

## Writing Magic Creating Stories That Fly

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### Our Story Begins

Whether you dream of writing a book for children or young adults, or you want to take a finished manuscript to the next level, it always helps to get a fresh point of view. Try a SECOND SIGHT. In this collection of talks, a professional editor offers insights from the other side of the publishing desk on a wide range of writerly topics: \* Terrific first lines and how they got that way \* What makes a strong picture book manuscript \* Why the Harry Potter series was such a tremendous success \* Finding the emotional heart of your story \* Worksheets and checklists for building characters and bolstering plot \* The Annotated Query Letter from Hell \* And an Annotated Query Letter That Does It Right With its wit, intelligence, and practical tools for analyzing and revising your work, SECOND SIGHT will be a first resource for writers of children's and young adult fiction. This book has not been endorsed or approved by J. K. Rowling or any of her publishers or representatives, and all thoughts expressed here on all matters, including the Harry Potter series, are solely my own, and should not be taken as the official opinions, intentions, or interpretations of any of the writers or publishers mentioned.

### Ella Enchanted

Gavin is an ordinary boy with problems like everyone else, when he finds himself in an extraordinary situation and facing the fight of his life. People are calling him Gawain and sending him on a medieval quest. How has he found himself on a horse when he has never ridden one before? How come he has a sword in his hand and terrifying creatures bearing down upon him? He seems to have slipped through into another universe. But can he win the battle of Good against Evil, and can he save the land of Unor I and more importantly, can he save himself?

### Writing Magic

This is a humorous and authoritative book that will awaken the author in every child, unlocking their story ideas and giving them hints and tips to create their own stories. For children aged 13 and under, this book is written in a fun, engaging, and inspirational style which will help all readers to see themselves as writers and help them to achieve their creative writing goals. It is ideal for home and schools, primary and lower secondary. The book is authoritative, linked to the curriculum requirements, but not intimidating. From how to write for your audience or for a specific purpose, how to overcome writer's block, how to write in different genres, to what words to use to best effect, this book gives children the tools they need to make writing an enjoyable experience. It is filled with tips on how to use wonderful and weird words, invent new words, and write powerful sentences using metaphors, similes, idioms. Children will soon be creating stories that will stay with the writers and readers forever.

### **Creating Magic**

Boundaries is a disturbing story about the blurred lines between love and betrayal, freedom and control, fantasy and treachery, good and evil, past and future. Diane Alders is a successful, workaholic sales executive in the medical field who has a void in her heart as a result of the tragic death of her husband seven years ago. Mickey Rollins is a genius and entrepreneur about to introduce a revolutionary new therapy that will 'repair' injured or impaired brains. Their sputtering romance hits full speed when Mickey invites Diane to accompany him on a lavish and bizarre vacation to the exotic South Seas intended to stretch their senses, fulfill wild dreams, and bring them closer together. Disaster strikes, and it is Diane who becomes Mickey's first human test subject. There's a catch...the healing process requires a surrogate, and Mickey chooses their mutual friend, lover and temptress—the beautiful Suki. The resurrection of Diane that transpires is not only a transfer of physical and cerebral attributes, but a blending of relationships, feelings, and emotions, drawing many into the fray, ending as shockingly as it begins.

### **Ogre Enchanted**

What does a henchman do to change jobs? How does a universal translator deal with hand-to-hand combat? Where do the super-powered get their uniforms cleaned? There's a short story for each of these and more. This collection of stories is full of quick to read stories and cover the other aspects of super-powered life. Who cleans up after super fights? What if a teammate is fed up and wants to change sides? Tired of the clichéd heroes? Peel the pages of this book and get lost in different lives. Try the sample and see if Super Shorts fit you.

### **Immortal Slumber**

Winner, New Apple 2017 Official Selection for Fantasy Finalist, Independent Author Network Book Of The Year Kingdoms were lost, and races forgotten. Across the countless span of time, a threat rises, heralding the end of man's rule and laying to waste those who defiled its mistress. It is known as the Severaine: a power that could bring even the Gods themselves to their knees. Our heroes had been tasked to save the world, yet by their hand it was plunged into peril. But fate will not relinquish its hold on the ones who are chosen. Creatures once forced into slumber rise, their cries heralding a new dawn as the Severaine awakens. Its sole purpose is to purge and remake the world. To stop such a power seems impossible. As paths once closed reopen, whispered tales speak of hope but only to those willing to listen. NOTE: This is the large print edition of The Severaine, with a larger font / typeface for easier reading.

### **The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre**

Bestselling author of Ella Enchanted and fairy-tale master Gail Carson Levine helps you make magic with your writing! In Writing Magic, Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine shares her tricks of the trade. She shows how you can get terrific ideas for stories, invent great beginnings and endings, write sparkling dialogue, develop memorable characters—and much, much more. She advises you about what to do when you feel stuck—and how to use helpful criticism. Best of all, she offers writing exercises that will set your imagination on fire. With humor, honesty, and wisdom, Gail Carson Levine shows you that you, too, can make magic with your writing.

### **Second Sight**

From award-winning author Elissa Brent Weissman comes a collection of quirky, smart, and vulnerable childhood works by some of today's foremost children's authors and illustrators—revealing young talent, the storytellers they would one day become, and the creativity they inspire today. Everyone's story begins somewhere... For Linda Sue Park, it was a trip to the ocean, a brand-new typewriter, and a little creative license. For Jarrett J. Krosoczka, it was a third grade writing assignment that ignited a creative fire in a kid who liked to draw. For Kwame Alexander, it was a loving poem composed for Mother's Day—and perfected through draft after discarded draft. For others, it was a teacher, a parent, a beloved book, a word of encouragement. It was trying, and failing, and trying again. It was a love of words, and pictures, and stories. Your story is beginning, too. Where will it go?

### **The Fairy's Return and Other Princess Tales**

A compass is a very helpful tool—as long as its wielder knows the direction he wants to go. This wasn't often the case in the sixties in America, when many felt directionless, with an unpopular war that had the country's moral compass spinning.

"Hope Points North" is a coming-of-age experience that takes place on Long Island during this turbulent period. Of the three boys, Chris McKellar is the conventional one of the group-the glue that binds the troubled Teddy and smart, introverted Charlie together. The story is Chris's adult recollection of the time when he, Teddy, and Charlie decide to travel on their own to Grumman Aerospace Company, the builders of the Lunar Excursion Model-the craft that will eventually deliver man to the moon. Just as the boys embark on their journey, the dark-hearted preacher Lovejoy ambushes them. Teddy's grandpa has amassed a secret fortune, but it's no secret to Lovejoy, who is seducing Teddy's mother and will do anything to get the money. But the boys resist the preacher's attack in a way that leaves him dead in the creek or so they think. In shock, they follow their compass, toward the fraternity of hopes, dreams and, unsuspectingly, manhood.

### **A Ceiling Made of Eggshells**

There's nothing wrong with Wilma Sturtz. She's perfectly nice. But nobody cares about nice at Claverford, her middle school. Wilma is left out, forgotten, ignored -- until she meets an extraordinary old lady who grants a wish: for Wilma to be the most popular kid in school. Presto! Everything changes. Now Wilma has more best friends than she can keep track of and forty dates to the Graduation Night Dance; and someone is writing her love poetry. What more could she want? Nothing! But will it last? How can Wilma make sure she is never unpopular again? From Gail Carson Levine, author of the Newbery Honor book *Ella Enchanted*, this modern-day fairy tale shows a very real girl in a very unusual predicament, and along the way it reveals some painful truths about whether or not we really want to be liked for who we are.

### **Ace Your Creative Writing Project**

Bestselling author of *Ella Enchanted* and fairy-tale master Gail Carson Levine shares her secrets of great writing in this companion to the popular *Writing Magic*. Have you ever wanted to captivate readers with a great opening, create spectacular and fantastical creatures, make up an entire country, realize a dastardly villain, write an epic love story, or make your characters leap off the page? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Gail Carson Levine can help you achieve your goals. Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine offers a behind-the-scenes take on writing and teaches you how to become a world-class author. Drawing from her popular blog, Gail answers readers' fiction- and poetry-writing questions and dives into how to make a story come alive. If you're interested in writing prose and poetry or just want to be a better and more rounded writer, this book will help you on your creative journey. With her trademark humor and vast writing knowledge, Gail Carson Levine reveals the tricks of her trade, writer to writer. Supports the Common Core State Standards

### **The Severaine**

Jerry D Young was born at home, in Senath, Missouri July 3, 1953. At age 5 the family rented a small farm house on an active farm 40 miles southwest of St. Louis. While the family weren't farmers, they lived something of a homestead type life, raising a milk cow, sometimes two, and calves, a pig or two, chickens, and the occasional goat. Along with the stock, a large garden helped to feed Jerry's three brothers and two sisters for several years. Fishing and hunting contributed to the pantry, as did foraging the wild edibles on the property. At the age of 14, the family, minus a brother and two sisters that were now adults and on their own, moved back to Senath. Having been encouraged from an early age to read, Jerry was a regular patron of the Senath Branch Library. A love of a good story was born within him, and shortly before graduating high school, for a lack of stories that he liked at the library, he began to write short vignettes, and started taking notes for stories that he wanted to tell. Well, a full life interceded, and the writing didn't resume for several years. But while working a job with a much free time, and the then newfangled home computer, Jerry began to write in earnest. With the occasional gap in the process, Jerry continued to research and write, never believing he could ever be published. But when he turned 50, he wanted a change in his life, left the job he was doing and began focusing on his writing. When he became ill, the writing stopped, but not the inspiration. When he started writing again, in 2004, after getting the medical problems under control, he began to read some on-line stories dealing with emergency preparedness, one of his other loves. The die was cast. Now with over a hundred of the vignettes and short stories about how to survive disasters written, along with his other novels, Jerry decided to go for broke, adding one of his previous works every few days to his list of stories now available, Jerry continues to write, both the Prep/PAW stories, as well as action adventure with a little romance type stories that first got him started.

### **S.C.A.R.S**

"A wide range of effective writing techniques are outlined and reinforced throughout the book, with suggested "anchor books" for each lesson. The fundamentals of the writing process and the "6 Traits" are integrated into this unique examination of how developing an awareness of the readers' thinking can influence and affect a student's ability to write."--Publisher.

### **Stolen Magic**

"Crivvens! The Master Sweet Smith has died, and with her, so has the production of desserts the animals of the Bewhiskered Lands so enjoy. But who is to fill the Master Sweet Smith's empty apron? The magic pancake pan declares the name Boomish K. Sullivan. Now Desdemona, a mouse with a mission, must find Boomish and bring him to the islands before the desserts run out. But Boomish, an orphaned, orange cat has more swagger than sense. And to make matters worse, the villainous pirate Blackpaw has her own plans for the pan. Now with sweets running out, will Boomish be able to look past his

own whiskers and discover the true meaning of friendship in time to bring desserts back to the Bewhiskered Lands?"--Back cover.

### **A Journey to the Four Kingdoms**

Elyse Crawford's world turns upside down on her 18th birthday. She uncovers a secret that will change how she views the world around her, and those closest to her. She was raised believing her birth parents died in a car crash, until a vision quest shows her the truth. She is the descendant of the first witch to ever take on the Council and live to tell the tale, Seraphina Crawford. Now that her true heritage is exposed, and she receives more power than any other, she is a target for those who wish to take them from her. With the help of her friends, and her protector/boyfriend, Chadwick Crain, Elyse will learn to use her gifts and hopefully save her life. Completing the Blood Rite ritual is first and foremost. Once that is done, whomever is after her must admit defeat. Or do they? This is the first book in a five book series for YA readers. Other books in this series: Power Surge Collision of Fate The Covenant Want a more in depth view into the Crawford lineage? Check out The Blood Rites Trilogy; Blood Rites Turning the Stone The Fate's Seal

### **Boomish and the Magic Pancake Pan**

There she was, chartreuse and warty and smiling at him. Such a nice smile. Something in his heart fluttered. The young maiden, Parsley, will eat nothing but parsley, which in Snettering-on-Snoakes grows only in the fairy Bombina's garden. All is well -- until Bombina is released from the fairy queen's dungeon. Her crime? Failing to get along with humans. And turning them into toads! Meanwhile, twin princes Randolph and Rudolph are causing trouble at Biddle Castle and pinning everything on their younger brother, Tansy. Prince Tansy cares about Biddle. Randolph and Rudolph don't. But one of the twins will be king, unless Prince Tansy accepts help from a green Biddlebum Toad! A delightful retelling of the little-known German fairy tale "Puddocky," this fifth Princess Tale from Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine shows that nothing is quite as it seems and that anything is possible, with a dash of magic and a barrel of love.

### **Hope Points North**

"Find out where writers get their ideas, your story's characters and setting, writing, revising, and presenting your writing"--Provided by publisher.

### **The Third Face**

Wes Teague came to the Wyoming Territory and became a part of the leadership in the growing town of Cheyenne. When a band of men came upon his ranch and robbed him of all that he valued in life, the marauders came to learn why, in his early days in Texas, he'd been known as Bloody Wes Teague.

### **No Daffodils, No Clouds**

This beloved Newbery Honor-winning story about a feisty heroine is sure to enchant readers new and old. At her birth, Ella of Frell receives a foolish fairy's gift—the “gift” of obedience. Ella must obey any order, whether it's to hop on one foot for a day and a half, or to chop off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not accept her fate. Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse forever.

### **The Drinker with the Hurling Problem**

In this compelling and thought-provoking fantasy set in the world of *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*, Newbery Honor-winning author Gail Carson Levine introduces a spirited heroine who must overcome deeply rooted prejudice—including her own—to heal her broken country. Peregrine strives to live up to the ideal of her people, the Latki—and to impress her parents: affectionate Lord Tove, who despises only the Bamarre, and stern Lady Klausine. Perry runs the fastest, speaks her mind, and doesn't give much thought to the castle's Bamarre servants, whom she knows to be weak and cowardly. But just as she's about to join her father on the front lines, she is visited by the fairy Halina, who reveals that Perry isn't Latki-born. She is Bamarre. The fairy issues a daunting challenge: against the Lakti power, Perry must free her people from tyranny.

### **Ever**

Received a Finalist rating by Readers' Favorite in the children's Fantasy/Sci-Fi category, along with a 5-star review. Join the young Prince Royal, Pid, in his fabled quest to discover the Great Secret with the help of Firebreather, his true friend. Pid and Firebreather journey to the four kingdoms, each of which offers a possible path of discovery to the Great Secret. Along the way Pid finds other companions drawn to his quest. Prepared by his experiences in the four kingdoms, Pid encounters and fights the Black Demon. During the fabled struggle, with Firebreather's insight and his companions help, Pid discovers the answer to the Great Secret. Appealing to children in the middle-grades and the child-like senses in most adults of wonder, curiosity, and true friendship this fable is of a person learning where their real strength lies and about true friendship and undying love.

### **Fairest**

In *A Ceiling Made of Eggshells*, Newbery Honor-winning author Gail Carson Levine tells a moving and ambitious story set during the expulsion of Jews from Spain, about a young Jewish girl full of heart who must play her own role in her people's epic history—no matter the sacrifice. Surrounded by her large family, Loma is happy living in the judería of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, and wants nothing more than to someday have a family of her own. Still, when her intimidating grandfather, her Belo, decides to bring her along on his travels, she's excited to join him. Belo has the ear of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, and Loma relishes her adventures with him, adventures that are beyond the scope of most girls of the time. She soon learns just how dangerous the world is for the Jews of Spain, and how her grandfather's influence keeps their people safe. But the older Loma gets, the more she longs to realize her own dreams—if Belo will ever allow her to leave his side.

### **Writing Power**

Set in the world of the Newbery Honor-winning *Ella Enchanted*, this tale by beloved author Gail Carson Levine stars a clever heroine who is determined to defy expectations—and outwit a fairy's curse. Evie is happiest when she is healing people, diagnosing symptoms and prescribing medications, with the help of her devoted friend (and test subject) Wormy. So when Wormy unexpectedly proposes to her, she kindly turns him down; she has far too much to do to be marrying anyone. And besides, she simply isn't in love with him. But a certain meddling fairy named Lucinda has been listening in, and she doesn't approve of Evie's rejection. Suddenly, Evie finds herself transformed from a girl into a hideous, hungry ogre! Stuck in this new and confusing form, Evie now has only sixty-two days to accept another proposal—or else be stuck as an ogre forever.

### **Haroldsville**

No *Daffodils, No Clouds*, like Tom Lyford's earlier poetry books, is a compendium of baby boomer Americana. The table of contents listing, with everything from “Brat Packs” and “Idiots' Guide to Wormholes” to “A Terrible Thing to Waste” and “Poem Nazis,” reads like the big board of Alex Trebeck's Jeopardy categories. Allow Tom Lyford to personally introduce you to his unwitting mentors Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, Stephen King, J. D. Salinger, and Ray Bradbury. Accept the tokens he offers for passage back through the Twilight Zone turnstile to relive those sights and sounds and smells of your '50s and '60s drive-in movie theater and roller skating pavilion. Contemplate his long view as to where we've been, and where we're headed. But you'll discover no “wandering lonely as a cloud” or “host of daffodils” here. Why? Because legions of Wordsworth wannabes have been doing that since 1802. What you will find, however, is a lot of humor and heart. You'll find accessible poems that you can understand. And you'll even find creative illustrations...

## **Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It**

### **Writer to Writer**

Ever since Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine introduced the magical village of Snettering-on-Snoakes in the faraway Kingdom of Biddle, young readers have been laughing their way through her hilarious retellings of famous and not-so-famous fairy tales. Now, for the first time, the six beloved Princess Tales are together in one magnificent volume: The high jinks begin in *The Fairy's Mistake*, which pokes fun at a meddlesome fairy whose plans for good go terribly awry. In *The Princess Test*, the author spoofs the notion that a pea can prove a person's pedigree. *Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep* features a genius of a princess, a hundred years of snooze, two princes, and a flock of balding sheep! *Cinderella* is a boy in *Cinderellis and the Glass Hill*, and the glass slipper is a glass hill. In *For Biddle's Sake*, Parsley tries to forget her beloved prince and get used to life as a Biddlebum Toad. The road to happily-ever-after isn't easy when a baker's son and a princess fall in love in *The Fairy's Return*. Elements of the classics are woven into these not-so-typical retellings of "Toads and Diamonds," "The Princess and the Pea," "Sleeping Beauty," "The Princess on the Glass Hill," "Puddocky," and "The Golden Goose." The fresh and funny twists on favorite fairy tales will win the hearts and capture the imaginations of young readers everywhere.

### **How to Write Your Best Story Ever!**

Once upon a time, there was a girl who wanted to be pretty . . . Aza's singing is the fairest in all the land, and the most unusual. She can "throw" her voice so it seems to come from anywhere. But singing is only one of the two qualities prized in the Kingdom of Ayortha. Aza doesn't possess the other: beauty. Not even close. She's hidden in the shadows in her parents' inn, but when she becomes lady-in-waiting to the new queen, she has to step into the light—especially when the queen demands a dangerous favor. A magic mirror, a charming prince, a jealous queen, palace intrigue, and an injured king twine into a maze that Aza must penetrate to save herself and her beloved kingdom.

### **Boundaries**

As the world collapsed around her, Akara finally grasped the last piece of the Gia Stone. Once whole, the stone sent its magic into the very fabric of the planet, saving all of Casden. After using the stone to heal the world, a strange power emerges from the gem, giving Akara the ability to feel and use the energy in water. But with this new power comes greater responsibility, and Akara has no desire to do more than she already has for a world that has made it very clear she doesn't

belong. With Akara doing her best to ignore the gift she's been given, and the world no longer in danger of ending, Rydan struggles to understand his purpose. At one time he'd been the prince of a people, respected and admired for his abilities. Now he finds himself hiding in a village, feared by all. He can't live like this forever. But unbeknownst to him, there are those in Casden who seek the Gia Stone, desiring its rumored powers for themselves. And Rydan's wish for a purpose will be answered in the most dreadful way possible. By saving Akara from those who will do anything to discover the secrets of her stone.

### **The Wish**

“It’s not the magic that makes it work; it’s the way we work that makes it magic.” The secret for creating “magic” in our careers, our organizations, and our lives is simple: outstanding leadership—the kind that inspires employees, delights customers, and achieves extraordinary business results. No one knows more about this kind of leadership than Lee Cockerell, the man who ran Walt Disney World® Resort operations for over a decade. And in *Creating Magic*, he shares the leadership principles that not only guided his own journey from a poor farm boy in Oklahoma to the head of operations for a multibillion dollar enterprise, but that also soon came to form the cultural bedrock of the world’s number one vacation destination. But as Lee demonstrates, great leadership isn’t about mastering impossibly complex management theories. We can all become outstanding leaders by following the ten practical, common sense strategies outlined in this remarkable book. As straightforward as they are profound, these leadership lessons include: Everyone is important. Make your people your brand. Burn the free fuel: appreciation, recognition, and encouragement. Give people a purpose, not just a job. Combining surprising business wisdom with insightful and entertaining stories from Lee’s four decades on the front lines of some of the world’s best-run companies, *Creating Magic* shows all of us – from small business owners to managers at every level – how to become better leaders by infusing quality, character, courage, enthusiasm, and integrity into our workplace and into our lives.

### **For Biddle's Sake**

Falling in love is never easy, but falling in love with an immortal god while your days on earth are numbered is almost more than a young girl can bear. Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine has created a stunning new world of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens in this spellbinding story of Kezi, a girl confronted with a terrible destiny. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and her love, Olus -- the god of wind and loneliness -- embark on a series of dangerous and seemingly impossible quests.

### **Constructed**

Four clairvoyant Earthlings are summoned to a distant galaxy, to assist an abducted race of humans; struggling to defeat an invasion of astral entities. This epic sci-fi/fantasy draws us out of ordinary reality and into multiple worlds of extraterrestrial beauty, fabled history, and life-and-death stakes. Read and be transported.

### **Super Shorts**

This master class in writing children's and young adult novels will teach you everything you need to know to write and publish a great book. The best children's and young adult novels take readers on wonderful outward adventures and stirring inward journeys. In *The Magic Words*, editor Cheryl B. Klein guides writers on an enjoyable and practical-minded voyage of their own, from developing a saleable premise for a novel to finding a dream agent. She delves deep into the major elements of fiction—intention, character, plot, and voice—while addressing important topics like diversity, world-building, and the differences between middle-grade and YA novels. In addition, the book's exercises, questions, and straightforward rules of thumb help writers apply these insights to their own creative works. With its generous tone and useful tools for story analysis and revision, *The Magic Words* is an essential handbook for writers of children's and young adult fiction.

### **Fraction of Hope**

In the salad of Michael Collins' otherwise perfect life there lurked one undoubted caterpillar, an immature determination to win a county junior hurling title with his beloved De Wets. Collins' playing history and his personal life contain much to vex the ordinary fan and strain his credulity, which is as it must be. And, like all the great matches "The Drinker with the Hurling Problem" is full of excitement, black humour and gritty reality. Collins' story will move the compassionate to tears, the just to indignation and the cruel to laughter. This book tells the story of what it takes to make an Irish male vow to change his life, to say nothing of his underpants. Every novelist writes one book too many and maybe that's what Paddy Coyne has just written; another variation on the Icarus theme: about wax melting, unscheduled descents and, of course, the inclination of God to look the other way when people are suffering most acutely.

### **Ephaidria**

The Newbery Honor author of *Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine, weaves a thrilling tale of mystery in this companion to *A Tale of Two Castles*. Elodie, the dragon detective Meenore, and the kindly ogre Count Jonty Um are all on their way to Elodie's home island of Lahnt. Elodie has barely set foot on land before she learns that the Replica, a statue that keeps her island's deadly volcano from erupting, has been stolen! If the Replica isn't found in three days, a mountain will be destroyed. And when Elodie ends up alone with a cast of characters that may all be guilty, she has to use her wits to try to

unravel a tangled web of lies. New York Times bestselling author Gail Carson Levine has written an imaginative, fast-paced mystery that will be enjoyed by fans of *A Tale of Two Castles*, as well as those meeting Elodie, Meenore, and Count Jonty Um for the first time.

### **The Magic Story**

This Is Just to Say If you're looking for a nice happy book put this one down and run away quickly Forgive me sweetness and good cheer are boring Inspired by William Carlos Williams's famous poem "This Is Just to Say," Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine delivers a wickedly funny collection of her own false apology poems, imagining how tricksters really feel about the mischief they make. Matthew Cordell's clever and playful line art lightheartedly captures the spirit of the poetry. This is the perfect book for anyone who's ever apologized . . . and not really meant it.

### **Writing Magic**

David, "Doc" Branigan, a man who wasn't afraid to earn his wealth, even though he inherited millions. The restlessness he struggled with nearly every day kept leading him to temptations he knew better than to divulge in. When his sister Elisse, begged him to come home, it was only then he learned what she had been trying to teach him for years.

### **David Doc Branigan**

Readers will feel they know someone just like the characters in this timely novel on social status and social media. Steen Sand, CEO of Stensure Networks, is the head honcho at an IT firm that's developed an Internet service to monitor, compute, and publish people's social status. His chief operating officer, Irene Lund, serves as his muse. He needs her to be part of his world, or he can't achieve anything of significance. But does she feel the same? Chief financial officer, Michael Jensen, is a hard-core pessimist who has learned the hard way not to speak up against the status quo, in spite of his natural inclination to do so. Jensen's a numbers guy. He relates to spreadsheets better than he does to people. Will this cost him in the end? Louise Hald, chief marketing officer, joined Stensure's management team after leaving her post as an assistant professor at a business school. She's beginning to wonder if she'll ever move past the "assistant" part in the eyes of her coworkers. What can she do to ensure she gets ahead? And then there's Sophie Bech. She's made the long trip back to Denmark from South Africa for her own private reasons, and everything looks different to her now. She wonders what her return will hold for her. Was it a mistake? Will her fresh set of eyes-and values-help or hinder the team? Reductionism-understanding complex things by reducing them to fundamental parts and interactions-comes up against social status, so subtle, intricate, and sought-after, in this intriguing modern-day novel. Will these characters-and their supporting players-make the changes

they need to survive in today's world? Or will they succumb to the allure of using easy but underhanded methods to get ahead?

### **A Collection of Short Stories**

Sometimes, stories are better when they are short and sweet. This first volume of short stories includes three separate tales of Halloween magic: *They Messed With The Wrong Witch*: Three rotten brothers learn a lesson they will never forget when they wrongly accuse a woman of being a witch. *The Magic Ring*: A husband and wife argue over a magic ring only to discover that magic can be a dangerous and tricky thing. Soon they learn what happens when the shoe ends up on the other foot and a few other things. *I Wasn't Myself*: A tale of a man who finds himself in the body of his ex-wife. That's not the worst part though. The worst part is that his ex-wife is now in his! *For Mature Audiences Only*. This 30,000 word story includes female domination, forced feminization, power exchange, cross-dressing, gender transformation by magic, partial gender transformation by magic, transformation into an object, mind control, breast growth, oral, erotic humiliation and more!

### **Bloody Wes Teague**

In *Writing Magic*, Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine shares her secrets of great writing. She shows how you, too, can get terrific ideas for stories, invent great beginnings and endings, write sparkling dialogue, develop memorable characters—and much, much more. She advises you about what to do when you feel stuck—and how to use helpful criticism. Best of all, she offers writing exercises that will set your imagination on fire. With humor, honesty, and wisdom, Gail Carson Levine shows you that you, too, can make magic with your writing.

### **The Magic Words: Writing Great Books for Children and Young Adults**

They say the only person you can trust is yourself. Rasuke doesn't have that luxury. Enter a world where humanity is all but extinct, where islands float in the sky, where angels and demons clash. It is a world where the warriors of the past and the technology of the future meet, where magic exists for some, and everything is upside down. In this world lives a boy. He lives as the village freak and has a habit of waking up next to dead bodies with no explanation as to how they got there. But one thing is certain: there's definitely something very, very wrong. All he wants is the chance to know where he came from, and what it's like to be human but when he does, he will be caught in between the many forces of this world. It is up to him to survive, and to find the meaning in it all. *The Third Face* is a tale of adventure, horror, romance, and, sometimes, utter nonsense. Phil N. Schipper's debut novel sets in motion not only an epic trilogy, but an entire universe.



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