



Canadian Teen Author S.S.Segran Interviewed by
Lynn Colliar for Global News.



S.S.Segrán on Shaw TV's Go! Vancouver Show



S.S.Segran Interviewed by Ashley Brooks (Ms. Vancouver 2013/2014)
for Vancouver TV

Teen publishes novel, starts company

HER ADVICE?
KEEP WRITING

Jeremy DEUTSCH

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For the most part, Shirin Segrán is a typical teenager.

The 17-year-old Port Moody high schooler likes to hang out with friends and play video games.

But it's her love of story that sets her apart from the average teen.

Three years ago, Segrán set out to write a novel — something she'd wanted to do since early middle school.

A few starts and stops and a full summer of writing later, what came out was a fictional novel called *Aegis Rising*.

As she described her work, the novel is an old-fashioned story about good versus evil with a modern twist.

The book was released in November with an official launch in Port Moody.

A total of 40 copies were sold at the launch, while sales have continued online through Amazon.com as well as at selected Chapters, Coles and independent bookstores.

In a nutshell, the story is about five teenage friends who experience a life-changing adventure in northern Canada when their small plane crash-lands after a freak storm.

Nursed back to health by a mysterious people living in a hidden valley, the friends soon find themselves caught in the grips of an ancient prophecy that foretells the coming of "the chosen ones," even as a malevolent storm gathers in humanity's horizon, threatening its very existence.

Segrán said she came up with the theme out of her love for adventure stories and science fiction.

"I love the concept of creating my own world, and being the lord of that world," she

said.

Just producing a 450-page book during spare time should be enough for any 17-year-old busy with school and the day-to-day life of a teen.

But Segrán is taking her craft to the next level.

She started her own publishing company, INKmagination, and her own non-profit organization, aptly called Aegis League.

The organization raises money for what are called microloans in developing

countries.

These are small loans traditional banks won't offer, but which can help someone start a small business to get on their feet.

The Aegis League has partnered with Street Kids International on the venture, while Segrán is donating all the profits from her book to the society.

It's something she's happy to do.

"Maybe [it can] help them give them the skills they need

and they can make something of themselves," Segrán said.

The busy teen has also spent some time making presentations to aspiring writers in the school system on her own journey as author.

And she has some well-earned advice.

"When you start writing, keep writing," Segrán suggested.

"Don't give up at all. If you really want to do it, finish it."

She noted she needed a few pep talks from her par-

ents along the way to finishing *Aegis Rising*.

As for the future, Segrán want to keep writing, but other than a few short stories as spin-offs to her book on her website, no major novel is being planned in the short term.

"For the moment, I'm pretty happy with how things are going," she said.

For more information about Segrán and her book *Aegis Rising* go to sssegran.com.



Shirin Segrán

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TRI-CITY NEWS



Port Moody author S.S. Segrán, 17, launched her sci-fi adventure novel — as well as a non-profit group — last month at the Old Mill Boathouse. The Heritage Woods secondary student unveiled *Aegis Rising*, which tells the story of five teens involved in a life-altering journey in northern Canada, and the Aegis League to help young people explore their potential. The Nov. 16 event was attended Marily Moseley, the honorary consul for Barbados, and Wilma Bennett-King, the honorary consul for Jamaica, as well as “Colonel R.C. Moody” and his wife Mary Moody (aka David Spence and Donna Otto). *Aegis Rising* is currently available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major online bookstores. — Image Credit: PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sci-fi author visits Maple Ridge

A young sci-fi writer will be at Black Bond books this weekend to promote her first published work.

ERIC ZIMMER/TIMES / MAPLE RIDGE-PITT MEADOWS TIMES
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If you were lost in the woods with a group of your friends, what would you want the adventure to be like?

This is the question teen author Shirin Segran (who goes by the pen name S.S. Segran) asked herself when she sat down to write her first book: Aegis Rising.

"I came up with a story idea where five friends get washed up on the shore of an island after a freak storm separates them from their families on a boating trip," she said.

From there, the 450-page book emerged, telling the story of the survivors of an ancient civilization, who live in a hidden valley in northern Canada, awaiting the "chosen ones."

The plot also involves a secretive corporation with a global reach, led by a shadowy figure who has a dystopian vision for the planet.

An avid reader since childhood, Segran began writing several short stories before embarking on her first full-length novel. In crafting the book's premise, she said she drew ideas from the imagery of the Pacific Northwest, nature, and the human spirit.

Now the 17-year-old Port Moody teen is in the midst of book signings and meet-and-greets. For instance, this Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. she'll be at Black Bond Books in Haney Place Mall, signing copies of her work.

In the midst of it all, Segran is in the throes of finishing high school, and has already started work on her second book.

"I'm planning a series of five books," she told The TIMES.

Each book will build on the previous one and follow the same set of characters through their adventure.

Segran also has a local connection to Maple Ridge, as she is part of the Creative Writers Meetup Group based in town.

Not content to stop there, though, she is also the founder of Aegis League, a non-profit organization, whose goal is to support youth living in places and conditions that "deny them opportunities to grow," Segran said.

The mission of the organization is to provide resources that help youth explore their full potential.

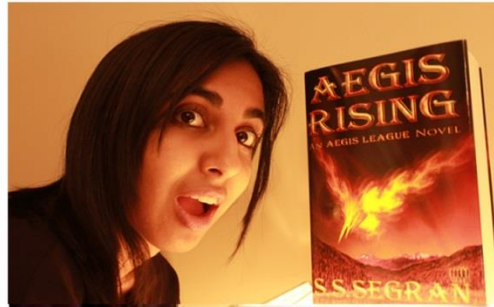
This mission is accomplished through things like life-skills training or micro-loan funding to help them start their own small business, for example.

More information can be found at www.aegisleague.org.

Black Bond books is located at 11900 Haney Place. For more information, people can call the store at 604-463-8624.

Harper's Bazaar

Harper's BAZAAR



GIRL ON FIRE

Barely 18, Malaysian-born Shirin Segran is one the world's youngest science-fiction writers. "Sci-fi lets me explore ideas that are plausible while pushing the limits far enough that it veers into the realm of fantasy, with splashes of philosophical concepts," she says. Her first book, *Aegis Rising*, is based on how she would like an adventure to be if she were in the wilderness. "Ancient civilisations intrigue me, and the potential of the human mind inspired part of the work. The story got clearer as I started to write and kept writing. Ideas would unfold and I could see several paths that led to a set of conclusions – all that was left was to pick which I wanted," Shirin explains. "There's the concept of there being too much darkness in the world as well, and it being better to light a candle than curse at the darkness." While launching her debut novel, she unveiled the Aegis League, a non-profit organisation based on the principle of youth empowering youth. "In my research I came across an article about micro-loans. So was born the Aegis League. The goal is to offer interest-free micro-loans. A portion of the royalty from my book will be donated to the League's fund."

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April 18, 2014

Canadian author: We can make a difference

THERE aren't many teenagers who have a published book under their belt.

Canadian author Sharrin Segran wrote several short stories before embarking on her first full-length novel 'Aegis Rising' at the age of 15.

The book was officially launched at the University of the West Indies, facilitated by the Department of Management Studies and coincided with the launch of her non-profit organisation the Aegis League.

The author, now 17, joined the book launch via Skype and thanked the UWI for its support, par-

ticularly as it relates to the league, which will be housed within the Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED) of the Department of Management Students.

According to Segran, "I found out as I was writing the novel that it takes very little on our part to change the life of another person in another part of the world. I became very intrigued by the idea of a microloan."

"These are loans that are so small that traditional institutions such as banks don't want to be involved in. But imagine a few hundred dollar loan to



(From left) SEED coordinator Ayanna Young Marshall (left) as she accepts a copy of the novel Aegis Rising novel written by S S Segran from Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Vancouver, British Columbia and Marilyn Moseley, Honorary Consul for Barbados in British Colombia during the official launch of the book and the non-profit organisation Aegis League.

a youth in a developing country maybe in Africa, to help him set up his own business can change his life for the better."

"I figure if there are going to be a few people to buy my book, if I can con-

vince them to support the goal of offering interest free microloans a few of us can change a few lives and hopefully it snowball from there," she said.

SEED Coordinator Ayanna Young Marshall

while lauding the initiative and the book, said that the book the author demonstrates the kind of drive and commitment that other entrepreneurs should seek to emulate. The Barbados chapter is

the first outside of Canada.

The author drew from the imagery of the Pacific Northwest, focusing on the journey of five teenagers on an epic adventure.

The rise of Shirin

18-year-old Malaysian writer releases sci-fi adventure novel in Canada

By ELAN PERUMAL
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MALAYSIAN-born Shirin Segran has written a 450-page science-fiction adventure novel entitled *Aegis Rising*.

The book was launched in Port Moody, Canada recently by its mayor Mike Clay.

Shirin, 18, who has been staying in Canada for about 10 years, was in Malaysia on a short holiday and took the opportunity to promote her book.

She said the novel was about the adventures of five school friends who were separated from their families by a freak

storm during a boat trip. "They were washed away on an island and the story begins there.



On the title, Shirin said "Aegis" was a Greek word for the shield used by the god Zeus.

Her penchant for writing additional chapters for every storybook she read, led her to pen a novel.

"I feel sad when a story comes to an end and would pick off from there.

"I took three years to produce this book," she said, adding that her parents as well as teachers and friends had been

very supportive.

The book is available in bookstores in Canada and she is in talks with a Malaysian publisher and book distributor to market the novel locally.

Shirin intends to donate a portion of the royalties received from sales of the book to charity through the Aegis League, which is a non-profit organisation she launched together with her book in November last year.

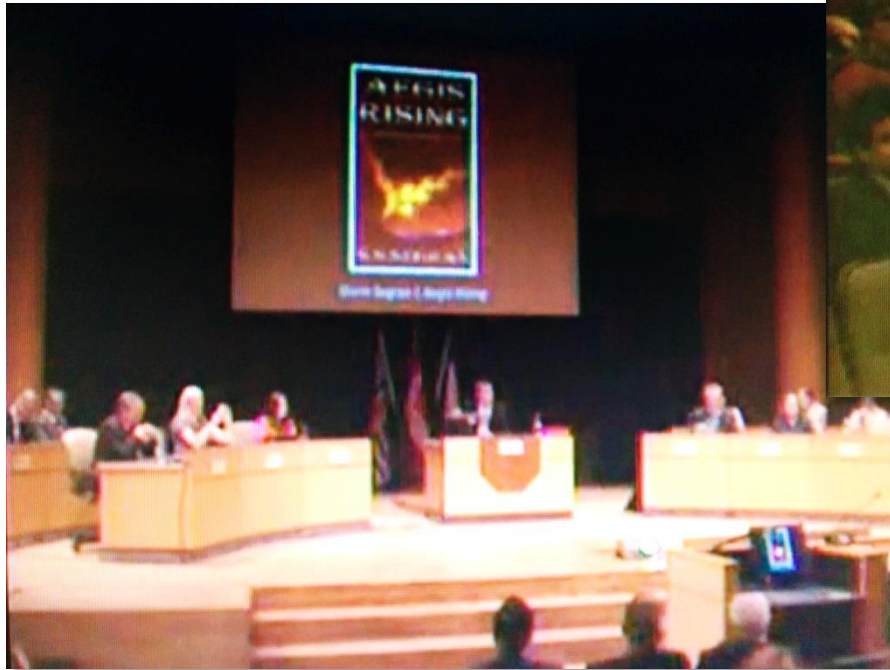
The teenager, who hopes to pursue her studies in entrepreneurship, set up Aegis League to offer microcredit loans to youth from developing countries.

"I want to help them set up small businesses as I know even a small amount can make a big difference," she said.



Budding writer: Shirin showing her novel, which is available on Amazon.

PRESENTATION
TO THE MAYOR AND
COUNCIL OF PORT MOODY



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This is the Book Trailer for AEGIS RISING, an Epic Sci-Fi Adventure Novel by rising teen author S.S.Segran. It's a great story guaranteed to sweep you away on a breathtaking journey! Check it out at www.aegisnovel.com

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CANADIAN TEEN AUTHOR
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