



The Replacement

By Brenna Yovanoff

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Mackie Doyle is The Replacement - left in the crib of a human baby sixteen years ago. He has been raised among us. But he is not one of us. Now, he must face the dark creatures of the slag heaps from which he came and find his rightful place - in our world or theirs.

"Unsettling villains and intriguing moral ambivalence make this effort shockingly original and . . .breathhtaking." - *Booklist*, starred review

"Even after finishing the book, readers will be left with the eerie sensation that . . . the true darkness has yet to abate." - *BCCB*, starred review

"Well-developed characters, a fascinating Fairy Court, an exciting story line, wicked cover art . . .this book has the makings of a success." - *Publishers Weekly*

"A fast-paced, dark delicacy." - *Kirkus Reviews*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Maggie Stiefvater and Brenna Yovanoff: Author One-on-One

Maggie Stiefvater is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Forever* and *Lament*. She lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children. Recently she sat down with Brenna Yovanoff to discuss Yovanoff's debut novel, *The Replacement*. Read the resulting interview below, or turn the tables to see what happened when Brenna interviewed Maggie.

Maggie: Having read *The Replacement*, I have noticed that all of the people are weird. Having met you, I've noticed that you're also weird. Which of your characters do you think is most similar to you? (Don't say Roswell. Because he's the only normal one.)



Brenna: Look, I *know* you're trying to force me to say the Morrigan, because she likes dresses and dead things and being creepy. But I am not a petulant underground princess. Also, I'm taller and have fewer teeth.

But if I can't say Roswell . . . (I wouldn't say Roswell anyway—he is too normal). If I can't say Roswell, I'd have to say probably Carlina—even though I really-really-really can't sing—because she wanders in and out whenever she feels like it and is a fairly agreeable person. She's kind of like a cat who sings blues and has a beehive hair-do.

Maggie: Again on this weird thing. One of the things that first attracted me to your writing, way back before you were published, when we first became critique partners, is the weird atmosphere in your books. On the back of *The Replacement* it says that your writing is Tim Burtonesque, which I think is incredibly appropriate. Do you consciously skew things toward the whimsical, or is that the way your writing comes out of the faucet?

Brenna: I wish I could say that it's all a carefully-constructed technique full of forethought and intention, but it kind of just comes out of the faucet that way. I've always been a huge fan of ambiance, the creepier the better. I love anything macabre, especially if it's whimsical or surprising. Also, as we've covered already—I'm weird.

Maggie: Will you ever name any of your characters after me?

Brenna: Yes, if you start spelling your name *Mackie Doyle*.

Maggie: Reviewers often call the relationships in my books things like “sweet” and “respectful.” If I had to classify most of the relationships in your books, I’d go for “hot” and “dysfunctional.” Is this just an extension of your characters’ oddness, or does it reflect what you see in real life? Who is your favorite literary dysfunctional couple?



Brenna: Brenna: I think it’s mostly an extension of the characters. I tend to write about really strange, dysfunctional people because I think they’re interesting, and then I feel like there’s absolutely no way they could go on to have functional relationships without a lot of time and personal growth, so I give them messed-up ones.

This probably doesn’t qualify as literary, but my favorite dysfunctional couple has to be Veronica and Logan from the TV show *Veronica Mars*. It is hot. And dysfunctional.

Maggie: No, seriously, are you ever going to name any of your characters after me?

Brenna: Remember what I said about spelling your name *Mackie Doyle*? Start spelling.

Maggie: One of the things that bemuses me most about being your critique partner is the way that you write your novels. It’s at these times that I most doubt your humanness. Would you care to share with the readers here on Amazon how you draft?

Brenna: No, I would not. Because it makes me look crazy. But now that you’ve called me out on it, I probably should, huh? Okay, kind people on Amazon, here’s the thing: it may come as no surprise that I am really weird about writing.

It’s sort of like I hear the story in my head, but not clearly enough to transcribe it verbatim, which means at any given time I only know about half on a sentence, and the rest is just a sound. So, I write down the parts I’m sure of and leave the other parts blank. Only to mark the blank parts so I remember to go back and fill them in, I do like this: “,,, So, any given sentence in a draft could look like, “With,,, he ,,,, to the,,,,,,and,,,,,” It is basically the Mad Libs of drafting.

Maggie: As someone who writes and reads about homicidal faeries myself, I loved the creepy creatures who lived under Gentry. The Morrigan was my favorite character in the entire book. Do you think you’ll ever return to the world of faeries?

Brenna: As of right now this-very-minute, there are no concrete plans for another Gentry book, but that doesn’t mean my brain isn’t clamoring with possible scenarios (my brain clamors a lot). I make no promises, and leave it at this: never say never.

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Being a teenage boy is difficult enough, but Mackie Doyle has a secret that sets him apart from other teens in this novel (*Razorbill*, 2010) by Brenna Yavanoff. Mackie is a nonhuman replacement for a

human baby that was stolen. He from the ugly, rotting world of Mayhem that resides under the town. All Mackie wants to do is be accepted at school, stay under the radar, and attempt to kiss a girl. But all that changes when he becomes very ill and is approached by creepy people who say they can save him if he will go underground to his own kind. Then another child is stolen and Mackie befriends the grieving sister to retrieve her from the underworld. This eerie story is a modern version of a changeling tale. Teens will find it exciting and identify with the normal teen angst set in this supernatural world. Anime actor Kevin Collins does an outstanding job of making the voices of Mackie and all the secondary characters believable. A deliciously intriguing listening experience.-Jeana Actkinson, ESC Region XI, Ft. Worth, TX (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The light paranormals—think vampires, werewolves, angels, faeries, demons—that flood young adult lit often share a similar problem: by merely tweaking established archetypes, they feel largely interchangeable. No such pitfalls bedevil Yovanoff, whose first novel is not only startlingly conceived from the ground up but will still appeal to the legions craving doom, gloom, and, yes, romance. Mackie lives in Gentry, a small town that owes its history of good fortune to an uneasy relationship with the supernatural underground dwellers who protect them. Their price? Merely an annual human sacrifice, which they take in the form of a stolen baby, leaving behind a fragile nonhuman replacement. Mackie is such a replacement, and despite his allergies to iron and blood, he has somehow survived to be a teen—but now is about to meet his makers. The two separate menageries of monsters—housed in a slag heap and a dump hill—are almost Victorian in bearing, and possess an apocalyptic Bradburian worldview: ““We are pandemonium and disaster. We are the dancing, gibbering horror of the world,”” says the baddest of them all, the Dirt Witch. The climax is not perhaps what it might be, but Yovanoff’s unsettling villains and intriguing moral ambivalence make this effort shockingly original and frequently breathtaking. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Aaron Jack:

Here thing why this specific The Replacement are different and reliable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. The Replacement giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no guide that similar with The Replacement. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your approach home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The Replacement in e-book can be your alternative.

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Christopher Palmer:

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