

ALEX GRASS



BLACK RIVER LANTERN | MEDIA KIT

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Author Biography

From musician to law clerk to writer, Alex Grass has taken a path that is rich in experience on his road to becoming the author of *Black River Lantern*, his chillingly entertaining horror story.

Born in Harrisburg, PA, Alexander Grass lived in Philadelphia, Israel, and a few other places before settling in Brooklyn with his wife and three kids.

As a teenager, Alex was in a thrash-metal band called Shock Syndrome. He later worked in construction, landscaping, driving in a car auction, and worked in parts and shipping for a Honda dealership. After obtaining his GED, he went to Penn State online before attending Cardozo Law School on scholarship. While at Cardozo, Alex was a Floersheimer Student Fellow in Constitutional Law, and a law clerk for the Institute for Justice and for the New York County Defenders.

After a stint in rehab, he dropped out of law school to become an almost full-time author.

To find out more information about his book, please visit his website at:

blackriverlantern.com



Alex Grass

02 Book Details

AUTHOR: Alex Grass

CATEGORY: Supernatural Horror

ISBN: 1735888508 / **ASIN:** B08KGCQ4K3

PUBLISHER: Dickinson Publishing Group

Welcome to Kayjigville, home of the Marivicos Summerlong Carnavalé Festival!

Feast your senses, become captivated, become enthralled by our astonishing and inconceivable spectacles! Behold Melmoth the Magnificent (also known as Eddie Marivicos), a young man gifted with second sight—the ability to peer into minds!

While you are here, bear witness to some of the many denizens of this ancient colonial town! There is Dr. Chain, the quick-witted retired clinical psychologist with a hunger for adventure! We have Lexi, a young workin' gal whose fateful encounter with Eddie might lead them both on a path to happiness! And last, but not least, we have Papa Marivicos—father of Eddie Marivicos—the fascist ringmaster who rules his carnival with an iron fist!

Follow us as we watch Papa Marivicos abuse and use his son, so that his carnival will rake in the dollar bills! Oh, but he won't stop there folks; Papa will go to great lengths to achieve dominance in Kayjigville through scheming, bloodshed, and even reaching out to enigmatic dark forces!

How will Eddie navigate his ever-evolving mystic abilities and his father's tyrannical aspirations? Will Dr. Chain be able to assist the troubled Eddie while simultaneously navigating his tumultuous personal life? Will Lexi be become close to Eddie, or are they doomed off the bat? Papa Marivicos

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Chapter Excerpt

EXCERPTED FROM CHAPTER FOUR

“God help me!”

Help, however, was not forthcoming. He knew it was imminent—the end, and before that, more pain—but that didn’t stop Rizzo’s screaming. Then, another pop. His eyes had burst inside of his head. Rizzo fell from the height of the tabletop, slamming his face into the edge and breaking his nose on the way to dropping helplessly to his knees. Blood and viscera ran from his eyes, his nose was broken, making breathing almost impossible. Rizzo was on his knees, his forehead leaning against the edge of the table, too afraid to pull back for lack of anchorage, too scared to test the new truth of his deaf-and-blind disequilibrium.

He could hear nothing. He could see nothing. But then, a voice.

“D’ya see what I been tellin’ ya’, Rizzo? D’ya see it? Strange, it is. Prolly never thought in yer’ life, never in yer’ life... prolly never thought you’d see it. Only now that yer’ blind. Blinded, Rizzo. Ain’t never touched ya’, but still them eyeballs went POP! D’ya see what I been sayin’ now? Strange. Power is...strange.”

Rizzo couldn’t hear it, but Papa was laughing hysterically; he could only hear the transmission of sinister thought raping his consciousness in what were surely his last moments.

“You are blind but now you see. You are deaf, but hearing me. And all yer’ power, Rizzo. Do you see the illusion? Do you understand it, at least? At last? At last, at least, at last, at peace. The lie. THE LIE, YOU FUCK! The deception—a curtain, a curtain drawn over... well come on! Do you see it now? Your power. Your power that never was. I took it from you, Mr. Rizzo. I TOOK IT GOOD!”

Just at that moment, the doors from the antechamber splintered and busted wide open. One of the goons flipped on a light switch. None of them saw Papa Marivicos. What they did see was awful. It was Rizzo, kneeling on the ground with his blood-covered face looking like it burst open against the edge of the table. The boss had asphyxiated on and in his own gristle.

Excerpt cont.

EXCERPTED FROM CHAPTER FOUR

It looked like he'd pissed and shit his pants, too.

- A Very Short While Later -

Clara had locked herself in the bathroom. Just a few minutes earlier she'd finished tidying up and cleaning off the dirt she'd fallen in. She'd been just about ready to come out when she heard some terrible noises. Indescribable noises.

Squelching. Rupturing. Aspirating. Retching. Shattering. Indescribable, still.

In a frenzy she reached her shaking hands out to the door to make sure the tumbler key in the old lock had turned the mortise bolted shut, and just when she heard the click—so loud; it seems so loud—a heavy thump cracked the other side of the bathroom door.

"Fuck! Oh Jesus. Oh Jesus Christ..."

A shrieking sound—no, a howl—echoed through the halls, the howl of some bass-driven bellowing beast, some drooling devil with evil in its eyes and blood on its breath.

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Sample Interview Questions

01

What inspired you to start writing in general?

02

Where did you get your idea for this book?

03

What is the most difficult part about writing for you?

04

*Who is your favorite character in *Black River Lantern*? Why, and where did you get inspiration for that character?*

05

Your story is set in present day, but has an early 20th century feel to it. What led you to that stylistic choice?

06

What books, films, or TV shows most inform the aesthetic of this book?

07

*What was the hardest scene to write in *Black River Lantern*?*

08

Which scene or chapter in the book is your favorite? Why?

09

What's more important: characters or plot?

10

What's next for you? What are you working on now?

05

Main Characters

Eddie Marivicos – Eddie was born into the carnival lifestyle. At the time of the story, he is around twenty years old, and is described as an attractive young man. He is emotionally stunted due to abuse from his father, Papa Marivicos. Eddie ran away from home, and was gone for two years (this is when he acquired the “second sight”). Eddie is shy, awkward, and usually glum. Eddie is seen as a cash cow by his father due to his ability to read minds for carnival performances. Eddie doesn’t like being around people since he can hear their thoughts. His best friend is another performer from the carnival named Abakoum.

Papa Marivicos – Papa only cares about his carnival (he is the de facto ringleader), and power. He is about fifty/sixty years old, and the father of Eddie Marivicos. Papa is abusive, ill-tempered, and cruel. He could also be described as quick-witted, animated, ostentatious, and boisterous. The only characters he shows any respect to are his two dwarven assistants, Marv and Andy. Papa Marivicos’s ancestry consists of individuals who have been “touched” by cosmic beings/entities. He has a large supernatural tome; from this book he derives his use of dark powers and magics.

Dr. Chain – A psychologist/general practitioner in his sixties. He is retired at the time of the story. Dr. Chain has a wife named Stacy Thornberg; their relationship has its ups and downs. Chain is educated (to the point of being a bit full of himself), a smartass, and shows compassion throughout the story (despite his insistence that he is a “bitter old man”). Dr. Chain meets Eddie after one of his carnival performances when Eddie pushed himself too hard and was in bad shape. Dr. Chain begins to look after Eddie at Papa Marivicos’s request.

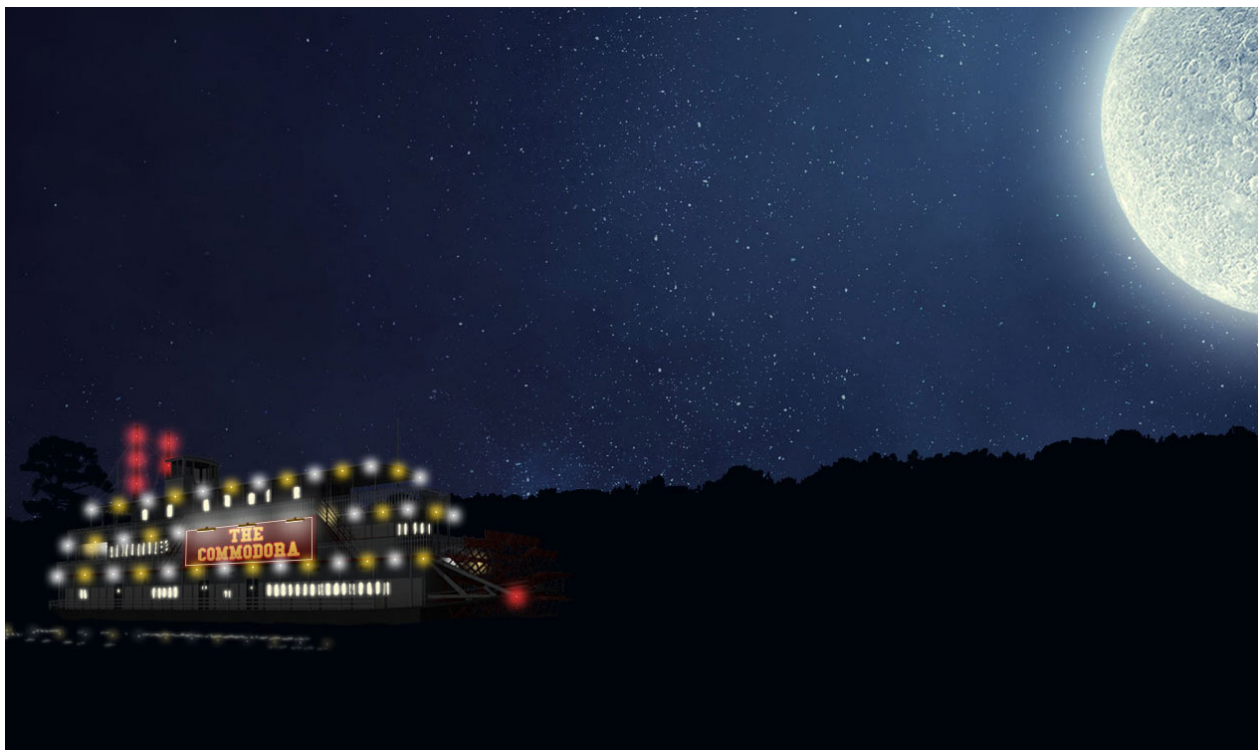
Lexi – Lexi works at a brothel; she meets Eddie when he and Abakoum pay the brothel a visit during a drunken “boy’s night out”. Lexi is around the same age as Eddie, and is described as an attractive young woman. She is outgoing and fun-loving; she has a kind and compassionate side to her as well. Eddie becomes infatuated with her, as he cannot read her mind; she is unique to Eddie in this way.

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Target Audience

READERS OF SUPERNATURAL HORROR STORIES

Readers who have an interest in Lovecraftian-horror, tragic stories, drama with mysterious themes, and the supernatural will find themselves engrossed in this page-turning tale that's filled with witty and humorous dialogue.



07 Downloadable Cover Image



Contact the author at yokhanan.zevi@dickinsonpublishinggroup.com to request a copy of their cover image for usage in articles and other various media coverage.

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