

the Star Shepherd

Dan Haring &
MarcyKate Connolly



Neil Gaiman meets How to Train Your Dragon in this beautifully illustrated middle-grade novel about a boy, his trusted dog, and his best friend as they race to save the stars before their light is extinguished for good.

When the world first formed, the night was black and filled with dark creatures. The Elders knew their people couldn't survive under such a threat. So they gave their hearts to the sky in the form of stars to keep evil away.

Now, eleven-year-old Kyro is a Star Shepherd like his father. He's spent his life tucked away in the small town of Drenn. There, Kyro and his father watch the night sky for falling stars—and rush to rescue them when they do.

When too many stars start falling at once and disappear before they can be saved, Kyro's father journeys to report the threat. But when he doesn't return, Kyro, with the help of his best friend, Andra, and his trusty dog, Cypher, must find a way to save the stars before the dark creatures make a terrifying return.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Dan Haring is a visual effects and animation artist who has worked on films such as *Tangled*, *The Lion King 3D*, *The Incredible Hulk* and *Rio 2*. He is currently helping create new worlds in virtual reality at Strange Reptile. He loves comic books, especially Batman. He lives in Utah with his awesome wife and kids.



MarcyKate Connolly is a *New York Times* bestselling children's book author who lives in New England with her family and a grumble of pugs. She graduated from Hampshire College, where she first fell in love with plotting and has been dreaming up new ways to make life difficult for her characters ever since. You can visit her online at marcykate.com.



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Discussion Guide

1. In Kyro's world, Star Shepherds are viewed with disdain, and the dark creatures are considered myths. Why do you think that is?
2. In the story, every star is unique and looks a little different because each one was from a person who gave their heart to the sky through a long-lost ritual. If you were a star, what would you look like and why?
3. In the beginning, Kyro doesn't have any special powers, but he's still able to accomplish things. What can be learned from this?
4. What did you think of Tirin's decision to leave Kyro behind to watch the sky while he searched for the culprit who was cutting down stars? What would you have done if you were in Tirin's shoes, or Kyro's?
5. Cypher is Kyro's best friend and constant companion. Have you ever had a pet like Cypher?
6. Andra is kind to Kyro throughout the story, even when the rest of the village isn't. How important do you think it is to be kind to people? Why?
7. The mechanical giants play an important role in the story. What would you do if you had your own mechanical giant?
8. How would the story be different if Pelag were the protagonist?
9. How do you feel about what happened to Kyro at the end of the story? What do you think will happen next?
10. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?



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