Gerald Locklin Long Beach Writer Relay

Participating authors will be afforded three minutes maximum to share a piece of their book that reflects a slice of Long Beach. Then, the mic time will be relayed to the next author who immediately starts their 3-minute set...and so on and so on.

Recipe: This concise 180 seconds will consist of the following (any order):

1) Greet self to audience

2) Introduce genre of your book

3) Mention slice of Long Beach life depicted

4) Provide context (if necessary)

5) Read excerpt & thank audience

Example: Hey everybody, my name's Max Evans, and this is my fiction novel, *Escape to Butterfly Ave.*For it, I created a subgenre called *Remix Fiction*in which each chapter is an adaptation of different Hip Hop songs blended together to create a cohesive, fresh new narrative. Right now, I will depict the free yoga offered on the bluffs, located on Ocean Blvd and Junipero. This scene occurs during the pandemic era, and the hungover main character is listening to the yoga instructor named Bree as she reflects on her personal experience during Covid. And it goes like this:

I listened to Bree say, "There's enough ugliness in this world. But as bizarre as people have acted out during this era, I've witnessed cars in downtown honking for hospital workers, kennels emptied by adopters, teddy bears in windows for the kids walking pass--I could go on forever.

But that baby I told you about earlier, the one I saw yesterday, her eyes gave me hope. And her dad, who I learned more about today, reaffirmed that the good fight is still happening. I know things will never be the same for us all, but we will get through these days together."

Bree stopped talking.

I unfolded from child's pose and rolled onto my butt. I pinned my feet to the mat and began to flap my legs.

Bree set the mic down. Her arms lifted above her dreads.

"And so I leave you with this!" she yelled. "Remember to look for each other's wings today. While some people show off their feathers at every turn and are always willing to share a helping hand, you have those who leave you feeling exposed. And plucked. But consider this...maybe something in their past defeated them, leaving them defeathered, and all that remains are nubs for shoulders, leaving them barely able to wiggle a shrug.

So, in these closing moments, I want you to conjure someone like that, even if it's for fifteen seconds. And as uncomfortable as this may be, I want you to lift yourself, pushing yourself higher.

We now take this time for you to think: When did that person lose their wings?"

Thank you everyone for being here today and for hearing my work.

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If you are interested in being considered for this unique reading experience, send me a sample of your chosen work and briefly explain what it reflects about Long Beach.

Email to mevans30@ivc.edu or longbeachwritercontact@gmail.com

The last date to submit for consideration is **Thursday, October 16th**.