

Sarah Perlmutter

Author Bio

Sarah Perlmutter is an award-winning young adult fiction writer and English teacher in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She graduated with her BA in Creative Writing from the University of Pittsburgh, where she continued her education, earning her MAT in Secondary English Education. When she is not reading and writing, Sarah enjoys spending time with her husband and cat, cooking food that is far too spicy, making arts and crafts, and teaching her amazing students. For more about Sarah, check out her website at www.SarahPerlmutter.com.

Author Headshot



Excerpt from The Blast

Chapter 3: No Turning Back

There's a moment in everyone's life when they realize that there's no turning back to their childhood. When they realize that they have at once graduated to adulthood. From what I knew about life before the blast, this moment looked different for everyone. Whether it was getting their first job, getting their driver's license, having their first kiss, graduating high school, graduating college, buying a home, or having a child, one thing was constant throughout: This moment hardly ever happened to 10 year olds.

Standing with the gun in my right hand and the knob in my left, I knew there was no turning back. Henry and Ellie could last another day, but my childhood was gone. So I swung the door open like I knew I had to, and charged.

I dove beneath the kitchen table for cover, but quickly realized the shots weren't coming from inside. They were just outside the window, in the yard. I crawled over the sticky floor, dried blood lifting onto my palms, until I reached the back door and crept into the sunroom.

I remembered what my mom told me: I had to be brave. I took a breath, and imagined it wasn't real. *This is a game*, I told myself. Just a video game or something. So I opened the door just enough to slip my body through and let myself outside.

Freezing cold from the darkness mixed unevenly with burning gusts from the flames, and everything was shadowed in Halloween colors. From our back patio, I saw past the cornfield and across Route 30, and I had to catch my breath at the sight of it: an entire hillside of houses and businesses swallowed in flames. The only thing that spreads more quickly than panic is fire, and our entire community had been consumed in both. In the light of the fires, I could see black outlines of people running and looting, their shadows stretching their misdeeds over the highway.

Author Q&A about The Blast

What inspired you to write The Blast?

I was in the middle of the second book of a trilogy I'm writing, when I realized that the world wasn't complete enough. Beatrice was a main character in the trilogy, but I didn't know enough about her past or how she became the person I was writing in the trilogy. I decided to begin writing a prequel to my trilogy with Beatrice as the main character, so that I could fully understand some of the characters in my trilogy as well as the world in which they live.

How did you develop the characters in The Blast?

I developed the characters based on who they needed to become in the trilogy. Beatrice, Eleanor, Todd, and Ben all grew and changed in the book based on that. Some characters were developed to help motivate these changes, like Henry and the Smiths. Characters like Jacob and Mr. Timmons were included to help explore themes in the novel, while characters like Drew helped me to flesh out the community the characters build throughout the book.

What makes The Blast a unique post-apocalyptic tale?

What I think makes The Blast unique is how it straddles the genre lines between post-apocalyptic science fiction and contemporary. Beatrice grows up in the apocalypse, and the focus of her journey is on her emotional and mental growth, not on the world. She faces the same struggles teens do today, only within the context of the apocalypse, which makes Bea's teen years even harder than most. A lot of readers have been pleasantly surprised by the contemporary feel The Blast has, despite its science fiction setting.

What's next for you and the characters?

Now I'm continuing to write my trilogy, The Deathless Trilogy, for which The Blast is a stand-alone prequel. The whole series will definitely be tough to end. I've been so immersed in the world of The Blast and the other books, it will be more bitter than sweet to leave. The first two books of the trilogy are currently posted on Wattpad, where The Blast is a featured book and Watty Award winner. If you're interested in checking them out, definitely connect with me on Wattpad @SarahPerlmutter. As for the future, I am seeking representation and hoping to traditionally publish the trilogy.

Praise for The Blast

"The Blast is A MUST READ post-apocalyptic story!" -*The Black Sheep Project*, <http://theblacksheepproject.blogspot.com>

"The Blast didn't shy away from the perils created in a post-apocalyptic world. The author tackled some serious situations including how does one survive? Food? Water? Love? Loss? Religion is even a discussion. All these elements can get lost when tackling a post-apocalyptic world, but Ms. Perlmutter hit this head on making the world so much more believable and made it hard to put the book down. I would highly recommend The Blast to lovers of Dystopian themed societies and great YA reads delving into post-apocalyptic worlds." -*Sasha Hibbs*, www.sashahibbs.blogspot.com

"I LOVED this story! This was truly an emotional read for me because it is the way I can see such a post-apocalyptic event to occur and I also got attached to the characters... I found myself becoming part of the storyline and feeling like I had to do whatever necessary to survive and protect the ones I loved not only from the elements but from other survivors as well." -*The Voluptuous Book Diva*, www.voluptuousbookdiva.blogspot.com

“Shockingly good read. Let me repeat that again because The Blast is unlike any apocalyptic book I’ve ever read. Amazingly descriptive and chronologically paced... It’s engaging, suspenseful from the start and amazingly fresh. Perfectly captures the pain, the loss of childhood innocence and produced waterworks (and I don’t cry for characters in books, EVER).” -Books and Sweet Epiphany, www.booksandsweetepiphany.blogspot.com

“The Blast sees Sarah Perlmutter explore the power of human survival and our capacity to thrive in dire circumstances. Solidly written and engaging, The Blast is an authentic apocalyptic tale that is sure to be a hit with those who enjoy genuine tales.” -*The Rest is Still Unwritten*, www.rachybee-the-rest-is-still-unwritten.blogspot.com

“I found the writing to be poetic in nature and the pacing exceptional. I highly recommend this novel to those interested in perfectly imperfect happily ever afters.” -C.J. Anaya, www.authorcjanaya.com

Book Playlist for The Blast

1. “Radioactive” by Imagine Dragons
2. “Demons” by Imagine Dragons
3. “Raise Your Weapon” by DeadMau5
4. “Run” by Snow Patrol, covered by Leona Lewis
5. “Fix You” by Coldplay
6. “Rue’s Farewell” by James Newton Howard, from *The Hunger Games Official Soundtrack*
7. “Fortune Days” by Glitch Mob
8. “Look After You” by The Fray
9. “Let it Go / Vivaldi’s Winter” by The Piano Guys
10. “Winter Song” by Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson
11. “You Found Me” by The Fray
12. “Learning to Breathe” by Switchfoot
13. “Human” by Christina Perri
14. “I Won’t Give Up” by Jason Mraz
15. “Goodbye My Lover” by James Blunt
16. “Say Something” by A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera
17. “Arms” by Christina Perri

18. "All of Me" by John Legend
19. "Tell Me a Story" by Phillip Phillips

Quiz: Which Character From The Blast Are You?



Many wonder how they would handle an apocalyptic situation. For the characters in Sarah Perlmutter's novel The Blast, they don't need to wonder anymore. Each of them handles the end of the world differently. Which character would you be most like in an apocalypse? Which character from The Blast are you?

<http://uquiz.com/d2iV2r>

When the author took this quiz, she got Isabella, Beatrice's Mom. Who are you?