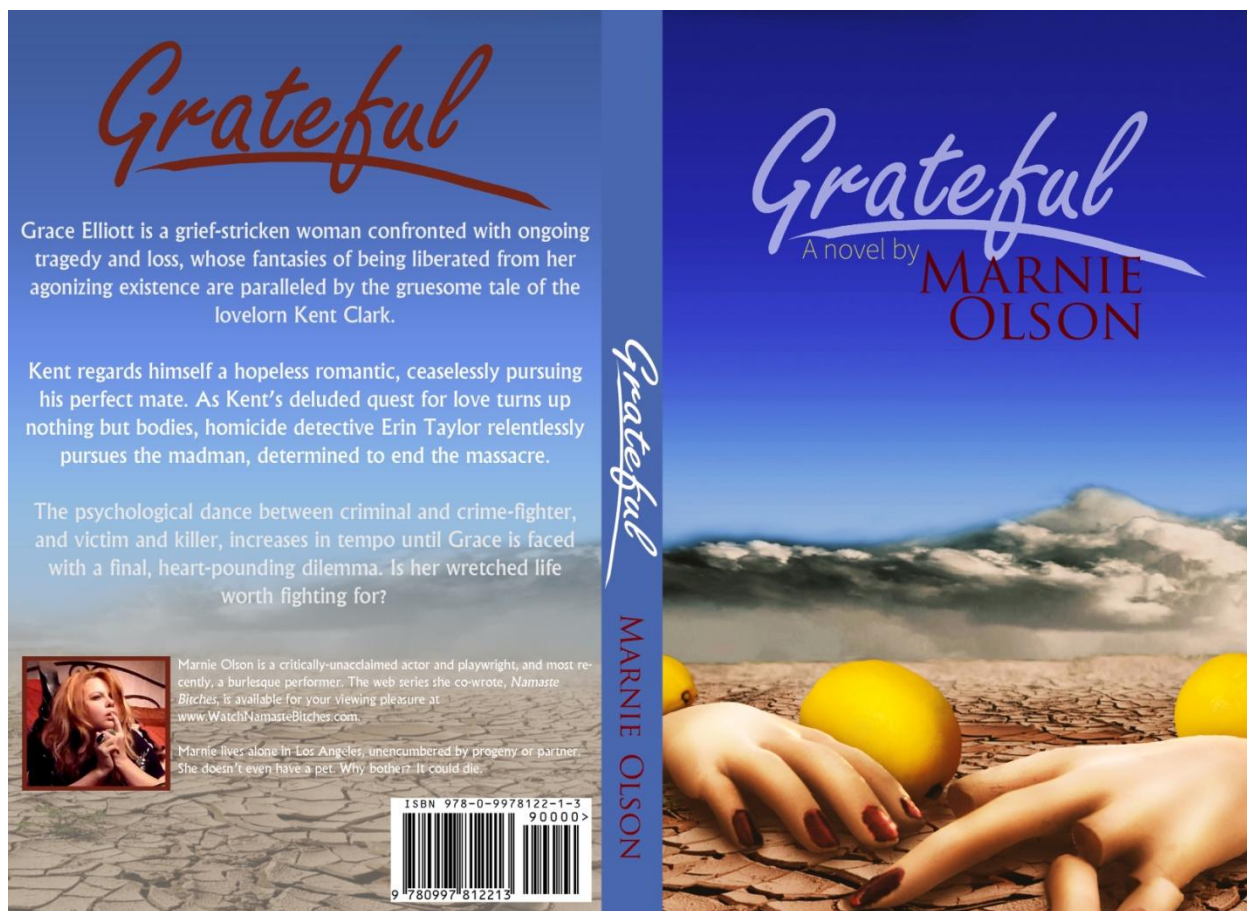


Grateful

A novel by

MARNIE
OLSON





Product details (Paperback)

- **Paperback:** 364 pages
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo by Sam Grant

Marnie Olson is an actor and playwright, hailing from San Antonio, Texas and currently hanging her hat in Los Angeles, unencumbered by progeny or partner.

Marnie co-wrote and co-starred in the award-winning web series, *Namaste Bitches*, which is available for your viewing pleasure on You Tube and at www.WatchNamasteBitches.com. Over twenty of her plays have been produced in Los Angeles, and 2017 will bring three more of her plays to the stage.

Marnie knows how to sew, wield power tools and drive stick shift. If she's not trying, she can make you laugh, and if she is trying, she can drink you under the table. Turn-ons include fishnet stockings, spicy food and brave souls. She loves fake hair colors and hates fake food allergies. Her phobias include spiders and laundromats.

Grateful is her first novel.

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Q&A with Marnie Olson, author of “Grateful”

Where did you get the idea for your most recent book? I’ve always written poetry and plays, but *Grateful* came to me as a novel. The idea came from my own despair. It sounds so melodramatic now, but at the time, my life was in ruins. I was heartbroken in every possible sense of the word. I was beyond depressed. I was consumed by fantasies of my own demise. I wanted to die, but not by my own hand. I didn’t want that kind of responsibility. Grace began to take form as that voice for me. She represented my despair and depression. Kent became my disillusionment with love, and Erin my deep need for justice. These characters carried me through one of the darkest times in my life.

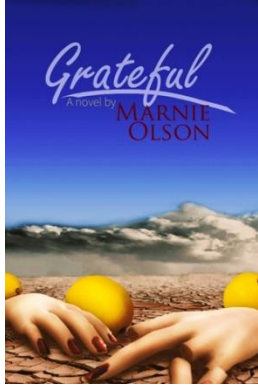
How do you get inspired to write? I don’t think there is a “how” – for me, anyway. It just happens. It usually just hits me. Or it presents itself as a path out of my current circumstances. I’ve been writing so long, I think more than anything else it is a coping mechanism for me.

How do you deal with writer’s block? I don’t deal well with this at all. I take a step back, and work on something else. There are stories that flow out of me so easily. Others, the labor is much more intense. Sometimes I have to move away from it for a while. Write something else. Or paint some furniture. Or clean the bathroom. If the story wants to be told badly enough, eventually it will come out and play.

What’s the best thing about being a writer? The best thing about being a writer... is... um... well, it *sounds* really romantic. As Dorothy Parker once said, “I hate writing; I love having written.” Sometimes, I really do love writing. But often, it makes me crazy. But it’s less embarrassing than being an actress, and I can do it in my pajamas.

What’s your advice for aspiring writers? First of all, never let the Inner Critic stop you from starting. The voice that tells you you’re not good enough, have nothing to say, or that no one cares, is one you have to tell right away to shut up. Second, really let your characters help you. If something feels inauthentic, it probably is. When a character really wants to tell his story, he will. The best writing I’ve done (in my opinion) is writing which felt easier, because the characters did most of the work. They told me the story. Lastly, get feedback from people you trust and then surrender your ego and listen to it. Then work to discern what is helpful from what isn’t. Yes, you will now and again, have to “kill your darlings” as both Faulkner and Stephen King famously said. I’ve gotten some great feedback in my time that meant some of my precious words were headed for the chopping block. I’ve also gotten some terrible advice which, had I taken it, would have derailed the story I was trying to tell. The most important thing is to leave your ego out of it. Ego is a writer’s worst enemy. If you want to become a better writer, you can. But a fragile ego is useless in the journey to become better.

What are you currently working on? I’m currently working on a ghost story. It’s loosely based on true events, but is gradually unfolding to be much more.



What Amazon reviewers are saying about “Grateful” by Marnie Olson...

Raw emotional powerhouse

"Grateful" is both a gore filled metaphor and a twisting labyrinth where self deception is the most dangerous predator of all.

Kent's is a story of physical violence directed outward while Grace's is a story of emotional violence directed inward, but both are stories about the pain of feeling unloved.

Olson delves into the darker side of the psyche

This is a writer to watch.

May or may not have read it in one day :)

It's dark, gritty, and the rawness of Olson's writing is addictive.

...a well written dark mystery with a surprisingly inspiring twist.

one hellava roller coaster ride... one that leaves you holding your breath until the next excruciating drop

...compromised my sleep and personal life because I could not put "Grateful" down!

The characters are relatable and nuanced enough that I found myself laughing even in some of the more somber moments.

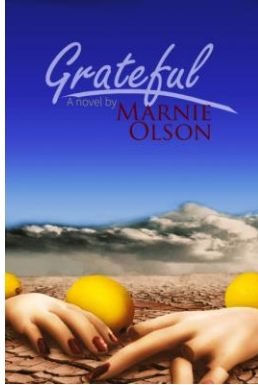
I was compelled to keep turning pages.

This book keeps you up late to see how their worlds collide and what will be left in the aftermath

Olson weaves a nail-biting tale of tragically damaged characters that draws you in and won't let you go until the very last word.

...at times I could feel my own breath become shallow and my heart race

...an engaging thriller and intriguing examination of the broken soul.



PRESS RELEASE

Grateful, a novel inspired by a death wish

Los Angeles, CA, USA 08/01/16

Grace Elliot wished for death. Kent Clark wished for love. Both learn you must be careful what you wish for.

Grace Elliott is a grief-stricken woman confronted with ongoing tragedy and loss, whose fantasies of being liberated from her agonizing existence are paralleled by the gruesome tale of the lovelorn Kent Clark.

Kent regards himself a hopeless romantic, ceaselessly pursuing his perfect mate. As Kent's deluded quest for love turns up nothing but bodies, homicide detective Erin Taylor relentlessly pursues the madman, determined to end the massacre.

The psychological dance between criminal and crime-fighter, and victim and killer, increases in tempo until Grace is faced with a final, heart-pounding dilemma. Is her wretched life worth fighting for?

Grateful is published by RedHeaded Angel Press, RP \$13.95, ISBN 978-0-9978122-1-3, Available on Amazon and Kindle.

Marnie Olson is a playwright and co-creator of the award-winning web series, Namaste Bitches. She hails from San Antonio, Texas and currently resides in Los Angeles. Grateful is her first novel.

Over twenty of Marnie's plays have been produced in L.A. She also works with Imagination Workshop, a theater arts organization committed to using the unique power of the theater to provide life-changing artistic opportunities for at-risk populations.



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Marnie Olson is hoping to schedule a book signing at an independent book store in San Antonio this year.