

LAX

magazine

Holiday Travel

New Hot Spots

Get Cozy in
Palm Springs

Mexico is Stunning
This Time of Year

San Diego
is Calling You

Fantasy Football

What's the story?

Please be kind,
don't put me to waste,
pass me on or put me
back in my place.





PHOTOS: COREY SORIA

START PAYING ATTENTION TO DOLOR

Author Rick Florino creates a horror masterpiece with *DOLOR: Lila* and L.A. artist Kristel Lerman brings the forthcoming sequel, *Chrissy*, to life...

DOLOR: *Lila* | Book 1 is a horror masterpiece. It's one of the most intriguing, poignant, terrifying and sensitive works of art to be produced in decades. The 41-page novella is the first in a series of ten by author Rick Florino [*Do the Devil's Work for Him*]. Florino tells the tale of *DOLOR* — a fictional town that's been burned to the ground. A lone FBI man, Agent Jeffries, is sent to check out the damage. He finds one house standing. It's strangely burned beyond belief outside but completely fine inside. Within the home's walls, he discovers ten diaries. The first pulls him into its story — the tale of *Lila*.

Within *Lila's* pages, the reader experiences the story of Officer Caleb Taylor. He's a DOLOR PD veteran who just lost his daughter in a horrible accident. She drowned in the lake and his wife left him without a trace in the aftermath. Caleb is falling apart. After not sleeping for days, *Lila's* Teddy bear Henry begins speaking to him. Henry's possessed by *Lila's* ghost, and he informs Caleb that there's more to her death than was written in the police reports. With the bear's help, Caleb unearths all kinds of painful memories that eventually point to a horrifying truth. Florino tells the story with the rhythm of a rock n' roll record, and it's impossible to put his book down. It's a heartbreaking, horrifying and honest examination of a damaged psyche, true violence, drug addiction and love unreturned.

About the truthful and harrowing aesthetic of the series, Florino comments, "It's an amalgam of everything that has spoken to me since I was a kid. From Tool and Stone Temple Pilots to *The Crow* and *Casino*, there are emotional resonances from all of my favorite artists, and that's what makes *Dolor* unique."

What makes it really unique is Florino's undeniable writing style. He continues, "It's written in a colloquial, direct fashion. The sentences are short, and you can't put it down. I wanted to get inside people's heads with this first book, and I knew once I had them hooked they'd never want to leave *Dolor*."

Florino released *Dolor* on October 20th via his web site www.bookofdolor.com. It can be purchased there, but it's also available as a free, I repeat "free," download. You can simply enter your email address and get a pdf of this masterpiece. "This is my gift to the world," says the author. "I wanted to give my art to everyone, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

That's an understatement. *Fangoria*, horror tastemaker publication, gave it 3.5 out of 4 stars calling it "One outstanding piece of fiction," while *Bookgasm.com* and *411mania* also lauded the text.

The book also caught the attention of Los Angeles artist Kristel Lerman, who instantly knew she wanted to illustrate the series' next installment, *Chrissy* — due out February 2010 via bookofdolor.com. Kristel's art takes the series to another level with psychedelically entrancing and haunting visuals. About breathing life into *Dolor*, she explains, "When I read *Lila*, I was immediately intrigued. I could not put it down. It was then I realized that I wanted to illustrate the *Dolor* series. Rick's writing style and story evoked a creative visual energy in me. I could connect in a deep way to the characters and the dark and revealing story that unfolded before me."

Kristel's work has adorned downtown galleries and Santa Monica walls. Her work is vibrant and alive. About delving into *Dolor*, she continues, "My art connects very strongly to Rick's words. I believe, as an artist, I was able to execute not only scenes and characters from his book, but could visually interpret the feelings and emotions behind those characters as well. In Rick's writing style, my mind has found the ability to translate exactly what the words mean and apply them visually for the world to see. I became very involved with these characters and was able to intimately get to know them and create the world they live in and the experiences they had. I believe kids will fall in love with *Chrissy*. I know the wild and descriptive nature of the art combined with Rick's amazing story will leave a lasting impression for generations to come." ■

