The Thorn and the Blossom
A Two-Sided Love Story

Theodora Goss

We see The Thorn and the Blossom as the new buzzworthy romantic literary gift book, offering strong sales potential throughout the year and especially around Christmas and Valentine’s Day.

A haunting love affair between two book-lovers, presented as a unique book artifact itself -- crossing the aesthetic appeal of Griffin & Sabine with the moody prose of The Time Traveler’s Wife.

When Evelyn Morgan walks into Thorne & Son, a bookstore in the Cornish village of Clews, she doesn’t know that she’s going to meet the love of her life. When Brendan Thorne sells her a medieval poem called The Book of the Green Knight, he doesn’t know that it will shape his future. After that first meeting, they don’t see one another for years — and yet they never stop thinking about one another. It’s as if they’re the haunted lovers in the old book itself...

Key Points/Quotes

- Unique literary conceit—a mysterious, two-part love story packaged in an accordion-fold book so you can read either “her” story or “his” story first. No matter which side you start with, the second part has a revelation for you.
- Crosses the aesthetic-book-lover’s appeal of Griffin & Sabine with the moody prose of The Time Traveler’s Wife.
- Author Theodora Goss is a World Fantasy Award winner and Nebula Award finalist for her short fiction; The Thorn and the Blossom is her first full book-length work.
- Decorative illustrations by acclaimed cover artist Scott McKowen (Sterling Unabridged Classics, Marvel Comics).
- Quirk has a long track record of success with beautifully designed unorthodox book formats, such as The Crimes of Dr. Watson, Gig Posters, and Graceland: An Interactive Pop-Up Tour. Quirk is also acclaimed for its strange twists on romantic fiction, a la Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. The Thorn and the Blossom perfectly combines Quirk’s design and production excellence with its bold fiction agenda.

About the Author/ Illustrator

Author Residence: Boston, MA
Author Hometown: Hungary

Born in Hungary, Theodora Goss moved to the United States as a child; her fiction often takes place on the border between fantasy and reality, reflecting the influence of a long Eastern European literary tradition. Her story "The Singing of Mount Abora" won the World Fantasy Award in 2008, her story "Pip and the Fairies" was a Nebula Award finalist in 2007, and she has been featured in the annual Year’s Best Fantasy & Horror anthology several times. Theodora lives in Boston with her husband Kendrick and their daughter Ophelia, and teaches literature at Boston University. Her short fiction collection In the Forest of Forgetting was published in 2006; The Thorn and the Blossom is her first full-length book release.

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The first thing about The Thorn and the Blossom that will likely catch the reader’s attention is its unusual format: this novella, which is subtitled “A Two-Sided Love Story,” can be read in two directions, giving readers the chance to decide which narrator they want to begin with and thus providing two very different reading experiences. And as you can see below, the book, with its accordion-fold binding, is absolutely beautiful as a physical object. But let me tell you what The Thorn and the Blossom is actually about: Evelyn Morgan (whose story I started with, in case you’re curious) is a po And the first time, while she was walking around waiting for the man who was supposed to change what was described as a blown gasket, she’d stumbled into a ditch, which explained why her jeans were caked with mud up to the knees. The schoolchildren on the bus had found that very funny, particularly because she was an American.