



“Power-romance” novelist visits Belmont

By Alexandria Sands asands1@uncc.edu

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Romance, action and a good summer read. That’s what you’ll get out of a new novel that recently hit shelves.

“Under the Veil” follows the events that transpire after a woman, Lauren Wells, is abducted from New York City and wakes up in a foreign land. She learns she has been taken there to marry Prince Adi, a plan that he was unaware of. His father, the king, orchestrated the kidnapping.

In the midst of battling her developing feelings for Adi, Lauren finds herself in jeopardy. The king is dying and some dangerous people want to make sure she can’t take the throne. Throughout the novel, Lauren struggles with who she can trust and wonders if she’ll ever make it back home.

Author West Michell describes the novel as a “power-romance” because of the action in it, but also “feminist-lit” because of the strong female characters.

“They don’t take anything lying down,” Michell said.

Because of her background in screenwriting, the novel is fast-paced.

“It reads like you’re watching a movie. Once you get sucked in, you’re in and it picks up right from the beginning,” Michell said.

Michell said the book can be interpreted multiple ways. A lot of people read the book fast the first time and enjoy the action, she said, but then re-read it slower for a better understanding of Prince Adi's perspective.

"When you read it from his point of view and understand what he's doing, it's a whole other story," Michell said.

It can also be read from a political viewpoint.

"It's all woven into social commentary about what's going on in the world today. So, it's a lot of metaphor," Michell said.

Michell has published two children's books and worked as a freelance screenwriter at various production companies.

She's currently writing her second adult novel that she hopes will come out in the beginning of 2018. In the fall, she'll be publishing a free online book that will release chapters week to week. The story was originally a pilot she wrote for a TV show, but she wanted to turn it into a novel while keeping the feel of episodes that premiere once a week.

"Under the Veil" is the first adult novel that Michell has published. On July 11, she hosted a "Cocktails and Conversations" event at Nellie's Southern Kitchen in Belmont, where she talked about her book and read excerpts. It was her first time visiting North Carolina.

"Belmont's just a cute town. What's not to love," Michell said.

"Under the Veil" can be purchased at westmichell.com on paperback or at Amazon on Kindle.

You can reach Alexandria Sands at 704-869-1849 or [Twitter.com/AlexSands_](https://twitter.com/AlexSands_)

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