

neil gaiman m is for magic

Neil Gaiman *M is for Magic*: Exploring the Enchanting World of Neil Gaiman's Short Stories

neil gaiman m is for magic is not just a phrase—it's an invitation into a spellbinding collection of short stories penned by one of contemporary literature's most imaginative voices. Neil Gaiman, known for his masterful storytelling that weaves together fantasy, myth, and reality, offers readers a unique experience through this anthology. For those who cherish tales that blend the whimsical with the profound, **M is for Magic** is a treasure trove that captures the essence of Gaiman's narrative brilliance.

What Is Neil Gaiman *M is for Magic*?

At its core, **M is for Magic** is a carefully curated collection of Neil Gaiman's short stories that span his career, showcasing his talent in crafting narratives that are both magical and thought-provoking. This anthology brings together tales that range from dark fantasy and eerie folklore to heartwarming and humorous stories. The title itself hints at the central theme of magic—not just in the literal sense but also as a metaphor for the wonder and mystery that permeate everyday life.

The collection is perfect for readers who want a glimpse into Gaiman's storytelling versatility without committing to a full-length novel. It serves as an excellent introduction to his work, highlighting why he is celebrated as a master of modern fantasy and speculative fiction.

The Magic Behind Neil Gaiman's Short Stories

One of the remarkable aspects of **M is for Magic** is how each story stands alone with its unique voice and mood, yet they all share a common thread of enchantment. Neil Gaiman's writing style is known for its lyrical quality and ability to draw readers into vividly imagined worlds. His stories often explore themes such as identity, destiny, and the thin veil between the mundane and the supernatural.

Exploring Themes in *M is for Magic*

While each story in **M is for Magic** offers something different, several themes frequently emerge:

- **The Intersection of Reality and Fantasy:** Gaiman often blurs the lines between the real world and magical realms, making the extraordinary feel plausible.
- **Mythology and Folklore:** Many stories draw inspiration from ancient myths and folk tales, reinterpreted with a modern twist.
- **Coming-of-Age and Self-Discovery:** Characters often embark on journeys that lead to personal growth and understanding.
- **The Power of Stories:** A recurring motif is the transformative power that stories hold over individuals and societies.

These themes resonate with readers of all ages, making **M is for Magic** not only entertaining but also deeply meaningful.

Highlights from the Collection

While **M is for Magic** comprises numerous standout stories, a few deserve special mention for their impact and popularity among fans:

“Chivalry”

This charming tale follows an elderly woman who discovers the Holy Grail in a thrift shop and embarks on an unexpected adventure with Sir Galahad himself. It’s a delightful mix of humor, warmth, and classic Arthurian legend, showcasing Gaiman’s ability to breathe new life into familiar myths.

“The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories”

In this story, Gaiman explores the nostalgia of childhood and the bittersweet nature of growing up. It’s a poignant reminder of how magic can be found in the smallest moments of everyday life.

“Murder Mysteries”

A darker, more enigmatic narrative, “Murder Mysteries” delves into celestial intrigue and cosmic justice, demonstrating Gaiman’s skill in blending mystery with metaphysical concepts.

Why Neil Gaiman *M is for Magic* Appeals to a Wide Audience

One reason **M is for Magic** resonates so broadly is its accessibility. The stories can be enjoyed individually or as a whole, appealing to readers who prefer short, impactful reads as well as those who love immersive storytelling. Additionally, Gaiman's language is both sophisticated and approachable, making the collection suitable for teens and adults alike.

For Fans of Fantasy and Mythology

Readers fascinated by mythology, fairy tales, and folklore will find **M is for Magic** a rich source of inspiration. Gaiman's respectful yet inventive use of these elements invites readers to see old stories in new ways.

For Newcomers to Neil Gaiman's Work

If you're new to Neil Gaiman, this collection serves as an ideal starting point. It introduces you to his style and themes without overwhelming you with the length or complexity of his novels like **American Gods** or **The Sandman** series.

How to Get the Most Out of Reading *M is for Magic*

To truly appreciate **M is for Magic**, consider reading the stories slowly, allowing time to reflect on the layers of meaning within each narrative. Here are some tips to enhance your experience:

1. **Take Notes:** Jot down themes, favorite passages, or questions that arise as you read.
2. **Discuss with Others:** Sharing insights with fellow readers can deepen your understanding and appreciation.
3. **Explore Related Works:** Many stories connect to broader mythologies or to other Gaiman works, so exploring those can enrich your reading.
4. **Read Aloud:** Gaiman's prose often shines when spoken, revealing its rhythm and musicality.

These approaches can transform reading from a passive activity into an engaging, interactive journey.

The Impact of Neil Gaiman *M is for Magic* on Modern Fantasy Literature

Neil Gaiman has significantly influenced the landscape of modern fantasy, and **M is for Magic** exemplifies the qualities that make his storytelling so impactful. By blending the fantastical with the everyday, Gaiman invites readers to reconsider their perceptions of reality and magic. His stories often challenge conventional genre boundaries, combining elements of horror, mystery, and fairy tale in innovative ways.

Moreover, **M is for Magic** has inspired aspiring writers to embrace short story formats and experiment with mythic and magical themes. It stands as a testament to the power of concise storytelling and the enduring appeal of fantasy that speaks to fundamental human experiences.

As the world continues to crave imaginative narratives that offer escape and insight, collections like **M is for Magic** remain vital. They remind us that magic isn't just in spells or mythical creatures—it's in the stories we tell and the way we see the world around us.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is '*M is for Magic*' by Neil Gaiman about?

'*M is for Magic*' is a collection of short stories by Neil Gaiman, featuring tales of fantasy, horror, and the supernatural, showcasing his signature storytelling style.

When was '*M is for Magic*' first published?

'*M is for Magic*' was first published in 2007.

Are the stories in '*M is for Magic*' connected or standalone?

The stories in '*M is for Magic*' are standalone, each with its own unique characters and settings, though they all share themes of magic and the fantastical.

Is 'M is for Magic' suitable for young readers?

Yes, many of the stories in 'M is for Magic' are suitable for young adults and older children, but some stories may contain darker themes, so parental guidance is suggested.

Which famous Neil Gaiman stories are included in 'M is for Magic'?

The collection includes several well-known stories such as 'The Case of the Four and Twenty Blackbirds' and 'Troll Bridge'.

Has 'M is for Magic' received any awards or notable recognition?

'M is for Magic' has been praised for its imaginative storytelling and has helped solidify Neil Gaiman's reputation as a master of fantasy and speculative fiction.

What themes are commonly explored in 'M is for Magic'?

Common themes include the power of storytelling, the supernatural, the battle between good and evil, and the wonder and danger of magic.

Where can I buy or read 'M is for Magic'?

'M is for Magic' is available for purchase at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and may also be found at local libraries or digital platforms offering eBooks.

Additional Resources

Neil Gaiman M Is For Magic: An Analytical Review of the Enchanting Short Story Collection

neil gaiman m is for magic is a phrase that immediately conjures images of dark fantasy, whimsical narratives, and the masterful storytelling that Neil Gaiman is renowned for. "M Is for Magic" is a collection of short stories by Gaiman, first published in 2007, which delves into the realm of the fantastical and the mysterious. The anthology brings together some of Gaiman's most celebrated works of fantasy, each story weaving its own unique brand of magic, horror, and wonder. This article provides an investigative and professional analysis of "M Is for Magic," exploring its themes, narrative techniques, and its place within the broader context of Neil Gaiman's literary career.

Understanding Neil Gaiman's "M Is for Magic"

"M Is for Magic" is not just a compilation of short stories; it is a curated experience designed to showcase the breadth and depth of Neil Gaiman's imaginative prowess. The collection includes stories originally published across various platforms, some previously hard to find, making this volume a valuable resource for both new readers and longtime fans.

The book spans genres such as fantasy, horror, and fairy tale, often blending these elements seamlessly. Gaiman's signature style—marked by lyrical prose, mythological references, and complex characters—pervades every story. The collection's diversity—from light-hearted tales to dark and eerie narratives—demonstrates Gaiman's versatility, making "M Is for Magic" a compelling entry point into his wider oeuvre.

Key Themes in "M Is for Magic"

Several recurring themes run through the stories in "M Is for Magic," which serve not only as narrative foundations but also as avenues for Gaiman's exploration of human nature and the supernatural.

- **Magic and Reality Intersect:** Many tales blur the line between the mundane and the magical, illustrating how enchantment can peek through everyday life.
- **Childhood and Innocence:** Stories often focus on children or childlike perspectives, emphasizing innocence confronted with the unknown or the uncanny.
- **Myth and Folklore:** Gaiman frequently draws from ancient myths, legends, and fairy tales, reinterpreting them in contemporary settings.
- **Transformation and Identity:** Characters undergo profound changes, both literal and metaphorical, reflecting themes of self-discovery and acceptance.

These themes resonate through the collection, granting it cohesion despite the variety in style and tone.

Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Neil Gaiman's narrative technique in "M Is for Magic" is characterized by a blend of poetic language and accessible storytelling. His prose is often described as evocative, painting vivid mental images while maintaining a pace

that engages readers across age groups.

Gaiman employs a variety of literary devices to enhance his stories:

1. **Symbolism:** Objects and characters often symbolize larger concepts, such as innocence, fear, or freedom.
2. **Foreshadowing:** Subtle hints build suspense and deepen the impact of plot twists.
3. **Allusion:** References to mythology, literature, and pop culture enrich the text and invite a more layered reading experience.
4. **Dialogue:** Crisp and natural, the dialogue often reveals character motivations and advances the plot efficiently.

The balance between richly descriptive passages and concise narrative segments allows Gaiman to craft stories that are immersive yet brisk enough to sustain the short story format.

Comparative Analysis: “M Is for Magic” Within Neil Gaiman’s Body of Work

When comparing “M Is for Magic” to other works by Neil Gaiman—such as “American Gods,” “Coraline,” or “The Sandman” graphic novels—it becomes evident that the collection serves as both a microcosm and a distinctive entity. Unlike his novels, which allow for expansive world-building and prolonged character development, “M Is for Magic” relies on brevity and immediacy.

While “Coraline” also targets younger readers with its dark fairy tale elements, “M Is for Magic” offers a broader age appeal, containing stories that range from whimsical to chilling. The collection complements Gaiman’s larger works by providing snapshots of his creative range and thematic interests.

Strengths of “M Is for Magic”

- **Diversity of Stories:** The anthology includes a variety of tones and subjects, ensuring something for all types of readers.
- **Accessibility:** The stories are approachable for readers unfamiliar with Gaiman’s style, serving as an excellent introduction.

- **Literary Quality:** Each story is crafted with attention to language and structure, highlighting Gaiman's skill as a storyteller.
- **Rich Intertextuality:** The allusions and mythological references invite deeper engagement and re-reading.

Potential Limitations

Despite its many strengths, the collection may present some challenges:

- **Varied Tonal Shifts:** The contrast between light-hearted and darker stories can sometimes disrupt the reading flow.
- **Short Story Constraints:** As with many anthologies, some narratives may feel underdeveloped compared to Gaiman's longer works.
- **Prior Exposure:** Readers well-versed in Gaiman's bibliography may find some stories familiar, potentially diminishing novelty.

These considerations, however, are typical of short story collections and do not diminish the overall value of "M Is for Magic."

Impact and Reception

Since its release, "M Is for Magic" has been well-received by critics and readers alike. It is frequently praised for its imaginative scope and the quality of its prose. The collection has been instrumental in introducing Neil Gaiman's short fiction to a broader audience, consolidating stories that were previously scattered across different publications.

The anthology also plays a significant role in literary discussions about modern fantasy and speculative fiction. It showcases how short stories can effectively explore complex themes and evoke emotional responses within a compact format.

Educational and Cultural Significance

"M Is for Magic" has found a place in academic settings, often being included in curricula that explore contemporary fantasy literature. Its stories serve as exemplary models for studying narrative economy, myth adaptation, and the blending of genres.

From a cultural standpoint, the collection reinforces Neil Gaiman's status as a pivotal figure in 21st-century literature. It highlights his ability to connect ancient storytelling traditions with modern sensibilities, contributing to the ongoing evolution of fantasy as a literary form.

Final Thoughts on Neil Gaiman M Is For Magic

In examining "neil gaiman m is for magic," the collection emerges as a testament to Neil Gaiman's storytelling mastery and his unique capacity to evoke wonder and unease within the same breath. With its rich thematic texture, varied narrative styles, and enduring appeal, the anthology stands as an essential work for those interested in contemporary fantasy and short fiction.

While it may not replace the immersive depth of Gaiman's novels or graphic novels, "M Is for Magic" offers a concentrated dose of his creative genius. It invites readers to explore the magical spaces between reality and imagination, making it a compelling read for anyone drawn to the transformative power of stories.

Neil Gaiman M Is For Magic

neil gaiman m is for magic: *M Is for Magic* Neil Gaiman, 2009-10-06 Stories to delight, enchant, and surprise you. Bestselling author and master storyteller Neil Gaiman here presents a breathtaking collection of tales that may chill or amuse readers—but always embrace the unexpected: A teenage boy who has trouble talking to girls finds himself at a rather unusual party. A sinister jack-in-the-box haunts the lives of the children who owned it. A boy raised in a graveyard makes a discovery and confronts the much more troubling world of the living. A stray cat fights a nightly battle to protect his adopted family from a terrible evil. These eleven stories illuminate the real and the fantastic, and will be welcomed with great joy by Neil Gaiman's many fans as well as by readers coming to his work for the first time.

neil gaiman m is for magic: *M Is for Magic* Neil Gaiman, 2007 Eleven stories that involve strange and fantastical events.

neil gaiman m is for magic: The Books of Magic Neil Gaiman, 1993-02-23 From Neil Gaiman, the best-selling novelist and creator of the world-renowned comics title *The Sandman*, comes a mesmerizing tale of the dangers and opportunities of youth, and its endless possibilities. Illustrated by four of comics' most accomplished artists, John Bolton, Scott Hampton, Charles Vess and Paul Johnson, *THE BOOKS OF MAGIC* collects all four issues of the original miniseries that introduced the character of Timothy Hunter and set the stage for his continuing adventures. Timothy Hunter could be the most powerful magician in the world, but does he really want to be? Guided through the magical world starting at the beginning of time by a group of DC Universe magicians, often referred to as the Trenchcoat Brigade (John Constantine, Phantom Stranger, Mister E, and Doctor Occult), they attempt to aid Timothy in his decision whether or not to embrace his gift. However, by the time Timothy makes a choice, it may have already been made for him.

neil gaiman m is for magic: Neil Gaiman's Mr Hero, Vol. 1: The Newmatic Man James Vance,
neil gaiman m is for magic: Reading Tolkien in Chinese Eric Reinders, 2024-03-21

Approaching translations of Tolkien's works as stories in their own right, this book reads multiple Chinese translations of Tolkien's writing to uncover the new and unique perspectives that enrich the meaning of the original texts. Exploring translations of *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, *The Silmarillion*, *The Children of Hurin* and *The Unfinished Tales*, Eric Reinders reveals the mechanics of meaning by literally back-translating the Chinese into English to dig into the conceptual common grounds shared by religion, fantasy and translation, namely the suspension of disbelief, and questions of truth - literal, allegorical and existential. With coverage of themes such as gods and heathens, elves and 'Men', race, mortality and immortality, fate and doom, and language, Reinder's journey to Chinese Middle-earth and back again drastically alters views on Tolkien's work where even basic genre classification surrounding fantasy literature look different through the lens of Chinese literary expectations. Invoking scholarship in Tolkien studies, fantasy theory and religious and translations studies, this is an ambitious exercises in comparative imagination across cultures that suspends the prejudiced hierarchy of originals over translations.

neil gaiman m is for magic: Neil Gaiman's Mr. Hero Complete Comics Vol. 1 James Vance, 2016-03-01 From the mind of New York Times Best-selling author and Eisner Award-winning author Neil Gaiman, comes Mr. Hero! Created by the villainous Henry Phage (aka Teknophage) as a sleeper agent, steampunk robot Mr. Hero is the toast of the late 19th century carnival scene. But when an accident during a boxing match causes him to seriously harm a patron, he's boxed up and forgotten. Rediscovered 100 years later by a young street magician, Mr. Hero struggles to overcome his original programming and become the hero his new friend (and the world) needs. This new volume (the first of a two-volume set) will collect all of the classic Mr. Hero comics for the first time anywhere. Volume 2 of the series is planned for Winter 2017.

neil gaiman m is for magic: Scary, Gross, and Enlightening Books for Boys Grades 3-12 Deborah B. Ford, 2009-11-19 Finally, a book to help educators promote sure-fire reading pleasers to boy readers in grades 3-12! *Scary, Gross, and Enlightening: Books for Boys Grades 3-12* is the helpful new reference handbook for educators looking for just the right books to captivate the imaginations of boys in a way that makes reading fun as well as effective. In chapters than span the full range of categories and genres, *Scary, Gross, and Enlightening* surveys the latest and greatest titles aimed at boys in the primary and secondary grades, including nonfiction, graphic novels, mystery and adventure, sports, sci-fi and fantasy, humor, history, books that were made into movies, read-aloud titles, and classic works that have stood the test of time. Each chapter suggests a number of appropriate and delightful titles on a specific theme and includes listings of corresponding websites, reproducible lessons, and activities. The book also provides lists of professional titles to support each chapter's theme, as well as research-based strategies for teaching with the suggested books.

neil gaiman m is for magic: The Graveyard Book - Behind the Story Carly Rasmussen, 2014-08-05 Neil Gaiman's dreams of creation begun when he was fifteen, only a little older than many of those who pick up *The Graveyard Book*. And this book has truly been one that has haunted his every word, every typed phrase and scribbled note as his career soared from struggling journalist to internationally renowned novelist. It was born in a little graveyard, taunted him with a story that he could not bring himself yet to write because he did not think his skill yet good enough. But that little story grew with the help of classics such as Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and the kind efforts of far more famous cemeteries around the world. Now, you, kind reader, hold the whole tale of its journey from a little boy bicycling about the headstones to the lyrical novel that transcends the idea of a children's book. Experience: The Behind the Story Effect After reading a BTS... You feel inspired to follow your hearts and dreams... — Arshi Ever been backstage at a concert? Here you go -- in written form. — Author, Editor I felt enriched with knowledge about the book, and I felt like I knew more about the book. — Aspiring Author I felt like the Behind the Story offered a new look into the book, and appreciated that, as most of the time, that angle is unexplored. — Aspiring Author It makes me discover new things, and when I re-read the book, my emotions are different, deeper now that I understand what's behind the book.— Karlen I felt closer to the writer knowing more about

them as a person and why they wrote what they wrote. — The Beta Reading Club Get ready for one of the most unique experiences you will ever have...this is definitely CliffNotes and SparkNotes on Steroids. — Author, Editor

neil gaiman m is for magic: The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 19 Stephen Jones, 2011-08-04 Here is the latest edition of the world's premier annual showcase of horror and dark fantasy fiction. It features some of the very best short stories and novellas by today's masters of the macabre - including Neil Gaiman, Brian Keene, Elizabeth Massie, Glen Hirshberg, Peter Atkins and Tanith Lee. The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror also features the most comprehensive yearly overview of horror around the world, lists of useful contact addresses and a fascinating necrology. It is the one book that is required reading for every fan of macabre fiction. PRAISE FOR THE SERIES 'Well-crafted celebration of a continuously inventive genre' SFX Magazine 'The must-have annual anthology for horror fans.' Time Out 'An essential volume for horror readers.' Locus 'In an age where genre fiction is often just reheated pastiche, the Best New Horror series continues to break from the herd, consistently raising the bar of quality and ingenuity.' Rue Morgue 'Brilliantly edited and most instructively introduced by legendary anthologist Stephen Jones.' Realms of Fantasy 'One of horror's best.' Publishers Weekly

neil gaiman m is for magic: The Graveyard in Literature Aoileann Ní Éigeartaigh, 2021-11-12 This volume focuses on literary and other cultural texts that use the graveyard as a liminal space within which received narratives and social values can be challenged, and new and empowering perspectives on the present articulated. It argues that such texts do so primarily by immersing the reader in a liminal space, between life and death, where traditional certainties such as time and space are suspended and new models of human interaction can thus be formulated. Essays in this volume examine the use of liminality as a vehicle for social critique, paying particular attention to the ways in which liminal spaces facilitate the construction of alternative perspectives.

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neil gaiman m is for magic: Coraline Neil Gaiman, 2009-11-02 The bewitching classic children's novel by Neil Gaiman, featuring spellbinding illustrations from Chris Riddell and an exclusive new introduction by the author 'I was enthralled ... a marvellously strange and scary book' Philip Pullman 'A masterpiece' Terry Pratchett There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back. This deliciously creepy, gripping novel is packed with glorious illustrations by Chris Riddell, and is guaranteed to delight and entrance readers of all ages.

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neil gaiman m is for magic: Using Literature in English Language Education Janice Bland, 2018-08-23 Covering Green's The Fault in Our Stars, Collins' The Hunger Games, Selznick's The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Rowling's Wizarding World, Staake's Bluebird and Winton's Lockie Leonard, contributors consider how literature can be used for teaching literary literacy, creative writing, intercultural learning, critical pedagogy and deep reading in school settings where English is the teaching medium. Leading scholars from around the world explore pedagogical principles for English Language Teaching (ELT) widening children's and teenagers' literacy competences as well as their horizons through insightful engagement with texts. From challenging picturebooks for primary and secondary students, to graphic novels, to story apps, film and drama, as well as speculative fiction on provocative topics, recent research on literature education in ELT settings combines with cognitive criticism in the field of children's, young adult and adult literature.

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neil gaiman m is for magic: The Medieval Worlds of Neil Gaiman Shiloh Carroll, 2023-09-27 Neil Gaiman is one of the most widely known writers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, having produced fiction and nonfiction, fantasy and horror, television, comics, and prose. He often attributes this eclecticism to his “compost heap” approach to writing, gathering inspiration from life, religion, literature, and mythology. Readers love to sink into Gaiman's medieval

worlds—but what makes them “medieval”? Shiloh Carroll offers an introduction to the idea of medievalism, how the literature and culture of the Middle Ages have been reinterpreted and repurposed over the centuries, and how the layers of interpretation have impacted Gaiman’s own use of medieval material. She examines influences from Norse mythology and Beowulf to medieval romances and fairy tales in order to expand readers’ understanding and appreciation of Gaiman’s work, as well as the rest of the medievalist films, TV shows, and books that are so popular today.

neil gaiman m is for magic: The Artistry of Neil Gaiman Joseph Michael Sommers, Kyle Eveleth, 2019-02-25 Contributions by Lanette Cadle, Züleyha Çetiner-Öktem, Renata Lucena Dalmaso, Andrew Eichel, Kyle Eveleth, Anna Katrina Gutierrez, Darren Harris-Fain, Krystal Howard, Christopher D. Kilgore, Kristine Larsen, Thayse Madella, Erica McCrystal, Tara Prescott-Johnson, Danielle Russell, Joe Sutliff Sanders, Joseph Michael Sommers, and Justin Wigard Neil Gaiman (b. 1960) reigns as one of the most critically decorated and popular authors of the last fifty years. Perhaps best known as the writer of the Harvey, Eisner, and World Fantasy Award-winning series *The Sandman*, Gaiman quickly became equally renowned in literary circles for *Neverwhere*, *Coraline*, and the award-winning *American Gods*, as well as the Newbery and Carnegie Medal-winning *The Graveyard Book*. For adults, children, comics readers, and viewers of the BBC’s *Doctor Who*, Gaiman’s writing has crossed the borders of virtually all media, making him a celebrity around the world. Despite Gaiman’s incredible contributions to comics, his work remains underrepresented in sustained fashion in comics studies. In this book, the thirteen essays and two interviews with Gaiman and his frequent collaborator, artist P. Craig Russell, examine the work of Gaiman and his many illustrators. The essays discuss Gaiman’s oeuvre regarding the qualities that make his work unique in his eschewing of typical categories, his proclamations to “make good art,” and his own constant efforts to do so however the genres and audiences may slip into one another. *The Artistry of Neil Gaiman* forms a complicated picture of a man who has always seemed fully assembled virtually from the start of his career, but only came to feel comfortable in his own voice far later in life.

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