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YOUNG ADULT NOVEL EXPLORES PUERTO RICAN YOUTH CULTURE

Lajas, Puerto Rico – May 27, 2014 – **DANTE’S KISS**, an exciting new novel by young adult author Susan Nadathur, attracts attention for its unique look at Puerto Rican youth culture.

Ms. Nadathur officially introduced **DANTE’S KISS** (Azahar Books, 2014) to a group of students at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, Connecticut. Timothy Sullivan, Library Media Specialist at Bulkeley High says, “For many of these students it was their first experience meeting a published author. The kids gained a greater insight into the writing process and the complexities of quality literature. **DANTE’S KISS** is an exciting book that has tapped an underrepresented area of young adult literature. Young people around the world deserve more opportunities to learn about the culture and lives of Puerto Rican teens.”

DANTE’S KISS is a dark love story about what happens when the supernatural collides with the natural world, and when something as simple as a kiss is not as simple as it seems. Early reviews call it “An amazing supernatural love story. The action, the romance, the message. It’s intense!”

A self-proclaimed “outsider” from Connecticut, Ms. Nadathur shares the story of how she survived her painful teenage years as a misfit at Wethersfield High School to become a successful writer focused on young people who feel different from their more popular peers. Her novels reflect the stories of her life, from growing up in Connecticut to marrying a man from India and raising a daughter in Puerto Rico. Susan may be reached at <http://SusanNadathur.com>.

The author is available for interviews, school and book club appearances, speaking engagements and/or guest articles on the subjects of Puerto Rican youth culture, outcasts, outsiders, the effects of bullying, and the process of writing. She resides with her family in Lajas, Puerto Rico.

For more information, to request a review copy, or to schedule an interview, contact:

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About Susan Nadathur

S.L. Nadathur is a widely-traveled writer, teacher, and self-proclaimed “outsider” from Connecticut who now resides with her family in Lajas, Puerto Rico. She loves teen drama and is a fan of the supernatural. After the writing is done you’ll see her relaxing with a good CW TV series, which will definitely have something to do with ordinary young people involved in extraordinary (and certainly supernatural) experiences. When she is not teaching or writing, Susan volunteers in a local high school to help students improve their reading and writing. *Dante’s Kiss* is her debut young adult novel. Susan may be reached at <http://SusanNadathur.com>.

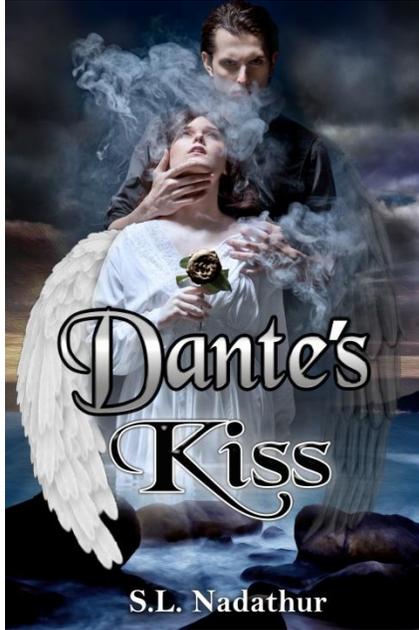
Interview Questions

- 1) Your novel challenges some of the popular stereotypes of Puerto Rican teens. What do you want the world to know about the young people of Puerto Rico?
- 2) How did you end up living in Puerto Rico, and what is one of your favorite or most memorable moments living on the island?
- 3) Your novel raises awareness of the struggles of young Puerto Ricans in relation to education, reading, and writing. What do you consider the most challenging aspects of this struggle?
- 4) You’ve become an advocate and lay expert in issues related to marginalized populations. How did that interest develop?
- 5) What’s next for you as a writer? Any other projects planned or underway?
- 6) What is your favorite quote related to the writing life?

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Azahar Books Presents for Review



Title: DANTE'S KISS

Author: S.L. Nadathur

Publisher: Azahar Books

P.O. Box 1665, Lajas PR, 00667
(888) 251-4562

Category: Young Adult (ages 12-18)

ISBN: 978-1497595286 (print)

ISBN: 978-1496101624 (ebook)

Pages: 350

Prices: \$12.99 (print) \$4.99 ebook

Publication Date: June 2014

Distributor: Ingram Book Company

Available for Purchase on: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Smashwords, and other on-line retailers

Book Description

DANTE'S KISS is a supernatural love story about temptation and desire, the fragility of being human, and the challenges of being young and different in Puerto Rico.

How This Title Is Unique:

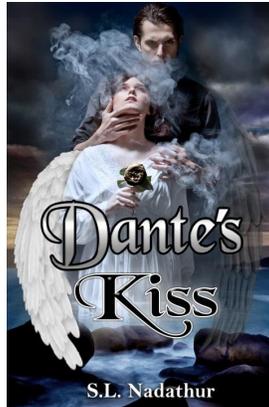
It's hard to be sixteen, almost anywhere, but is it different, or harder, to be a teen in Puerto Rico? This book explores a currently underrepresented voice in young adult literature: teens who have grown up on this island protectorate that forms part of the United States but is often misunderstood and misrepresented in American literature. Puerto Rican youth culture is highlighted, as well as the challenges of growing up in the Hispanic Caribbean.

Author Biography:

S.L. Nadathur is a widely-traveled writer, teacher, and self-proclaimed "outsider" from Connecticut who now resides in Puerto Rico. When she is not teaching or writing, Ms. Nadathur volunteers at a local high school where she helps students improve their reading & writing skills.

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Reader Reviews for DANTE'S KISS



What readers are saying:

“I really liked the story. I was hooked to the point of passing out with the book on my face. I loved the characters and how real they felt. I found several things to be so relatable it was funny. This book really captured what it’s like being an oppressed minority growing up in Puerto Rico.”

“An amazing supernatural love story. I was so into the book I decided to take a whole day to finish it. The action, the romance, the message. It was intense! The book shows values, drama, and what us teenagers are facing today. Loved it!”

“This novel is amazing!. Love the story. It clearly shows what us Puerto Ricans are living day by day. I really loved it and am currently reading it again.”

“Could not put this book down! I just loved DANTE’S KISS. The author did a good job at developing all of the characters. I felt like I knew all of them, not just the main ones.”

“Good book for teens. I enjoyed it and am looking forward to anything else by Susan Nadathur.”

“Susan Nadathur’s writing is thoughtful and unique. My favorite part of Nadathur’s story was definitely the location. Puerto Rico is not a place I’ve read much about, but her beautiful imagery, full of color and specific details, really allowed me to “live” there for the duration of the novel. DANTE’S KISS is an intriguing novel, and it poses a lot of questions about the battle of good versus evil, and what one is willing to do for the people they love.”

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