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Irene Latham's

ADVENTURES IN INK

Books for Dreamers, Seekers, & Thinkers

Hello, Friends!



It's time to meet a special snail named Esther!

Something's happening... something BIG.

Of course just about everything is big when you're a snail! AND when you're a child.

This book developed out of my love and fascination for mollusks ([LOVE, AGNES](#), anyone?). Who wouldn't be fascinated by such small nocturnal creatures who can't see or hear very well, and yet travel amazing distances?

When I read [The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating](#) by Elisabeth Tova Bailey, I fell even more in love!

And then there was this quote...

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark." - Charles Spurgeon

That set my imagination alive with slime trails! I wanted to know just how it happened...and that's when I discovered Esther and Solomon—their amazing journey, and also the miracle that landed them on the ark.

Many snail-lifetimes later... and it's a book! It features gorgeous illustrations by [Mehrdokht Amini](#) (who also illustrated mine and Charles Waters's [DICTIONARY](#)) and is brought to us by the good folks at [G.P. Putnam's Sons](#) (an imprint of Penguin Random House). *Thank you, thank you!*

Reviews

"[W]ritten in Latham's rhythmic prose and rendered with visual urgency via Amini's digitally enhanced acrylic-gouache collages....In a **sweet biblical retelling with deep resonance**, the creators capture the many emotions of seeing a big event through small eyes." – *Publishers Weekly*

"[A] sweet retelling of the story of Noah's ark, from the snail's perspective. **Dramatic illustrations of the billowing skies and storm and then serene waters about to recede will seed some exciting story hour discussions...**[T]his tale has a lot to offer for little-snail-that-could devotees. For collections that don't have Stewart's *It's Hard to Hurry When You're a Snail*, this works for children of any faith." – *School Library Journal*

"The lyrical text and stunning collage illustrations **celebrates community and the journey of a lifetime.**" – Kidsbookshelf.com

"I have never before seen such an amazing take on the Noah's Ark story as Snail's Ark. Irene Latham's text turns the narrative into a lesson on love brave enough to risk all to save a friend... Mehrdokht Amini's lively collage like illustrations in stormy hues pull their weight in conveying the mood of the story... Young readers and listeners will find the tale engaging and the ending satisfying. Reading out loud adults will enjoy all the opportunities for embellishing the words that the book offers. And there is a message for adults. A world of COVID and climate change can feel like a gathering storm with slim chances of survival. What are we doing to help get our fellow humans to safety in these terrifying times? **Can we be brave like Esther?**" – juliasstardustcaught.blogspot.com

More Snail Goodness!

"Snail" by Langston Hughes

A [teeny tiny snail...](#) and a [sonnet](#) from Amy Ludwig VanDerwater.

[Field Guide to Real Snails](#) (interactive educational game)

Adorable pics of [pet snails!](#) loved by children's author and poet Kathryn Apel—who also has a snail book coming! [Click to read more about *What Snail Knows*.](#)

[SNAIL'S ARK](#) is also available as an [audiobook!](#)

In other news...

Thank you for your love and support of [AFRICAN TOWN!](#) [Charles Waters](#) and I are honored to serve as ambassadors for this powerful story.

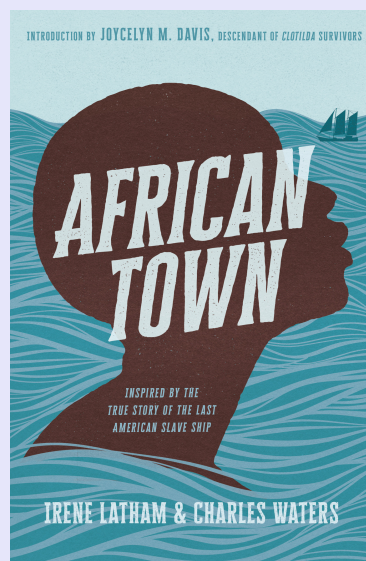
We're grateful for FOUR starred reviews from *Booklist*, *Book Page*, *School Library Connection*, and *School Library Journal!* Even better: the enthusiastic response from descendants Joycelyn M. Davis and Altevese Rosario.

Please check out the [Discussion Guide](#) (by Altevese Rosario!)

Don't miss the gorgeous [audio edition](#) (with a full cast -- those voices made me cry!)

And in case you missed it, here's the link to mine and Charles' [interview on NPR](#).

Charles and I hope to see you at the following upcoming events:



Feb. 11: Spirits of our Ancestors Festival (Africatown, AL)
Mar. 5: Monroeville Literary Festival (Monroeville, AL)
Mar. 18-19: Georgia Children's Literature Festival (Athens, GA)

Switching (robo) gears... [D-39: A ROBODOG'S JOURNEY](#) was named an ALA Eleanor Cameron Notable Middle Grade Book (for Science Fiction)! So honored and delighted!

Calling All Writers!

I'm offering a free Masterclass! **Optimal Creativity Has Nothing to Do with Discipline: 3 Myths That Can Wreck Your Writing (and What to Do Instead)**

[Go here to reserve your spot!](#)

A graphic for a free masterclass. The background is a close-up of a spiral notebook with blue lines and a red margin line. At the top, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "FREE MASTERCLASS!". Below this, the text "Optimal Creativity Has Nothing to Do with Discipline:" is in a light grey font. The main title "3 Myths That Can Wreck Your Writing" is in a large, black, cursive font. Below the title, "(AND WHAT TO DO INSTEAD)" is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. On the left, there is a small inset photo of a woman with blonde hair, smiling, sitting at a desk with a stack of books. On the right, a white rounded rectangle lists the dates and times: "Pick your time!", "Feb. 15: 12 pm cst", "Feb. 16: 7 pm cst", and "Feb. 23: 4 pm cst". At the bottom, the text "register here: learn.irenelatham.com/masterclass" is in a white font.

Thank you, as ever, for joining me in this space. Remember:

"The Promised Land always lies on the other side of a wilderness." -*Havelock Ellis*

Love,

Irene

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