

Chapter 1 : "The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories" « The Hooded Utilitarian

Following on from yesterday, here's an equally disastrous look at a writer's encounter with Hollywood. While fictional, the main thread is a disguised version of Gaiman's experience with the Sandman film.

I could see her, golden and finny, swimming in a round bowl with colored rocks on the bottom, a little castle, and a nice plant. And this is how I asked. It can be very annoying. When I count to three, whine with me. And the next time I asked, I used that Magic word. Do you know what it is? And sure enough, on my next birthday, I got a surprise. There on the kitchen table was a little round bowl, with colored rocks in the bottom, a castle and a plant. And what was swimming around in the water? She made a hungry goldfish face. Can you do it? Pretend to hold a small container and pretend to sprinkle food on the kids three times. Start at left of crowd and sprinkle to the right while speaking. Eat some food, Goldie. So we got her a huge bowl indicate with arms outstretched, fingers touching to make a big round bowl and a bigger jar of food! So he got her a bucket of fish food and a big scoop. I looked at Goldie and she made that hungry goldfish face. Eat some food Goldie. There was broken glass and water all over the floor. But where was Goldie? She was wiggling her fins and chomping her teeth. I was so scared. Can you say Goldfish like you are scared? Goldie was hungry, so she ate the kitchen table, and the chairs, and she was heading straight for me! I ran to get the phone and called that number you call when you are in trouble. Yes, you are right!. Can you do it when I count to three? Just put her in the car and take her right down to the aquarium. Use a foolish puppy-calling voice, a beckoning finger, and get close to the kids as though you are calling them Sure enough, Goldie got right in the car and Grandpa drove us to the aquarium. They put Goldie in a great big pool of water with lots of other fish and she lives there to this very day. And when I go see her, they let me feed her lots of fish food. And because I was so brave and knew just what to do, they gave me a reward. A round glass bowl full of - not goldfish that I would have to feed - but goldfish that would feed me. For additional stories to tell, try some of these.

Chapter 2 : Water Safety Day: How to Prevent Water/Pool Emergencies

The inside-Hollywood, studio-idiocy business stays funny but also becomes unsettling. The speed with which it moves, a pace that at first seems wide awake and brisk, becomes creepy; this is the only case I can think of where narrative speed is turned into something like a horror element.

You see, talking about Goldfish made me remember my swimming career. From ages , I thrived in the swimming world. My times were always improving, I qualified for a number of swim meets, I had many friends, and I had great times. Unfortunately, once I hit 15 years old, it all went down from there. My body stopped growing, my peers in high school were faster than I was, and my personal records stayed the same. I grew to hate the meets and the practices and I had no friends among my new team. For me, everything sucked. Goldfish made me remember all of that. And more importantly, it made me miss swimming. Or at least the time I was . Because you see, Lou is in the same exact position as I was. But her best friend does. Because of this, Lou is incredibly heartbroken and decides to quit swimming, because how can you go back to a team that expected more from you? As a 15 year old, this is huge. This is the time in your career where you either find out you have a talent in swimming, or you suck that was the latter for me. Because of the meet, she feels like everyone will shun her, like her swim coach which she does, that bitch. Plus, with Hannah at swim camp, she has no other friends. That is, until she forms a group with a couple of guys who want to learn synchronized swimming for some talent show. With time, and planning and research, she ends up becoming friends with the three of them, despite everyone else on her original swim team looking down on her. Discovering my other passions. Overall, I thought this novel was a fun, light read. Even though the main character is a little young, younger than we see in most YA, I felt that it had to be this age because as I mentioned before, this is when decide whether to quit or continue. I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review. Quotes taken from ARC may or may not be in the published edition. The book is quick, fun and easy to read. Lou was a lot younger than I expected and it showed in her voice. The triple speed inner monologues, her always panicky thoughts were all indicators on how much growing up she needed to do. Despite her whiny nature and lack of confidence she was never pretentious and had sass at times. Lou Brown was generally a good person. The boys were fun to g Goldfish is an oldie but a goodie. The boys were fun to get to know. They may not have been the friendliest to Lou in the beginning but their dedication had me moved. I loved seeing how serious they were on making it onto the reality show BHT. No amount of obstacles was going to stop them and trust me when I say they encountered quite a few roadblocks. In various shapes and sizes literally. There was the tiniest bit of romance which was cute and a whole lot of family and friendship in Goldfish. It was touching to see the literal distance they went for Lou and her best friend. Even the boys helped out. Goldfish served up what the synopsis said it would. With a quirky main character and bizarre but realistic occasions I recommend picking this one up whenever you need a break from heavier stories.

Chapter 3 : The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories

Neil Gaiman's "The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories" is a story that should not work. Gaiman states almost as much in the introduction to the collection, Smoke.

Bernard William famously answers yes ; John Fischer no. He nodded and grinned. Brought here all the way from China. Just have a bad memory! Then even seemingly un-repeatable pleasures meeting someone for the first time become repeatable. To this I answer: If you were imagining that you were continuing life as a human, you were imagining, presumably, that you had a finite brain capacity. This is always what is going on with us anyway, to some extent. A new question arises perhaps more vividly now: Is repeating and forgetting the same types of experiences over and over again, infinitely, preferable to doing them once, or twenty times, or a googolplex times? My guess, though, is that if you stopped one of the goldfish and said, "Do you want to keep going? Oh, hi, glad to meet you! Alternatively, you might imagine an infinite memory. But how would that work? What would that be like? Would one become overwhelmed like Funes the Memorious? Would there be a workable search algorithm? Would there be some tagging system to distinguish each memory from infinitely many qualitatively identical other memories? Or maybe you were imagining retaining your humanity but somehow existing non-temporally? I find that even harder to conceive. To evaluate such possibilities, we need a better sense of the cognitive architecture of the immortal mind. Supposing goldfish-pool immortality would be desirable, would it be better to have, as it were, a large pool -- a wide diversity of experiences before forgetting -- or a small, more selective pool, perhaps one peak experience, repeated infinitely? Would it be better to have small, unremembered variations each time, or would detail-by-detail qualitative identity be just as good? Suppose it turns out, someday, that people can "upload" into artificial environments in which our longevity vastly outruns our memorial capacity. What should be the size and shape of our pool? Update July 4,

Chapter 4 : Smoke and Mirrors (Gaiman book) - Wikipedia

Hosted by Jay @ Bibliophilopolis "The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories" by Neil Gaiman Card picked: Ace of Spades From: David Copperfield's Beyond Imagination Review: I've noticed that I always have trouble putting together my thoughts about Neil Gaiman stories.

Seuss , "Gustav, the Goldfish", which was published with his own illustrations in Redbook magazine in June Plot[edit] The story is about a boy who buys a fish, named Otto, from a pet store. The store owner, Mr. Carp, gives the boy instructions on how to care for the fish, including strict feeding instructions: Never more than a spot! Or something may happen. You never know what. This leads the boy to move him into a series of successively larger containers, ending with the bathtub. When Otto outgrows the tub, the house begins to flood. The boy then requests help from a police officer and the fire department, who help him take Otto down to the local pool. There, they drop the fish in, causing it to expand to the size of the pool and scare off all of the swimmers. Since Otto keeps on growing, the boy calls Mr. He is not surprised as boys always ignore his feeding instructions. Carp arrives, he dives into the pool and pulls Otto below. Eventually, he emerges with the fish, back to its normal size. He refuses to say how he did it but tells the boy to never overfeed Otto again, and the boy takes his advice to heart. Background[edit] "Gustav, the Goldfish", the short story that served as the basis for this book, was written and illustrated by Dr. VanBuss instead of Mr. You must, however, comply with all necessary steps in protecting my original copyright. Seuss Out of Water". Retrieved 29 June Seuss â€” Redbook Magazine Original Stories". Retrieved 4 June

Chapter 5 : The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories by Neil Gaiman | Ten to Infinity

Neil Gaiman's "The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories" is a story that should not work. Gaiman states almost as much in the introduction to the collection, Smoke and Mirrors, that houses the story.

However, once a year, we really ramp things up! Open swim times, water safety drills and presentations, food, games and more! Keep it Fresh Each summer, families start spending more time in and around water: On the beach, on the boat, at the pool or lake. Water and summer, after all, go hand in hand. Go over safety rules and family rules with your kids and practice what to do in an emergency. Your children are precious, and water can be dangerous. Start young with family water rules and your children will follow your example. No diving in head first. Whatever fits your family style. Swimming is tiring and you can get dehydrated or fatigued without really realizing it. Taking a minute break each hour to drink some water and chill is a great rule to make your own this summer! Never Swim Alone Never. Even the strongest swimmers can cramp up or have a medical emergency. No surfing at the ocean, kayaking on the lake or doing laps at the hotel pool by yourself. Even families with the best laid plans can find themselves in an emergency situation. Being prepared and trained for an emergency is one of the best water safety tips out there. Someone in your family, maybe two someones, should be CPR certified with rescue breathing. It could save a life. Attention, Attention Picture this: You are at a backyard BBQ and everyone is having a blast. The kids are splashing away in the pool, the adults are chatting. But, who is watching the children? Sometimes, even a few minutes of inattention can be deadly in and around water. No chatting, no checking your phone. Watch the water and those in it. Lessons Learned One of the best ways to keep your little fish safer in and around water is to teach them to respect it. We teach kids how to roll on their backs and float if they get tired and how to get safely in and out of the pool, among other things. We take it seriously so THEY take it seriously. Our instructors use integrity, compassion, trust during every lesson. Babies as young as 4 months can learn to swim! We have classes for all skill levels and you will see extraordinary results. Posted By Goldfish Swim School.

An active book discussion forum for both fiction and non-fiction books including forums for religion, philosophy, science, politics, current events and more.

Reviews 30 Star-studded and comprehensive, this imaginative anthology brings a myriad of modern fantasy voices under one roof. Previously difficult for readers to discover in its new modes, urban fantasy is represented here in all three of its distinct styles—playful new mythologies, sexy paranormal romances, and gritty urban noir. Whether they feature tattooed demon-hunters, angst-ridden vampires, supernatural gumshoes, or pixelated pixies, these authors—including Patricia Briggs, Neil Gaiman, and Charles de Lint—mash-up traditional fare with pop culture, creating iconic characters, conflicted moralities, and complex settings. The result is starkly original fiction that has broad-based appeal and is immensely entertaining. Contents Introduction by Peter S. Beagle Mythic Fiction Introduction: Beagle Paranormal Romance Introduction: For those who think that urban fantasy consists only of paranormal romance, this volume will surprise you. The volume was a worthwhile read for me with just this one story. The magical threads in this section dip and weave underneath reality and bring to life the myths of older worlds, gods and unicorns and Fae. Gaiman mixes the gilt of Hollywood with the everyday magic of reverence in a way that creates a quiet pool of the extraordinary that I know I will return to. Chaotic and arbitrary, if this story was reaching for greater significant or religious meaning, it missed the target with me. While the stories in Mythic Fiction completely fit my concept of that sub-genre, the Paranormal Romance selections seem out of sync with their heading. Rather than the highly sexual, magic driven Happily-Ever-After that I associate with this sub-genre and that Guran references in her essay, the Paranormal Romance section of this anthology serves only as a bridge between the wonder of Mythic Fiction to the less upfront portrayals of common paranormal creatures in the Noir Fantasy section. However, once I adjusted my expectations, I found some things to enjoy. Briggs is adept at setting her characters into place quickly, without ever resorting to caricature, and I can never finish one of her short stories without hungering for more. As I mentioned above, the third and final section in this anthology, Noir Fantasy, takes the vampires and werewolves we urban fantasy fans are so familiar with and turns the mythologies on their head. Unerringly provoking both in a good and bad sense, while I sometimes found myself wishing for something different, I never could have asked for anything more out of these stories. No explicit sex scenes, but references to sex, rape, and incest are made. What a Joyful Noise. Got as far as the third page and just gave up. Its a short story. Companions to the Moon - no idea. Lost me at the second page. A Haunted House of her Own - I have to admit, this story pleased me far more than it did - it took a rather overdone concept and flipped it quite nicely. Kittys Zombie New Year - dark and grim, even for Kitty, and even for a zombie story. Seeing Eye - I spent awhile looking to see if this was published elsewhere. It was Strange Brew. Well, thats just annoying. Hit - mob killer hired by an angel to take out a vampire who is interested in becoming a mortal. Boobs - Jesus, this had potential and after three pages I gave up. It just sound like bad sleaze. Fine story, but just terribly sad. Ok story and writing. Coldest Girl in Coldtown - very great take on what could have been a pretty boring vampire story. Both awful and unable to read all the way through. The Bible Repairman and Father Dear - both pretty good. The best part of this anthology is the introduction that appears at the beginning of each section and fully explains the sub genre in the Urban Fantasy area. This anthology fully covers the most popular authors of the day. I made notes next to my favorite stories. Charles de Lint, "Make a This is one of those books that is easy to revisit. Not all the stories were previously unpublished. The introductions to the urban fantasy and paranormal romance sections were interesting. Still possibly triggering for people who have been emotionally abused, though. I also particularly enjoyed the short sto A solid anthology. I also particularly enjoyed the short stories by Neil Gaiman and Holly Black.

Chapter 7 : The Splintered Mind: Goldfish-Pool Immortality

For the goldfish, I don't think the core commitments need to get boring -- or even that would should tend to expect that they would. Imagine the goldfish being committed to commenting on the elegant or trashy state of other goldfish's fins.

Treasure Island When your child needs extra attention learning a new skill, like swimming, you may think that private lessons are the answer. While some children are more adaptable, at Goldfish Swim School, we believe in the benefits of group vs. Group lessons are the way to go and offer many benefits over private lessons. Take the Stewart family, for example. Jenell and Joel Stewart have two children in lessons and they reacted to swimming in completely different ways. Joel, 6, was apprehensive and Elle, 4, dove right in. Group lessons benefitted Joel especially. Joel needed time to warm up, and watching other children helped him. He also was able to overcome his fear and shifting the focus to other students took the pressure off allowing him to work at his own pace. Here are three benefits of group lessons. If a child is absent, that may mean there are only one or two other swimmers or no one else but never more than four total. Learning from other kids Jenell said that having other kids in the class for the group lesson is beneficial over private instruction, partly because he was able to watch what the other kids were doing. Many kids are observers and like to see others do something before diving in. During the group swimming lesson, instructors take turns with each child. Therefore, Joel was able to watch the progress of the other kids and eventually wanted to be able to do what they were doing. What looks like play to a child is actually learning. Your child is having FUN while learning, meaning getting him or her to suit up for swim lessons will be a breeze. Goldfish Swim School has created an inviting, safe place for kids to overcome their fears and learn to swim. They got in their life jackets, and Joel was OK getting in the water on his own. It was really exciting to see that he was comfortable with that, and then that he applied the techniques he had learned. Posted By Goldfish Swim School.

Chapter 8 : Review: The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories | Cinderella in Combat Boots

In Neil Gaiman's "Smoke and Mirrors" short story collection there's one called 'The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories' about a young writer spending time in Hollywood.

The temperature is perfect for sunny days and if you are looking for a pet, you can go fishing goldfish! Although this book may not contain each and every natural hot pool in Iceland, it is pretty comprehensive. I instantly got very curious about this pool. Frankly, I had no idea that goldfish were swimming freely in some warm pond in North Iceland. I googled it but did not find any information so I decided to hit the road and see if it was any good. The sun was shining intensely when I departed from Akureyri. We were all in the mood for bathing and relaxing in the sun before driving further to see some of the major attractions of North Iceland. It took us four attempts to find the pool. When we finally made it, we jumped into the water which was at a comfortable 27 degrees C or so. They were equipped with fishing nets and had a clear goal in mind: The kids started wading along the pond and shouted when they caught a glimpse of the bright orange goldfish. When we left, the kids had already caught two small goldfish. Where is this pool and how can I get there? You turn to the right from Road 85, just before you approach the town. Drive just a couple of metres on a gravel road. Is the pool clean enough to swim in it? The pool seemed clean enough to me. There are certainly some water plants and algae as well as the goldfish of course. How warm is the pool? According to Thermal Pools in Iceland, the temperature is around degrees. Perfect for cool and sunny summer days but probably too cold during the winter. Are there any facilities by the pool? Is this a crowded place? If more people knew about this place it would probably be crowded, but I think this is a real local secret. It was incredibly hard to find any information about it online.

Chapter 9 : A Fish out of Water (book) - Wikipedia

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