

Get in Trouble: Stories

By Kelly Link

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FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE | NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST FICTION BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *TIME* AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *BookPage* • *BuzzFeed* • *Chicago Tribune* • *Kirkus Reviews* • *NPR* • *San Francisco Chronicle* • *Slate* • *Toronto Star* • *The Washington Post*

She has been hailed by Michael Chabon as “the most darkly playful voice in American fiction” and by Neil Gaiman as “a national treasure.” Now Kelly Link’s eagerly awaited new collection—her first for adult readers in a decade—proves indelibly that this bewitchingly original writer is among the finest we have.

Link has won an ardent following for her ability, with each new short story, to take readers deeply into an unforgettable, brilliantly constructed fictional universe. The nine exquisite examples in this collection show her in full command of her formidable powers. In “The Summer People,” a young girl in rural North Carolina serves as uneasy caretaker to the mysterious, never-quite-glimpsed visitors who inhabit the cottage behind her house. In “I Can See Right Through You,” a middle-aged movie star makes a disturbing trip to the Florida swamp where his former on- and off-screen love interest is shooting a ghost-hunting reality show. In “The New Boyfriend,” a suburban slumber party takes an unusual turn, and a teenage friendship is tested, when the spoiled birthday girl opens her big present: a life-size animated doll.

Hurricanes, astronauts, evil twins, bootleggers, Ouija boards, iguanas, *The Wizard of Oz*, superheroes, the Pyramids . . . These are just some of the talismans of an imagination as capacious and as full of wonder as that of any writer today. But as fantastical as these stories can be, they are always grounded by sly humor and an innate generosity of feeling for the frailty—and the hidden strengths—of human beings. In *Get in Trouble*, this one-of-a-kind talent expands the boundaries of what short fiction can do.

Praise for *Get in Trouble*

“Ridiculously brilliant . . . These stories make you laugh while staring into the void.”—*The Boston Globe*

“When it comes to literary magic, Link is the real deal: clever, surprising, affecting, fluid and funny.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“With every tale [Link] conjures a different universe, each more captivating than the last. . . . You’ll long to return the minute you leave. [Grade:] A.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Marvelous . . . As a writer Kelly Link is possessed of many magical powers, but to me what’s most notable about [*Get in Trouble*] is its astonishing freedom.”—**Meg Wolitzer, NPR**


“Sensational . . . Remain in your narrative comfort zone, or venture into Link’s uncharted sea of troubles. Come on. Live a little.”—**O: *The Oprah Magazine***

“This is art that re-enchants the world. Who needs tediously believable situations, O. Henry endings or even truthfulness to life? Give us magic; give us wonder.”—*The Washington Post*

“The stories here are effective because we believe them—not just their situations but also their hearts.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“A zero-gravity vacation in a dust jacket.”—*Chicago Tribune*

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Get in Trouble: Stories By Kelly Link Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month for February 2015: When the term magical realism is mentioned, it's not uncommon for it to conjure an eye roll. There is a limited but esteemed number of writers who can pull this genre off well, and Kelly Link fits in nicely among them. She has drawn comparisons to likes of Margaret Atwood, and I would even say Angela Carter. To be sure, *Get in Trouble* possesses the same sort of dark, crackling wit that is a signature of their works. But Link is in a league all her own. Standouts in this short story collection are the "Summer People," where an unwitting caretaker finds herself beholden to mischievous fairies (just go with me, here), the melancholy "Origin Story" about a woman and her erstwhile lover (who happens to be a superhero), and the less wondrously weird but affecting "The Lesson" that follows a worried gay couple anticipating the birth of their first child. For all the fantastical elements, Link's stories dexterously explore the gamut of human emotion. This is *Trouble* you will enjoy getting into. —*Erin Kodicek*

Review

"Welcome to the fabulous mind of Kelly Link. . . . It has taken Link ten years to produce her new story collection, *Get in Trouble*, and it is just as brilliant as her last."—*The New York Times Book Review* (Editor's Choice)

"Ridiculously brilliant . . . and entertaining as heck . . . These stories make you laugh while staring into the void. By the end, they'll be with you sleeping and waking."—*The Boston Globe*

"Marvelous . . . As a writer Kelly Link is possessed of many magical powers, but to me what's most notable about her new collection, *Get in Trouble*, is its astonishing freedom. . . . Link knows there's nothing she's 'supposed' to do; her imaginative freedom is unmitigated by a need to counterbalance the weirdness with explanation."—**Meg Wolitzer, NPR**

"Smashing . . . sensational . . . Each of these stories presents the reader with the same setup: Remain in your narrative comfort zone, or venture into Link's uncharted sea of troubles. Come on. Live a little."—**O: The Oprah Magazine**

"This is art that re-enchants the world. Who needs tediously believable situations, O. Henry endings or even truthfulness to life? Give us magic; give us wonder. What matter most in pure storytelling are style and visionary power. If your voice is hypnotic enough, you can make readers follow you anywhere."—*The Washington Post*

"When it comes to literary magic, Link is the real deal: clever, surprising, affecting, fluid and funny."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Brilliantly strange . . . With every tale [Link] conjures a different universe, each more captivating than the last. At first glance these realms don't seem too far from our own, but soon their wild, mysterious corners are illuminated. . . . You'll long to return the minute you leave. [Grade:] A"—*Entertainment Weekly*

"*Get in Trouble* is one of the strongest collections I've read recently; each story is finely calibrated, with

Link's surreal but utterly believable logic, suspense, and heart."—*The Paris Review*

"Wildly imaginative . . . Link never fusses over the surreal twists in her stories, but they contain so much emotional truth that there's no need to explain a thing."—*The New York Times*

"[*Get in Trouble*] resonates with depth and maturity, the sense of a writer using genre for her purposes rather than the other way around. . . . The stories here are effective because we believe them—not just their situations but also their hearts. . . . [Kelly Link] has created a series of fully articulated pocket universes, animated by a three-dimensional sense of character, of life."—*Los Angeles Times*

"Since her 2001 debut, *Stranger Things Happen*, no one has surpassed Link at crafting stories like miniature worlds, each one palatial on the inside, honeycombed with alternate realities and alarmingly seductive. . . . A new Link collection is therefore more than just a good excuse for a trip to the bookstore. It's a zero-gravity vacation in a dust jacket."—*Chicago Tribune*

"Magical . . . The stories in *Get in Trouble* are something like the wonderful stories of Ray Bradbury, whose science fiction transcended the genre. Link's tales are reminiscent of Neil Gaiman, too, with something dark, feminine, and punk-rock blended in."—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Mesmerizing."—*The Seattle Times*

"Beautiful, terrible and strange . . . When Link published her first collection, *Stranger Things Happen*, this sort of fiction, with its playful intersections of the banal and the wondrous, was rare. There's more of it now, but Link remains the master of a delicate genre."—*Salon*

"[*Get in Trouble*] is a haunted house built with blunt sentences and teeming with dark shadows, sudden shocks, and secret rooms. . . . But fear not: Link is always in control, an emotional realist with a steady hand and a generous heart."—*New York*

"Link's prose and ideas dazzle; so much so that you don't see the swift elbow to the emotional solar plexus coming until it's far, far too late."—*The Guardian*

"Link has won Hugo, Nebula, World Fantasy and Tiptree Awards for her fiction, but no single taxonomic label, such as fantasy, adequately covers what she does. . . . She shows off a wit that would earn her a nod from Dorothy Parker."—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"[*Get in Trouble*] brims with imagination and astonishment—not to mention the indefinable weirdness of being a human being. Every story in *Get in Trouble* is pure delight, a Big Gulp of beauty and horror and joy. If you aren't already in love with Kelly Link's writing, you soon will be. . . . Link is a visionary and a master storyteller, and *Get in Trouble* is her best book yet."—*BuzzFeed*

"Any fan of Karen Russell, Ursula K. Le Guin, and any other smartly written, fantastic stories should not miss out on Kelly Link."—*The Huffington Post*

"[Link] crafts a beguiling and eerie blend of fairy tale, fantasy, Ray Bradbury, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. It's a wonderful mélange of cyborg ghosts, evil twin shadows, Egyptian cotillions, and pixie-distilled moonshine. Guys, she's really great."—*The Portland Mercury*

"Link remains one of the most potent storytellers we have, and *Get in Trouble* is some of her most playful

and intense work yet. It's a great reminder of not just Link's unique voice, but also the fact that stories can be more than just nuggets of invention—they can be precious and life-enhancing.”—*io9*

“Irresistible . . . The best of her stories linger after they end, casting shadows and opening doors to strange new worlds.”—*The Columbus Dispatch*

“The nine stories in [*Get in Trouble*] sizzle with surprises. . . . Link is one of a kind.”—**BBC**

“These stories take a wrecking ball to labels like ‘literary realism,’ ‘science fiction,’ ‘fairytales,’ and ‘magical realism,’ and then build something beautiful, complex, and intricately imaginative from the rubble.”—*Bustle*

“Each story in *Get in Trouble* is like a dark ride at an amusement park: you enter with no idea what is going to happen and little opportunity to get your bearings before things start to speed up. You emerge on the other side dizzied, tousled, exhilarated and a little changed.”—*Toronto Star*

“[Kelly Link] makes realism and fantasy prop each other up and dance, and soon they're whirling together so quickly that you can't tell the difference between the two.”—*The Stranger*

“In Link's masterful hands, even the bizarre seems plausible.”—*Marie Claire*

“You can never really read a Link story for the second time, much like you can't step in the same river twice. It's not just that the stories are fluid, with unexpected eddies and odd new things always floating downstream, but that part of the pleasure of reading a Link story lies in deciding *how* to read this particular Link story.”—*Locus*

“Beneath the attention-getting levity of Link's conceits—ghosts, superheroes, ‘evil twins’—lies a patient, Munroian attunement to the complexities of human nature.”—*The Millions*

“Brilliant . . . These short stories are sharp, dangerous and haunting, and say just as much about our modern desire for fantasies as they do about the desires that make us human.”—*Refinery29*

“Link is seven kinds of brilliant, and then just when you think you have your brain wrapped around all of them, another pops up.”—**KQED**

“There is no more successful writer at walking the edge of speculation and genre. . . . No one is more gifted at dipping into a darker kind of wonder, an emotion for most readers that sadly belongs to the realm of childhood, than Link is. She bewilders the reader with wonder.”—**A. N. Devers, *Longreads***

“[Link] shows [short fiction's] ability to compress lifetimes seething with tension and crystallise moments blazing with desire and defiance, into handfuls of taut, finely wrought, pages.”—*The Sydney Morning Herald*

“The stories in *Get in Trouble* are as compulsively readable as a trendy YA novel, but have the cultural richness of Angela Carter, the emotional complexity of Alice Munro, and a precise use of language all Link's own.”—*National Post*

About the Author

Kelly Link is the author of the collections *Get in Trouble*, *Stranger Things Happen*, *Magic for Beginners*,

and *Pretty Monsters*. She and Gavin J. Grant have co-edited a number of anthologies, including multiple volumes of *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* and, for young adults, *Monstrous Affections*. She is the co-founder of Small Beer Press. Her short stories have been published in *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. She has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Link was born in Miami, Florida. She currently lives with her husband and daughter in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joy Hanson:

Here thing why this kind of Get in Trouble: Stories are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Get in Trouble: Stories giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no e-book that similar with Get in Trouble: Stories. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your technique home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Get in Trouble: Stories in e-book can be your alternate.

Marilyn Washington:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like Get in Trouble: Stories which is having the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

Linda Pinkerton:

Book is one of source of knowledge. We can add our information from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen require book to know the upgrade information of year to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside all of us add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. By the book Get in Trouble: Stories we can have more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? To be creative person must prefer to read a book. Only choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't be doubt to change your life with this book Get in Trouble: Stories. You can more pleasing than now.

Robert Howard:

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