



Vanessa A. Ryan

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Vanessa A. Ryan is an actress and writer in Southern California. She is a graduate of UCLA. When not writing or acting, she enjoys painting and nature walks. Her paintings and sculpture are collected worldwide. At one point, she worked as a stand-up comedian so her writing often reflects her love of humor, even for serious subjects. She resides in Long Beach, California with her three cats.

BIO

Vanessa A. Ryan is a mystery novelist, actor and visual artist, among other things. This year she has released four novels. The first three are from a new adult mystery trilogy **Horror At The Lake (A Vampire Tale)**, published by Permuted Press. Book 1 [The Legacy Of Fear](#), Book 2 [The Trail Of Terror](#) and Book 3 [The Blood Of Redemption](#) expand on the vampire theme, taking it to another dimension by combining the genres of horror, mystery and dark humor with a bit of ancient Egyptian history. The fourth, released in 2015 is the cozy mystery [A Palette For Murder](#), published by Five Star Publishing, a part of Gale/Cengage Learning. **A Palette For Murder** is the first novel in the Lana Davis Mystery Series.

When not writing, Vanessa A. Ryan enjoys acting and painting. Her acting roles have included commercials, independent films and plays. At one point, she performed stand-up comedy, which is why her writing often has a humorous bent, even for serious subjects. She has exhibited her lively abstract paintings and sculpture in many art galleries and museums. During the time she worked on her novels, she also published articles in several online magazines and blogs.

Vanessa A. Ryan has a bachelor's degree from UCLA. She lives in Long Beach, California with three cats. She also cares for a colony of feral cats. With the assistance of local animal charities, Vanessa has rescued many cats, either by finding them new homes or by trapping and releasing those too wild for adoption. Says Ms. Ryan, "I never thought I'd be the cat lady of the neighborhood, but now I've got even my next door neighbor helping."

Because of her love of the outdoors, Vanessa once called Lake Arrowhead, California her home. She used the imagery of its forests and foggy weather as the setting for town of Lake Masley in **Horror At The Lake**. Her years of living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with its sage-covered hills and thriving arts scene, inspired her to write **A Palette For Murder**. In Vanessa A. Ryan's work, the setting is essential to the plot of the story. It influences the motivations of her characters.

Reviews

The Legacy Of Fear

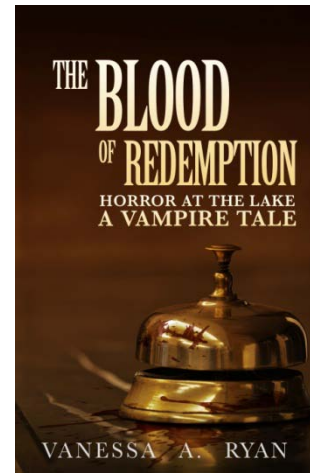
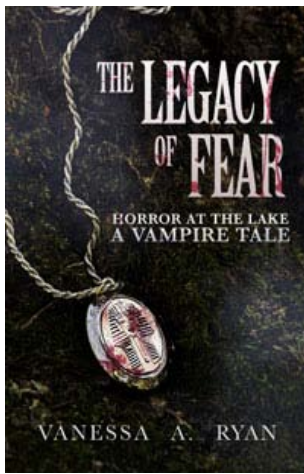
"Remember what life felt like in the small town in Hitchcock's THE BIRDS? Now combine that with the village insularity and suspicious nature of VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED. . . Author Vanessa A. Ryan has a marvelous descriptive scene-setting talent, and a clever way of getting under the veneer of her characters." *Mallory Anne-Marie Forbes Haws, "Fair and authentic reviews" 2/14/2015*

"Throw in Egyptian artifacts, history, a spooky old house on a lake she inherits from her grandfather and a lot of suspicion and you now have the makings of something that gets to me. Now add vampires . . . A very, as others have said, cozy environment." *Lit World Interviews with Ronovan Writes 4/14/2015*

A Palette For Murder

"An insurance claims agent is drafted to play detective, first by her own company and later by the owner of a tony art gallery . . . good fun." *Kirkus Review 2/15/2015*

". . . Framed with details of the culture of Santa Fe and that city's art scene, this mystery will appeal to those who enjoyed *The Blank Canvas* by Glen Ebsch." *Booklist Review 3/1/2015*



Sample Interview Questions

1. How do you come up with the titles of your books?

Sometimes the title just comes to me. Other times, I ask my family, friends, the publisher, or even strangers I meet see on the street to help me choose the best wording of a preliminary title. They'll all have different opinions, and then the hard part is making the final decision.

2. What is your writing schedule?

My writing schedule is to write at least a thousand words a day, seven days a week, for the first draft of a novel. Most of that happens late at night, when the phone is least likely to ring. I may stay up until two in the morning to get in those thousand words, especially when I've had a busy day doing something else. I know if I don't persevere, I won't get that first draft written. As for revisions and rewrites, I like those the best. The hard work is already done. Cutting, revising and adding is the fun part.

3. Do you jump out of bed with coffee in hand or are you an afternoon writer?

I never jump out of bed for anything, unless the house is on fire—which did happen to me when I lived in New Mexico. I like coffee and breakfast in the morning, and reading the morning paper. It's an important part of my daily routine. I never turn on the TV or radio for the news in the morning. I'm the type who wakes up slowly. I like to know what's going on in the world without someone barking at me. I like to start writing in the early afternoon, or late morning. Then I'll finish what I started writing later that night, if I didn't get enough done.

4. What conditions do you like to write under?

I like on overcast days. In fact, I love overcast weather. I feel more creative when the sky is gray and the atmosphere is a little foggy. Sunny days are just for enjoying the warmth of the sun, smiling a lot and not thinking much.

5. How do you start to write a book? What is the first step?

The first step is to decide which book floating around in my head I am going to commit to writing down. I usually know who the main character is and whether I'm going to write in the first person or in the third, but I will have to rough out the secondary characters. The next most important thing is to figure out the ending. The challenge then, is how to get from the beginning to the end. Sometimes I write plot points on three by five cards, and sometimes I just wing it and start writing. I try to write chapters that are about ten pages long, and I read over what I wrote the day before, and then I start writing again.

6. What books have most influenced your life most?

I think the books of Carlos Castaneda, Curt Vonnegut, Jerzy Kosinsky, and the mystery writers of the twentieth century, such as Agatha Christie and Ross MacDonal. Also the noir writers, such as Cornell Woolrich, Charles Willeford and Dorothy B. Hughes. I am drawn to stories that have a noir feeling to them.

7. Where do you get your ideas?

Sometimes I get them from the news, and oddly enough, sometimes from listening to conversations—those I'm engaged in and those I overhear. A word or a phrase someone says will trigger an idea for a story. I never know when I might get an idea, so I'm always on the lookout.

Quotable

Miguel Garcia raised his fists and got in my face. I rolled my chair back. I didn't want to be in the line of fire if things escalated. Where was Security when you needed them? *A Palette For Murder*

He was there to check out the mourners. Maybe he suspected someone. I hoped he didn't think I was that someone.
A Palette For Murder

“He didn't die of a heart attack. We believe he was murdered.”

“Murdered!” Susan almost shouted. “Who murdered him?” *The Legacy Of Fear*

What did the man want? Another mystery to solve, one of many, she feared. *The Legacy Of Fear*

Social Media Links

[Vanessa A. Ryan on Facebook](#)

[Vanessa A. Ryan on Twitter](#)

[Vanessa A Ryan Blog](#)

[Vanessa A. Ryan Website](#)

[Vanessa A. Ryan Film & TV Credits](#)

Articles and Interviews

[Author Interviews February 11, 2015](#)

[Word Menagerie February 11, 2015](#)

[Great For My I Reader February 13, 2015](#)

[Fantasy World Reads February 15, 2015](#)

[Don't You Forget About Me February 17, 2015](#)

[Media Interviews February 19, 2015](#)

[Nick Wale February 21, 2015](#)

[My Paranormal Tales February 23, 2015](#)

[Paradox Paranormal February 25, 2015](#)

[Long Beach Post April 1, 2015](#)

[World Lit Interviews with Ronovan Writes April 14, 2015](#)

Press Releases

[Press Release for Horror At The Lake, Book 1](#)

[Press Release for Horror At The Lake, Books 2 and 3](#)

[Press Release for A Palette For Murder](#)

Events

Vanessa A. Ryan to appear at the Mystery Ink Bookstore, Huntington Beach, CA to sign her novel **A Palette For Murder** on May 16, 2015 at 3pm

