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# Kristin Ward

AUTHOR



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## bio

Kristin Ward is an award-winning young adult author living in Connecticut. A science and math teacher for over twenty years, she infuses her geeky passions into stories that meld realism and fantasy. Kristin embraces her inner nerd regularly, often quoting 80s movies while expecting those around her to chime in with appropriate rejoinders. As a nature freak, she can be found wandering the woods - she may be lost, so please stop and ask if you see her - or chilling in her yard with all manner of furry and feathered friends. Often referred to as a unicorn by colleagues who remain in awe of her ability to create or find various and sundry things in mere moments, in reality, the horn was removed years ago, leaving only a mild imprint that can be seen if she tilts her head just right. A lifelong lover of books and writing, she dreamed of becoming an author for thirty years before publishing her award-winning debut in 2018. Her first novel, *After the Green Withered*, is one of many things you should probably read.

## awards

- 2018 Best Indie Book Award in Young Adult Fiction - *After the Green Withered*
- 2020 Connecticut Author Project in Young Adult Fiction - *After the Green Withered*
- 2019 TopShelf Indie Book Award Finalist in Young Adult Fiction - *Burden of Truth*

**"To view life as a writer is to see infinite worlds  
with endless possibilities."**

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## sample Q&A

Tell us a little about yourself and your background?

I'm a southern California mother of three sons living in Connecticut. Weird, right? I mean the California part, not the three sons part. Although... So many people ask me if I miss my La Jolla days! Truthfully, I love where I live! The scenery and seasons are the foundation of my life. In the sphere of writing, I have been writing poetry, prose, and academia for over twenty years. Although, I didn't publish my first book until May of 2018. I love dark chocolate, chai tea, 80s movies, scifi, and hiking in good weather. I'm a classic movie quoter - especially of *The Princess Bride* - and love spending time with my three kids. Four if you count my husband, which you absolutely should.

Why did you choose to write in the young adult genre?

I love reading YA books, among many other genres. In fact, I think the genre is a misnomer given that many people well beyond their teen years enjoy reading YA books. It was natural for me to carry this into my craft.

What has been your most rewarding experience as a writer?

To actually take that first publishing step and put my work into the hands of readers was momentous. However, the experiences that surpass the act of publishing are the reviews readers compose that reflect the connection they have to the characters and story. It is the words they write which are truly profound.

Is writing your full-time profession?

I would love to be an author full-time. In fact, that is an aspiration. However, I do have a career as an educator outside of my author life which is my profession..

Tell me a bit about your writing process, do you map out the relationships and the skeleton of the story and then flesh it out? Or do you dive right in and write?

I'm a total panster. In fact, I can't help making a face at the thought of creating an outline with Roman numerals and bullet points. I feel stifled by too much planning. I prefer to start with an overarching idea and let the story and characters take me where they will.

What prompted the idea of *After The Green Withered*?

I was inspired to write *After the Green Withered* and the sequel, *Burden of Truth*, while completing research for a graduate course I wrote in environmental education. My course included concepts regarding earth's history and, within this, I learned a great deal about the impact humans have had on the planet. As I studied and composed the course, an idea began to germinate. What if there was a global drought due to the impact humans have had on the planet? What if water became the global currency?

You address environmental issues in your novels. Why is writing and reading about these issues important?

The environment is something we can all relate to. No matter our political perspective, we are all stakeholders in the future of our planet. As a writer, I wanted to tap into this connection and take readers on a journey from our current reality to a fictional world that still reflects what we are living on a daily basis. By infusing real, environmental issues into a piece of writing, I was able to blur the lines between fiction and reality.

What tips do you have for aspiring authors?

Walt Disney said it best, "If you can dream it, you can do it!" The publishing industry has changed over the years and writers are now in a position to self-publish their work instead of going through a traditional publishing house.

What do you do when you're not writing?

As a working mother of three boys - four if you count my husband, which you absolutely should - my days revolve around family, work, and, if I'm lucky, writing. If you read my blog, you'll find numerous posts providing insight into my life in a world of boys. But it should be noted that, at heart, I have the brain/humor equivalent to a 12-year-old boy, so things are truly as they should be!

**"I believe writers are the true magicians, weaving words into worlds that never existed before the pen hit the page."**

# Kristin Ward

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## published works

Young Adult Dystopian Duology  
**After the Green Withered**  
Published in 2018  
Formats: ebook and paperback

**Burden of Truth**  
Published in 2018  
Formats: ebook and paperback

Special Edition of Duology available on Amazon



[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

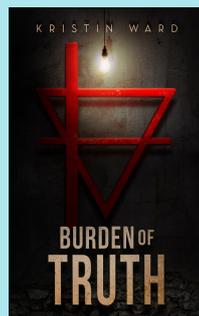
[Other Retailers](#)

*They tell me the country looked different back then.*

*They talk of open borders and flowing rivers.*

*They say the world was green.*

*But drought swept across the globe and the United States of the past disappeared under a burning sky.*



[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Other Retailers](#)

*I thought I understood the truth.*

*I thought I knew the whole story.*

*But no one really did.*

Young Adult SciFi-Fantasy  
Rise of Gaia  
Published in 2019  
Formats: ebook and paperback



[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Other Retailers](#)

*Beneath rock and soil, trees and oceans, she lies.*

*Under concrete jungles and poisoned rivers, she slumbers.*

*She is Mother Earth.*

*And mankind has turned its back on its mother.*

**"Books have teeth, serrated and boundless, that sink into grey matter, ensnaring us in webs of words and constructs until we relinquish reality and journey into something fantastical."**

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## published works

Young Adult Fantasy

**Daughter of Erabel Series**

**Book One: The Girl of Dorcha Wood**

Published in 2021

Formats: ebook and paperback



[Amazon](#)

**Treacherous.  
Evil.  
Dark.  
Dorcha Wood is all of these.**

**And none of them.**

**Book Two: Blood of the Lost Kingdom**

Published in 2021

Formats: ebook and paperback



[Amazon](#)

**Mysterious.  
Hidden.  
Sacred.  
Erabel is the beating heart of Dorcha  
Wood.**

**And its heir has come home.**

**Book Three: A Storm of Wrath & Ruin**

Coming February 2022



[Amazon](#)

**Bloodlust.  
Power.  
Vengeance.  
War is coming.**

**And all must be ready.**

**"As an author, libraries hold a key to an entire realm of readers whose passion for the written word mirrors my own. They are sources of inspiration and intermediaries to readerships."**

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## ■ excerpt - *After the Green Withered*

We've all heard the stories of how it began, but no one really knows the truth because no one ever owned up and took the blame. Anyone who was there when it all started is long dead and all that remains is their awful legacy. All I know that is real, true, is that the world wasn't always like this. It used to be green.

I suppose the awareness of a looming crisis began slowly, perhaps with a faucet that ran dry or maybe a water restriction where there had never been one. Whatever it may have been, there was a turning point and from that moment on the United States of the past disappeared under a burning sky.

## ■ excerpt - *Rise of Gaia*

Deep within the bowels of the earth, she stirs, awareness dawning by slow degrees until her being is flooded by it. Rooted within her consciousness like a rotten tooth is knowledge of a world plagued by indifferent beings whose wasteful pursuits have left a wake of corruption. She writhes, curling round and round in the confines of her shape, twisting in agony as a multitude of tortured voices drifts through the mantle and into her heart.

In a moment of triumphant resolve, she wrenches away from a miasma of anguish and calls to her children, beckoning them. Like fireflies illuminating the darkness with pinpoints of light, they respond, reaching toward their mother with fierce purpose. She infuses their thoughts with her own, commanding them to rise, find the others, and begin.

## ■ excerpt - *The Girl of Dorcha Wood*

When the slaughter had come to its grisly end, they fled. Those who remained took themselves into hidden recesses scattered across many lands. They mourned the dead and counted the living. In exile, they waited. They grew cold and hardened. Bitter and powerful. As years turned to decades, they bred. Bred hatred and bred numbers. Until both swelled beyond the ability to contain them.

Then, her name was whispered on the wind.

**"A thousand worlds live behind a writer's eyes."**

# Kristin Ward

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## ■ in the press

The Newtown Bee - [Booth Library To Host Young Adult Novelist Kristin Ward For Local Author Event](#)

The News-Times - ['Trailblazer' Danbury educator weaves science into her young adult novels](#)

**"I have a message that I want readers to hear, and I have to get it out there because it's relevant, it's timely."**

~Hicks, Shannon (2021, February 12) The Newtown Bee