

**Frank can read minds.
Jon can see the future.
But every gift has a cost.**



The Guardians of Whispers

Author: B.E. Padgett

Publisher: Emerald Forest Books

Release Date: Feb. 1, 2023

Paperback

ISBN: 979-8-9861629-0-4

Price: \$12.99 (retail)

Size: 5.06x7.81

Hardcover

ISBN: 979-8-9861629-4-2

Price: \$18.99 (retail)

Size: 5.5x8.5

About Book

The Guardians of Whispers is a delightful middle-grade fantasy set in Washington State. Follow the story of 10-year-old twins, Frank and Jon Reed, who undergo extraordinary changes and attend a special school for the gifted. The book explores themes of family, friendship, and magic and will resonate with readers of all ages who enjoy fantasy and adventure.

Praise

"In this charming middle-grade fantasy, Padgett weaves a thrilling tale of family, friendship, and magic [. . .] Padgett expertly crafts a magical environment while simultaneously ensuring that the character's actions and motivations are rooted in reality. [. . .] This standout middle-grade fantasy exemplifies its genre and will appeal to readers of all ages." - **BookLife Reviews, Editor's Pick.**

"A contemporary fantasy with well-drawn characters and intricate worldbuilding that's sure to capture the hearts of middle-grade readers and their parents alike." - **The BookLife Prize**

Great for fans of: Stuart Gibb's *Spy School*, Rick Riordan, TJ Klune's *The House in the Cerulean Sea*.

About the Author

B.E. Padgett is a poet and indie children's author from the Pacific Northwest. Before pursuing her passion for writing and storytelling, she worked as a student affairs professional and student leadership programs manager at Everett Community College. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Central Washington University. Padgett was the editor-in-chief at Manastash Literary Journal and is an event coordinator for Poetry Northwest.

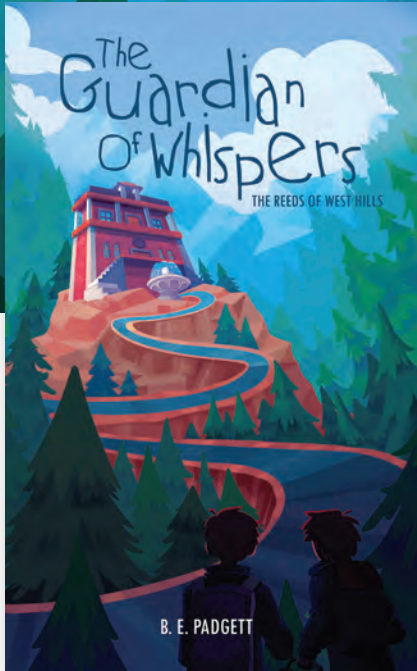
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The Guardian of Whispers is available through major retailers online if parents are interested in purchasing the book prior to event.

For **bulk orders** please let us know what local bookseller you'd like use so we can make sure they have enough stock.

Agenda: Book Reading & Signing

Vibe: Recommended book reading for 8–12 years of age. Accessible, fun and engaging.

1. Introduction (1 min)
2. Accessible: No podium, sit in-front open body with younger audience. Encourage kids to sit up front.
3. Engage audience with a couple questions: (4 mins)
 - A. What type of books do you like to read?
 - B. If you could have a super power what would it be?
 - C. How many of you have siblings?
4. Fun: Read an entertaining chapter (A Strange Visitor) of The Guardian of Whispers. (7-10 mins)
5. Engage with audience: (5-7 mins)
 - A. What do you think will happen next?
 - B. Open Q&A for kids to ask anything about the story, the writing process or the author. Provide freebie bookmarks and stickers to those who ask questions.
6. Thank everyone for coming and invite them to the signing table.

Kids will receive a free themed activity book with parent/guardian read along questions.

*Reading events can be adjusted for a virtual audience if requested.



When reading felt impossible!

Meet "Be" Padgett

In third grade, my teacher made me stand in front of the class and read aloud. I failed miserably. Not because I was nervous, but because I couldn't read.

For several grades, I faked reading by memorizing the appearance and meaning of words. I knew that letters had sounds, but I struggled to put them together correctly. Instead, I relied on sight words and my memory to keep me afloat in school. And it worked for a while... but reading only became harder as I grew older.

Some things seem so challenging that they appear to be impossible.

It felt like I would never learn how to read. Then, one day, my younger sister was sounding out a word I didn't know, and I realized—I wanted it. I wanted, more than anything, to understand how to read.

At the age of ten, words and sounds finally came together for me, and I didn't hate reading. In fact, to my surprise... I loved it!

When you adore something, there is no portion control. I was like a starving monster released, devouring multiple books a day. I survived on stories, and simply reading them wasn't enough. I wanted to write them, dissect them, and bring them to life.

Reading was a barrier. It felt like a wall I kept running into. Every time I tried to get better, I had an experience that made me feel like I would never excel at it.

There is an inspiring line from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, "...sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Reading felt like an impossible thing. The most significant change for me was belief. Could I believe in the *impossible*?

There was no adult or teacher who believed in me. Many of them didn't even know I was struggling. But I knew, and when I decided to believe in myself, my internal dialogue shifted from telling myself I was stupid to telling myself I could do it.

I had to want to read. I had to believe I could do it. I needed to dedicate my time and attention, work on it, and visualize myself achieving the end goal. Making seemingly impossible things a reality. And I did.

I want kids to know they are not alone in these feelings. If they are struggling to read or feel behind, there is support and people who believe in them. I believe in them. As a kid, I couldn't envision myself reading a novel by myself, and I would never have believed I would be writing them.

But belief can make impossible things happen, and now I dream of six impossible things before breakfast.

Book Discussion Guide



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Vocabulary

Telekinesis, telekinetic — movement of physical items without contact. A person who can move things with their mind.

Telepathy, telepath — communication between minds. Mind reading. A person who can read minds.

Empathic, empath — ability to understand and share someone's feelings.

Sagacity, sage — ability to understand with sound judgement information and their relationships to each other.

Prophecy, oracle — ability to know the future. A person who can discern future events or actions.

Clairvoyant, psychic — ability to perceive information from objects, people or locations.

Perceptual — ability to interpret or be aware of something through senses.

Parent/Guardian Read Along

Purpose: These questions are meant to inspire interesting conversations that engages the readers in the material and with their parent or guardian.

Chapters 1-3

- Frank and Jon are part of a large family. How is their family similar to yours and how are they different?
- Have you ever had a nightmare that scared you, but you didn't tell anyone about it? How did you handle it?

Chapters 4-6

- If you could have a special ability like Frank and Jon's friends, what would you choose?
- Frank and Jon had to leave their home, friends, and family to go to West Hills. Can you imagine what that was like? Have you ever gone through a big move like this?

Chapter 6-9

- If you could only bring one thing to school with you, what would it be?
- Frank met other telepaths at West Hills, but Jon only had one friend with his gift. How do you think this affected the boys' experiences at school? How was West Hills different for Frank than Jon?

Chapter 10-15

- McClery was grumpy and strict when he first started teaching Jon. Why do you think he treated Jon this way at the beginning?
- Frank and Jon helped Mira when she was being bullied. How did Mira react, and how did it differ from Frank and Jon's reaction? What would you have done in that situation?

Chapter 16-19

- Have you or someone you know ever been falsely accused of something? If so, what did you do? If not, what would you do if this happened to you?

Chapter 20-26

- After school, Jon felt different because of all the changes he had gone through. Have you ever felt like this or have you seen it happen to someone you know?
- The Guardian of Whispers is told through two points of view, one is Frank's and the other is Jon's. How do you think the story would have been different if it was told through only one point of view? Why do you think the author decided to have both Frank and Jon's point of view in the story?



Meet B. E. Padgett

AUTHOR OF THE REEDS OF WEST HILLS SERIES

A middle grade fantasy set in Washington State.

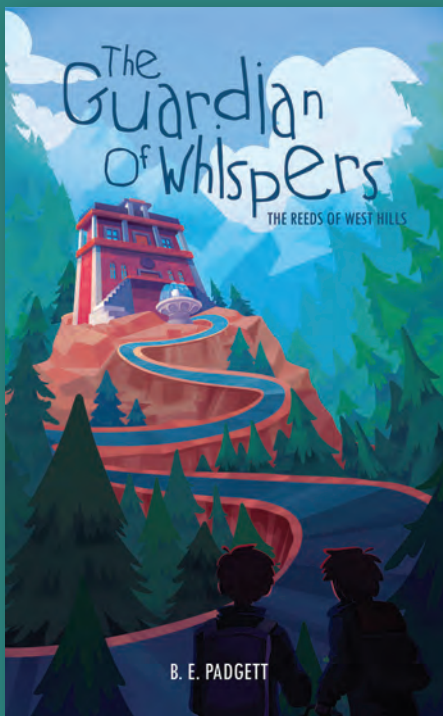
At West Hills... every kid is gifted with a telepathic ability, including 10-year-old twins, Frank and Jon.

Frank can read minds. Jon can see the future.

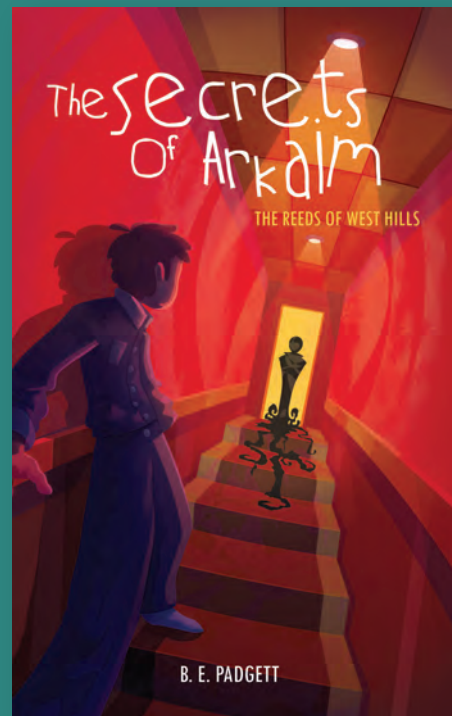
But their new found “gifts” ...come at a **steep price.**



Learn More



THE GUARDIAN OF WHISPERS - BOOK 1



THE SECRETS OF ARKAIM - BOOK 2
COMING SEPTEMBER 1, 2023