

| HORICON AREA |

# Horicon Freshman Publishes First Novel

Mary Gratton's fantasy novel – "The Sorcerer and Rainbow Isle" – came together after a dare from her mother

CLARICE CASE  
JOURNALIST

Writing her first book has been a literal dream-turned-reality for Horicon High School freshman Mary Gratton.

Gratton had a dream one night that inspired the story in her new book, "The Sorcerer and Rainbow Isle."

The dream may have only been just that if not for her mother, Jennifer, who dared her daughter to write it down.

"She said that if I wrote a book, she would find a way to help me publish it," Gratton recalled. "So, I started writing and that is how it all began."

Last year, Gratton took the month of October to story-board before beginning to write in November. She finished in April of this year and took the summer to edit and format the book.

"The Sorcerer and Rainbow Isle" was released on Amazon in early September.

Gratton explained the premise, "It is about a princess named Aubrey that goes on a spy mission to save her division from war. It is classified as a dark fantasy novel, because it has fantasy elements such as sorcerers and fairies. It also explores darker themes of humanity."

Given her book is in the fantasy genre, it is surprising to learn Gratton is fairly new to it.

"I have not always enjoyed writing or reading fantasy. I was a non-fiction reader when I was younger," she said. "It is only very recently that I have wanted to write fantasy. I like the freedom to be able to say whatever I want to in my writing and convey my ideas to readers."

Connecting her interest in psychology into her novel, Gratton hoped to bring more awareness to the issues of mental health by demonstration in her characters.

She also hopes "to inspire other young people to write."



Alexandra Harvancik, director of the Horicon Public Library, and Mary Gratton hold a copy of "The Sorcerer and Rainbow Isle" in front of the Young Adult shelf that Gratton donated to the library. **SUBMITTED**

While Gratton is continuing to write and currently working on the sequel, she said it is not her main career goal.

"My main career interest, right now, is to become a living history actress," she shared.

Gratton is no stranger to performing. She participates in choir, band and musicals at school.

And to satisfy her love of history, Gratton volunteers at the Satterlee Clark House in Horicon with the Horicon Historical Society.

Whatever Gratton ends up becoming as an adult, she certainly should be an inspiration to other teens looking to express their interests in writing, art and history.

You can find "The Sorcerer and Rainbow Isle" on Amazon.

# 'Once Upon a Pandora's Box' Opens Nov. 4 at H.H.S.



The cast of "Once Upon a Pandora's Box" act out a scene from their upcoming production. Tickets are on sale at Horicon Hardware Hank or can be purchased at the school the day of the shows. **MITCHELL B. KELLER PHOTO**

The Horicon High School production of *Once Upon a Pandora's Box* will open on Friday, Nov. 4, with two additional performances slated for Saturday, Nov. 5, including a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. finale.

Written by Monica Flory, the play combines popular fantasy characters in a modern setting.

"Zeus captures five Brother's Grimm villains and confines them to a box for all eternity," states a synopsis of the show. "That is, until two New York teens unknowingly open up the box, releasing the Evil Queen from "Snow White," the Big Bad Wolf, Rumpelstiltskin, the Fairy from "Cinderella" and the Witch from "Hansel and Gretel" to wreck havoc on New York."

Tickets for the show can be purchased at Horicon Hardware Hank or at the door the day of the shows.

General admission tickets are \$7. Seniors and students can enjoy a discounted rate of \$5.



Cast shot! The Horicon High School production of "Once Upon a Pandora's Box" opens Friday, Nov. 4. **MITCHELL B. KELLER PHOTO**

### CAST & CREW

- Tabitha...Chloe Biermann
- Louis...Rocco Barzano
- Evil Queen (from Snow White)...Kyra Mlejnek
- Big Bad Wolf...Braden Warzala
- Rumpelstiltskin...Denny Gil
- 13th Fairy (from Sleeping Beauty)...Elaina Davis
- Witch (from Hansel & Gretel) ...Techno Brozek
- Angella (older sister)...Anya Weber
- Beautella (younger sister) ...Bryna Walters
- Esperella (the mom)...Ziley Miller
- Zeus...Danica Luedtke
- Translator...Alexia Schmitt
- TV Reporter ... Dominic Davison
- German children...Jacob Harris & Noah Hinzman
- Italian children...Harper Zillmer, Levi Manthey & Wyatt Norton
- Spanish children...Lena Rueckert & Trinity Reinwald
- French children...Mason Boehmer, Adia Weber & Rylee Heine
- Aussie children...Elaine Burroughs, Lily Hoth-Jaquet & Makayla Brooks
- Tech...Eden Robinson, Techno Brozek, Jacob Harris, Lexi David, Kai Plasa, Katelyn Trotter, Levi Dykstra, Leela Greiling, Cora Hodgson, Emily Kasper, Danica Luedtke, Kianna Geschke, Trinity Reinwald, Sequoia Rossing, Makayla Brooks, Roli Ibarra, Tessa Nicolaus & Raeanna Colvin

### TRICK OR TREAT from page 1

with Ella Fenske and Millicent Brant standing to address the council.

Fenske read from prepared remarks after introducing herself and Ms. Brandt.

"I would like to ask that Saturday, Oct. 29, is trick-or-treat," said Fenske, before explaining that trick-or-treat would be significantly more fun for all the city's kids if they did not have to go to school the next day.

She added that her and Brandt's perspective was not unique. She presented the council with signatures of 21 other Horicon children who wished to see the council make the change from Sunday to Saturday.

Later in the meeting, the council took up the action of establishing the official trick-or-treat date and time.

"From what's been going on the last few days... We decided to change the day due to the citizens asking for a change," said Marschke, who noted that Fenske, Brandt and the others in attendance were not the only residents to request a new date. "I'm just going to change the motion. It's a motion to have trick-or-treat on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 4 to 7 [p.m.]."

Marschke added that, as chair of the Public Safety Committee, that he spoke with the fire department and police department and both organizations confirmed their approval of Saturday as the citywide trick-of-treat.

"And our committee is in agreement," concluded Marschke.

The motion to moved trick-or-treat to Saturday, Oct. 29, was passed unanimously.

## Iron Ridge Public Library Events

205 Park St., Iron Ridge, WI 53035  
920-387-3637  
ironridge@monarchlibraries.org

- Thursday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m. – "Holiday Movie Night." No TASK Force this afternoon, but join us instead for a fun Halloween movie, with popcorn and juice included.
  - Tuesday, Nov. 8, during polling time (7 a.m. – 8 p.m.) – Election Day Bake Sale in the Community Center to benefit the library...lots of goodies!
  - Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. – "Internet Safety for Children" – presented by an outreach specialist from the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.
  - Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:30 a.m. – "Dinosaur Hunt" – presented by the Milwaukee Public Museum as a part of their MPM on the Move outreach program.
  - Most Thursdays after school – TASK Force – various crafts, activities, games, and snacks.
- All events are free, and no registration is required.

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