



Oshkosh Northwestern

LIT WISCONSIN

Appleton author, former **journalist** pens fantasy novel

Keith Uhlig
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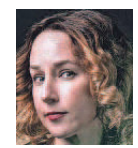
Lit Wisconsin is a sporadic series of stories in which we highlight the work of writers of Wisconsin or those with ties to the state.

Today we meet fantasy fiction author

Sarah Zimm, the pen name of Sarah Zimmerman, who lives in Appleton and whose book “Every Dark Shadow” comes out Aug. 29.

About the author, Sarah Zimm

Zimm is 41 years old, a mom and a part-time senior marketing consultant. She



Zimmerman

grew up in Weyauwega, which she described as “a small town where you can ride your bike end to end and there’s a whole lot of ponds and fields and trees to climb.” She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in 2005

with a degree in journalism. After college, Zimm worked as a lifestyle/entertainment reporter for the Oshkosh Northwestern and the Appleton Post-Crescent. She thinks that background contributed to her fiction writing.

“Every great story is grounded in

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Novel

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truths. Journalism taught me how to find the truth by asking all the questions, observing, reading between the lines and digging deeper into people’s motivations to ask more questions and see the world from different perspectives,” Zimm said. “It isn’t so different with fiction. It’s just, we get to imagine the answers.”

Even though the worlds her writing are imagined, Zimm said they have plenty of real-world Wisconsin influence.

“Wisconsin is a storyteller’s dream, especially growing up in a small town where there were always lakes, streams, fields, farms and woods to disappear to with a notebook,” she said. “I’m a bit obsessed with our beautiful trees, which will be obvious to anyone who reads ‘Every Dark Shadow.’”

About the book, ‘Every Dark Shadow’

Zimm aims for “Every Dark Shadow” to reach young adult and older audiences. Set in a parallel version of New York City in the 1800s, the book follows the adventures of Ophelia Dannan, a magical, fiery and bookish young woman who lives under a spell that causes her to forget each life she lives to protect her from the predatory interests of a king who seeks the “magic born,” Zimm said.

“Ophelia’s journey is unique from characters I’ve read, in that she doesn’t know her true self,” she said. “We’re learning with her, but there are threads of who she is, if you look close — her determination, her fire and her empathy — from the start.”

Zimm said she got the idea for “Every Dark Shadow” from a dream in the middle of the pandemic, when she was often up late with her young son.

“Sleep deprived, I dreamed pretty vividly of a soldier stepping out of an alley to grab a young woman,” she said.

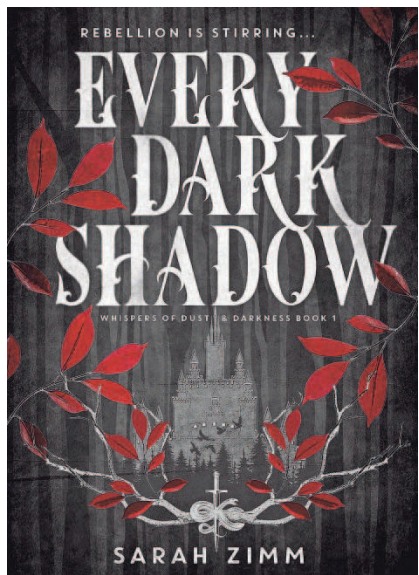
The soldier came across worlds to stop her from entering a factory he knew would burn.

“I was gripped,” Zimm said. “Who were they? How did he know about the fire? ... When I finally had time to work on it, the story unfolded furiously and grew far beyond that dream.”

How to buy ‘Every Dark Shadow’

The book will release on Aug. 29 and is available to order from bookshop.org, barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com. Links to purchase the book also can be found on Zimm’s author website, authorsarahzimm.com.

Contact Keith Uhlig at 715-845-0651 or kuhlig@gannett.com. Follow him at @UhligK on Twitter and Instagram or on Facebook.



The book cover for “Every Dark Shadow.”

PROVIDED BY SARAH ZIMM