



M Is for Magic

By Neil Gaiman

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Master storyteller Neil Gaiman presents a breathtaking collection of tales for younger readers that may chill or amuse, but that always embrace the unexpected:

- Humpty Dumpty's sister hires a private detective to investigate her brother's death.
- A teenage boy who has trouble talking to girls finds himself at a rather unusual party.
- A boy raised in a graveyard makes a discovery, and confronts the much more troubling world of the living.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Taking both inspiration and naming convention from Ray Bradbury's *R Is for Rocket* and *S Is for Space*, Gaiman's first YA anthology is a fine collection of previously published short stories. Although Gaiman's prose skill has improved markedly since the earliest stories included here, one constant is his stellar imagination, not to mention his knack for finding unexpected room for exploration in conventional story motifs. Jill Dumpty, sister of the late Humpty, hires a hard-boiled detective to look into her brother's tragic fall; the 12 months of the year sit around in a circle, telling each other stories about the things they've seen; an elderly woman finds the Holy Grail in a flea market and takes it home because of how nice it will look on her mantelpiece. Collectors will be pleased to note the inclusion of several stories that were previously published in the now-hard-to-find collection *Angels & Visitations*. Also of note is fan favorite *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, which has been nominated for a Hugo Award for 2007. Though Gaiman is still best known for his groundbreaking *Sandman* comic book epic, this volume is an excellent reminder of his considerable talent for short-form prose. Ages 10-up. (July)

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From [Booklist](#)

A modern master of fantasy has selected nine of his short stories and a poem and added a segment from an upcoming children's title for this volume, appropriately titled in homage to a past master, Ray Bradbury. Leading off with a classic detective story involving nursery rhyme characters, Gaiman continues down familiar but twisted paths. There's a scary jack-in-the-box and a troll under a bridge. A rogue describes a perfect scam. A black cat fends off the devil; the eaters of a phoenix discover that it burns. There are stories about talking with girls, with ghosts, with knights in armor, and with aliens. Finally, Gaiman concludes with instructions for proper behavior in fairy-tale land. Although all but "The Witch's Headstone" have appeared elsewhere, this well-chosen collection is sure to create a new generation of Gaiman fans who will not need to understand all the allusions to enjoy the stories. Danish comic-book artist Kristiansen, no stranger to Gaiman material, will be providing the illustrations. *Kathleen Isaacs*

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About the Author

Neil Gaiman is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *Neverwhere*, *Stardust*, *American Gods*, *Coraline*, *Anansi Boys*, *The Graveyard Book*, *Good Omens* (with Terry Pratchett), *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, and *The Truth Is a Cave in the Black Mountains*; the Sandman series of graphic novels; and the story collections *Smoke and Mirrors*, *Fragile Things*, and *Trigger Warning*. He is the winner of numerous literary honors, including the Hugo, Bram Stoker, and World Fantasy awards, and the Newbery and Carnegie Medals. Originally from England, he now lives in the United States. He is Professor in the Arts at Bard College.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alice Walker:

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