

Keep your eyes open for another “up and coming” [local Albertan] [neighbor from Alberta] [Canadian from Alberta]! Tanya Jones-Thibodeau, going by her author name of Tanya Jones, has published the first novel, *Dreams of Beautiful Whisper*, in her series *The Elves of Eytherfel* and is working hard to bring book two out in early 2016.

So what’s the fuss? *Dreams of Beautiful Whisper* is a modern day, young adult fantasy with the spin of a less common reality fiction cross-over. We say less common because it’s not often that we encounter fantasy novels with a reality base. Here we have the usual suspects of an ordinary teen girl who doesn’t see herself as anything special, a teen love being torn apart and a gorgeous beauty-boy causing endless distractions – there are simply some things that work, so why fight it? This gives us our reality base – regular teens facing regular everyday challenges and problems.

What Jones does with this base is both clever and slightly dangerous. As we all know this base has been done and done, again and again. While they often address issues that many teens can relate to, they get a little tired and dull. With intent, Jones’ book *Dreams of Beautiful Whisper* starts out portraying exactly how done we are with the tried-and-true. The writing is a bit bland and loose and the characters are somewhat boring. That’s the dangerous part – it would be easy to see how Jones could potentially lose a reader in the first 3 chapters. But those who persevere won’t regret their choice.

This is where it’s clever and accentuates the magical transformation. As the characters develop and the story unfolds the reader is taken into a journey of discovery, to experience the growth and development of the story and characters through a parallel growth in the writing. Everything begins to tighten up and make sense as truths are revealed. Much like the main character experiences a lifting of haze about her identity and her past, the reader experiences this same dawning of clarity. As the main character faces choices and difficult decisions, the reader is drawn into her process of problem solving and can’t help but partake in the weighing of pros and cons alongside her; or feeling the frustration of attempting to explain circumstances to peers who don’t get it.

All the while, the reader gets a clear sense of something much bigger and deeper at play. But as with real life, there is a progression of events necessary for any journey and there are no short cuts. The reader is left with many questions and a yearning desire for more.

Parents will love this book because of the role model potential of the characters. In a world full of acceptance (albeit grudgingly) of disrespect and controversy, parents will love the respectful and compassionate persona of this cast of characters. An added bonus is the potential for the reader to pick up a few new perspectives when dealing with any sort of problem solving.

Teens will love this book because it’s fun, it’s cool and it’s not preaching a bunch of moralistic lessons. As the characters develop, the reader has no choice but to fall in love with them. They’re dynamic, spunky and demand to be heard (which according to Jones is exactly why they got written, they simply wouldn’t be quiet!). Everything in the book feels completely natural and teens will be able to relate to the characters throughout the book without feeling like the book was written to provide them with "valuable lessons". It’s fantasy! It’s got elves, magic, a few bits of romance and action in a hidden world, right under our noses.

It’s one of those books that you can read purely for the enjoyment of reading it but at the end of it you realize just how much more take-away you actually got from it.

Book two – *Whisper’s Beautiful Song* is planned for release in February 2016. Jones has a variety of extra features and surprises planned for her readers throughout the months leading up to the release of *Whisper’s Beautiful Song*, so you will definitely want to have read *Dreams of Beautiful Whisper* so that you can fully enjoy the journey to *Whisper’s Beautiful Song*.

For more information about Jones, *Dreams of Beautiful Whisper* or the series *The Elves of Eytherfel*, visit: <http://tanyajones.ca>