

PRESS RELEASE

Silicon Valley Comes Out! LGBTQA Author Releases Debut Novel Set in Silicon Valley

SAN JOSE, Ca. – January 4, 2018 – New LGBTQA author, M.D. Neu, released his debut novel, *The Calling*, on January 1, 2018. Neu is a paranormal, fantasy, and science fiction writer who grew up in east San Jose, California. The novel features LGBTQA characters and is published by NineStar Press. A reading and book launch will take place on January 11, 2018.

The Calling is a vampire story, though not as simple as that may sound. The main character, Duncan, is a nerdy, shy, not very attractive gay man. He has a few friends but no love life and he works in a dead end job...until he comes to San Jose, California for vacation and is introduced to the world of Immortals. The novel is available in paperback and as an eBook.

In addition to Neu's first novel, he recently published two short stories that also include LGBTQA characters, *The Reunion* and *A Dragon for Christmas*. Both stories are available for eBook download.

“When I decided to start writing, really write, I wanted strong characters that anyone could relate to, but just so happened to be gay. The gay wasn't the focus,” said M.D. Neu. “I wanted to see gay characters having exciting adventures. *The Calling* is exactly that. Everyone can relate to feeling invisible. Everyone can relate to wanting something more from life but not knowing what it is. Duncan isn't a super model, he's not one of the beautiful gays we get to see on TV or in Movies. He's like most people. Why can't he, and by extension other normal everyday people, have an adventure? So in the book he does, he gets the adventure of a lifetime and he learns a lot about himself along the way.”

Neu's short story, *The Reunion*, was released just in time for Halloween. A paranormal story, *The Reunion* is set in a quiet Midwestern town of Lakeview that was struck by tragedy 20 years ago. Every year on the anniversary of that tragedy Teddy returns home for 'The Reunion'. Lakeview, like Teddy, has secrets and not all mysteries should come to light. *The Reunion* is available as an eBook and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/MDNeuTheReunion>.

A Dragon for Christmas, was released in December 2017. It is about an 11-year old Latina lesbian girl, Carmen, who needs a Dragon to help her fight off a curse so she can stay alive. While Carmen knows that she is going to marry her best friend Mattie, her queerness isn't the main issue. It's the curse that she must overcome to stay alive. *A Dragon for Christmas* is available as an eBook and can be purchased at <http://amzn.to/2CjK3gb>.

Coming of age as a gay man in the '80s, Neu saw a lack of positive LGBTQA role models in mainstream media. He naturally fell in love with Anne Rice's novel *Interview with the Vampire*. “I thought it was so cool that Louis and Lestat had a daughter together. It struck me as so amazing, and yet not that big of a deal in the context of the story. Louis and Lestat had this

intense relationship even though it was never shown as a romantic relationship, but how could it not be? They found each other when they were lonely and looking for something and someone. All the characters were messed up, but totally unique, and different. Ann Rice created characters that you cared about and wanted to read more about. So when I started writing, especially my vampire story, *The Calling*, I wanted to create interesting characters that people would be drawn to no matter who the character was attracted to. It didn't matter in vampire books. Vampires were just vampires.”

M.D. Neu grew up in an accepting family in east San Jose, California. He always wondered why there were never stories reflecting who he was. Constantly surrounded by characters that only reflected heterosexual society, he decided he wanted to change that. So he took to writing to tell good stories that reflected our diverse world.

“I want to make people aware that gay is cross-cultural, gender, and economics,” Neu says.

Living in the heart of Silicon Valley and growing up around technology, he was always fascinated with what could be, and was specifically drawn to Science Fiction and Paranormal television and novels. When Neu isn't writing, he works for a local non-profit and travels with his husband of 18 years.

“We are excited to welcome M.D. Neu to our NineStar family,” said Raevyn McCann, Managing Director at NineStar Press. “As publishers of quality LGBTQA+ literary fiction work, we want to showcase authors like Neu, who write about the LGBTQA+ community and feature characters that are not usually represented in fiction. We are fortunate to have discovered his writing and are proud to share it with the world.”

Learn more about M.D. Neu and his paranormal, fantasy, and science fiction LGBTQA stories at www.mdneu.com. Follow him on social media: @mdneuthor on Facebook, @Writer_MDNeu on Twitter.

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