



Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders

By Neil Gaiman

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“A prodigiously imaginative collection.”
—New York Times Book Review, Editor’s Choice

“Dazzling tales from a master of the fantastic.”
—Washington Post Book World

Fragile Things is a sterling collection of exceptional tales from Neil Gaiman, multiple award-winning (the Hugo, Bram Stoker, Newberry, and Eisner Awards, to name just a few), #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Graveyard Book*, *Anansi Boys*, *Coraline*, and the groundbreaking *Sandman* graphic novel series. A uniquely imaginative creator of wonders whose unique storytelling genius has been acclaimed by a host of literary luminaries from Norman Mailer to Stephen King, Gaiman’s astonishing powers are on glorious displays in *Fragile Things*. Enter and be amazed!

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The 30 short stories and poems in this collection vary widely in theme and tone, from the dark, recursive "Other People" to the witty, R.A. Laffertyesque "Sunbird." Aside from one new tale, "How to Talk to Girls at Parties," all material has been previously published. Gaiman performs admirably as narrator for the most part, changing his style from story to story to better suit the tone of each. However, in the more experimental pieces in the collection, this practice backfires and may leave listeners reaching for the fast-forward button. The poems often work on paper, but when read aloud many feel like disjointed, nonsensical stories. Gaiman is at his best when narrating his more traditional tales, such as the sly and inventive Sherlock Holmes/H.P. Lovecraft pastiche "A Study in Emerald," and the noirish "Keepsakes and Treasures." There are enough terrific stories in the book to make it a must-have for Gaiman fans, but dedicated readers may want to choose the hardcopy edition instead, so as to more easily skip the dross. Simultaneous release with the William Morrow hardcover (Reviews, July 17).

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—In this collection of stories (and a few poems), storytellers and the act of storytelling have prominent roles. The anthropomorphized months of the year swap tales at their annual board meeting: a half-eaten man recounts how he made the acquaintance of his beloved cannibal; and even Scheherazade, surely the greatest storyteller of all, receives a tribute with a poem. The stories are by turns horrifying and fanciful, often blending the two with a little sex, violence, and humor. An introduction offers the genesis of each selection, itself a stealthy way of initiating teens into the art of writing short stories, and to some of the important authors of the genre. Gaiman cites his influences, and readers may readily see the inflection of H. P. Lovecraft and Ray Bradbury in many of the tales. Horror and fantasy are forms of literature wrought with clichés, but Gaiman usually comes up with an interesting new angle. This collection is more poetic and more restrained than Stephen King's short stories and more expertly written than China Mieville's *Looking for Jake* (Ballantine, 2005). Gaiman skips along the edge of many adolescent fascinations—life, death, the living dead, and the occult—and teens with a taste for the weird will enjoy this book—*Emma Coleman, Berkeley Public Library, CA*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Along with his skill as a writer, Neil Gaiman must have some training in critical witchcraft. He has cast quite a spell on reviewers, who throw up their hands trying to categorize the stories in *Fragile Things* and then bring them together in an almost universal peal of applause. The collection is storytelling at its old-fashioned best, freshened up for the 21st century but drawing heavily on Gaiman's progenitors. Only the *San Diego Union-Tribune* takes real issue with Gaiman, dubbing him "a bantamweight Poe" while acknowledging a talent that isn't fully on display in this collection. Otherwise, it's smooth sailing for the award-winning British writer.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Pittman:

This Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders is great publication for you because the content which can be full of information for you who else always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it data accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

James Rutledge:

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