

The Next Big Thing Blog Hop

I've been tagged by the fantastic [Sunny Moraine](#) to participate in the Next Big Thing blog hop, which has been really cool to watch spread. (Sunny's got me excited for *A Murder of Crows* now, because psychopomps and genderqueerness? YES, PLEASE.)

If you've been wondering about that thesis novel that's eating up all my time, here's the gist of it.

What is the working title of your next book?

Everything Breaks

Where did the idea come from for the book?

Friends: "IT WAS ORIGINALLY FANFIC FOR--" *Thunk. Sploosh.* "Why did we wake up inside a steamer trunk? Do we hear whales?"

(That secret's going to my grave or yours, guys.)

I've [talked before](#) about how long I've been writing the main character of this novel. This is the oldest story I have in my writing queue. It was born from bad fan fiction and teen angst, but it's grown up since then.

What genre does your book fall under?

YA urban fantasy

What is the synopsis or blurb for this book?

Short version: It's about a boy who's hiding telekinetic powers that led to his best friend's death.

Longer version:

Things break around Tiern. It's not intentional - it's just, when he's stressed out, cracks snake up the walls or a laptop shorts or his grandfather's car snaps an axle on the interstate. And one time, when things got really bad, his best friend's heart stopped working. Tiern's heard enough about Silverbloods on the news to know that he's the sort of freak with super-human powers that Congress is up in arms about. His grandfather won't even talk about Silverbloods in the house.

When a confrontation with a bully gets Tiern outed in front of his whole school, another student

steps in to save him from his powers' explosive reaction. Tiern's never known anyone like himself before. Suddenly he's got an in to the underground Silverblood community and a friend willing to help him train his powers. As a school-wide witch hunt gears up and his secrets threaten to cost him his family, Tiern turns to his newfound community for help. There's just one little catch: his powers are a special breed of suck that even the other Silverbloods are afraid of, and they're getting stronger and harder to control.

What actors would you choose to play your characters in a movie rendition?

Honestly, I have no actors in mind for the main cast. If it really did become a movie, I'd love to see some unknowns cast.

Christopher Heyerdahl would be great as the big bad of the trilogy, though. He does creepastic and disconnected from reality well.

Will your book be self-published or represented by an agency?

I'm hoping to land an agent with this novel, but I'm keeping the idea of self-publishing on the table. Self-publishing coloring books has been such a fantastic experience that I'm curious to see how it might work with my fiction.

How long did it take you to write the first draft of your manuscript?

It took around 3 years from the genesis of the idea to writing "THE END" on the manuscript, but I think the actual writing time was around a year and a half.

Rewriting a new first draft largely from scratch for my thesis project took just a few months.

Who or what inspired you to write this book?

My initial goal was to write a fantasy novel that I wanted to read. That's always been the main drive of this project, but what I want to read has changed over the years, so the story has evolved pretty dramatically.

In high school, I wanted to read a novel about an outsider with kickass powers. Those elements are still there, but now I'm also interested in exploring identity, family as a DIY project, and what makes a person worth loving.

What else about your book might pique the reader's interest?

One of the central characters is a trans guy whose character arc does not center around coming out or gender angst. (It's about choosing sides between his brother's witch hunt and his Silverblood

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friends. Also, archery and sarcasm.)

The story also involves a crumbling fantasy world hidden just beneath our reality, a narrator who finds his roommate's label-maker and secret magical book equally eye-roll worthy, cage fighters with ridiculous names, psychic bonds, family drama, redemption, and giant shadow monsters.

So that's Everything Breaks, AKA book 1 of The Fantasy Series What Ate My Life, which I plan to shop around to agents this spring.

To continue the Next Big Thing blog hop, I'm tagging the fabulous:

[Michaela Gray](#)

[Lauren K. Moody](#)

[Lyda Morehouse](#)