

DEBUT MG/YA NOVEL

THE FISH IN JONAH'S PUDDLE

(To Say Nothing of the Demon)

BY BYRON LEAVITT

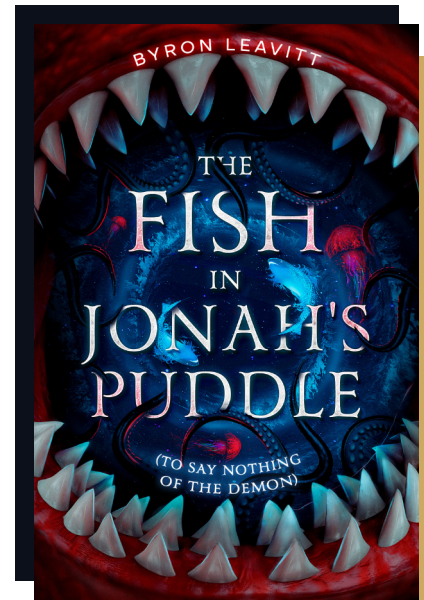
***“The demon ate their parents.
They intend to get them back.”***

FOR FANS OF
Coraline
Impossible Creatures

AT A GLANCE

BOOK FACT SHEET.

The essentials, organized for editors, producers, reviewers, and bookers.



TITLE:	<i>The Fish in Jonah's Puddle</i>
SUBTITLE:	<i>(To Say Nothing of the Demon)</i>
AUTHOR:	Byron Leavitt
AGE RANGE:	10 – 16
GENRE:	Middle Grade / YA Fantasy
WORLD:	Contemporary / portal fantasy
FORMAT:	Paperback, Hardcover, eBook
RIGHTS:	World, all formats — author held

THE PITCH

A demon devoured their parents. Now, a brother and sister, a talking salmon, a dapper troll, and a snarky harpy must plunge into the puddles between worlds to rescue the siblings' family before the monster consumes them all.

WHAT IT IS

This madcap story is as funny and heartwarming as scary and jaw-dropping. It's a celebration of the weird kids, the outcasts, and creativity. If you enjoy A Wrinkle in Time, The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, Gravity Falls, Spirited Away, or found-family stories, this portal fantasy is for you. It's also for lovers of slimy sea monsters, ghastly oddities, and quirky humor. It is whimsical, offbeat, and a nonstop thrill ride you won't soon forget.

TOPE:	Imagination, courage, found family, grief, weirdness, wonder, alternate worlds, accepting the outsider
LANGUAGE:	English
COMP TITLES:	<i>Coraline; Impossible Creatures</i>
PUB DATE:	April 2026
AUTHOR PRIOR:	<i>Deep Madness; Dawn of Madness; Deep Madness: Shattered Seas; Twisted Fables; Of Hope and Cancer</i>
LINEAGE:	<i>A Monster Calls; The Graveyard Book</i>
IMPRINT:	Brain Waves Press - (Independent - KDP / Print)
AVAILABILITY:	Amazon (KDP) and most major retailers

ABOUT THE BOOK

SYNOPSIS.

THE HOOK

***“The demon ate their parents.
They intend to get them back.”***

THE BLURB

Jonah Hutchins didn't think twice about finding a salmon in a puddle in his backyard. He already had a dapper troll lurking in his basement and a snarky harpy roosting in the trees out front, after all. He didn't even flinch when the fish named Stuart announced that several nearby puddles were portals to other dimensions.

But a demon also lurked in Stuart's puddle—and it swallowed Jonah's parents whole.

Jonah and his sister Debbie refuse to let the demon make them orphans. So they gather Jonah's strange friends and plunge through the puddles into the worlds beyond on a wild rescue mission.

They discover wondrous places like a cardboard kingdom where spilled water could end everything and a crumbling world full of ghosts and mouths. They meet weird new allies, including a massive plastic dragon and an octopus-headed prophetess. But the demon is still hungry, and it won't stop until it devours them all.

“The awestruck adventure of *Impossible Creatures* meets the dark, hungry dread of *Coraline*.”

This book is a celebration of the imagination's power and a whirlwind ride you won't soon forget.

WELCOME TO THE FISH IN JONAH'S PUDDLE.
ARE YOU READY?

THE BEGINNING

Stuart was having a lovely cup of tea with Ms. Finch when reality ripped itself apart. Ms. Finch gasped as Stuart lifted into the air, his straw slipping from his mouth. Then, before he could say so much as a “Goodbye, Ms. Finch,” the dimensional rift slurped Stuart up and set him sliding through the channels between the worlds.

THEMES & KEYWORDS

imagination as superpower ♦ *found family* ♦ *wonder as resistance* ♦ *the weird kid wins* ♦ *portal fantasy*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BYRON
LEAVITT.WEIRD FICTION THAT
CULTIVATES WONDER

Author of 8+ books and acclaimed game narratives.

WASHINGTON STATE, USA

FULL BIO

Byron Leavitt is a creator of weird fiction who lives to cultivate wonder. He wrote all the story content for the hit board games *Deep Madness* and *Twisted Fables* by Diemension Games, plus either wrote or co-wrote all eight books for the story-driven game *Dawn of Madness*, which one reviewer called “the best narrative I’ve ever read.”

Byron also wrote the books *Deep Madness: Shattered Seas* and *The Art of Deep Madness*, plus the true story *Of Hope and Cancer*. His most recent book is the weird, wondrous portal fantasy *The Fish in Jonah’s Puddle (To Say Nothing of the Demon)*.

Byron lives in a centennial Swiss-style house in Washington State with his wife, Sarah, his daughters Aurora and Eden, many jellyfish babies, his butler, Egad, several gremlins, and Steve the alien.



BYRON LEAVITT, 2026

PHOTO AVAILABLE — PRINT & WEB

Available for podcasts, school visits,
panels, livestreams & written Q&As.

ONE-LINE BIO

Byron Leavitt is a creator of weird fiction who lives to cultivate wonder—author of *The Fish in Jonah’s Puddle* and narrative writer for the acclaimed tabletop games *Deep Madness*, *Dawn of Madness*, and *Twisted Fables*.

“

IN HIS OWN WORDS

“While it may feel like wonder is fading from our parched, weary world today, I hope I can douse people in it afresh and renew that childlike sense of awe. The unknown can be a terrifying place, but that’s where true adventure and discovery lie. I aim to take you there in this story, with a talking salmon and an imaginative teen as your guides.”

— BYRON LEAVITT

6+

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORKS

25

YEARS IN THE MAKING

1

DEBUT MG/YA NOVEL

FOR EDITORS & PRODUCERS

STORY ANGLES.

Nine angles for editors, producers, and reviewers — chosen as jumping-off points for features, segments, panels, or written Q&As.

01

IMAGINATION AS A SUPERPOWER

Imagination isn't merely a (sometimes questionable) quality someone possesses in this book. Instead, it is a superpower that the heroes must use to beat back the forces of evil.

02

WONDER AS RESISTANCE

Byron argues that cultivating wonder in an era saturated with dread is not a soft skill but an act of courage—a belief reflected in the book.

03

THE MG/YA HORROR SWEET SPOT

Fish joins the lineage of *Coraline*, *A Monster Calls*, and *The Graveyard Book*: stories that take young readers seriously enough to scare them honestly—and then comfort them honestly.

04

PORTAL FANTASY, REINVENTED

Not a wardrobe. Not a cupboard under the stairs. A salmon in an interdimensional puddle. Byron on why the smallest doorways make the biggest worlds.

05

FOUND FAMILY ACROSS SPECIES

Jonah's rescue crew includes a troll, a harpy, a talking salmon, a plastic dragon, and an octopus-headed prophetess. The book quietly insists that family isn't just born; it's built.

06

THE WEIRD KID WINS

Jonah thinks differently. He's undeniably weird, and he's usually okay with that—even when others misunderstand him. This story isn't about him "growing up" or changing who he is. It's about the weird kid winning *because* of who he is.

07

FROM BOARD GAMES TO BOOKS

Byron honed his craft writing narratives for the critically acclaimed board games *Deep Madness* and *Dawn of Madness*. *Fish* bears marks of their atmosphere, escalating tension, and uncanny beauty, but directs them toward younger readers.

08

A STORY 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Byron dreamed up this book's original idea as a teenager. He toiled on it across decades, shaping it from a short story to a short novel to the book it is today. This book is proof that trunk novels sometimes can escape to take the world by storm.

09

A FIRST NOVEL FOR THE TIKTOK READER

Hook-forward opening, high-concept worldbuilding, and a voice that trusts young people. This book is a natural fit for BookTok, BookTube, and school-visit programming.

BYRON IS HAPPY TO DEVELOP OR EXPAND ANY OF THESE ANGLES.

READY FOR YOUR SHOW

SAMPLE QUESTIONS.

Use these verbatim or as jumping-off points. Byron is comfortable on camera, on mic, and in print, and is happy to tailor answers for your audience.

10 QUESTIONS

Tailored for podcasts, livestreams, school visits & interviews.

- 01 The book opens with a fish in a puddle and a demon that eats parents. Where did this story come from?
- 02 You've written narrative for games and nonfiction. What drew you toward fantasy for a younger audience?
- 03 You describe your work as "weird fiction that cultivates wonder." What's the relationship between weirdness and wonder?
- 04 *Coraline* and *Impossible Creatures* are your comp titles. What did each teach you about writing for young readers?
- 05 The book is darker than most MG/YA fantasy. How do you think about the line between tension and trauma?
- 06 Jonah's companions each have distinct voices. How do you build a character a young reader latches onto fast?
- 07 You've said the power of imagination is a theme. Why does that feel urgent to you right now?
- 08 A cardboard kingdom. A crumbling realm of ghosts and mouths. Where does this kind of worldbuilding come from?
- 09 You've said the book took you 25 years to write. How is that possible? What iterations has it gone through?
- 10 What do you hope readers carry with them after they close the last page?

BOOKING & REVIEW COPIES

MEDIA CONTACT.

EMAIL

byron@byronleavitt.com

WEBSITE

byronleavitt.com

NEWSLETTER

byronleavitt.substack.com

LOCATION

Washington State, USA



PRESS ASSETS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



High-resolution cover art

JPG/PNG, front, 3D, back



Author photography

Headshot & full-body



Author bio (3 lengths)

One line, 50, 150 words



Sample chapters

eARC & physical review



Pre-approved pull quotes

Plus social graphics



Speaking & appearances

Podcasts, schools, panels

BYRON LOOKS FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

AN INVITATION

AN INVITATION

“WELCOME TO
THE FISH IN
JONAH'S PUDDLE.

Are you ready?”



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FOR FANS OF CORALINE & IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES
Middle Grade / Young Adult Fantasy

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WEIRD FICTION THAT CULTIVATES WONDER

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byronleavitt.substack.com

AUTHOR PRESS KIT ◆ SPRING 2026 ◆ © 2026 Byron Leavitt