



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Long Beach Author's Latest Fantasy Novel Encourages Teens to Find Their Best Families**

*Sometimes the family you're born into isn't the only one you need — even in a magical world.*

LONG BEACH, Calif., July 18, 2024 — It's a challenging time to be a teenager — or the parent of one — as the number of adolescents struggling with anxiety, depression and hopelessness is at an all-time high. Long Beach writer Susan Ann Walker hopes her new young adult fantasy novel, "The Sorcerer and the Necromancer," releasing in August, will provide teen readers with not only some escapist entertainment, but also subtle encouragement to connect with a "found family" of peers and mentors for vital support.

The book, the third in Walker's "Tales From the City of Magic" series, recounts the story of Daric, a youth who grew up in a wizards' enclave and was bullied because he lacked magical abilities. At seventeen, after leaving his birth family behind, Daric discovers he does have powers — of a particularly dangerous kind — that were hidden from him when he was a toddler. Far from his original home, suspecting that his parents may have been complicit in blocking his talents, he navigates building his own network of friends, confidants and teachers who become his second family and help him master his threatening new skills.

"Family can be a decision, not a decree," Walker said. "I want to reassure readers it's okay to accept the help you need from whoever's in your corner, whether that means advice, companionship or just someone to say, 'you've got this.' I try to convey that through a fantasy adventure that's exciting, fast-paced and fun."

"The Sorcerer and the Necromancer" is scheduled for publication in e-book and paperback formats on August 5, 2024, and is available for pre-order now at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/BOD8XHMZY1>.

Advance review copies are available on request. For more information, see <https://susanannwalker.com>.

**About the Author**

Susan Ann Walker is the author of "Tales From the City of Magic," an ongoing sword-and-sorcery fantasy series. She began writing professionally after retiring from her first career as an aerospace IT architect. Her work for McDonnell Douglas and Boeing supporting the C-17 Globemaster military cargo jet earned her multiple awards, including recognition for helping the Boeing Aerospace Support organization win the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Susan's novels are informed by her life as an admitted serial hobbyist. A former equestrian and martial artist, she knows first-hand how to ride a horse, throw a punch, and wield a katana. She has not yet managed to work database design or Lego set construction into a medieval fantasy, but she's still trying. Susan is a native of Long Beach, California where she currently lives with her husband and a variable number of fur persons.

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**Media Kit**

Complete book details and cover images are available at <https://susanannwalker.com/media/>.