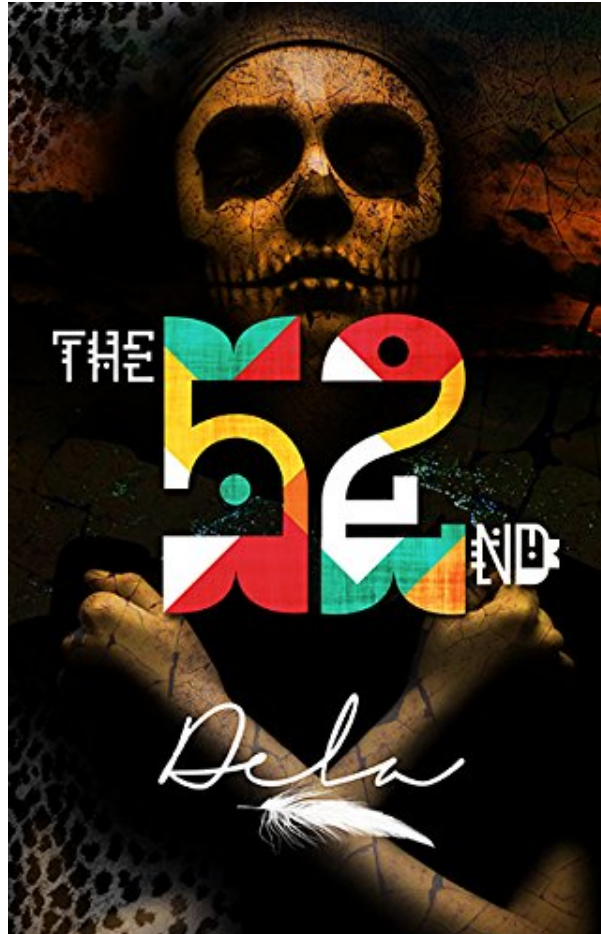
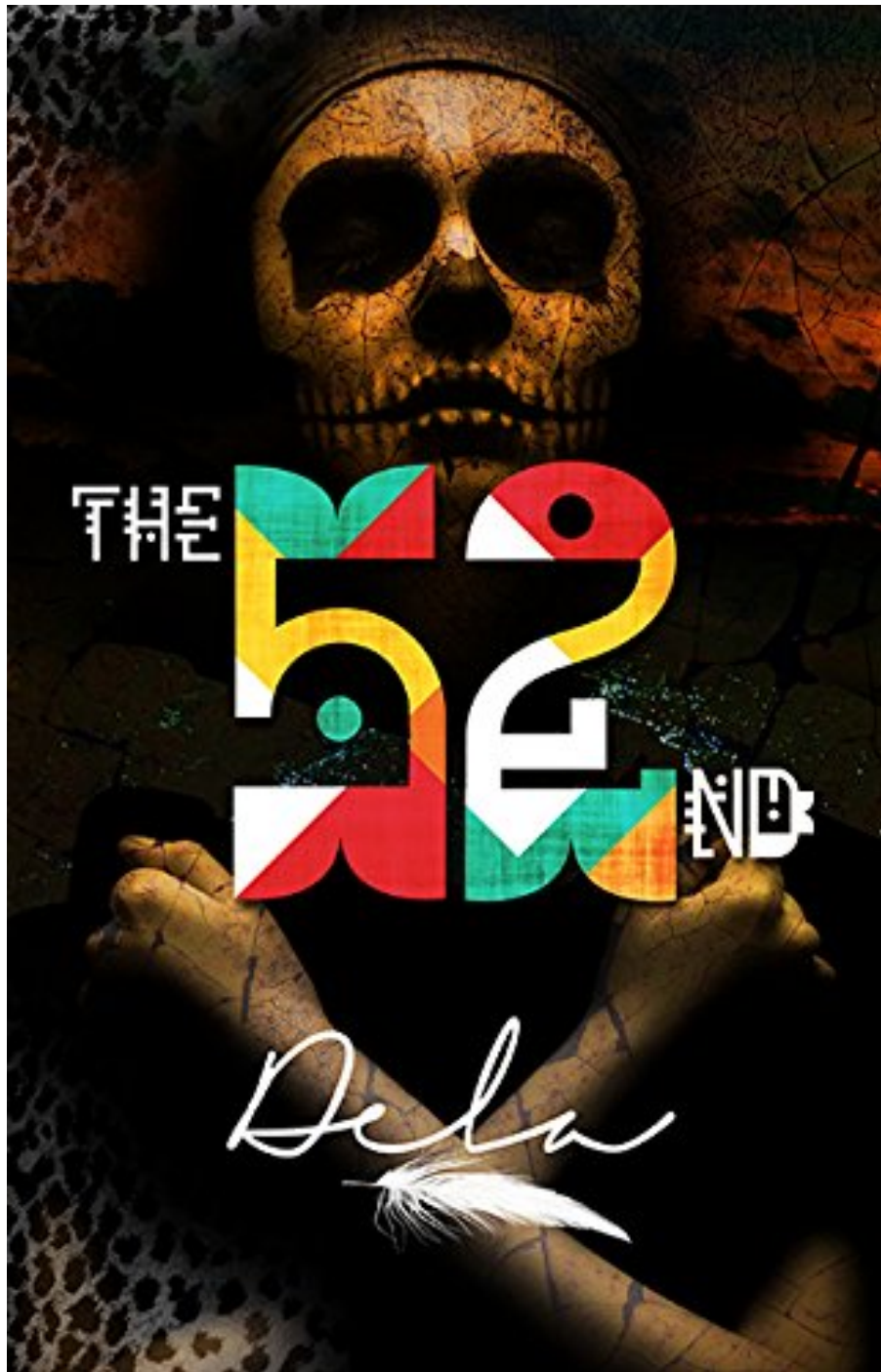


THE 52ND BY DELA



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About the Author

Dela is the debut author of THE 52ND saga. Before tracing the minds of Aztecs gods with her writing, Dela worked as a paralegal and could be found snowboarding at Brianhead, Utah. She currently lives in Las Vegas with her husband, three kids, and two exceptionally fat Chihuahuas. Her website is delaauthor.com

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Not one of the sacrifices chosen over the long history had survived--until now.

On the tip of the Yucatan peninsula, the immortal Castillo family gathers in Tulum. Weary and haunted, they receive the names of fifty-two human sacrifices chosen once every fifty-two years for the Underworld, a tradition thought to have disappeared with the fall of the Aztec and Mayan empires.

Driving home one night, college freshman Zara Moss swerves to avoid hitting a ghastly figure in the road. Lucas Castillo witnesses the car crash, but when it comes time to supervise her abduction from the wreckage, he intervenes. Something is different about Zara: Lucas has been having dreams of her arrival for five hundred years.

As Lucas and Zara come together to put an end to the bloody sacrifices, they discover that the ancient tradition isn't so easily broken. The gods are angry, and they have until the Winter Solstice to drag Zara to the Underworld.

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Magical

By linwe04

Once I picked up *The 52nd* I could not put it down. I wanted to know what was going to happen and how everything was going to play out. Dela did an amazing job with the characters and bringing them to life. The whole time I was rooting for both Lucas and Zara.

Lucas was such a strong hero. His family was a big part of this story also. They really tied in everything that was happening. You learn about his history and what he and his family are. I don't want to give away too much on Lucas and his family. Their story is pretty interesting and very well thought out.

Zara was also a strong character. She never gave up even with everything that was happening. Her life was pretty much turned upside down and changed. She never gave up though. I like that she never really whined about what was happening. She went along with it and took everything as it came.

There were times in the book that I was at the edge of my seat. I love when authors write such great books that are able to keep me going. This one defiantly had my attention the whole time. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure and history with their romance. I can't wait to read more of Dela's books. *The 52nd* is defiantly going on my reread list.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A bit of a let down...

By Amazon Customer

The premise of this book was so promising and exciting, but I felt there are so many things that kept this book from living up to its potential. I want to break this review up into two parts of things I liked and things I didn't like, because there were definitely some great qualities to this book but the not-so-good qualities effected my overall enjoyment of the book. I'd like to thank the publisher for sending me this book in exchange for an honest review.

Things I liked: The Aztec and Mayan mythology. I learned a lot about the Aztec and Mayan cultures in this book and I wish the story had focused more on this because I thought the story was super unique because of it. This unique element to the story made me interested enough to keep reading

I definitely thought Dela's writing was satisfactory. Marginally better than most debut authors. The book is fast paced and has a good amount of action scenes. I thought these were believable and well-written.

Things I didn't like: I have found that whether or not I am going to enjoy a book can be predicted in the first three chapters. The beginning of a book is essentially the author trying to convince a reader to keep going. After the first three chapters of *The 52nd*, I wasn't sure I wanted to keep going. Although the sacrifice rituals were explained better later in the book, I was so, so lost in the beginning. This could have been fixed by explaining the mythology a bit clearer in the beginning to make the reader feel like a part of the world, and to pull them in.

The protagonist, Zara, was so whiny and rude I couldn't stand it. Her parents buy her a car (a used one, but still) and all she can do is think how embarrassing the car looks. So ungrateful. She is also hot and cold with Lucas, the immortal being that saves her from her death. One second she can't stand him, and the next she's gushing over him. I also am not the biggest fan of Lucas. My first impression of him was that he gets too angry, too easily. I soon found that most of the character's emotions were exaggerated throughout the book. He was also super creepy, in a borderline stalker kind of way.

My biggest issue with this book was that I felt like I was reading *Twilight* all over again, and trust me, I was not ecstatic about that. The immortal family, the fragile girl, the (completely random and unrealistic) love triangle, all scream *Twilight*. But if *Twilight* is your thing, I totally recommend this book.

In the beginning of the book, Lucas is first described with blonde hair but then only a few pages later he has dark brown hair. I even went back to check, thinking I had just misread. This may seem like a small issue, but it contributed to my confusion of the characters and plot. I would get an image in my mind of what the events in the book looked like but then it would get muddled with new information.

I hope I don't sound too critical of this book, because I did find myself enjoying some parts of it, but I can't even pinpoint them because there were too many things that clouded my appreciation.

I really look forward to seeing if Dela writes any more books, and I hope in the future she will trust her own ideas (like the uniqueness of the Aztec and Mayan mythology!) rather than yield to the cookie cutter YA novels.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A mysterious Urban Fantasy novel

By Annika

Take a look at that cover, guys!

Honestly, at first it was the fantastic cover art that snagged my attention. Then I read the blurb and I was done for. I had to read this book and I was so thrilled when the publisher granted me an ARC.

The characters:

Zara, in whose POV the story was told for the most part, was an alright heroine. She was mature enough, the rambling thoughts were kept to a minimum, and there were no TSTL moments to speak of. She was the ordinary girl almost anyone would be able to identify with, which made her a likable but rather boring female lead. There were times I wanted to strangle her for taking Lucas's s*** and forgiving him so easily all the time, but to be honest, for the longest time, I wasn't really invested in their love story, so overall, I didn't care too much.

Lucas, well... For the first half of the book, I disliked him. He was one of those "I want you, but since I can't be with you, I'll just treat you like crap and pity myself afterwards because you don't like me" kind of heroes, and that really irked me. Reading some chapters in his POV did help ease my dislike a bit, and helped me warm up towards him some more, but he kept disappointing as a character throughout most of the book. Surprisingly, I did end up liking him after finishing it, though.

There was such a huge number of secondary characters. Boy, did they confuse me. Quite a few characters didn't have any real purpose, like Zara's friends and friends' friends, other than confuse me even more. Some were introduced once in the beginning and we were supposed to remember them 90% into the story without any reminder what their story was. But, there were also some side characters that were awesome additions (I was particularly fond of Zara's older twin brothers, Casey and Max).

All in all, though, there were just too many names, too many stories connected to them, and I had a hard time remembering all of them.

The plot:

I freaking loved the story, the Mayan and Aztec history and mythology, its originality, the fantastically intriguing world building. I was so into it. I've never read anything like it, and, to be honest, I didn't have any knowledge about old Mesoamerican civilizations that goes beyond what I picked up randomly in the almost 30 years of my life - which really isn't much. Even though I felt a little overwhelmed by all the information given to me in the beginning, mainly the first chapter in Lucas's POV, I felt engrossed from the get-go.

The Mayan mythology with its tight link to astronomy and astrology, the civilization's bloody past, sacrifices and wars... The book made me want to know more about it. Great job!

If I had to rate that part of the book separately, I'd give it 5 stars without thinking twice about it.

The love story:

Well, the romance had a very twilighty feel to it, and I wouldn't exactly consider myself a Twilight fan. I found the characters to be more realistic and a lot less cheesy, but it was pretty obvious where the author got her inspiration from.

Apart from that, there was a lot (and I mean a lot) of push and pull, but I did feel the chemistry, longing and frustration between the two love birds. It took me a while, but in the end I found myself rooting for their love to be enough and for them to overcome their obstacles, and again, Lucas's POV helped a lot with that.

The writing:

Technically, the writing was really good, and I see a lot of potential for the future.

I did have some issues with the pacing, though. There were descriptions that were far too extensive, while some scenes felt rushed when I would have loved to read some more detail. Considering the novel's length of more than 400 pages, it's quite an achievement to make the story feel rushed.

Final thoughts:

Though there were times when I got a little annoyed or confused by the characters, the vast amount of information, or the imperfect pacing, I ended up quite enjoying this book. Especially given the fact that this was Dela's debut, it was a totally decent read that made me want to read the continuation, too.

ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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