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## **Dark Fantasy Debut Author Caroline Vaught Shows the Dynamic Between Brothers and Loyalty**



NASHVILLE, TN– Caroline Vaught shows in her debut novel, *Fractured Kingdom*, that the bond between siblings is sacred and unbreakable no matter what the circumstances are. Expanding the New Adult Dark Fantasy genre, Caroline mixes together betrayal, love, hope, and rebellion to bring a book unlike any fantasy book before.

King Cassius Maija and his younger brother Prince “Al” Alphareth have been close their entire lives despite being polar opposites. Cassius has always been the abrasive one - torturous, intimidating, and ultimately terrifying while Al has always been the free spirit that everyone seems to love. When Cassius becomes king, nobles start disappearing and the kingdom of Malorae starts rioting against his rule, rebels all over start to contact Al with the hope that he will overthrow his brother and become the just king that everyone deserves. But Al is on his brother’s side and when Al gets captured by the rebellion, secrets spill that may destroy the bond of brothers forever.

In this book that *Kirkus Reviews* calls “A fresh take on an old idea, leaving behind the romance and exploring family instead”, everything you know about NA fantasy will be put to the test. The relationship between these brothers is intense and unique - showing that even the vilest person has someone that loves them and that nothing can get in the way of family.

**CAROLINE VAUGHT:** Caroline Vaught is a Belmont University graduate with a bachelors in Publishing. She is currently a junior publicist at Three Points Publicity and lives in Nashville, TN with her two dogs and her husband. When she isn't writing, she can be found hiking through the Tennessee wilderness or curled up with a book. *Fractured Kingdom*, her debut novel, is set to publish in June 2019. For more information, visit her website [www.carolinevaughtbooks.com](http://www.carolinevaughtbooks.com).



### **“Fractured Kingdom”**

Caroline Vaught | June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 | Black Bird

Hardback ISBN: 0123456789 | Price: \$25.00

Paperback ISBN: 0234567891 | Price: \$16.00

Audio ISBN: 0345678901 | Price: \$39.99

New Adult, Fantasy, Dark Fantasy

### **In An Interview, Caroline Can Speak About Topics Such As:**

- The rapidly expanding NA genre and what it means
- Writing from the point of view of brothers
- Abusive families and how it damages a person forever
- Writing strong female leads
- The arts and why they are necessary for a healthy lifestyle

## An Interview with **CAROLINE VAUGHT**

### **1. Why did you choose to make your main characters brothers?**

I noticed in modern writing that a lot of stories are focused more on the relationships between men and women, but you never see a good relationship between two male characters - especially brothers. Not that they're the best example for a relationship, but most of the familial relationships you see in modern fantasy are the Jamie and Cersei Lannister dynamic, which is not a very good representation. I think it's important to showcase the relationship between brothers that would do anything for each other.

### **2. As a female writer, did you find it more difficult to write from the male perspective?**

I actually find it easier to write for male characters. Even though I'm a woman, I think my brain works better under the guise of a male figure that I can mold any way I see fit. Plus, you don't have to be a woman to write for women and you don't have to be a man to write for men. As a society, we're breaking boundaries and thinking so narrowly is unhealthy. They're all characters, after all.

Technically, they can be whoever you want them to be.

### **3. What does New Adult mean to you? What sets it apart from Young Adult and Adult?**

Adding New Adult as a genre is revolutionary. It fits perfectly in what used to be the grey area between YA and Adult fiction. Since the characters are older - Cassius is 25 and Al is 21 - they don't fit traditionally in the YA placeholder, but they don't quite scream Adult, either. Not to mention some aspects that are too gruesome or violent to be considered YA fit perfectly with the NA tag. It helps people transition from the bildungsroman stories to something more mature without diving in completely.

### **4. How do you write your female characters?**

Even though I don't consider myself a feminist, I find diversity and female leads very important. I don't, however, love the ideology that the female lead has to be

over the top kickass nor do I like the girly-but-kickass characterization that seems to be all over the place. I try to find a healthy balance and, since the main characters of *Fractured Kingdom* are male, I tried to make female characters big on the side. I also try to keep them diverse without seeming like I'm pandering to the audience because tasteful representation without screaming diversity is something I strive for.

5. **Alphareth and Cassius are very different - why did you set them up that way?**

In their very cores, I don't think Al and Cassius *are* all that different. They both have a healthy respect (or in Cassius' instance perhaps not so healthy) for weapons. They were both trained since they are royalty and can handle themselves. Of course, Cassius is better at them, but Al can hold his own in a fight. Even though it doesn't show, I think they both appreciate art as well. Cassius just can't draw the way Al can! They did grow up learning different things from their parents, though, so it makes sense that they're fairly different.