

Rafe Martin Author and Storyteller

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Dear Readers,

BIRDWING, my mythic, heroic novel, has just been published by Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic Publishing. Arthur is not only my editor, but is also J.K. Rowling's, and has published all the *HARRY POTTER* books as well as Philip Pullman's *THE GOLDEN COMPASS*—so I feel that I am in very good company. *BIRDWING* is available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and through all independent booksellers and their network—booksense.com.

It is a book I am very excited about. It began as the germ of an idea some five years ago, and has finally come to full life. Advance readers have reported that the book is powerful, well-written, and meaningful. If it can be summed up, it might be said to be a story about our differences, and how the very things that most isolate us may become the sources of our healing. It is the story of a young man who has a wing instead of a left arm. He has fallen out of myth, once could fly, but now must find his way on the ground—like each of us. But he has the additional burden of being a cripple and a freak. A lot goes on in the process of his finding his unique way. Dangers and destinies unfold. There are surprises and revelations in store. Amazon.com describes it like this:

“Once upon a time, a girl rescued her six brothers from a spell that had turned them into swans. But one boy, Arduwin, was left with the scar of the spell's last gasp: one arm remained a wing. And while Arduwin yearned to find a place in his father's kingdom, the wing whispered to him of open sky and rushing wind. Marked by difference, Arduwin sets out to discover who he is: bird or boy, crippled or sound, cursed or blessed. But followed by the cold eye of a sorceress and with war rumbling at his kingdom's borders, Arduwin's path may lead him not to enlightenment, but into unimaginable danger.”

*Writing *BIRDWING*, meeting the characters and living with them these last five years, has been an adventure of the deepest sort. In many ways I see my previous work as an apprenticeship for this book. So I'm very happy to now be able to share *BIRDWING* with you.*

*May your own journeys, including your journey with *BIRDWING*, prove equally valuable, and exciting.*

Rafe