



Brooklin Author Publishes New Fantasy for Young Teens

TEXTING THE UNDERWORLD by Ellen Booraem
Penguin/Dial Books for Young Readers

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BROOKLIN, Maine—What would it take to bring out the hero in a naturally fearful person?

Which is worse: Losing a loved one or dying yourself?

Those are two of the questions facing 12-year-old Conor O’Neil, the protagonist (some would say “hero”) of *TEXTING THE UNDERWORLD*, Ellen Booraem’s latest fantasy for ages 10-14. Published by the Penguin imprint Dial Books for Young Readers, the book hit bookstores August 15, 2013.

As of late June, *Kirkus Reviews* had given the new book a starred review. *The Horn Book* praised it for “complex characters, a moving story line centered on family and courage, and plenty of exciting moments.”

Conor, a perpetual scaredy-cat, has the fright of his life when a young banshee named Ashling shows up in his bedroom. Like all banshees, Ashling is a harbinger of death—but she’s new at this banshee business and first she insists on going to middle school. Even as Conor struggles to hide her identity from his classmates and teachers, he realizes his family won’t be safe unless he does the scariest thing ever: pay a visit to the Underworld, trusty cell phone in hand.

Booraem’s *SMALL PERSONS WITH WINGS*, now out in paperback, made Best of the Year lists for *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *The Washington Post* and the Bank Street Center for Children’s Literature. Her first middle-grade fantasy, *THE UNNAMEABLES*, was a Junior Library Guild selection, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2008.

A reporter and editor for *The Ellsworth American* and the Penobscot Bay Press papers for two decades, Booraem quit her job in 2003 to write her first book. Before moving to Maine, she was a writer and editor in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, where she grew up. She lives in Brooklin with artist Robert Shillady.

More information about Booraem and *TEXTING THE UNDERWORLD* is available at www.EllenBooraem.com. She also is a member of The Enchanted Inkpot, a blog by and for children’s fantasy writers (<http://enchantedinkpot.com>).

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