Local author’s book reviewed by New York Times

Founds to sign copies of new book

By ALEX VICARS-HARRIS
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WATSONVILLE — Cabrillo College instructor Kathleen Found is receiving high praises for her newest publication, “When Mystical Creatures Attack!,” including a glowing review from The New York Times.

“I was thrilled to be reviewed,” Found said. “...and pretty surprised.”

The book is set in Texas, where high school teacher Ms. Freedman suffers a nervous breakdown and is committed to an insane asylum. From the institution, Ms. Freedman corresponds with former students Janice and Cody to continue their work writing essays where mystical creatures resolve the greatest sociopolitical problems of the modern era.

Founds spent time living in South Texas as a dropout prevention counselor at a local middle school, but still draws some scenes from downtown Watsonville.

“For instance,” Found said, “a character walks home past the bakery that sells quinceanera cakes, the discount video place, the wedding supply store displaying grey-skinned mannequins swathed in gauze. That’s Watsonville.”

Founds credits Watsonville Library as her inspiration from a young age, checking out a fresh stack of books each week and attending various summer reading programs.

“The library helped me become a voracious reader and introduced me to some of my favorite writers,” she said.

“A good metaphor for my writing approach is the quilt,” Found said. “When I have enough pieces, I can sew them into a story. Once I have enough stories, I can sew them into a novel.”

“When Mystical Creatures Attack!” is available at Crossroads Books, 1935 Main St. in Watsonville, and Bookshop Santa Cruz, 1520 Pacific Ave. in Santa Cruz, as well as any online book retailer. Founds will be hosting a book signing at Crossroads on Jan. 31 from 1-3 p.m. and promises to inscribe your favorite mystical creature into your book upon purchase. Free T-shirts will also be given to the first five people to purchase a book.