

for the fairytale compilations from all over the world, always hoping I'd find one I had missed before."

Her story's heroine, Selah, is forced to sail across the ocean with a boatload of suitors, each vying for her affection, *Bachelorette*-style. A stepmother with dark motives, a fairytale setting, a battle of love and alliances – *The Beholder* and its sequel are not to be missed!

"I want people to find in *The Beholder* something they can enjoy, something fun," Bright says. "There are a whole range of purposes to reading, but I firmly believe in the importance of having an escape. When you close that second book, I hope you say, 'I really enjoyed that. I rooted for the heroine. I enjoyed watching her fall in and out of love.'"

Bright wrote the first draft of her novel during National Novel Writing Month, a challenge to creatives to complete a novel within the month of November. Bright finished the challenge's 50,000 words and then continued exploring her characters and her story. Never intending to write a duology, Bright's writing and rewriting grew the story, first to 100,000 words, then 200,000, until 'I chopped it in half and starting treating it as two separate novels,' she says.

*The Beholder* is targeted for publication in spring 2019, with its sequel following after.



## Geanna Culbertson

*E (University of Southern California)*

In a world where each character's fate is predetermined, Crisanta Knight, daughter of Cinderella, is fighting to own her story at Lady Agnue's School for Princesses & Other Female Protagonists. Geanna Culbertson tells the story of this hero-princess in her young adult eight-book *Crisanta Knight* series. The fourth book, *The Liar, The Witch, & The Wormhole*, is set for release this June.

Growing up, Culbertson loved both superheroes and princesses but found that the two rarely came together in books and movies. This series is an answer to that problem and, she says, is further inspired by her Alpha Chi Omega experience. In fact, her Epsilon chapter big sister, Alexa Harzan Carter, was one of the very first to read the initial book and receives special thanks in the dedication.

Culbertson provides a sneak peak of the upcoming fourth book, in which Crisanta and her fairytale friends enter other worlds, like Oz and Camelot. She hints that a huge turn is coming for her protagonist and the series at this halfway point.

The series has been adopted as required text in several schools and has provided lessons to students of all ages. Book sales also support Girls on the Run.

"At the end of the day, I hope that what I've created brings joy like my favorite books did for me," Culbertson says. "I want people to read the books and laugh and smile."

You can find the *Crisanta Knight* series at major booksellers and independent bookstores. An audiobook version is also in the works.

