



Once Again to Zelda: The Stories Behind Literature's Most Intriguing Dedications

By Marlene Wagman-Geller

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A fascinating look at the stories behind the dedications of 50 literary classics.

Mary Shelley dedicated *Frankenstein* to her father, her greatest champion. Charlotte Brönte dedicated *Jane Eyre* to William Makepeace Thackeray for his enthusiastic review of the book's first edition. Dostoyevsky dedicated *The Brothers Karamazov* to his typist-turned-lover Anna Grigoyevna. And, as this collection's title indicates, F. Scott Fitzgerald dedicated his masterpiece *The Great Gatsby* to his wife Zelda.

Often overlooked, a novel's dedication can say much about an author and his or her relationship to the person for whom the book was consecrated. *Once Again to Zelda* explores the dedications in fifty iconic books that are an intrinsic part of both literary and pop culture, shedding light on the author's psyche, as well as the social and historic context in which the book was first published.

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Editorial Review

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Book dedications provide some small clue to the writer's personal life, yet most readers accord them little more than a passing glance. English teacher Wagman-Geller became a "dedication detective" after she decided to research what turned out to be a gripping story behind the provocative dedication in Peyton Place and now presents a set of zesty biographical literary essays. She begins with the knotty family history behind Mary Shelley's dedication in Frankenstein to her controversial father, William Godwin, and moves forward in time to assemble an almost sinfully eclectic range of classic and contemporary writers. Wagman-Geller is an unabashed romantic, and love stories abound, including the grab-a-handkerchief tale of Laura Hillenbrand's simple dedication, "For Borden." Wagman-Geller also loves stories of struggle, and opens entire worlds when she writes about Harper Lee, Stephen King, and J. K. Rowling. From dedications by George Eliot to John le Carré, Michael Chabon, and Dean Koontz, this widely appealing book of guilty pleasures provides an unusual portal into the lives of a colorful array of writers. --Donna Seaman

About the Author

Marlene Wagman-Geller, an enthusiastic trivia buff and avid reader, is a veteran high school English teacher.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luther Roberts:

The book Once Again to Zelda: The Stories Behind Literature's Most Intriguing Dedications make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading a book Once Again to Zelda: The Stories Behind Literature's Most Intriguing Dedications being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a guide Once Again to Zelda: The Stories Behind Literature's Most Intriguing Dedications. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

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