

[00:00:02.240] - Madison

Welcome to premise the podcast. I am your host Madison Diehl and welcome to today's episode. Today I am interviewing my guest Kate Barthuly who has written a novel Chosen.

[00:00:12.870] - Madison

First, Kate will introduce you to the premise of her novel. She will then talk about her struggles and successes while writing and then at the end a small excerpt of her novel will be turned into an audio book. Hope you enjoy.

[00:00:25.080] - Kate

So, it starts off with the main character Carter and...

[00:00:31.380] - Kate

You find out she's lost her mother and it's this post-apocalyptic world that's been absolutely just ravaged by this alien planet called morbid in this planet has wreaked havoc on earth and they're living in this camp with her older brother Luke and her little sister Maura. And the story essentially follows two people Carter and Hayden. Hayden is on another alien planet called Argon and on Argon it's... this plays where everybody has to follow a certain set of rules and it's his journey and it's Carter's journey.

[00:01:09.090] - Kate

Everybody is trying to leave Earth because it is slowly fading into absolutely inhabitable. So, you just find out along the way different things that just don't really make sense.

[00:01:18.210] - Kate

And it all kind of comes together in the end but you have to wait till the end for it all to come together. And yeah, it's how Carter grapples with the life that she's been given and how Hayden grapples with his own.

[00:01:32.250] - Kate

I have always been an avid reader and I loved I've always loved stories and just the process of storytelling itself. I think it started my first-grade teacher and she forced me to read. I would go to the library and my sisters and I would get these giant bags full of books and just go home like on the car ride home like all the time I was reading when I was a kid. Then as the years went on

through school every like free break we had I would sit and I would be on the computer and write.

[00:02:07.740] - Kate

People just knew me as the girl who would read and write all the time. It was it was just a way for me to constantly have my brain working and I hated the quiet. And so I filled it with reading and writing and storytelling. I just loved the idea of something different from my own life. I've always loved the idea of something different something unknown something that I didn't know myself. I love the idea of just taking a break from what's currently around me and just really just diving into a world that I didn't know before.

[00:02:47.590] - Kate

Writing has been fun for me for a really long time but I think there's also people neglect to realize how difficult it is to write a novel and it's something that I realized as well. And you get to a point where you realize you're actually creating a world, cultures, character types, like everybody is just very different. And even with that there's just trying to create something that's different and not just going based off the books that I've read not just going based off different stories that I've heard on TV or whatever.

[00:03:16.150] - Kate

It's really hard to be able to create something that was organically myself and something that I really wanted to write vs. writing the next divergent or anything like that. It just really, I had to create something that was not that in creating something new is really really hard.

[00:03:39.070] - Kate

I think that's also one of the most fun parts about it too. And obviously writer's block is a huge thing. So, working through it you have to roll with the punches. It's about creating something new and fresh and exciting. So, I think even in the hardships they're also the best parts about writing. Now to tell the story of Chosen.

[00:04:04.580] - Carter/Madison

My mother disappeared three months ago. She went into the woods to forage for food one evening when the stars were just beginning to show themselves from their place hidden by daylight. We were desperate on our last bits of food and barely getting by. The system was fine for a while during the warmer months. Then it grew cold. Food had grown scarce. We were all close to

starving. My siblings and I wished her good luck. And I remember her kind eyes that shone into my brothers when she said goodbye her proud smile so full of conviction never did the thought crossed my mind that they would be the very last time I would see her.

[00:04:40.850] - Carter/Madison

She assured us that she would be back by sunrise and nothing had led me to believe otherwise. My mother was many things not many of them good. But she was a woman of our word above all. The conviction her smile that we believed her.

[00:04:56.980] - Carter/Madison

But she lied. She never came back.

[00:05:00.820] - Carter/Madison

And I don't believe she ever will.

[00:05:03.800] - Carter/Madison

In the modern world a couple days after someone goes missing pretty much presumed them dead. The most common reasonable explanation for a death was why she had been attacked by a hybrid which put reason behind why they never found a body. I believed in her so vividly and truly that the idea of her not coming back took weeks to process and I still find myself imagining her walking through the door rifle in hand tattered but alive. She may have not been good to me. But she was still my mother. No one deserves to be without one.

[00:05:33.190] - Carter/Madison

Memories of her flash across my mind's eye.

[00:05:35.620] - Carter/Madison

Her stocky figure long deep chocolate colored hair that matched my siblings to a T, transfixed with the calm way she always moved her hands. She'd never been a great mother favoring my older brother Luke and younger sister Maura over me. She often neglected me because of her undying love and admiration for the younger siblings. Her lack of love for her eldest daughter hurt but never as much as the words she threw at me.

[00:06:02.770] - Carter/Madison

Because he considered himself the favorite my older brother Luke was put in charge. Believe it or not. He's worse than my mother like a living nightmare he can't escape he haunts me day in and day out. Some parts of me believe he blames me for my mother's death. Or maybe he just wants to continue the torture that I endured. Either way. He is a controlling cocky brother that watches my every move like a hawk a predatory creature prepared to pounce whenever the situation presents itself. To him. I'm just a parasite a monster to be rid of a villain defeated much too many times.

[00:06:35.580] - Carter/Madison

The Fighter released itself for me the second month he broke me down not even in my daydreams Am I safe from him.

[00:06:43.650] - Carter/Madison

And before I get into all further on my mother my brother exhausting life that I call my own. I'm cut back to reality by Luke's disapproving glare directed towards me.

[00:07:00.240] - Madison

That concludes today's episode of Premise to Podcast. I would like to say warm thank you to Kate Barthuly and her novel Chosen. I've been your host Madison Diehl.

[00:07:08.970] - Madison

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