



# MEDIA KIT

## RAIN CITY LIGHTS

*"A grungy tale of addiction, murder and love."*

### Author Bio:

Marissa Harrison is the author of her debut novel, *Rain City Lights*. She's also an avid reader, and loves both romances and mystery/thrillers. Her favorite stories to read combine both genres, and tend to be either love stories with a lot of grit or intense crime stories with a dash of romance.

In her spare time she enjoys running, hiking, dramatic miniseries' and a great glass of wine. She lives in Seattle with her husband and four guinea pigs.



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# SELLING SHEET

## Synopsis:

Rain City Lights combines elements of mystery, romance and coming-of-age. Readers who enjoyed *Where The Crawdads Sing*, *All the Ugly and Wonderful Things* and *Speaking of Summer* might enjoy *Rain City Lights*.

*Short:* A serial killer hunts prostitutes in Seattle during the summer of 1981, and Monti Jackson flirts with a life on the streets while trying to navigate the mysteries of true love.

*Full:* "Sometimes you make so much history with someone, the present just don't make sense."

In the summer of 1981, a serial killer preys on black, teenage prostitutes working Seattle's arterial highways. But the eyes of youth are blind to danger, and Montgomery "Monti" Jackson is distracted by her own problems. She'll be starting high school soon, and the return of her mother's boyfriend heightens the tension in her fractured household.

To add to her worries, Monti fears she may be in love with her best friend Sasha. But as close as they'd once been, now they couldn't feel further apart. Sasha is a burnout punk rocker, and has befriended the neighborhood drug dealer. And when an eviction notice is posted on Monti's door, a strange dynamic forms between them.

One night, an altercation leaves her family penniless. So Monti turns to the very streets where a killer stalks and ensnares young women, beginning her journey towards understanding one, simple truth - sometimes your only choices in life are to love and survive.

*Rain City Lights* is a gritty, urban love story that explores how poverty, addiction and abuse is passed from one generation to the next.

## Publication:

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Availability: Ingram | Amazon | Kobo | Barnes & Noble | Apple Books

## Purchase Links:

Apple Books: <https://books.apple.com/us/book/rain-city-lights/id1523385267>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Rain-City-Lights-Marissa-Harrison/dp/1734435704>

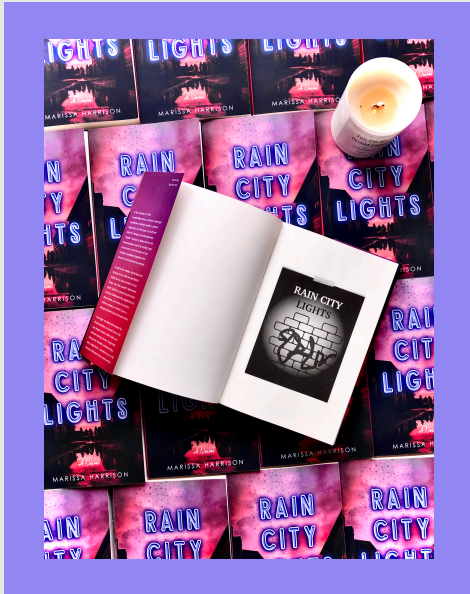
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# IMAGES





## SAMPLE Q&A

### **Where did you get the idea to write *Rain City Lights*?**

One night my husband and I were watching old SNL episodes when I saw a clip of Nirvana after they'd just performed. I honed in on Kurt Cobain and wanted to know everything about him, which started my research into Seattle during the 80's, and particularly the explosion of Grunge. It was a very nostalgic experience for me. I was born in the 80s and had older brothers, so I was exposed to a lot of the pop culture of the time while lacking the maturity to develop any type of meaningful understanding of it. Consuming the pop culture drove me to true crime books from the 80s and I learned about Ted Bundy, The Green River Killer and the I-5 Killer. Learning about these killers led me to the issue of teenage runaways during that time period. And throughout this research I began to make connections back to some of my own experiences as a minority, and learned about the history of racism in the Pacific Northwest. Over time and after many painful iterations I came up with my characters, two best friends, one black, one white, coming of age through difficult times in Seattle.

### **What was it about Grunge that interested you?**

It was really inspiring to me to learn that a group of unknown artists could exact so much influence. I'd grown up believing that to make it as an artist would require relocating to someplace like New York or Los Angeles. And though I'd heard "Man in the Box" thousands of times, I never bothered to learn the story behind the music. Probably because I thought it was played out by the time I became a teenager. But I'm glad I missed the party, because I learned the truth about Grunge at the time when I needed it the most. I had aspirations to be an author, but felt like I couldn't because I didn't have a degree or industry connections. So the story behind the Grunge Movement really moved me. To me, it was a story about a group of societal underdogs who shunned convention and created something that spoke to their community. And in doing so, they created a new sound that, in my opinion, was pretty awesome. I thought that if a modest guy from Aberdeen could become the world's biggest rock star, then I could most definitely write a novel, regardless of whether I had a degree in Creative Writing.



## SAMPLE Q&A

### **How did you come up with your protagonist? What do you like about her?**

I created Monti Jackson because I didn't know how to get through my story. I had Sasha, who was based off the culmination of research I'd done about the Seattle musicians of the early and late 80s. But I realized that he couldn't be my protagonist, because I didn't have anything new to say about his journey. I realized the reason I was stuck was because I needed to write a character that I could relate to, one that I could admire, one who had the most to lose, and the most to gain. One of the things that struck me during my research was the fact that the Seattle area was never free of systemic racism like I'd grown up believing, in part because that history was never taught when I was in school. I looked up articles particular to the issues the Black Community faced, and in doing so I gleaned some insight into my own experiences as a youth. I saw the intersect of addiction and how it has harmed the Black community in a specific way, how it's accepted and even glamorized in certain aspects of pop culture, and how it affects the homeless and vulnerable communities. I thought of Monti and how her story would look as she navigated these issues, and what a struggle that would be. So my favorite thing about Monti is that she's fierce in the face of adversity. She does and says the things I wish I had the courage to do and say, and does so without apology.

### **What makes your novel relevant today?**

My goal with this story was to show how the effects of racism, abuse and poverty are passed to the next generation until the cycle is broken. But breaking that cycle isn't easy, and not everyone is able to do it on their own. And it's especially hard when there is a 400-year-old system that is still operating on oppressive principles. I believe now, with Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter Movement, it is all the more apparent how vital empathy and knowledge is to our community, which is something even Monti must learn in order to find the happiness and stability she is looking for.