle between whether I consider myself to be a 'Christian author' writing Christian books with a Christian story, or whether I am an author who is also a Christian, whose faith and worldview obviously

#### Seregn's first chapters! And... what's in a book cover design? t a week! In the past 7 days Seregn's formatting has been completed. I've received eliminary cover design, it's locked in for a proofread, and I'm just awaiting cost quotes to work out the first edition print run size, recommended retail Thave Seregn's first chapters ready for YOU! They're available to all my right now. So, if you'd like to receive Seregn's prologue and first three

### **About The Book**

## CURSES ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN ... BUT OATHS ARE MEANT TO BE KEPT.

A cursed king. A garbled legend centuries old. A young woman forced to follow it.

When King Urien of Evergaze is secretly cursed by his own son, the tears of a star are his only hope for recovery.

Ada Wrembeck, a historical consultant with a sombre past, finds herself unceremoniously pulled from her world and appears in his court in a blaze of holy fire.

She agrees to the seemingly impossible: finding the tears of a star to save the dying king.

After all, completing the quest is her only way home.

Ada finds herself among four of the king's best warriors, including his mysterious candle keeper, Matteo. Their quest leads to the heart of a dangerous country where they must steal a fabled weapon—Seregn—from a tyrannical queen and journey to a mighty mountain to shoot a star from the sky.

But with enemies on their heels, a traitor in their midst, and a companion with a secret of his own, Ada begins to wonder if there's any chance of success. And if they do succeed, will it be worth the ever-rising cost?



Title: Seregn

**ISBN:** 978-1-922854-88-9

(Paperback)

978-1-922956-10-1

(eBook)

Page count: 572

**Genre:** Fantasy

RRP: \$34.99 AUD (Paperback)

\$10.99 AUD (eBook)

## About The Book Cont.

#### SEREGN EXCEPT - CHAPTER 1

'Stop!' Elsie's scream echoed from inside the house. 'Please stop!'

Something in the desperate cry made Ada pause, hand on a splintered post supporting the porch roof, her foot poised on the first stair leading into the inky darkness. She spun as Elsie and Giles stumbled up behind her.

'Please,' Elsie heaved. 'Don't go into the darkness. We hate that worst of all. They never come back. We hear them sometimes, when we try to sleep. We hear them crying, weeping, screaming ... they can't find their way back.'

Ada stared at the old couple, fear and concern etched in their aching eyes. The air seemed dead around her, not a breath to be felt. The darkness was heavy, oppressive, and all was utter silence but for the door creaking on its hinges. Ada turned again, peering into the dark. Were they telling the truth? Or was home just beyond? What if it wasn't? Would she wander forever? Was this even real? What if it was?

#### **Book Benefits**

Brooke wanted to tell a story exploring what it means to look out from a self-preservationist mindset and learn to love others – regardless of what it might ultimately cost. In *Seregn*, she explores how far that love can go, and what might, ultimately, break it. *Seregn* is a story about making mistakes, finding grace, and discovering the strength to continue.

Readers will witness incredible growth and transformation as characters face intense struggle both on their quest and in their hearts. *Seregn* leaves readers with a space to consider the incredible beauty of compassion, empathy, and hope, by demonstrating their power and strength amid pain, terror, and betrayal.

As a Christian Brooke believes sacrifice is at the heart of love and hope, and believes love will always endure beyond all else, conquer every other power, and sustain us beyond what we think possible.

# Target Audience

Seregn is Brooke's 'book of the heart'. It's the story she wished she could read, and so she wrote it.

As a result, *Seregn* is aimed towards:

- New Adult audiences in their 20s, with an emphasis on young women.
- The themes of love and sacrifice will appeal to readers of faith.
- Those who enjoyed books like The Chronicles of Narnia will take delight in Seregn's portal fantasy elements, while those who enjoyed the movie Stardust will appreciate the touches of steampunk and themes of the stars.



- Readers who enjoy a romantic subplot will enjoy the slow burn, sweet romance.
- Due to some violence and horror elements, Seregn is not recommended for the younger YA or sensitive readers.
- All fantasy readers can enjoy the dramatic, fantastical storyline.

# Interview Questions

- 1. What made you want to write a novel?
- 2. What is Seregn about?
- 3. How did you come up with the idea for *Seregn*?
- 4. You worked as a journalist in radio, print, and online, for a number of years. How did those experiences impact your writing?
- 5. How do you navigate writing a story of faith while still making it accessible to everyone?
- 6. What made you choose an assisted independent publisher and what was the publication experience like?
- 7. How did your Australian identity impact your novel and the fantasy world you created?
- 8. What were the challenges of writing your first book?
- 9. What advice would you give to fellow authors just starting out?
- 10. Do you have any more stories in the works?





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### Contact

Brooke would love to hear from you! You can connect in the following ways:

- @brookemartinwriter
- Brooke Martin Author
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To learn more, and for your free copy of Seregn's first three chapters, visit brookemartinwriter.com



