

YA Horror Author Profiles

By Elyse Coombs

Within the realm of horror there are a variety of authors that have become prolific. Here is a short run down of some of the most popular horror authors, and those to keep an eye out for.

Vera Brosgol: A two time award-winning cartoonist, having received an Eisner Award and a Harvey Award, Vera Brosgol works for Laika Inc. working on both *ParaNorman* and *Coraline* where she designs storyboards and concept art for their animation productions. Her 2011 publication *Anya's Ghost* is her first graphic novel.

Annette & Gina Cascone: The Cascone sisters first published their series *Deadtime Stories* in the 1990s, however it has recently been picked up to be made into a series for television, and therefore both the title and its authors, have experienced a surge in popularity. They have also since published a number of books that have been reviewed for grades 4-6 (or ages 9-11), including *Grave Secrets*, *The Witching Game* and *The Beast of Baskerville*.

Elizabeth Chandler: A pseudonym for Mary-Claire Helldorfer, a former high school teacher and college instructor, as Elizabeth

Chandler she has written both the *Kissed By an Angel* and the *Dark Secrets* series. She has been a nominee for the Edgar Award for Best Young Adult.

Richie Tankersley Cusick: Although most prolific in the 1990s, Cusick has published a number of new books in recent years. As a young girl Richie invented invisible friends and imaginary worlds. Growing up in town with a rich history of folklore and legends, which has served as a setting for many of her of 28 novels, she was inspired by the creepy buildings and aboveground cemeteries to write horror.

Jack Gantos: Although not known as horror fiction writer, in *The Love Curse of the Rumbaugh's*, the author explores the darker side of human nature. Well known for his humorous stories, Jack Gantos has been nominated for a number of awards, including the Michael L. Printz Award, Sibert Medal, Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, and the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. He has written books for people of all ages, from picture books to books for adults.

Christopher Pike: A pseudonym for American writer Kevin Christopher McFadden, as Christopher Pike he has written more than forty teen thrillers, including *Remember Me*, and *The Grave*.

Although he has written children and young adult fiction, he is most well-known for his teen thrillers.

Gary Reed: New to the Young Adult scene is the author of more than 200 comics and books, most notably *Saint Germaine* and *Baker Street*, Gary Reed has also written film scripts, short stories and video game storylines. His comic knowledge comes from the time he spent as the publisher of Caliber Press, a specialty house of comics, books and games.

Darren Shan: Darren O'Shaughnessey writing under the name of Darren Shan, also stars as the main character in his young adult series *Cirque du Freak: The Saga of Darren Shan*. Shan's *Cirque de Freak* series was so successful that there was a manga adaptation of his vampire series, drawn by the Japanese artist, Takahiro Arai, and it was made into a movie in 2009.

R.L Stine: Author R.L Stine prides himself on his ability to scare children, and he has become so successful that he has sold over

350 million copies of his books. He has been writing for children since graduating from Ohio State University, where he spent a decade writing for a children's humor magazine.

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