

For starters

Posted on Mar 28, Posted by [Lois Lowry](#) Category [Uncategorized](#)

This is, to be honest, an experiment. I'm looking for a way to update readers to news about new books, signings, speaking engagements, and the ever-changing world of movie-making. I don't want to get sucked into a bottomless pit of back-and-forth conversations, nor do I want to schmooze about my family doings: how cute my grandkids are, or how fascinating our day-to-day life.

BUT: from time to time there is news, and I'm trying to see if this might be a good way to put it out there.

For starters: the new book, GOSSAMER, is not officially "out" yet...its publication date is mid-April. But the copies do exist...I've just today received a carton which I will shortly sign and mail off to those same kids and grandkids I swore (see previous paragraph) I wasn't going to blather about.

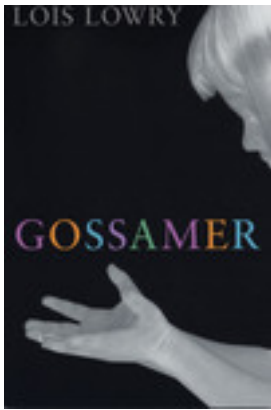
And it has been reviewed; this from PUBLISHERS WEEKLY:

Gossamer

Lois Lowry. Houghton/Lorraine, \$16 (144p) ISBN 0-618-68550-2

Lowry's (The Giver) spellbinding story centers on a clever, curious young dream-giver. Littlest One is learning the nocturnal task performed by her kind, which entails gently touching objects belonging to a human, thereby gathering "memories, colors, words once spoken, hints of scents and the tiniest fragments of forgotten sound" and combining them to create dreams. The most challenging task she must master is to "bestow" the dream on a sleeping human. Under the tutelage of a caring, patient elder, Littlest begins to hone her skills in the home of a lonely 73-year-old woman who takes in John, an angry, unhappy foster child. Through Littlest's

gathering process and John's resultant dreams, as well as through the dreams of John's estranged mother, Lowry poignantly reveals the boy's sad past. Some of the novel's most moving scenes center on the growing trust between John and his foster mother, as his bitterness and low self-esteem begin to abate. Littlest demonstrates her tenacity and talent when she successfully counters the curse of the four-legged Sinisteeds, renegade dream-givers who have been "consumed by the dark side" and who inflict powerful nightmares on their victims, including John. Lyrical, richly descriptive prose ushers readers into a fascinating parallel world inhabited by appealingly quirky characters. While she gathers fragments, Littlest demonstrates an unusually delicate touch that enables her to gain deeper insight—a gossamer touch that earns her the name in the title. With her exquisite, at times mesmerizing writing, Lowry displays a similar skill. Ages 10-up. (Apr.)



MOVIE NEWS: "The Giver" will be directed by Vadim Perelman, the immensely gifted director who brought the Andre Dubus book "House of Sand and Fog" to the screen and to some Oscar nominations. Although I am not involved in the making of the film, the producers, director, and actor Jeff Bridges, who will likely play the title role, have been very generous in allowing me to peek over their shoulders as they work on this project.

I have THEATER NEWS as well but will save it for another post.

Happy Spring. I have a zillion crocuses in bloom in my bleak New England yard.

Tags: Untagged