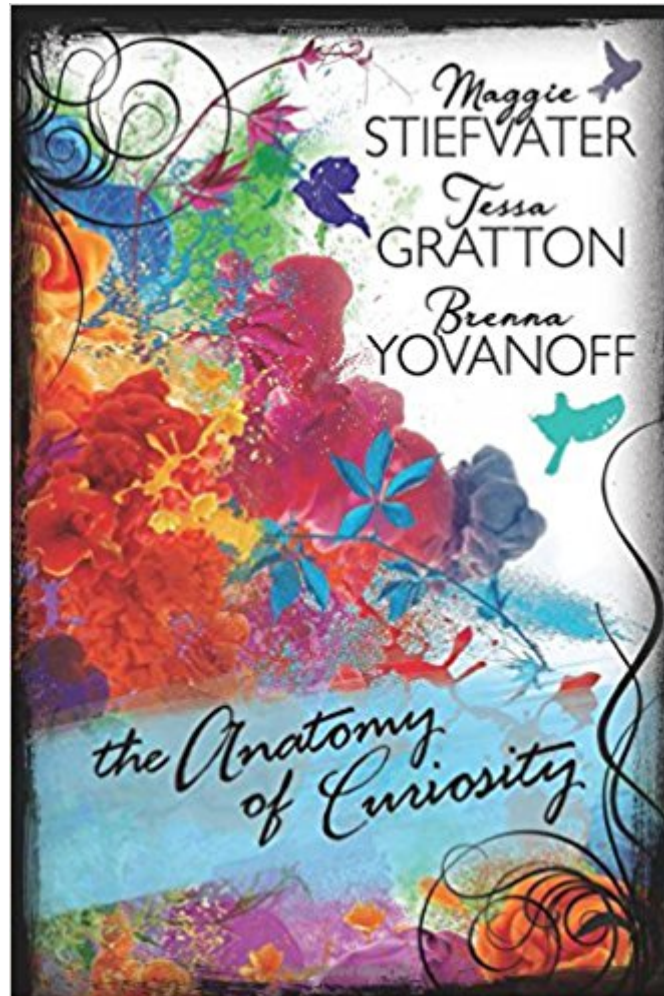




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The Anatomy Of Curiosity



Synopsis

The follow-up to the acclaimed novel *The Curiosities: A Collection of Stories* by Maggie Stiefvater, Tessa Gratton, and Brenna Yovanoff. In an unassuming corner of Brooklyn, a young woman learns to be ladylike, to love context, and to speak her mind from a very curious sort of tutor. In a faraway land convulsed by war, a young soldier hears the desert's curious hum as he disarms bombs with the person he doesn't know how to love. In a place so shriveled by drought that any drowning is a curiosity, a young writer tries again and again to tread water beneath the surface of a vast and unusual sea. Three new stories complete with commentary on the creative process from three acclaimed young adult authors working at the height of their powers.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up — The three authors behind the dazzling collection *The Curiosities: A Collection of Stories* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2012) have assembled a new trio of vignettes; each author has penned one tale, including comments for future writers located in the margins, but with mixed results. Each short work sheds light on one aspect of writing: characterization, world-building, and the development of an idea. "Ladylike," Stiefvater's contribution and the weakest of the three, opens the volume. Aspiring writers will likely enjoy the literary advice more than the story. Stiefvater's quest is

to thoroughly define protagonist Petra by one main trait. Unfortunately, this makes her one-dimensional and lowers readers' ability to empathize with her or to imagine adding their own little flourishes to the character. Gratton's "Desert Canticle," the instructive entry on world-building, presents a timely tale of the mage Aniv, a magically gifted transgender woman who is romantically paired with her male assistant, Rafel, in a bomb-defusing mission. The achingly desolate story examines identity, secrets, transformations, and hypocrisy in a postwar setting. Both the novella and the advice are equally memorable. Yovanoff's haunting tale, "Drowning Variations," thoroughly chronicles the growth of an idea. It is fascinating to see one drowning become the basis for many different stories and how the author refines and edits until completion. Yovanoff provides the largest amount of literary advice, placing it mostly within the chapter proper. VERDICT Purchase for aspiring authors seeking advice; otherwise, pass. —Cindy Wall, Southington Library & Museum, CT

Brenna Yovanoff is the New York Times bestselling author of four young adult novels. She holds an MFA in Fiction from Colorado State University. She currently lives in Denver with her husband. Tessa Gratton is the acclaimed author of four young adult novels. She currently lives in Kansas with her partner, two cats, and her mutant mutt named Grendel. Maggie Stiefvater is the New York Times bestselling author of more than ten books for young readers. She lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children.

Most books about writing are Writing 101. This is Writing 106, along with a spoonful of sugar in the form of luminous stories. They serve both to illustrate the points and to make learning more fun. These three ladies know immense amounts about writing, and I love that they start you at the upper levels, at the holy-wow-you-put-some-thought-into-this level of composing fiction. I found myself highlighting until I crashed my Kindle with it. And the stories. Oh the stories. "Ladylike" is terrible and gorgeous and meticulously crafted. "A Desert Canticle" is true and tragic and lovely and then surprising as all hell. It felt like an epic fantasy novel's worth of experiences, somehow wrapped up in a short story, like a clown car where you can't believe they packed in so much so effortlessly. "Drowning Variations" puts me in mind of a Monty Python quote: "And now, for something completely different..." It's a naked and terrifying look at the twisty process by which we start with an idea, mine it for its soul, and then bang our faces into our desks over and over, trying to truly represent the whispering voice within us in mere words. I congratulate Ms. Yovanoff on her honesty and on sharing the whole process, which was fascinating and uplifting both. This book is a

new favorite. I've read everything Maggie Stiefvater has ever published, but the Yovanoff and Gratton's novels just hit my to-read list as well.

The book arrived in excellent condition. I have read other books by Brenna Yovanoff which I thoroughly enjoyed. I will be reading this book during the Christmas holiday. Since she has collaborated with two other authors in *The Anatomy of Curiosity*, the read will be interesting and I am sure delightful.

This is flat out the best book I have ever read for writers on how to write, It isn't a grammar book or a "how to write an essay" book; it is a conversation with the reader about the writing process. Engages without being in the "teaching" or talking down mode. AND the three stories in it are all really good. A great book for an emerging writer!

Maggie Stiefvater never disappoints. I've been reading her books for years, and am always enthralled by her impressive word selection and complex characters. Her books have just enough of a foothold in reality to draw the reader in and keep them invested in the story...long after the book is finished. Her compilations with Tessa and Brenna are equally entertaining.

I work with a lot of young writers. They hunger to write good fiction, but there is little to feed them when it comes to books they can read that show them how to do it well. This book, as well as the trio's first in this vein, is exactly what kids want and need: good writing by good writers along with a glimpse at how the professionals they admire think about what they do.

The premise of the book is different Author's ideas and suggestions on writing. Well done. Better ad summary would help.

In an old walk up in Brooklyn, a young woman is hired as a reader and companion for a strange older woman. What starts a job quickly turns into something much more important as Petra learns about context, ladylike behavior, and speaking her mind all while finding an unusual kind of friendship in "Ladylike" by Maggie Stiefvater. In a faraway land a young soldier works to disarm magical bombs left behind by rebels. The hum of the desert lulls him and the mysterious magician on his team enchants him, but sometimes loving something is hard until you know the truth about yourself in "Desert Canticle" by Tessa Gratton. In a town where water is scarce, drowning is a rarity.

There are a lot of ways to tell the you about the boy she found drowned in a half inch of water, but there's only one right story for Jane and the drowning place in "Drowning Variations" by Brenna Yovanoff. The Anatomy of Curiosity (2015) is the second anthology from authors (and critique partners) Tessa Gratton, Maggie Stiefvater and Brenna Yovanoff. In this followup to The Curiosities the focus is more squarely on the mechanics of writing and how ideas can become stories. For this collection each author wrote a new novella and details their writing process in a preface and margin comments. Between each story all three authors also discuss how they tackled finding critique partners, revision, and _____. Each author frames their margin comments and notes in the context of their focus when writing. Stiefvater discusses character (how she builds characters and conveys characterization through different aspects of the story), Gratton focuses on world-building (how worlds shape characters and how world-building choices shape the rest of the story), while Yovanoff talks about ideas (getting from the idea she has to the story she wants to tell with a particular project). It's worth noting that The Anatomy of Curiosity can be read, first and foremost, as a set of engaging fantasy novellas. As fans of these authors would expect, each novella is well-written and evocative in its own right. In reading the marginalia and supplemental materials, however, readers are treated to not only excellent fiction but also an insider's view of the creative process from three incredibly talented writers. The Anatomy of Curiosity is a must-read for aspiring authors and fantasy fans alike.

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