EMERGING SCI-FI AND FANTASY WRITER, NELL LEDBETTER LAUNCHES 'THE ELEVATOR SERIES' WITH DEBUT NOVEL, 'THE DRAFT'

Author Nell Ledbetter Brings A New Voice in Science Fiction, Joining a Rising Generation of Black Women Shaping the Genre



Emerging sci-fi author Nell Ledbetter launches "The Elevator Series" with debut novel, "The Draft."

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 17, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Since the age of 12, Nell Ledbetter has been creating worlds in her imagination. She is an author, creative director and visual storyteller who doesn't simply write stories—she brings them to life. Through cinematic book trailers, compelling graphics, digital content and immersive visual concepts, Ledbetter expands the worlds she creates on the page and gives audiences another way to experience her stories.

Now, decades later, that vivid imagination has evolved into a four-book science-fiction saga. The emerging author brings her vision to life with "The Elevator Series," an adrenaline-fueled science-fiction tetralogy that takes readers into a world transformed by mystery, danger and the fight for survival.

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>
> *Nell Ledbetter*

At the heart of the series is a simple premise with extraordinary consequences: What happens when the elevator doors open and everything familiar is gone? An elevator traditionally takes passengers from one floor to another, but Ledbetter uses this mundane, everyday experience as the vehicle into a speculative world that forces us to explore the very depths of human resilience.

In “The Elevator Series,” stepping off the elevator means stepping into a world where nothing is as it seems—and survival depends on discovering whom to trust, finding hope in the face of uncertainty and having the resilience to keep moving forward. For a peek at the series, visit https://www.nellledbetter.com/exploretheelevator

Ledbetter introduces readers into her world, beginning with the first installment, “The Draft,” (Nell Files LLC, on sale October 31, 2025; ISBN: 978-1-970257-01-4 (paperback), 978-1-970257-02-1 (hardback), 978-1-970257-00-7 (eBook); 340 pages; US). Blending science fiction, suspense, mystery and survival, “The Draft” transports readers into a world where everything changes in an instant, danger is around every corner and survival is never guaranteed.

“The Draft” is a gripping story of survival, hope, family, redemption, love, trust and resilience. Four strangers step off an elevator and enter a world they don’t recognize. With no time for questions, the group is thrust into a race for survival—death stalking them at every turn. In a high-stakes, adrenaline-fueled journey through the desolate remains of Los Angeles, the group begins to wonder: Are they the only ones left alive?

It took 20 years for Ledbetter to bring “The Elevator Series” to life—an idea that first came to her during an ordinary workday while riding an elevator after lunch. The concept was so vivid, she rushed back to her desk and immediately wrote down her ideas before tucking them away. For two decades, the concept remained with her, evolving as she experienced life, grew as a writer and discovered new dimensions to the story she had first imagined on that elevator ride. With time and life experience, she began to understand the true nature of “The Elevator Series” and ultimately fleshed the original idea into a four-book science-fiction saga.

The first installment of the series, “The Draft,” introduces readers to a world where survival is uncertain, trust is tested and hope becomes essential. The tetralogy will continue with three additional books – “The Landing,” “The Lift” and “The Transfer.” “The Landing” is expected to drop this fall.

In creating “The Elevator Series,” Ledbetter says representation matters. She wanted Black readers, especially women, to see themselves in these stories and know that there is a place for them in every genre, including science fiction. Black female authors have historically been underrepresented in the science-fiction and fantasy genres, making the emergence of new voices like Ledbetter especially significant.

“I’ve always loved science fiction, action, fantasy, and adventure stories, but growing up, I rarely saw or read heroes who looked like me,” she said. “Without realizing it, at my young age, I began writing myself into stories—original and fan fiction—because I wanted to see myself occupying the kinds of heroic roles I admired in characters like Ripley and Sarah Connor. That desire to see myself reflected in epic adventures has remained a driving force behind my work.”
For Ledbetter, “The Elevator” is about more than science fiction. It is about creating characters and stories that invite readers to see themselves in extraordinary circumstances—and to

consider what is possible when survival, hope, love, trust and resilience are put to the ultimate test.

For more about “The Elevator Series,” visit NellLedbetter.com.

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