

# the clockwork three

The Enchanting World of The Clockwork Three: A Journey Through Time and Storytelling

**the clockwork three** is more than just a title; it's an invitation to step into a richly woven narrative where history, mystery, and adventure intertwine seamlessly. This captivating novel, penned by Matthew J. Kirby, has captured the hearts of young readers and adults alike with its unique blend of historical fiction and magical realism. If you've been curious about what makes The Clockwork Three stand out or are on the lookout for a book that combines intricate storytelling with memorable characters, you're in for a treat.

## What Is The Clockwork Three About?

At its core, The Clockwork Three is a coming-of-age story set in the bustling streets of 19th-century America, specifically Chicago. The narrative follows three young protagonists—each with their own dreams, struggles, and secrets—whose lives unexpectedly intertwine. Together, they embark on a quest that unravels mysteries and challenges the social norms of their time.

The novel's setting is a vital part of its allure. Chicago during the late 1800s was a city of rapid growth and industrial innovation, but also of hardship and inequality. The author skillfully paints this backdrop, giving readers a vivid sense of place that's both historically accurate and atmospherically rich. This attention to detail allows readers to immerse themselves fully in the world where clockmakers, street performers, and ambitious inventors coexist.

## The Trio at the Heart of the Story

One of the most compelling aspects of The Clockwork Three is its trio of main characters, each distinct and deeply human:

### 1. Giuseppe

Giuseppe is a skilled violinist and a street performer, trying to support his family and escape a life of poverty. His character embodies resilience and the pursuit of beauty even in the harshest circumstances. Through Giuseppe's eyes, readers experience the emotional weight of responsibility mixed with the hope of artistic expression.

### 2. Hannah

Hannah is a young girl working in a restaurant to support her family after her father's disappearance. Her determination and intelligence shine throughout the story, especially as she faces the challenges imposed by society's expectations of women during the era. Hannah's journey highlights themes of independence and courage.

### **3. Matthias**

Matthias is an apprentice clockmaker with a mysterious past and a knack for invention. His fascination with clockwork mechanisms and his dream of building an automaton provide the story with an intriguing blend of science and fantasy. Matthias's character introduces readers to the wonder of mechanical innovation during the Industrial Revolution.

The dynamic between these three characters is what drives the plot forward. Their individual quests intersect in unexpected ways, leading to moments of tension, friendship, and discovery.

## **Exploring Themes and Symbolism in The Clockwork Three**

Beyond the surface-level adventure, *The Clockwork Three* delves into deeper themes that resonate with readers of all ages.

### **The Intersection of Technology and Humanity**

Matthias's fascination with clockwork automata serves as a metaphor for the relationship between technology and human emotion. The novel invites readers to ponder how innovation can both empower and isolate individuals, a topic that remains relevant in today's fast-paced digital age.

### **Friendship and Loyalty**

The bond that forms between Giuseppe, Hannah, and Matthias demonstrates the power of friendship to overcome adversity. Their loyalty to each other, despite their different backgrounds and personal struggles, showcases the universal need for connection and support.

### **Social Inequality and Determination**

Set against the backdrop of a rapidly industrializing city, the story doesn't shy away from highlighting the economic disparities and social challenges of the time. Through the characters' experiences, readers gain insight into the resilience required to fight for a better life.

## **Why The Clockwork Three Appeals to Readers**

There are several reasons why *The Clockwork Three* continues to be a beloved novel among middle-grade readers and beyond.

### **Engaging and Relatable Characters**

The trio's distinct personalities and relatable struggles allow readers to connect emotionally with the

story. Their growth throughout the novel offers valuable lessons about perseverance and self-discovery.

## Rich Historical Context

Fans of historical fiction appreciate how the book captures the essence of 19th-century America without overwhelming readers with facts. The setting is seamlessly integrated into the narrative, enhancing the authenticity of the story.

## A Touch of Magic and Mystery

While grounded in reality, *The Clockwork Three* sprinkles elements of magic and mystery that keep readers intrigued. The clockwork automaton, in particular, adds a layer of fantasy that stimulates the imagination.

## Tips for Reading and Discussing *The Clockwork Three*

Whether you're a parent, teacher, or book club organizer, here are some helpful tips to get the most out of this novel:

- **Encourage Historical Exploration:** Use the book as a springboard to explore Chicago's history and the Industrial Revolution, enriching readers' understanding of the time period.
- **Discuss Character Motivations:** Engage readers by analyzing why each character makes certain choices, fostering empathy and critical thinking.
- **Explore Themes of Friendship and Innovation:** Prompt discussions about how technology impacts society, both in the past and today.
- **Incorporate Creative Activities:** Readers can try building simple mechanical projects or drawing their own automaton designs inspired by Matthias's inventions.

## The Clockwork Three's Place in Modern Literature

In the landscape of contemporary children's literature, *The Clockwork Three* occupies a unique niche. It blends genres in a way that appeals to diverse interests—history buffs find the period details captivating, while fans of fantasy enjoy the magical elements. Moreover, the novel's focus on teamwork and overcoming obstacles resonates universally.

The book also stands as an example of how middle-grade fiction can tackle complex themes without losing accessibility. It respects young readers' intelligence by presenting nuanced characters and moral dilemmas, making it a valuable addition to both school libraries and personal collections.

# **The Legacy of The Clockwork Three and Its Impact**

Since its release, *The Clockwork Three* has inspired various adaptations and discussions. Its influence extends beyond just storytelling, prompting conversations about historical awareness and creative writing among its audience. Many educators have praised the novel for its ability to spark interest in history and engineering, showing that literature can be both entertaining and educational.

For readers who have enjoyed *The Clockwork Three*, the book often serves as a gateway to exploring other historical novels or STEM-related fiction. It illustrates how stories can bridge gaps between different fields of knowledge and inspire curiosity.

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Whether you're discovering *The Clockwork Three* for the first time or revisiting its pages, the novel offers a rich, immersive experience that lingers long after the last chapter. It's a testament to the power of storytelling to transport us through time, connect us with unforgettable characters, and ignite our imaginations.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main plot of 'The Clockwork Three' by Matthew J. Kirby?**

'The Clockwork Three' follows three young protagonists—Hugo, a street musician; Matteo, an apprentice to an ice sculptor; and Kalina, a hotel kitchen worker—as they navigate a mysterious adventure in 19th-century Chicago involving a mechanical man and a quest for freedom.

### **Who are the main characters in 'The Clockwork Three' and what are their roles?**

The main characters are Hugo, a violin-playing street boy; Matteo, an apprentice ice sculptor with a secret; and Kalina, a hardworking hotel kitchen worker. Each has unique skills and personal challenges that intertwine throughout the story.

### **What themes are explored in 'The Clockwork Three'?**

'The Clockwork Three' explores themes of friendship, perseverance, social class, freedom, and the power of hope and ingenuity in overcoming adversity.

### **Is 'The Clockwork Three' suitable for middle-grade readers?**

Yes, 'The Clockwork Three' is a middle-grade novel appropriate for readers aged 10-14, offering engaging characters and a compelling historical fantasy plot.

## What historical elements are depicted in 'The Clockwork Three'?

The book is set in 19th-century Chicago and incorporates historical details about the city's architecture, social dynamics, and the lives of working-class children during that era.

## Has 'The Clockwork Three' received any awards or notable recognition?

'The Clockwork Three' has been praised for its imaginative storytelling and richly developed characters, earning favorable reviews and becoming a popular choice in school and library reading lists.

## Additional Resources

The Clockwork Three: A Detailed Exploration of Megan Frazer Blakemore's Intriguing Novel

**the clockwork three** is a compelling work of historical fiction that captures the imagination of readers through its intricate storytelling, well-crafted characters, and vivid depiction of 19th-century America. Written by Megan Frazer Blakemore, this novel stands out in the realm of middle-grade literature for its unique narrative structure and richly textured setting, blending elements of mystery, adventure, and historical detail to engage a broad audience.

## In-depth Analysis of The Clockwork Three

At its core, *The Clockwork Three* is a story about three young protagonists—Frederick, Hannah, and Giuseppe—each with distinct backgrounds and personal struggles, whose lives intersect in the bustling city of Buffalo, New York. The novel's premise revolves around their intertwined quests, driven by ambition, survival, and the desire to escape their dire circumstances. This multi-perspective narrative allows readers to dive deeply into each character's motivations, adding layers of complexity uncommon in typical children's literature.

The setting in Buffalo during the late 1800s is more than just a backdrop; it is almost a character in itself. The author's vivid descriptions of the city's industrial landscape, from clock shops to waterfront docks, provide a historical context that enhances the story's authenticity. The clockwork motifs that appear throughout the book symbolize the mechanical and social forces shaping the characters' lives.

## Character Development and Themes

One of the most notable features of *The Clockwork Three* is its character development. Frederick, an orphaned street musician, is haunted by his past yet driven by an unwavering hope for a better future. Hannah, a determined ice-cutter's daughter, challenges societal expectations by pursuing education and independence. Giuseppe, a talented clockmaker's apprentice, grapples with his

father's legacy and his own artistic aspirations.

The novel explores themes such as friendship, resilience, social class disparity, and the pursuit of dreams. These themes are woven seamlessly into the plot, providing readers with not only entertainment but also meaningful reflections on human experience and historical social issues.

## **Narrative Structure and Writing Style**

Blakemore employs a rotating point of view, shifting between the three protagonists to build suspense and deepen the reader's engagement. This structure allows for a balanced exploration of each character's storyline while maintaining a cohesive overall narrative. The prose itself is accessible yet rich, balancing descriptive passages with dialogue and action to maintain an engaging pace.

The use of clockwork imagery throughout the book is symbolic, echoing the mechanical nature of the era's industrial advances and the idea that each character's fate is part of a larger, interlocking system. This metaphor extends to the plot's intricate design, where seemingly separate storylines converge in unexpected ways.

## **Comparisons and Context within Children's Historical Fiction**

When compared to other middle-grade historical novels, *The Clockwork Three* distinguishes itself through its fusion of mystery and historical detail. While books like Elizabeth George Speare's "The Sign of the Beaver" or Avi's "The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle" focus primarily on historical adventure, Blakemore adds an element of mechanical intrigue and urban realism.

This novel fits within a growing trend of middle-grade literature that refuses to simplify historical challenges, instead presenting complex characters navigating difficult social environments. The realistic portrayal of child labor, poverty, and immigration issues in *The Clockwork Three* aligns with educational efforts to bring history alive for younger readers.

## **Market Reception and Educational Value**

Since its publication, *The Clockwork Three* has received positive reviews for its engaging narrative and educational potential. Educators often recommend it for classroom discussions on the Gilded Age, industrialization, and social history due to its accurate depiction and relatable characters.

The book's combination of storytelling and historical fact makes it a valuable resource for teaching empathy and critical thinking. Its appeal spans beyond children's literature enthusiasts to anyone interested in historical fiction that challenges and entertains.

# Pros and Cons of The Clockwork Three

- **Pros:**

- Richly developed characters with realistic motivations
- Authentic historical setting that enhances immersion
- Engaging multi-perspective narrative technique
- Thematic depth addressing social issues and personal growth
- Symbolic use of clockwork and mechanical motifs adds literary depth

- **Cons:**

- At times, the narrative pace slows due to detailed descriptions
- Some readers may find the multiple viewpoints challenging to follow initially
- The historical context, while educational, may require additional explanation for younger audiences

## Target Audience and Accessibility

The Clockwork Three is primarily targeted at middle-grade readers, approximately ages 10 to 14, but its sophisticated themes and literary style make it suitable for a wider audience including young adults and educators. The book's language is approachable, yet it does not shy away from the complexities of the era it portrays, striking a balance between accessibility and depth.

For readers who enjoy historical mysteries with a touch of adventure and heart, The Clockwork Three offers a rewarding experience. It encourages curiosity about history and empathy for characters whose lives are shaped by forces beyond their control.

## Final Thoughts on The Clockwork Three

Overall, The Clockwork Three by Megan Frazer Blakemore represents a thoughtful and engaging addition to contemporary middle-grade historical fiction. Its layered storytelling, combined with a vivid portrayal of 19th-century urban life, invites readers to reflect on themes of perseverance,

friendship, and the intricate workings of fate and society.

By weaving together the lives of three distinct characters with a shared destiny, the novel not only entertains but also educates, making it a valuable read for those interested in narratives that explore the human spirit against the backdrop of history's relentless march forward.

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**the clockwork three:** [The Clockwork Three](#) Matthew J. Kirby, 2010 Three ordinary children are brought together by extraordinary events in this brilliant debut novel that tells the remarkable story of these children, an enchanted green violin, and an automaton come to life.

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**the clockwork three: The Clockwork Conspiracy** Sam Sedgman, 2024-02-01 \*\* Shortlisted for the BOOKS ARE MY BAG Readers Award for Children's Fiction \*\* 'Clever, inventive and a cracking read' - Eoin Colfer, author of *Artemis Fowl* A locked-room mystery packed with rooftop chases, hidden codes and mind-bending science, *The Clockwork Conspiracy* is a must for fans of the *Adventures on Trains* series and Sharna Jackson's *High Rise* mysteries. Aspiring inventor Isaac Turner lives with his dad, the horologist in charge of Big Ben. But when his father vanishes from the belfry on the night the clocks go back, leaving behind only a smashed pocket watch and a cryptic message, Isaac determines to find him. Hunting a trail of clues through London's landmarks, Isaac uncovers a sinister plot in the gears of government and embarks on a race against time to save his father - and time itself. 'An ingenious mystery full of fascinating facts. Sedgman has cracked the code for an absolute triumph of a book' - A.F. Steadman, author of *Skandar* and *the Unicorn Thief* 'The Clockwork Conspiracy offers a captivating and perilous adventure that surprises and delights at every turn' - Catherine Doyle, author of *The Storm Keeper's Island* 'A smart and pacy thriller. Time well spent' - The Times 'A taut, tense mystery with perfectly-timed plotting, this is guaranteed to make the time fly' - Maz Evans, author of *Who Let the Gods Out?* 'A gripping mystery delivered with panache' - The Observer 'A thrilling story from start to finish' - Inis Magazine 'Action-packed with twisty turns and a gripping plot' - Daily Mail 'THE CLOCKWORK CONSPIRACY is a fiendishly clever contraption, featuring brilliantly savvy characters and a well-wound plot that ticks along like - what else? - clockwork' - Andy Sagar, author of *Yesterday Crumb* and *the Storm in a Teacup* 'A thrilling locked-room mystery, with a plot as beautifully engineered as clockwork' - Pari Thomson, author of *Greenwild: The World Behind the Door* 'An action-packed, thrilling adventure' - The Week Junior 'A rapid adventure, combined with an encyclopaedic focus on a particular subject - and an ability to make it sing' - The Telegraph 'I predict this will be a very popular addition to any library, home or classroom' - Books for Keeps

**the clockwork three: Knights of the Borrowed Dark (Knights of the Borrowed Dark Book 1)** Dave Rudden, 2016-04-07 The first book in a new series about an orphan boy who discovers he is part of a secret army that protects the world from a race of shadowy monsters.

**the clockwork three: Get Those Guys Reading!** Kathleen A. Baxter, Marcia Agness Kochel, 2012-05-07 Want to identify fiction books that boys in grades three through nine will find irresistible? This guide reveals dozens of worthwhile recommendations in categories ranging from adventure stories and sports novels to horror, humorous, and science fiction books. In *Get Those Guys Reading!: Fiction and Series Books that Boys Will Love*, authors Kathleen A. Baxter and Marcia A. Kochel provide compelling and current reading suggestions for younger boys—information that educators, librarians, and parents alike are desperate for. Comprising titles that are almost all well-reviewed in at least one major professional journal, or that are such big hits with kids that they've received the stamp of approval from the most important reviewers, this book will be invaluable to anyone whose goal is to help boys develop a healthy enthusiasm for reading. It includes chapters on adventure books; animal stories; graphic novels; historical fiction; humorous books; mystery, horror, and suspense titles; science fiction and fantasy; and sports novels. Within each chapter, the selections are further divided into books for younger readers (grades 3-6) and titles for older boys in grades 5-8. Elementary and middle school librarians and teachers, public librarians, Title One teachers, and parents of boys in grades 3-9 will all benefit greatly from having this book at hand.

**the clockwork three: Icefall** Matthew J. Kirby, 2011-10-01 Trapped in a hidden fortress tucked between towering mountains and a frozen sea, Solveig, along with her brother the crown prince, their older sister, and an army of restless warriors, anxiously awaits news of her father's victory at battle. But as winter stretches on, and the unending ice refuses to break, terrible acts of treachery soon make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst. A malevolent air begins to seep through the fortress walls, as a smothering claustrophobia slowly turns these prisoners of winter against one another. Those charged with protecting the king's children are all suspect, and the siblings must choose their allies wisely. But who can be trusted so far from their father's watchful eye? Can Solveig survive the long winter months and expose the traitor before he manages to destroy a kingdom? A well-crafted story rich with emotion and intrigue. A thoroughly engaging read! -- Brandon Mull, bestselling author of the Fablehaven and Beyonders series

**the clockwork three: *Knights of the Borrowed Dark*** Dave Rudden, 2017-08-08 This imaginative fantasy about the monsters that lurk in the dark will thrill fans of *Ranger's Apprentice* and Rick Riordan. Denizen Hardwick is an orphan, and his life is, well, normal. Sure, in storybooks orphans are rescued from drudgery when they discover they are a wizard or a warrior or a prophesied king. But this is real life—orphans are just kids without parents. At least that's what Denizen thought... On a particularly dark night, the gates of Crosscaper Orphanage open to a car that growls with power. The car and the man in it retrieve Denizen with the promise of introducing him to a long-lost aunt. But on the ride into the city, they are attacked. Denizen learns that monsters can grow out of the shadows. And there is an ancient order of knights who keep them at bay. Denizen has a unique connection to these knights, but everything they tell him feels like a half-truth. If Denizen joins the order, is he fulfilling his destiny or turning his back on everything his family did to keep him alive?

**the clockwork three: Spell Robbers (The Quantum League #1)** Matthew J. Kirby, 2014-01-28 A magical crime saga filled with marvelous thrills, high action, and extraordinary adventure, from critically acclaimed author Matthew J. Kirby. After Ben Warner is recruited to join a science camp led by the eccentric quantum physicist Dr. Madeleine Hughes, he quickly realizes it's no regular science camp. Along with his new friend, Peter, Ben discovers the secret, powerful art of Actuation -- the ability to change reality by simply imagining it differently. When a mysterious group of men invade Dr. Hughes's laboratory, abducting her and stealing her precious equipment, Ben and Peter are suddenly caught up in a turf war between dangerous actuators desperate for Dr. Hughes's innovative technology. And as Ben and Peter are pulled into a perilous, hidden world full of impossibilities now made possible, will their combined powers be enough to save Dr. Hughes and

vanquish their enemies before it's too late? From Edgar Award-winning author Matthew J. Kirby comes a fast-paced, boldly imagined tale of friendship, deadly adventure, and the infinite power of imagination.

**the clockwork three: A Taste for Monsters** Matthew J. Kirby, 2016-09-27 A “lovely, suspenseful, lyrical” ghost story set in Jack the Ripper’s London from the Edgar and PEN Award-winning author of *Icefall* (Kirkus Reviews). London 1888, and Jack the Ripper is terrorizing the people of the city. Evelyn, a young woman disfigured by her dangerous work in a matchstick factory with nowhere to go, does not know what to make of her new position as a maid to the Elephant Man in London Hospital. Evelyn wanted to be locked away from the world, like he is, shut away from the filth and dangers of the streets. But in Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man, she finds a gentle kindred, who does not recoil from her, and who understands her pain. When the murders begin, however, Joseph and Evelyn are haunted nightly by the ghosts of the Ripper’s dead, setting Evelyn on a path to facing her fears and uncovering humanity’s worst nightmares, in which the real monsters are men. “[A] grisly fantasy . . . Evelyn—all grit, anger, and distrust—is a complex and engaging character, the slums and slang of Victorian-era London are carefully delineated, and the eventual revelation of Leather Apron’s identity and fate will leave readers gasping.” —Publishers Weekly “This historical fiction blends horror with mystery and results in wonderfully crafted storytelling with strong, well-drawn characters . . . A great read for fans of history, true crime, or ghost stories.” —School Library Journal “Kirby’s character development, particularly his portrayal of the extraordinary Mr. Merrick, is consistently impressive. Austen devotees are sure to appreciate Kirby’s commitment to the gothic entanglements of *Northanger Abbey*.” —Booklist

**the clockwork three: *The Engineer*** , 1914

**the clockwork three: The Lost Kingdom** Matthew J. Kirby, 2013-08-27 A remarkable adventure by award-winning author Matthew J. Kirby brings a fantastical American West filled with secrets and spies and terrifying creatures to vivid life. In this extraordinary adventure story, Billy Bartram, his father, and a secret society of philosophers and scientists venture into the American wilderness in search of the lost people of the Welsh Prince Madoc, seeking aid in the coming war against the French. Traveling in a flying airship, the members of the expedition find their lives frequently endangered in the untamed American West by terrifying creatures, a party of French soldiers hot on their trail, and the constant threat of traitors and spies. Billy will face hazards greater than he can ever imagine as, together with his father, he gets caught up in the fight for the biggest prize of all: America. THE LOST KINGDOM is an epic journey filled with marvelous exploits, courage and intrigue, and a bold reimagining of a mythical America. Matthew J. Kirby brings his signature storytelling prowess and superb craft to this astonishing story of fathers and sons, the beginnings of a nation, and wonder-filled adventure.

**the clockwork three: *The Forever Court (Knights of the Borrowed Dark, Book 2)*** Dave Rudden, 2017-08-08 A young knight must fulfill his destiny in this second book in a trilogy perfect for fans of *Ranger’s Apprentice*. The door between our world and the world of the dark has been blasted open. Now the Knights must face the court of the Endless King. Denizen finally feels like a true Knight, and the court has requested a meeting to thank him for saving the King’s daughter. It’s either an honor . . . or a trap. When the Knights encounter the members of the Forever Court, the meeting almost immediately dissolves into a battle. And that’s not the worst of it. There is another order of people who can communicate with the monsters of the dark. A family who worship the dark. And they will stop at nothing to bring the shadows back to power.

**the clockwork three: *Bulletin of the Astronomical Institutes of the Netherlands*** , 1927 Communications from the Observatory at Leiden, the Observatory at Utrecht, the Kapteyn Astronomical Laboratory at Groningen, the Astronomical Institute of the University at Amsterdam, the Netherlands Foundation for Radio Astronomy. Earlier volumes include communications from other institutions.

**the clockwork three: *Read On...Speculative Fiction for Teens*** Jamie Kallio, 2012-08-14 This guide offers exciting new reading paths for students who enjoy fantasy, science fiction, and

paranormal themes. With over 350 titles organized into their primary appeal characteristics and scores of thematic lists, librarians and educators will benefit from lists of contemporary selections specifically written for teens. Interest in teen fiction has grown in popularity in the last decade, especially within the fantasy and paranormal genres. This timely guide is one of the few books on the subject that lists titles that are written specifically for teens. *Read On...Speculative Fiction for Teens* features popular, contemporary themes ranging from vampire love and ghost stories to epic fantasy and out-of-this-world science fiction. Each of the five chapters caters to a specific area of interest—story, character, setting, mood, and language—and within the chapter, numerous lists of novels are organized by topic, with the best titles highlighted. Each of the more than 350 listed titles includes bibliographic information and a brief, punchy description.

**the clockwork three: The Endless King (Knights of the Borrowed Dark Book 3)** Dave Rudden, 2018-03-22 The final book in the award-winning *Knights of the Borrowed Dark* trilogy, perfect for fans of *Skulduggery Pleasant*. 'You have no idea what real war is . . . but I'm afraid you're going to find out.' There's nothing like an apocalypse to kick off the school year. Denizen Hardwick has travelled to Daybreak, the ancestral home of the Order of the Borrowed Dark, to continue his training as a knight. But lessons have barely begun before an unexpected arrival appears with news that throws the fortress into uproar. The Endless King has fallen, his dark realm rising in a brutal civil war. When the conflict strikes closer to home, Denizen and his friends face their greatest challenge yet. For if Daybreak falls, so does the world . . . 'Action-packed, atmospheric and powerfully imagined' - *Sunday Times*

**the clockwork three: The Hidden Sovereign 1** Ethan, 2024-12-24

**the clockwork three: Been There, Done That: Writing Stories from Real Life** Mike Winchell, 2016-08-23 Award-winning and bestselling authors turn their own real-life experiences into captivating works of fiction! Where do authors get their ideas? And how do they turn those ideas into stories? This anthology looks at the process of taking real-life experiences and turning them into works of engaging fiction. The collection features award-winning and bestselling middle-grade authors who provide both original fictional short stories as well as the nonfiction accounts that inspired them. The contributing authors include Julia Alvarez, Karen Cushman, Margarita Engle, Dee Garretson, Nathan Hale, Matthew Kirby, Claire Legrand, Grace Lin, Kate Messner, Linda Sue Park, Adam Rex, Gary Schmidt, Alan Sitomer, Caroline Starr Rose, Heidi Stemple, Rita Williams-Garcia, Tracy Edward Wymer, Lisa Yee, and Jane Yolen.

**the clockwork three: Empiricist Devotions** Courtney Weiss Smith, 2016-04-05 Featuring a moment in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century England before the disciplinary divisions that we inherit today were established, *Empiricist Devotions* recovers a kind of empiricist thinking in which the techniques and emphases of science, religion, and literature combined and cooperated. This brand of empiricism was committed to particularized scrutiny and epistemological modesty. It was Protestant in its enabling premises and meditative practices. It earnestly affirmed that figurative language provided crucial tools for interpreting the divinely written world. Smith recovers this empiricism in Robert Boyle's analogies, Isaac Newton's metaphors, John Locke's narratives, Joseph Addison's personifications, Daniel Defoe's diction, John Gay's periphrases, and Alexander Pope's descriptive particulars. She thereby demonstrates that literary language played a key role in shaping and giving voice to the concerns of eighteenth-century science and religion alike. *Empiricist Devotions* combines intellectual history with close readings of a wide variety of texts, from sermons, devotional journals, and economic tracts to georgic poems, it-narratives, and microscopy treatises. This prizewinning book has important implications for our understanding of cultural and literary history, as scholars of the period's science have not fully appreciated figurative language's central role in empiricist thought, while scholars of its religion and literature have neglected the serious empiricist commitments motivating richly figurative devotional and poetic texts. Winner of the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an Outstanding Work of Scholarship in Eighteenth-Century Studies

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