

the Napa Valley **Register**



Co-workers jointly publish post- apocalyptic romance

*THEY OFFER SCI-FI FROM A FEMALE
POINT OF VIEW*

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Book signing

The authors will be signing their post-apocalyptic romance adventure, “After the Ending,” at Copperfield’s Bookstore, 3740 Bel Aire Plaza, on Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

Hardcover copies of “After the Ending” sell for \$27.95 and softcover for \$14.99. It can be purchased at Copperfield’s, Amazon.com and B&N.com

Friday through Sunday, their book can be downloaded on Kindle free of charge.

When they worked at Copperfield’s Books in Napa, Lindsey Pogue and Lindsey Fairleigh recommended their favorite reads to customers. Now they can recommend a book of their own.

They have jointly written “After the Ending,” a post-apocalyptic romance adventure that they expect will be especially appealing to women.

“I think it is awesome that two former bookstore employees went on to write a book,” said Dan Graham, assistant manager for Copperfield’s Books. “It is inspiring. Working here, I meet many people who talk about writing a book, but very few do.”

Pogue and Fairleigh, both 29, meet while working at Copperfield’s. They developed the outline for what they hope will be a series while on a two-hour drive back from a book sellers’ conference.

“After the Ending” is the story of Dani O’Connor and Zoe Cartwright, both 26, who have survived a virus that killed billions. Stranded on opposite sides of the United States, the two friends journey through what has become an unfamiliar world plagued by “Crazies.”

“The story is less about the science of the virus and more about the way the characters deal with it,” Pogue said.

“In some ways the main characters are an extension of us, but we were careful not to put ourselves into it,” Pogue said. “Dani and Zoe have been best friends all their life. We’ve known each other only a few years.”

People who grew up reading “Hunger Games” or “The Road” might gravitate to their series as adults, the authors said.

“While there are books in the sci-fi genre that women enjoy reading or follow, the genre seems very male-oriented,” said Fairleigh. “Our book is geared toward a female audience.”

“Although our characters live within a post-apocalyptic world, it doesn’t define them. In fact, it is their self-discovery that drives the story,” she said.

The book plunges the reader into a world where most of the population has died of a deadly virus. Yet the prologue lets readers know that there is one thing left: friendship.

Both writers did extensive research to bring greater authenticity to scenes. Pogue said she walked around the Kaiser hospital in Vacaville taking pictures while waiting for her sister to come out of surgery. Fairleigh spent an entire day researching a virus at the University of Washington.

Writing together was a pleasure, Pogue said. “Lindsey would start writing an email and I’d respond,” she said. “It was fun, not at all pressured.”

“We see things differently sometimes, but we think our ideas through together and take as many things into consideration as possible,” she said. “Because we write two different perspectives, our chapters are predominately written by us individually,” with the Dani chapters by Fairleigh and Zoe’s by herself.

Fairleigh, a former teacher from Washington state who moved to Napa with her husband, is now writing full time. During brief breaks from writing, she likes to try out new recipes in her kitchen.

Pogue is a Napa native who now lives in American Canyon. Besides writing, she works part-time for VOICES, a program for emancipating foster youth. In her free time, Pogue likes to watch action flicks and go on road trips with her “leading man.”

“After The Ending” is the first in a planned series of four science fiction books. The authors have almost completed the second in the series, “Into The Fire,” which will be released in the fall.

“I think it’s safe to say that we will continue to put our blood, sweat, and tears into ‘The Ending’ series, as well as branch out and work on our own projects when the opportunity presents itself,” said Fairleigh. “We’ve discussed a spin-off series, and although it’s a fun concept to brainstorm and dream about, we’ve made no decisions as to whether or not anything will come of it.”

Their book is published through L2 Publishing, a company they started so they could “legitimately” produce their own books for this series and other projects with the creative license they want — from the narrative to the cover design.

Copies are printed on demand, which means the authors have not had to invest a “huge amount of money in advance,” Fairleigh said.

“E-books (only Kindle for the moment) are another matter entirely, because there are no printing costs, so that ends up being way more profitable, at least for us,” she said.

“We did consider going the e-book-only route like so many indie authors and publishers do, but in the end, we decided that having physical copies as well would just feel like a bigger accomplishment. Holding our finished book in our hands is one of the most amazing feelings — completely indescribable.”