

SUBJECT: Pitch for *The Devil's Underground*

Dark Academia - Mystery (18+ readership)

comparative titles include *The Secret History*, *Frankenstein*, *If We Were Villains* & *Dead Poets Society*.

Respected Publisher,

In University, lines are often crossed. "Youth is cruel, and has no remorse and smiles at situations which it cannot see" (TS Elliot) In *The Devil's Underground*, four roommates find themselves in a blurry subconscious of their mind. It first begins at the Grayhound festival of Winter 1999 when they inject the town's self founded drug called Garghasa. Although the drug had its typical effects outside, when the four roommates inject it in their Underground basement, they discover a superior essence lingering within their walls. At first, they thought it was simply their hallucination, but then came a time that they did not need Garghasa to feel the demonic deity's presence, it granted them pleasures at the simple cost of their destruction.

Evie was a writer, she saw the demon in her eyes and wrote like a madman when the demon fulfilled her ambitions of letting her confront its wrathful soul for the experience to write a greatest work. For Zora, the pleasure came through understanding, the demon knew she was a clever little girl but soon, would become a slave of the deity's darkness. For Stella, the deity disguised itself as her dead lover and it was only its touch that made her track her sense of reality. Alex was a painter and throughout the days of the deity's possession of these four girls, her paintings would be the only visible remnants left of what sins it would make them commit. Soon, they would forget that such a creature ever existed but the question was: how far would it make them go before it finally let them wake up from a deep blurry sleep of their souls, even though their bodies were somewhere unknown in their reality?

The book is similar to *Frankenstein* in the sense that the "demonic deity" does show human emotions for these four girls. It whispers to them their weaknesses and then helps to protect them from those, though it is all a cover for its ultimate wrath. The atmosphere is similar to *The Secret History*, the roommates attend a prestigious and selective academy, they are obsessive and unique and there's a murder committed that is not remembered clearly by any of them. The passion of the characters for theatre in *We Were Villains*, is also visible in Evie's thirst for writing the darkest and most influential story of all time and Alex's remarkable skills in painting.

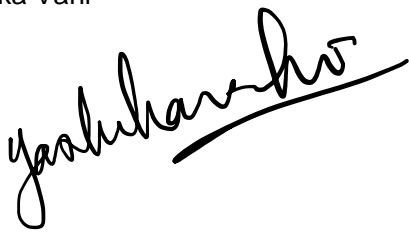
My name is Yashika Vahi and I am a published author of 11 books, ranging from poetry, YA Fiction, Fantasy and play writing. I am obsessed with the idea of making the darkness in life seem poetically aesthetic. It is not just the concept of "evil" that fascinates me but the fact that it is a human nature, a depth of the unexplored human soul. If we can think ruthless and cruel thoughts, our morality is already a flawed perception and to explore these ideas through literature is my greatest passion.

I like to include uncomfortable and unique takes on such concepts and I believe through my raw and honest writing, I can help make people aware that the dark sides of humankind are not something that needs to be ignored, but rather confronted and controlled, no matter how uneasy it might make one feel.

I have attached a sample of three chapters of the book and a synopsis to this email.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yashika Vahi

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "yashikavahi" in a cursive style, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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