



## **The Duchess Adlai: Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Steampunk Collide – New Series Inspires Young Readers with Fantastical Inventions**

*Masterfully crafted by Tonya Knudsen, 'The Duchess Adlai: Introductions, Inventions, and the Most Awesome Adventures' is volume one of a compelling new series that aims to fuse the bold demands of open-minded young readers with the writing quality and finesse of literary eras gone by. From the rich and cinematic landscapes of the book's settings to its curious inventions that only Knudsen could have conceived, Adlai and her escapades are already scoring great reviews.*

### **For Immediate Release**

**Staten Island, NY** – While nobody will deny that Young Adult fiction has seen a huge recent surge in popularity, both readers and critics are crying out for wholly unique new narratives that don't succumb to recycling of the 'same-old' vampire, werewolf and witch-laden concepts. Thankfully, New York's Tonya Knudsen is stepping up to the plate with gusto.

Her new 'The Duchess Adlai' series is bucking all trends by not only delivering a genre-defying cocktail of Sci-Fi, Fantasy and Steampunk, but constructing everything in the style of bygone literary greats who could paint realms using the English language with a romantic adeptness.

Volume one, 'Introductions, Inventions, and the Most Awesome Adventures' gets everything off to an intense start.

#### **Synopsis:**

*When Adlai's older brother, the Duke Cynt, is mysteriously killed on an expedition to the nearest planet, young Adlai finds her world changed overnight.*

*Tasked with leading her realm, the Duchess is immediately submerged into a foreign and utterly fantastic, political arena, where she attempts to solve the mystery of her brother's death.*

*Saddled with an unusual band of advisors: a stoic minister, a mischievous inventor, a cheeky, hooved hand-maiden, and two snarky Jesin (talking beings who resemble what we on Earth call foxes); the Duchess is soon outfitted with a number of new inventions to help her succeed.*

*But her early triumphs, artfully won, are short-lived as she stumbles upon old secrets which hint at why her father went mad, who her mother really was, and what may exist on the new planet. And while she is*

*coping with all that, one charming suitor after another is thrown in her path. Thank goodness she is naturally adept at flirting!*

*The first episode of an ongoing series: Introductions are made, inventions are produced, but most importantly, the most awesome adventures begin...*

“I wanted to write something bursting with imagination; something that harks back to my childhood when books were written simply, vividly yet with more than enough room for my mind to take over and drive the story forward,” explains the author. “This is a coming-of-age/adventure story that keeps things innocent, with enough description, technology and intrigue to satisfy the thirsts of discerning young modern readers.”

Continuing, “The characters and the worlds they live in go far and beyond just the books. My website is slowly becoming a living adventure of its own, with an expanding glossary, maps and even the building of a whole new landscape. It’s a work in progress, but will be developing along with the series.”

#### **About the Author:**

The Lady Miss Tonya Knudsen has been bouncing around the NY art and literary scene for longer than she cares to admit.

Previous literary endeavors include celebrity interviews and a few serial columns: Semi-Intellectual Thoughts by Miss Tonya (Boston, 1990s) and Anya Hard (Juice - Sound, Surf and Skate Magazine, NYC, 2000s).

Previous art curations and works have been known to take place at CBGB's 313 Gallery and the now-shuttered Dollhaus Art Gallery in Williamsburg.

The Duchess Adlai, Introductions, Inventions, and the Most Awesome Adventures is the first episode in a series of books. It also the author's first published book.

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