The Reason: A Young Adult Novel Exploring Efficiency and Artificial Intelligence

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The actual novel discussed in this presentation is in the process of being queried to agents for publication. Therefore, the actual content of the novel is not included. Instead, provided is the process and next steps for the book to give a general idea of the thought and work that went into this project and what hopefully awaits it in the future.
The Reason: A Young Adult Novel
Exploring Efficiency and Artificial Intelligence

By Kira Stussy
Genesis

-HNRS 350-- Information Dystopia

-My cousins

-CSD minor

-love of youth literature: dystopias

-BIG question: What would a society that is entirely focused on “efficiency” look like? Who would be most impacted?

-Sounds like a book!
The Process: Phase 1

- Planning
  - how to transform a 10 pg paper into 200 pg book

- World building

- Character development

- What to add and what should be left out

August 2018
Process: Phase 2

First Draft:

- half typed, half handwritten
- word “vomit”
- still in planning stage, but aiming to move on

February 2019
Process: Phase 3

Second Draft:

- printed out
- heavy revisions and minimal line edits
- mostly about organization of sections
- making sure plot flows
- identifying and filling plot holes

April 2019
perked the hole but did not allow my face. -
When I was close enough to the hole I lowered myself and slid through the opening,
channeling my inner ninja. I pictured myself performing one of those stunts you see in
action movies where the protagonist just barely makes it under that huge closing door by skidding on their side.

I walked the way into the building. The way into darkness and abandoners.

In here, my blindness was accompanied by sudden blindness. I fell lost amongst the
black, I tried not to know where anything was due to no clue to guide me along. I didn't
know where the exit was still hoping to gain from the clothing here.
I was still looking for Trixsen to follow her.

I looked, phantoms appeared in front of me. My imagination formed ghosts
everywhere I looked. ghosts everywhere.

I was glad in ancient apparel from the textbooks they forced me to read in Academy. A young
woman in a much-too-tight sweater and buttoned boots swayed past me. A young boy in
a sports jersey floated nearby soon after. I always felt the need to giggle at the pictures
of all the oversized clothing people used to wear, they all wore so funny looking back
then. I shook my head as the scene was twisted and slowly faded.

I felt the scratching of the words cutting along my skin.

My heart accelerated to twice the speed of its normal rhythm. I caught another
phrase of imagination flash by me. My heart felt the beating of someone breathing along my skin. I felt my fingers

I closed my eyes and tried to calm my breathing to a reasonable rate, a seemingly
impossible task at the time. There is nothing in here, there is nothing in here. Be brave
for once in your life. Sam.
Process: Phase 4

Third Draft

- retyping the manuscript
- line edits

~ sentence fluency, typos

- adding more figurative language

- also making sure overall themes, motifs, and symbolism are consistent throughout

May 2019
Process: Phase 5

Fourth draft:

- changed POV -- 1st to 3rd singular

- another run-through of line edits and filling in inconsistencies

As I walk out to the Heaps for my day of work, I

Walking out to the Heaps for her day of work,
Process: Phase 6

- Other editors go through the entire manuscript
- Point out sections that don’t make sense, inconsistencies, ingenuine character traits, etc.
- Final round of edits before this presentation
Proposal for publication

-Audience

-Comp titles

-Marketing

-Why unique?

-Trilogy -- The Judgement, The Root
Challenges

- Writers = Perfectionists = Inefficient
- Time limit
- Editorial decisions
- Writing toward sequels -- who to fully develop and who to finish later?
What next?

- Continue editing this book
- Submit to publishers
- Continue on to the next two in the series
- Write more books in the future
Why did this project matter to me?

- love of writing

- interest in disability scholarship

- passion for young adult literature

- wanting to bring my Honors, CSD, Psychology, and Creative Writing education together

- continuing to learn about the YA field-- soon to be starting MLIS emphasis in Youth Services
THANK YOU!

Questions?