

MEET RANSOM GREY!



Author Bio:

Born and raised in Lufkin, Texas, Ransom Grey learned the love of literature from an early age. Though always an avid reader, he began writing in middle school and won his first state-wide writing competition at 13. He began working on his first novel at the age of 15 and quickly developed a love for writing fiction. At 18, Grey won the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Competition and enrolled in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Liberty University. Grey graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Liberty University Honors Program with a degree in graphic design and is currently pursuing his Master of Business Administration in Marketing with the Liberty University Graduate School. In addition to writing, Grey is an avid photographer, designer, and coffee drinker.

COMING SOON
JUNE 2018!



Book Synopsis:

The dawning of a new order casts a shadow across a whole nation. GRO, the government's Great Reorganization Operation, is turning American society upside down as it seizes teenagers and throws them into compounds across the country. Behind the speeches and programs, a darkness stirs. Reed can feel it. Taken from his home and dropped into the compound of "The Hill" in central Virginia, he can't escape the feeling that evil hangs over him night and day, watching his every move. Something is preying upon the teenagers of the Hill. An entire city lies paralyzed under the iron fist of a shadowy government agency and its cruel police force. Spies lurk among the crowds of frightened teens, ready to pounce at the first sign of dissidence. Fear keeps a choking hold on every soul—almost.

When he makes a new friend, Reed begins asking questions and stumbles upon a different side of this dark reality—a world of secrets where the light still lingers and hope burns in the hearts of a few. It's a strange world where everyday teens are fugitives playing a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse with the secret police. But it's fascinating, thrilling, and it all seems to revolve around a single figure—one man—who ties Reed's parallel lives together. Though dangerous to be around, this man seems to hold the answers Reed needs to make sense of the insanity around him. But he is being hunted, and the secrets in his past may be darker than anything else that haunts the Hill.

Caught in a crossfire of warring ideals, Reed faces an agonizing choice and a single path of escape—but is it worth what it will cost him?

Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



Ransom Grey

How long does it take you to write a book?

When I first started writing, I didn't intend to create a full book. I worked on it on and off for over a year before I realized its full potential. Once I did, I wrote the remaining 75% of the manuscript in about 6 months.

What is your work schedule like when you're not writing?

As a full-time graduate student, my schedule is filled with academics. In addition to my studies, I work a day job as a graphic designer for the university's marketing department, and I am employed as a Resident Assistant on campus, which is a 24/7 responsibility.

What you say is your most interesting writing quirk?

I always have to have something in my ears when I write—headphones, earbuds, earplugs. I don't listen to anything, but I literally cannot write without something in my ears.

Where did you get the idea for this book?

The idea actually came from several different short stories concepts I had bouncing around in my head. Overtime, they all came together into a single story line.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?

I honestly don't have much spare time, but when I do, I love playing beach volleyball and work out quite a bit. As an introvert, I also enjoy my alone time, whether that's reading, watching movies, or drawing. I also love photography.

What does your family think of your writing?

They really love it. They've been incredibly supportive and really encouraging. Sometimes, I think they are almost more excited about what I write than I am.

What were you like at school?

I was (and still am) the quiet guy who sits on the back row of the class and doesn't say anything but ends up with an A. I have friends, but I'm not one of the "popular kids." In fact, I'm probably border-line nerd; I completed my undergrad with a 4.0 from the university's honors program and spent a lot of time in the library.

Were you good at English?

I loved English. Whether it was composition or literature, I looked forward to it more than any other subject in high school. In college I actually opted to take an elective English class in the Honors program just because I wanted the challenge.

What are you working on at the moment?

Currently, I have two separate books in the works. One is a sequel to my current novel, but the other is a completely unrelated fiction concept with a very different feel.

What genre are your books?

Christian Young Adult up to this point. In the future, I may venture more into action/adventure or even drama.

Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



Ransom Grey

What draws you to this genre?

In young adult, I love the characterization. Since my characters are teens, their thought processes, emotions, and development are all things we can relate to since we once went through similar feelings and growing pains. There's a sort of rawness and reality about it that makes it relatable.

How much research do you do before writing a book?

On this book, none. I jumped in head-first, which may not have been the best idea, but given the nature of my story, it worked out in the end.

What's the hardest thing about writing in your opinion?

For me, the hardest part is translating the imagery and emotions raging through my mind into words that can relay the significance they hold for me to others. In a way, it's like trying to transcribe a full-length, Hollywood blockbuster onto paper without losing the richness or detail of the film.

Do you read much and what are your favorite authors?

In high school, I read non-stop. I have less time in college, but I still enjoy a good book whenever possible. I love the greats like C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott; but I also have a few lesser-known favorites like Mary Ray and Frank Peretti.

Do you proofread/edit your own books or does someone else do that for you?

I do the first few rounds of proofreading myself, and then I let my sister (an English and literature scholar) do a readthrough as well. The publisher also has a rigorous editing phase my work has been through.

Who designed your book cover?

Though I am a graphic designer, I chose to let the publisher handle my cover art because I felt I was too close to the story to portray it in a way that would sell.

Do you think the cover plays an important part in the buying process?

Absolutely. I personally decide whether to read a book's synopsis or not based entirely on the cover design, and I definitely don't buy one if the cover doesn't appeal to me in some way.

Who published your books?

Defiance Press is publishing my first book, and I anticipate a long-term and beneficial relationship with them.

What is the social marketing network that works best for you?

I'm personally a Facebook kind of guy. That's where the majority of my connections are and where I can get the most exposure. I love Instagram, but I just don't have the kind of personality it takes to be a serious Instagrammer with a large, active following.

Do you think giving books away for free works and why?

I do. For one thing, it shows your audience that you are more interested in telling a story and communicating with them than you are in making a buck. It adds a touch of personality that makes you more than a name on the cover and will encourage them to seek out more of your work.

Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR



Ransom Grey

How do you relax?

Whenever I need to chill out for a little bit, I flip on my mood lighting, turn on some Michael Buble or John Mayer, and drink coffee on my couch. It works every time. In the springtime, I also love to hammock outdoors in a tree somewhere with a good view.

What is your favorite movie and why?

Hands down has to be "Lord of the Rings." I love the sweeping scope of the story that wraps an entire world in the classic battle of good versus evil while still maintaining an intensely personal touch with each character and their individual struggles.

What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

Don't worry about what other people will think of your writing at first. Just get your ideas onto paper without critiquing them because the minute you start to judge them through others' eyes, you put a tourniquet on your creativity. Once you've poured your heart into your story, then you can go back and evaluate it with others' perspectives in mind, but only after you've completed your own.

What famous person would you like to meet and why?

It may sound strange, but I would love to meet the Olympic athlete David Boudia. He has an incredible story of faith that really spoke to me in a time when I needed it most, and he seems like a humble, genuine man that it would be a pleasure to be around.

How can readers discover more about you and your book?

My Facebook page has a lot of information about my work as an author and about my book. My Instagram account is a little more personal, focusing more on me and the things that inspire me in my work.

