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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
**Killing a Handling the Situation**

I felt the hole but did not cross my path. Cross a few steps from the tiny entrance.

When I was close enough to touch it 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 climbed the wall into the building. At this, I was filled with a sense of vertigo. I felt lost amongst the

black. I did not know where anything was located and no cues to guide me along. I didn't

know where the exit was but it was somewhere within.

I started looking for a door to get in. I could see a door cross their deemed ghosts

everywhere I looked, phantoms appeared in front of me. My imagination ran wild.

glad in ancient apparel from the textbooks they forced me to read in Academy. A young

woman in a much-too-tight sweater and heeled 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 at the news of their clothing.

I shared my thoughts: *Are there really ghosts?*

I felt the cramping of my stomach, my skin was taut and itchy. I felt uncomfortable. My

heart accelerated to twice the speed of its normal rhythm. I caught another glimpse of a ghost

who seemed to float before me, quicker than my eyes could register. I felt my vocal folds

vibrate as I released a sharp squawk.

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?