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NEWS RELEASE

Contacts: Larissa Ackerman/908-955-7579
larissa@clairemckinneypr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts

by K.C. Tansley / Kourtney Heintz

"Ghosts don't exist. They can't touch me. They can't hurt me. They aren't real."



This simple mantra has saved 17-year-old Kat Preston's life on countless occasions. It stops ghosts, which she calls "unbelievables," from manifesting in her world. Refusing to believe is the only way to protect herself from the ghost that tried to steal her life when she was a child.

But some things can't be ignored, and the ghosts are done letting Kat have a normal life in this YA time-travel murder mystery *THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS* (Beckett Publishing Group, ISBN 978-1-943024-00-1, August 2015), by award-winning author Kourtney Heintz as K.C. Tansley. When Kat is alone doing research for her prep school teacher on the mysterious wedding night murders at Castle Creighton in 1886, the ghosts make their reappearance. Kat uses everything she has to keep them from breaking through, but she knows this project is putting her ghost-free world at risk.

Working on this project is the stepping-stone to her dream school, Georgetown University; however, Kat can't keep the ghosts away and solve the wedding night murders that are steeped in unbelievables. The mysterious deaths of the bride and groom, Cassie Mallory and Sebastian Radcliffe, triggered the "Radcliffe Curse"—a curse that leaves the oldest Radcliffe male heir dead on his 23rd birthday. This project sets Kat on a collision course with all the unbelievables.

If it were just about the murders, Kat might be able to say no. But when she finds out that the ghost who saved her life and the ghost who nearly stole her life were both bridesmaids at this wedding, the murders become about her and the ghosts. Kat has to find out what happened to those ghosts and why they both came into her life, and that means being a part of this on-site research project.

Kat and the uptight project leader Evan trek to Castle Creighton, an old fortress that resides off the coast of Connecticut on the remote Isle of Acacia. The project takes a dark twist when they learn they only have a few weeks to solve the mystery before the current Radcliffe heir, Joshua, dies on his 23rd birthday.

Kat must confront her fear of the unbelievables when she's yanked through a magic portal and Evan follows her. They are transported back in time to 1886 and fall into the bodies of two wedding guests, Toria Langley and Alistair Kingsley. With each passing day, Kat and Evan grow weaker and have more and more trouble staying in control of the bodies they inhabit. Together, they must try to figure out the wedding night murders before they fade into the past forever.

THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS is a fast-paced YA time-travel murder mystery novel that combines time-traveling, paranormal, and gothic mystery genres to weave a tale full of ancestral curses, powerful spells, strange connections, and inherited surprises.

About Kourtney Heintz:

Kourtney Heintz is the award-winning author of the novel *The Six Train to Wisconsin* (2013), and is debuting her first Young Adult novel *THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS* under the pseudonym K.C. Tansley. Heintz is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Romance Writers of America, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives with her warrior lapdog, Emerson, on a hill in Connecticut. Never one to say no to a road trip, she's climbed the Great Wall twice, hopped on the Sound of Music tour in Salzburg, and danced the night away in the dunes of Cape Hatteras. She loves the ocean and hates the sun, which makes for interesting beach days.

THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS

By K.C. Tansley

Beckett Publishing Group

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AN INTERVIEW WITH K.C. TANSLEY, AUTHOR OF

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts

Your book has many elements: Gothic, time travel, and paranormal, which all come together to make an exciting YA novel. Where did the idea for *THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS* come from?

It was a concept my best friend, Anthony, and I dreamed up when we were in 7th grade. The 11-year-old me loved the idea of ghosts, curses, spells, castles, time travel, and a murder mystery. I was a huge fan of soap operas like *Dark Shadows* and *Santa Barbara* and that's where the romantic thread came in. Back then, I only thought about the story I wanted to tell and this was it.

Anthony and I never got beyond the character sketches and general concept because the original idea had way too many characters. He still has a notebook somewhere filled with dozens of character sketches.

Decades later, when I was working on Wall Street and mourning the end of the *Harry Potter* series, I thought if I could write my own novel, the characters would always be with me. That was when the 28-year-old me remembered the story the 11-year-old me was dying to tell. I emailed Anthony and he gave me the go ahead to work on it. And then the work truly began.

The majority of the book takes place at Castle Creighton in Connecticut. Is this based on a real place? If not, how did you develop the idea of Castle Creighton?

I tend to pull things in from my real life and blend them on the page. Castle Creighton is actually inspired by a few places. The idea for the Isle of Acacia and Castle Creighton sprung from a high school trip to France where I visited Mont St. Michel. I fell in love with the isolation of the place. It stuck with me and ended up being a major part of the setting.

Growing up in Connecticut, I'd been to Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., which fed into the idea for a castle in New England. I went back there recently to help get the feel of the castle while doing revisions. The Isle of Acacia was partly inspired by the Thimble Islands in Branford, Conn. There's also a small, uninhabited island off the coast of Westbrook, Conn., that I walked out to once during low tide. It felt like such a cool thing—a place that was only reachable at certain times of day. It fit the Gothic mood of my story perfectly.

The main character calls ghosts "Unbelievables." Where did you get the term from and why did you decide on using "Unbelievables" rather than "ghosts"?

The unbelievables are all the supernatural beings people don't believe in. I wanted to explain why some people see ghosts and some people don't. I was fascinated with the idea of belief fueling reality. Like when you tell yourself you've lost your keys and you believe it so much that you can't see them sitting on your desk in front of you. Because you believe your keys are gone, they are, even if they actually aren't.

I think the mind is capable of shutting so much out and that was something I wanted to explore. There is more to the unbelievables than ghosts. Something very sinister lives in the shadows.

AN INTERVIEW WITH K.C. TANSLEY, CONTINUED

Are there any authors or books that inspired you in writing *THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS*?

I was a big fan of ghost stories and Gothic stories as a kid. I remember reading about banshees and thinking there was nothing cooler. One of my all time favorite reads is *Wuthering Heights* with its Gothic love story. Agatha Christie mysteries were a must-read for the 11-year-old me too. I loved the intricate plotting and how it all came together so perfectly in the end.

As an adult, I read *The Woman in Black*, and it probably contributed to some of the creepier moments in the story. The Harry Potter series played a big role in my writing this book because I was distraught over Hermione and Harry leaving my life. I didn't read the final Potter book until a few years after the series ended.

Do you have any ghost stories of your own to share?

When I lived on Wall Street, there were several nights in that haze between dreaming and fully awake where I saw ghosts at the end of my bed. People dressed in clothes from another era and exuding an eerie bluish light. It turns out there were some horrible fires that destroyed buildings down there. I think when people die tragically something of them remains.

In my apartment in Washington, D.C., I used to hear people walking in the living room at night. At the time, I lived alone. It scared me so much I would throw the covers over my head. Because as we all know that protects us from the supernatural. I never went to investigate, but to this day, I think ghosts were moving around in there at night.

Why did you decide to write *THE GIRL WHO IGNORED GHOSTS* as a young adult novel versus "New Adult" or adult fiction?

This was the first manuscript I ever wrote, so it's where I cut my writing teeth. The book went through many incarnations before I settled on YA. In its earliest version, it was set in grad school, and I tried to sell it as an adult paranormal mystery. At each conference I attended in every pitch session and manuscript critique, I was told that it was an impossible sell. College and grad school didn't fit into the adult or the YA market. And New Adult didn't exist at that time. After a few years of being told to make it YA, I started to explore the possibility.

I read a ton of YA books to make sure this was where my story truly belonged. The things my characters are dealing with (struggling to find/define themselves) and the tone felt right for a YA audience. I also wanted to write a book that a teen, a parent, and a grandparent could all enjoy. Something PG-12, appropriate for 12+.

Do you intend to have a series featuring the main character, Kat Preston?

I always saw this as a series. I have ideas for several more books. I've written a short outline for the sequel and plan to work on the first draft this summer/fall. Kat will definitely be front and center, and Evan will also play a major role. The four families have a lot that they need to deal with together, and it's going to take a few books to get through. If I'm channeling Toria and making predictions, I foresee more time traveling as they fight for their future.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Girl Who Ignored Ghosts

KAT PRESTON

A 17-year-old high school student who has been able to speak to ghosts, or “unbelievables,” her whole life. However, she has ignored them ever since a ghost tried to steal her life. Everything changes when she gets roped into a group project for her teacher. Sent to the isolated Castle Creighton, she tries to piece together what happened 129 years ago when the bride and groom were murdered on their wedding night. Kat gets further entangled in the world of the unbelievables when she’s dragged through a portal to the past and ends up sharing a body with Toria Langley, one of the guests at the cursed wedding.

EVAN KINGSLEY

The uptight yet attractive student aide who Kat has a love/hate relationship with. He is the leader of the research group and follows Kat through the portal to the 19th century. He ends up sharing the body of another wedding guest, Alistair Kingsley.

JOSHUA RADCLIFFE

The mysterious Radcliffe heir and current owner of Castle Creighton. He has an immediate and bizarre connection with Kat. If the group can’t figure out the Radcliffe Curse and break it, Joshua will die on his 23rd birthday, which is only weeks away.

TORIA LANGLEY

A present day ghost who was at Castle Creighton in 1886 when the bride and groom were murdered on their wedding night. During her life Toria was in love with Sebastian and protected him up until his death. Now, her ghost protects Kat against the other unbelievables.

ALISTAIR KINGSLEY

Toria’s closest friend and Evan Kingsley’s ancestor. Alistair is extremely protective of Toria, which makes it hard for her to keep Sebastian safe and find out if there’s anything going on between Cassie and another man.

SEBASTIAN RADCLIFFE

Cassie’s husband-to-be and the Radcliffe heir in 1886. Both Alistair and Toria swore a blood oath to protect him. His murder on his 23rd birthday triggers the Radcliffe Curse.

CASSIE MALLORY

The beautiful bride who is murdered on her own wedding night. While Toria and Alistair worry that she may be Sebastian’s undoing, Kat and Evan unravel a disturbing secret about Cassie that may provide answers to her murder.