

Adventures of new literary character are just beginning, says author from Miramichi

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Krista (Veysey) Beauvais, originally from Miramichi, now living in England has just published her first book entitled The Adventures of Exit Erik. This photo was taken in Helsingborg, Sweden, where she and her husband are currently based.

Photo: submitted

A Miramichi woman, now a publisher and author, recently published the first in what will be a

series of children's books about an exit sign man who sets off on adventures around the world.

Krista (Veysey) Beauvais said she credits her husband, Erik Beauvais, for coming up with the idea for Exit Erik some 20 years ago while still in university.

"Wanting to give him a special birthday gift, I decided to bring the book to life for him. In doing so, I fell in love with the character of Exit Erik and decided that his first adventure in London would be the first of many around the world," she said.

The Adventures of Exit Erik is a children's adventure series about an exit sign man who falls off the wall during a toxic explosion and comes to life.

"Being green and flat, his global adventures are comical, unique and rather unexpected," she said.

Beauvais graduated from Miramichi Valley High School in 1996 and is the daughter of Linda and Dave Veysey, who still live in Nordin. She has been living in the United Kingdom since 2002, after living and working in South Korea and France.

"I first lived and worked in the Midlands (Northampton and surrounds) and moved to London (Greenwich) in July 2005," she said.

Her husband was raised in South Africa by his Dutch mother and French father.

"He also moved to the U.K. in 2002, though we only met in 2009, thanks to the powers of the Internet," she said.

The Adventures of Exit Erik was published in December 2014 by Green Igloo Publishing, a company Beauvais founded for the purposes of publishing various books and websites that promote the value and importance of living a full life.

"I hope this company will assist my work with schools, supporting young writers to help them realize their dreams of holding their own books in their hands at a young age, proving they too can do anything they put their minds to," she said. "The beauty of today's age of powerful, modern technology and connectivity is that the only person stopping us from doing what we want is ourselves."

The intended reading audience of the book is predominantly children aged seven to 11, but Beauvais said children as young as five-years old and as old as 14-years old have enjoyed it.

"As have the parents, teachers, and carers who read with them," she said.

Beauvais said while the intended audience is for children, anyone looking for an adventure should read the book.

"Because it shows that anyone, no matter their station in life or their perceived disadvantages, can (and should) go on an adventure."

Linda Veysey said after reading the book, it's set up perfectly to be the first in a series, it's a character that has to continue his adventures.

"There's no way that this sign could end up back on the wall, watching the same thing day in, day out," Veysey said.

Beauvais said the feeling of publishing a book can be best related to a feeling of freedom.

"Each time I hold my book in my hands I think 'I did this — and that means I can do anything I set my mind to,'" she said.

She said when she began the journey, she had no idea how to write or publish a book.

"So I did what we all must do when we embark on a new adventure: I learned," she said. "My travels in nearly 50 countries have taught me that every adventure is the same: at first, you're the one asking the questions; at the end, you're the one answering them."

Beauvais said she wrote the book as a gift to her husband, but the finished product arrived a day after his birthday.

"I was more relieved to finally have his gift than elated that I was actually holding my first book in my hands," she said.

That being said, she said when the hardcover eventually arrived, that was the moment when she felt she had finally reached the summit of the mountain.

"The book feels smooth and substantial and looks beautiful — and I smile with satisfaction and contentment each time I hold it," she said.

Presently, writing and publishing is her day job, but she said she has not always had the luxury of doing this. She spent 12 years teaching English language and literature, mostly at the junior high and high school level, then working as Head of the English Department at a secondary school in Greenwich, London and Director of Teaching and Learning was at a secondary school in Wilmington, Kent, just outside London.

"I had always dreamed of walking away from routine and responsibility to aimlessly travelling the world and so resigned my job in July 2012 to do just this," she said. "My husband and I left on extended travels for two and a half years, during which time I decided to become an author and a publisher. And so I did."

Anyone looking to buy a paperback copy of *The Adventures of Exit Erik* can do so by ordering online through Amazon or Barnes and Nobles. It's also available for Kindle through Amazon.

Beauvais also said interested readers, who might not want to order online can get in touch with Beauvais's mother, Linda Veysey.

"I've just sent a large shipment of books to my mother so she can give free copies to school and

libraries,” Beauvais said.

Beauvais said it will be a couple of week before the shipment arrives in Miramichi, but in the meantime, anyone interested can get in touch with Veysey by telephone at 622-3858 or email at linda.veysey@gmail.com.

Beauvais is in the process of building a website for the book series and will be available soon at www.exiterik.com.

She’s currently working on the second book in the series, which will be set in South Africa.

“I’ve spent about six months there, have lots of friends there, and my husband has lived most of his life in South Africa — so I know the country well,” she said. “Exit Erik is in for quite an adventure.”

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