



A True Story by Granny series
Media Kit, p. 1

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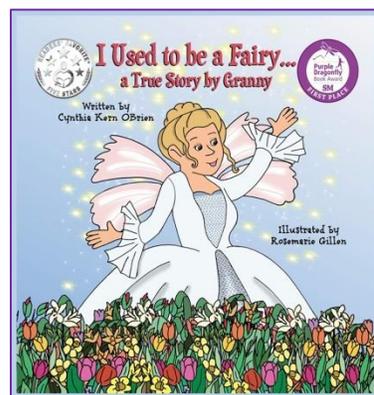
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Cynthia Kern OBrien Brings Kindness and Caring to Young Readers

Buena Park, CA (June 2020)—Author Cynthia Kern OBrien calls her foray into publishing children’s books a “happy accident” inspired by her grandchildren. An enthusiastic storyteller, motivated by her grandchildren’s world view, OBrien began spinning stories for her granddaughter years before she finally put pen to paper in 2018.

“My family said I better write all of this down, so I don’t



forget,” says OBrien, who published her first book, *I Used to be a Fairy... a True Story by Granny*, in Feb. 2019. Inspired by her granddaughter, Chloe, it features a seven-year-old who finds out her grandmother used to be a fairy. Geared to young readers ages 4-10, the picture book includes colorful illustrations by

Rosemarie Gillen and enjoyed a warm welcome when it debuted, receiving a Five Star Award from Readers Favorite and placing first in the 2019 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards for Picture Books 6 & Older.

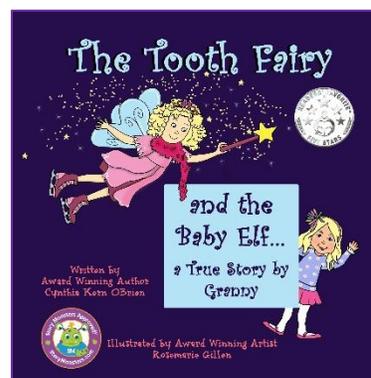
“It is to the point and puts across the message that we reap what we sow—do good things in life and good things will come to you; help others in need before yourself,” wrote Anne-Marie Reynolds in her review of *I Used to be a Fairy*.



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As an outlet for her writing, OBrien also established Pickles House Publications, an independent publishing house named for her adorable Yorkshire Terrier-Maltese mix, Pickles. She credits illustrator and close friend, Gillen for guiding her through the publishing process. “I am so thankful for the kindness of Rosemarie, who has stayed by my side all the way,” she says. “It is her illustrations that bring these stories to life!”

In Aug. 2019, Pickles House Publications released *The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf... a True Story by Granny*, reacquainting readers with the loveable Chloe and her former fairy grandmother, and launching an adventure complete with baby elves (and more fairies, of course)! OBrien’s second book also has earned an Honorable Mention in the 2020 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards for the Picture



Books 6 & Older category. She is currently at work on her third book, *I Don't Want to Go to Preschool, the Fairy Queen Calls ... A True Story by Granny*, which will be geared to preschoolers and is forthcoming this fall.

True to her heart, OBrien’s books aim to spark imagination, inspire environmental awareness, and teach children to be caring and kind to all people and animals—especially our beloved fur friends. As an added bonus for her tiny fans, OBrien’s website includes fun worksheets and activities and even some “Fairy Charm” recipes. Visit www.picklehousepublications.com to download today!

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A True Story by Granny series

by Cynthia Kern OBrien
illustrated by Rosemarie Gillen

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Author



Cynthia Kern OBrien is the author of the *A True Story by Granny* picture book series: *I Used to be a Fairy*, *The Tooth Fairy* and *the Baby Elf*, and the forthcoming *I Don't Want to Go to Preschool*, *the Fairy Queen Calls*. A grandmother of three, she resides in California with her husband and Yorkshire Terrier-Maltese mix, Pickles. She is the recipient of two Five Star Reader Awards and two Purple Dragonfly Book Awards in the Picture Books 6 & Older category. OBrien finds inspiration for her writing in her grandchildren and their worldview and aspires to teach young readers environmental awareness, caring, and kindness for people, plants, and animals of all stripes.

Illustrator



Rosemarie Gillen is an award-winning children's book designer and illustrator who has been recognized by the Mom's Choice Awards, Purple Dragonfly Book Awards, The New England Book Festival, and Stories for Children Magazine Award for her illustration work. She is passionate about working with authors to bring their stories to life through her artwork—a partnership which she believes can create indelible memories for young readers. Her whimsical illustrations have been published in both magazines and books, including the *A True Story by Granny* picture book series, the *Milk and More* series, *Dandy Lion the Duck*, *How Can I Choose?*, and more. Gillen lives outside of Washington, D.C. with her family.

Publisher



Pickles House Publications is an independent publishing house that is dedicated to providing young readers with books that not only spark their imagination but inspire environmental awareness through playful activities.



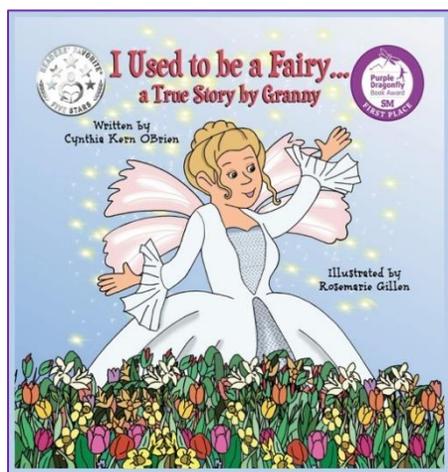
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I Used to be a Fairy

A True Story by Granny

by Cynthia Kern OBrien
illustrated by Rosemarie Gillen

FACT SHEET



Author: Cynthia Kern OBrien

Illustrator: Rosemarie Gillen

Publisher: Pickles House Publications

Price: \$19.99 (Hardcover); \$10.99 (Paperback); \$2.99 (Nook)

Formats: Hardcover, Case Laminate; Paperback, Perfect Bound, Nook, eBook

Trim: 8.5" x 8.5"

Publication Date: February 21, 2019

ISBN: 978-1734507546 (Hardcover); 978-1734507539 (Paperback); 978-1734507508 (eBook)

Interest Level: Ages 4-10

Website: www.pickleshousepublications.com

Distributor: Ingram

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

You can imagine her surprise when seven-year-old Chloe learns one afternoon while gardening with her granny that Granny used to be a fairy! Now that Granny has returned to human form, she isn't supposed to tell anyone her secret, but she can't deny how she sparkles and glows when she gives hugs and kisses. Chloe has always dreamed of flying and she wants to be a fairy too, but it's not so simple as that, her granny says. In order to be a fairy, you must practice kindness, be helpful, and do good. Can little Chloe become a fairy too?

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNIQUE?

As the title suggests, *I Used to be a Fairy* is the true story of Granny (Cynthia Kern OBrien) and her granddaughter, Chloe. The book, which OBrien calls a word-for-word recount of an afternoon in the garden with Chloe, explores themes close to OBrien's heart, including kindness for others, doing good, and teaching the importance of environmental awareness. "It is to the point and puts across the message that we reap what we sow—do good things in life and good things will come to you," writes reviewer, Anne-Marie Reynolds. *I Used to be a Fairy* received a Five Star Award from Readers Favorite and placed first in the 2019 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards. OBrien credits illustrator, Rosemarie Gillen, for bringing her stories to life on the page.



I Used to be a Fairy

A True Story by Granny

by Cynthia Kern OBrien
illustrated by Rosemarie Gillen

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

10-word description:

Little Chloe learns kindness from her Granny—a former fairy!

15-word description:

Little Chloe learns kindness and doing good, so she can become a fairy like Granny.

25-word description:

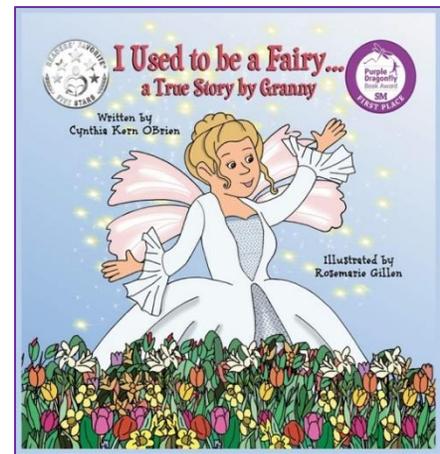
You can imagine Chloe’s surprise when she learns one afternoon that her granny used to be a fairy! Can little Chloe become a fairy too?

50-word description:

You can imagine her surprise when Chloe learns one afternoon that her granny was once a fairy! Chloe wants to be a fairy too, but it’s not so simple as that, her granny says. In order to be a fairy, you must practice kindness, be helpful, and do good.

100-word description:

You can imagine her surprise when seven-year-old Chloe learns one afternoon while gardening with her granny that Granny used to be a fairy! Now that Granny has returned to human form, she isn’t supposed to tell anyone her secret, but she can’t deny how she sparkles and glows when she gives hugs and kisses. Chloe has always dreamed of flying and she wants to be a fairy too, but it’s not so simple as that, her granny says. In order to be a fairy, you must practice kindness, be helpful, and do good. Can little Chloe become a fairy too?





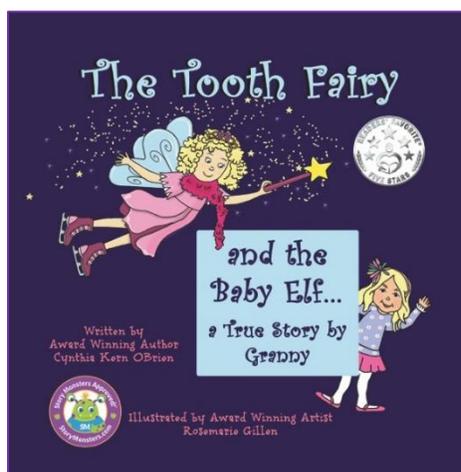
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The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf...

A True Story by Granny

by Cynthia Kern OBrien
illustrated by Rosemarie Gillen

FACT SHEET



Author: Cynthia Kern OBrien
Illustrator: Rosemarie Gillen
Publisher: Pickles House Publications
Price: \$19.99 (Hardcover); \$10.99 (Paperback); \$2.99 (Nook)
Formats: Hardcover, Case Laminate; Paperback, Perfect Bound; Nook, eBook
Trim: 8.5" x 8.5"
Publication Date: September 30, 2019
ISBN: 978-1734507553 (Hardcover); 978-1734507539 (Paperback); 978-1734507515 (eBook)
Interest Level: Ages 4-10
Website: www.pickleshousepublications.com
Distributor: Ingram

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

The big day has come! Chloe has finally lost her tooth and Granny's friend, Gwen the Tooth Fairy, is coming to visit! But when Chloe awakes the next morning to find her tooth still under her pillow, she is devastated. And Granny is rightfully worried. Gwen never misses a tooth! What could have happened? As it turns out, it was MackO, the mischievous baby elf Tooth Fairy Gwen babysits. While Gwen was collecting teeth, MackO snuck off to have some fun, delaying Gwen's trip to Chloe's. MackO feels terrible. She must apologize to Chloe and make it all right again!

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK UNIQUE?

Like her first book, *The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf* depicts the almost true story of Granny (Cynthia Kern OBrien) and her granddaughter, Chloe. The book, which recounts the time that Chloe lost her first tooth, explores the importance of forgiveness and teaching children how to say sorry. "Young readers will share a few laughs as they learn, as did Chloe, that things don't always happen when and how they should," writes reviewer, Emily-Jane Hills Orford. *The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf* received a Five Star Award from Readers' Favorite. The book is illustrated by the award-winning artist, Rosemarie Gillen, who OBrien credits for bringing her stories to life on the page.



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The Tooth Fairy and the Baby Elf...

A True Story by Granny

by Cynthia Kern O'Brien
illustrated by Rosemarie Gillen

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

10-word description:

Tooth Fairy Gwen is coming to pay Chloe a visit!

15-word description:

The big day has come! Tooth Fairy Gwen is coming to pay Chloe a visit.

25-word description:

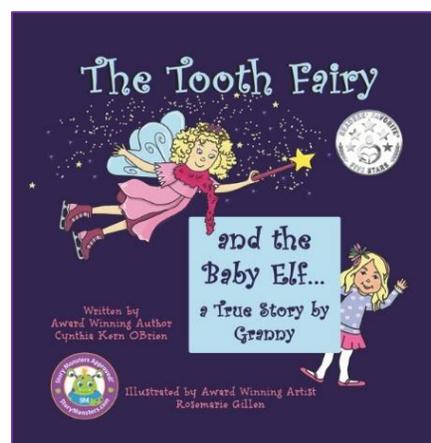
The big day has come! Chloe has finally lost her tooth and Granny's friend, Gwen the Tooth Fairy, is coming to pay Chloe a visit.

50-word description:

The big day has come! Chloe has finally lost her tooth and Granny's friend, Gwen the Tooth Fairy, is coming to visit. But when Chloe awakes the next morning to find her tooth still under her pillow, she is devastated. And Granny is rightfully worried. Gwen never misses a tooth!

100-word description:

The big day has come! Chloe has finally lost her tooth and Granny's friend, Gwen the Tooth Fairy, is coming to visit. But when Chloe awakes the next morning to find her tooth still under her pillow, she is devastated. And Granny is rightfully worried. Gwen never misses a tooth! What could have happened? As it turns out, it was MackO, the mischievous baby elf Tooth Fairy Gwen babysits. While Gwen was collecting teeth, MackO snuck off to have some fun, delaying Gwen's trip to Chloe's. MackO feels terrible. She must apologize to Chloe and make it all right again!





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SUGGESTED MEDIA QUESTIONS

1. You credit your grandchildren for inspiring you to write your first two books. How do you anticipate they will continue to shape your writing process as they grow and mature?
2. Did you always know you wanted to be a writer?
3. What does your writing process look like? Do you typically compose your stories always in a single sitting or do you need to work on your stories a little at a time?
4. From fairies to elves, there is a sense of magic in your books. How do you keep your imagination alive and thriving?
5. Rosemarie's illustrations do so much to bring your stories to life. Can you explain what your creative process looks like? How do you work together to craft each book?
6. You note the importance of creating stories that showcase kindness and caring for others "no matter their ethnicity, religion, sexuality, size, handicaps." How do you plan to weave this theme into future titles?
7. You have a new title coming out this fall. Can you tell us a little more about that?
8. What can we expect to see in future books? Are there themes or plots you know you'd like to explore?
9. Will all of your books feature Granny and Chloe, or do you plan to expand beyond those characters?
10. Who is the greatest champion of your writing?

