

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

YA Novel Starts a Conversation About Teen Relationships After Sexual Abuse

Pasadena, CA – November 24, 2015 – Sex and teenage desire is a taboo topic, but it's even more uncomfortable shrouded in the aftermath of sexual abuse and drug addiction. Ingrid Sundberg's debut young adult novel *ALL WE LEFT BEHIND* breaks the silence and invites readers to start a conversation on this difficult subject.

ALL WE LEFT BEHIND is an evocative and tantalizing debut novel told in alternating first-person narration. For teen couple Marion and Kurt, every kiss unravels memories they would both rather forget. Marion is haunted by childhood sexual assault, while Kurt can't save his sister from meth and escape the guilt surrounding the death of his mother. The reader watches the couple struggle to trust one another and discover what it means to be vulnerable. Explosive together and hollow apart, Marion and Kurt may be totally wrong for each other – or more right than they ever thought possible.

"It's a tumultuous time for sexual awakening in America," says author Ingrid Sundberg. "Our culture views sex in such extremes: Be sexy, but don't be a slut. Find your worth and power through sex, but don't talk about it. Sex is the most intimate experience you can share with someone, but treat it like its worthless and casual. These are real contrasts that young people struggle with today."

Sexual abuse intensifies this landscape of contrasts. How does a teenager deal with her maturing desire in the face of past trauma? Are physical intimacy and emotional intimacy the same thing? How does our culture of silence intensify shame? And can the vulnerability of sharing secrets begin to heal broken relationships? Sundberg invites teens and adults to ask these difficult questions while reading her novel.

Sundberg will happily Skype with book clubs who read *ALL WE LEFT BEHIND* and want to keep the conversation going. In *Daring Greatly*, vulnerability expert Brené Brown says that "shame derives its power from being unspeakable." Sundberg hopes that we can start to take some of that power back by talking openly.

Book club requests to Skype with the author and other media requests may be sent to: ingridsundbergauthor@gmail.com

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ABOUT INGRID SUNDBERG:

Ingrid Sundberg is passionate about stories that look into the shadows of our vulnerability. She believes reading is a safe place to explore the depths of humanity, what we desire, and the secrets we hide. Ingrid holds an MFA in writing for children from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and an MFA in screenwriting from Chapman University. *All We Left Behind* is her first novel. Find her online at: www.ingridsundberg.com

NOVEL INFO:

Title: ALL WE LEFT BEHIND

Author: Ingrid Sundberg

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PRESS PACKAGE:

Author photo, bio, book cover, Simon & Schuster PR info, etc. can be downloaded at: www.ingridsundberg.com/all-we-left-behind-press-package

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