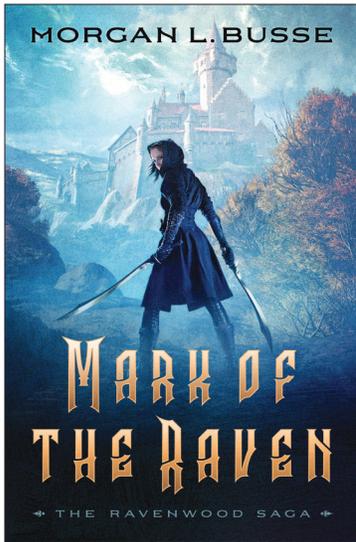




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH MORGAN L. BUSSE



Mark of the Raven

THE RAVENWOOD SAGA #1

by Morgan L. Busse

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1. How did you come up with the idea for *Mark of the Raven*?

My ideas always start with an image. I see a scene and I immediately ask, “Who are these people? How did they get into this situation? What happened before? And what’s going to happen next?” With *Mark of the Raven*, I saw Selene Ravenwood on the edge of a life-changing decision between following her family or doing what’s good for all people. Not only that, but she’s also on an inner journey of discovering who she is and why she has the ability to enter people’s dreams. I find in real life there are no easy choices, and those are the same dilemmas I put into my stories.

2. How would you describe Selene Ravenwood, the main character of *Mark of the Raven*?

As the eldest sister of the Ravenwood family, she has a lot of responsibility on her shoulders. She will not only be inheriting the title of Grand Lady, but she also has a nation to rule and sisters to protect. Additionally, as she delves deeper into her family’s legacy of dreamwalking, she discovers the horrifying truth of what her family has been doing for the last hundreds of years. In order to endure the conflict inside of her and the tasks she must accomplish, she hides behind a mask of iron and ice. She doesn’t let anyone get close, and she keeps her emotions in check. There is one person who can help her . . . unfortunately, it’s the same man she’s been ordered to assassinate.

3. How is this series different from your previous projects?

I’ve written a fantasy and a Victorian steampunk series, both featuring young women who are basically alone in the world. However, with *Mark of the Raven*, I am exploring the complexities of family and politics. Later on in the series, I will also be writing about a married couple, something I have never explored with my characters before. Add to that a myriad of powerful family houses, betrayals, and a sinister being, and I’ve created one of my most epic series yet.

4. What are the spiritual themes of *Mark of the Raven*?

I would say the main spiritual theme for *Mark of the Raven* revolves around two parables that Jesus shared in the Gospel of Matthew: one about the man who finds a treasure beyond comparison in a field, sells all he has, and buys that field; and the other about the merchant who finds a pearl of immense worth and sells all he has to buy that one pearl. In *Mark of the Raven*, and the rest of THE RAVENWOOD SAGA, Selene discovers a soul made out of light—a light so beautiful and life-giving and so different than anything else she has ever seen or experienced in her own life—that she is willing to do anything to have it. Even if it costs her life.

I think many of us have forgotten what it’s like to long for God. We go about, day to day, shuffling along and forgetting to gaze upward and see the beauty, love, and majesty of God—to long for Him so much that we would give up everything on earth to have heaven. I hope to rekindle that desire again within my readers.