

Time to Read

Dragons, Féyrees, and Dwarves... Oh, My!

By Claudia Newcorn

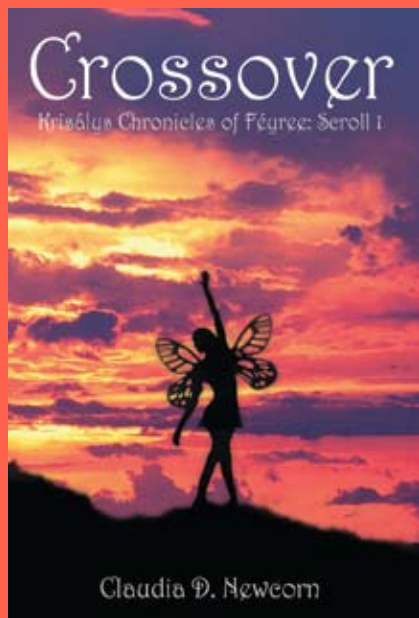
I love reading a good book, in particular fantasy fiction. And I love to write. So when *Crossover*, my first book in the Krisállys Féyree Chronicles was published this year, it was the ideal combination of two of my passions.

So what's the book about? In the woodlands of Lampion, young sprytes can only earn their wings and become full-fledged féyree if they survive the nine Rites of Krisállys. But from the beginning these Rites keep going wrong. As Danaí and her fellow sprytes try to survive wraiths, ice dragons, and fire demons, stranger events are threatening to upend their world.

Guided by their Mentors, as well as dwarves and elves, the Rites will cost some of the sprytes their lives — or worse. *Crossover* reaches its exciting climax in the final Rite, the Krisállys. And that's just the first book in the trilogy.

It's fun upending stereotypes. I've had several guys tell me that they didn't think they'd want to read a book in which fairies played a central role — but not only couldn't they put it down, they want to know when the second book will be out. Another said he's waiting to read the last two chapters because he doesn't want the book to end. That's a compliment!

Filled with humor and unexpected twists and twitches, *Crossover* puts a contemporary spin on familiar fantasy figures who wrestle with many of the same problems faced by people and society today. From "coming of age" debates, to life and death decisions, to generational differences and the clash between traditional and "new ways" of thinking, the characters struggle with determining what are the "right" choices — and the answers are not easy.



One reviewer emailed me to say that, "It's not just about fairies getting their wings. It's really about a seismic cultural shift, much like what's happening in our own world. Danaí's quick-thinking and willingness to deviate from traditions is going to become pivotal in this trilogy. She reminds me of Frodo in many ways — the unwilling hero whose choices could change the world."

Many of my ideas have actually been drawn from wandering the meadows, hills and rivers here in the Central Valley, where I've lived for 20 years. From spider balloons and flooding waters, to the rustle of wind — or could it be a féyree? — through tasseled grasses, I haven't had to look far for inspiration.

If you enjoy a good book, especially fantasy fiction, and you'd like to read one by a local author, *Crossover* is available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and Borders. I'll be

signing books at Mocha Magic, 920 16th Street, Modesto on October 2nd, 11-1, and at the Holistic Life Institute, 730 East F Street, Oakdale, 11:30-12:30 on October 6th. To learn more about *Crossover*, or order a signed copy, visit my website at claudianewcorn.com



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It is so cool to have a lot of great local art galleries. There are so many talented artists and designers. Now here is the important part, we need to buy this art to that these talented artists can earn a living, or cover costs so they make more art. Look for paintings for your home or office, find hand made one of a kind jewelry to wear, a small statue for an entry hall table. Live local art.

J Street

- Anderson Gallery — 1341 J
- Deva Café - 1201
- Mistlin Gallery - 10th St. Place
- Photographer's Gallery — 1220 J Street

10th Street

- Chartreuse Muse - 918 10th
- Lost Art Gallery — 10th and H Street
- Picasso — 10th and J

McHenry Avenue

- Stone Gallery - 115 Drake
- Hale Gallery — McHenry Village
- Big Valley Gallery — McHenry Village

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Michelle Van Artsdalen, C.P.A.
CFO Sierra Pacific Warehouse Group

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