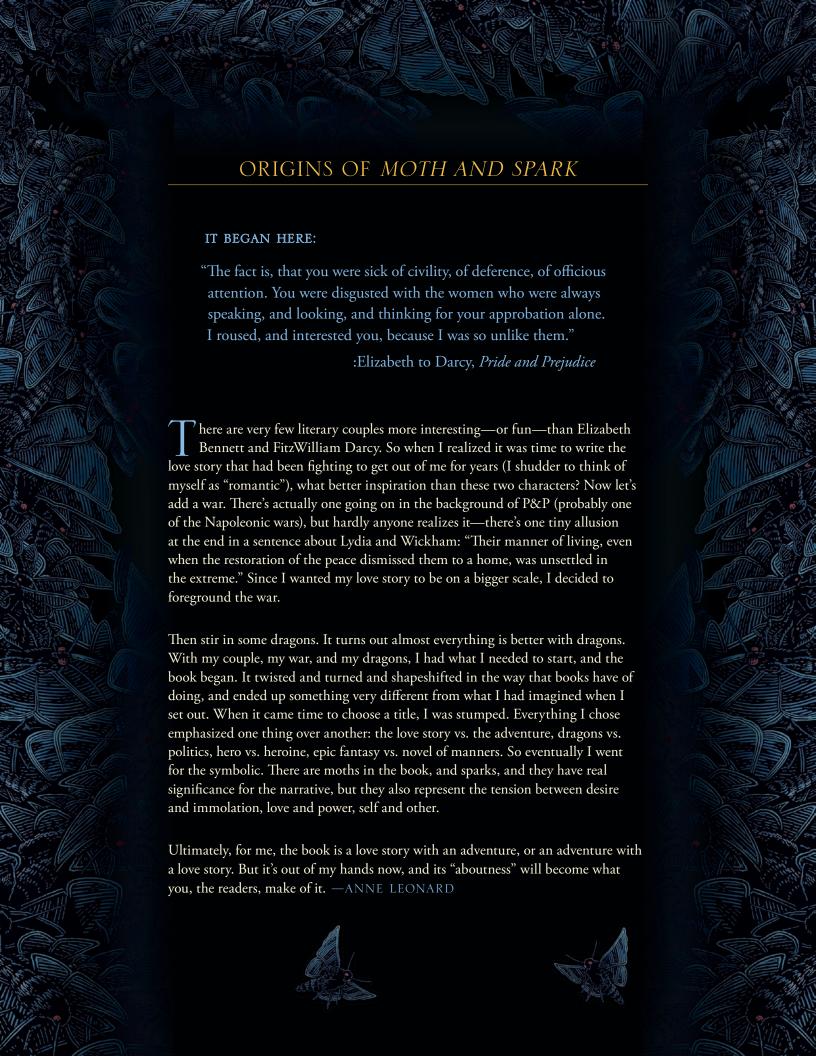
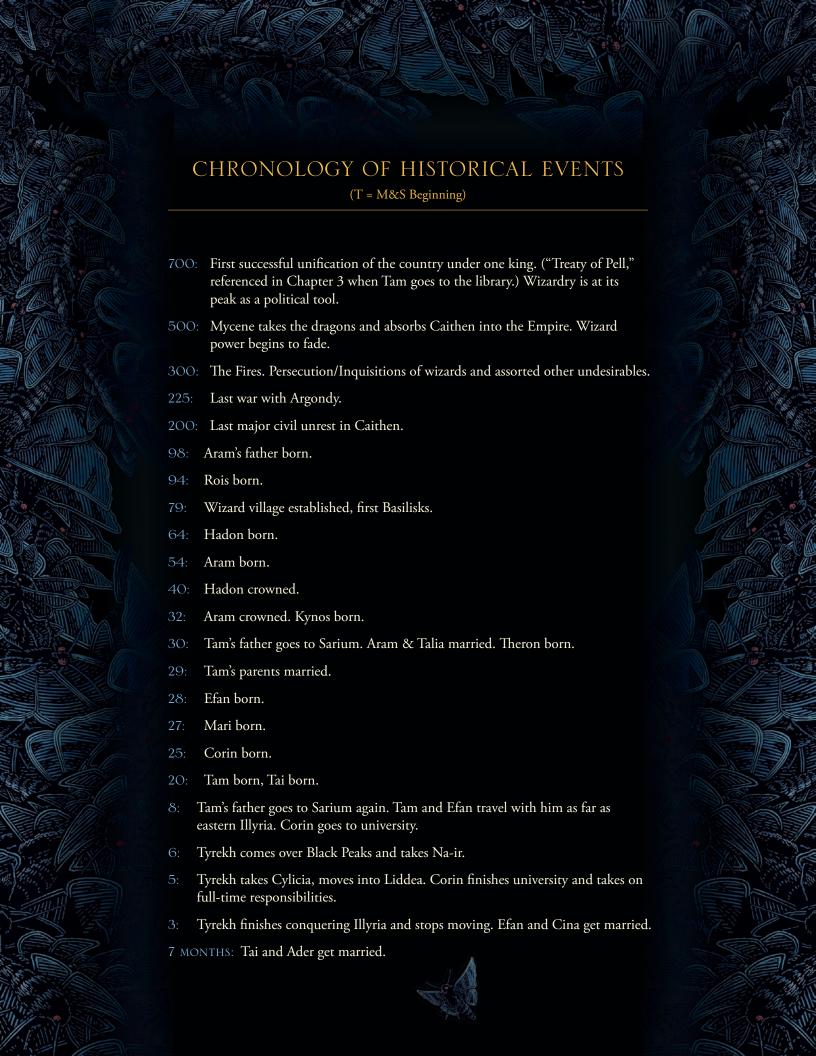
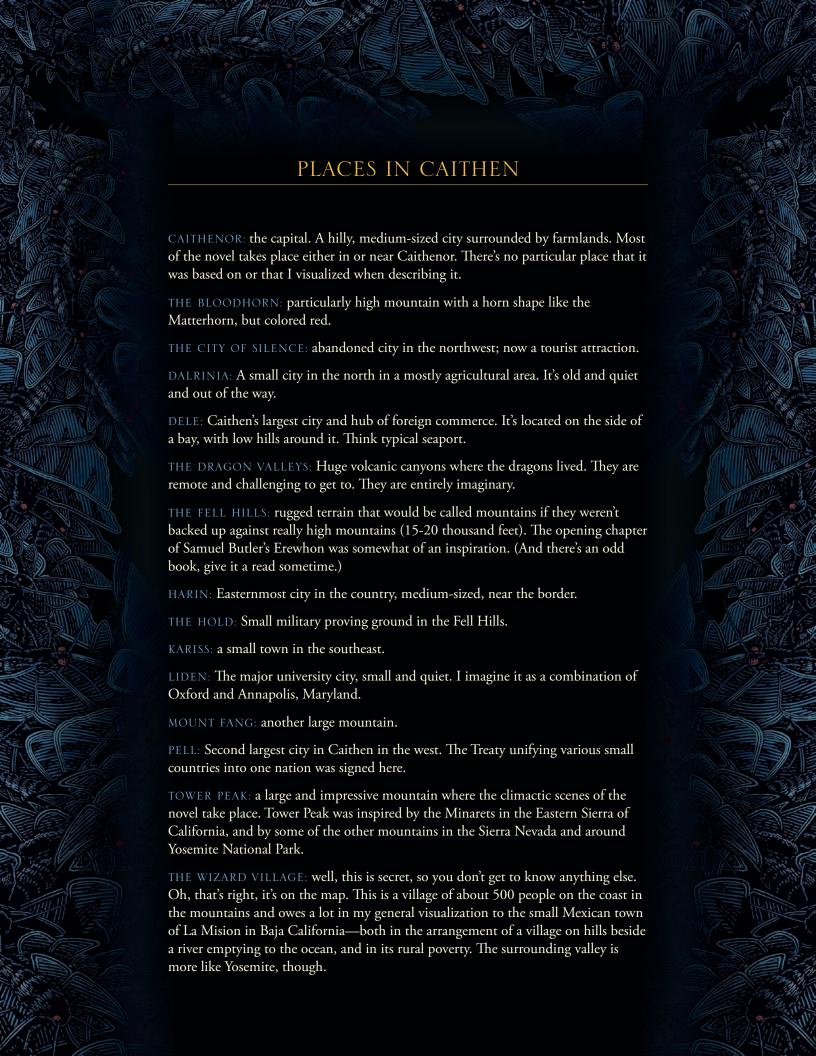


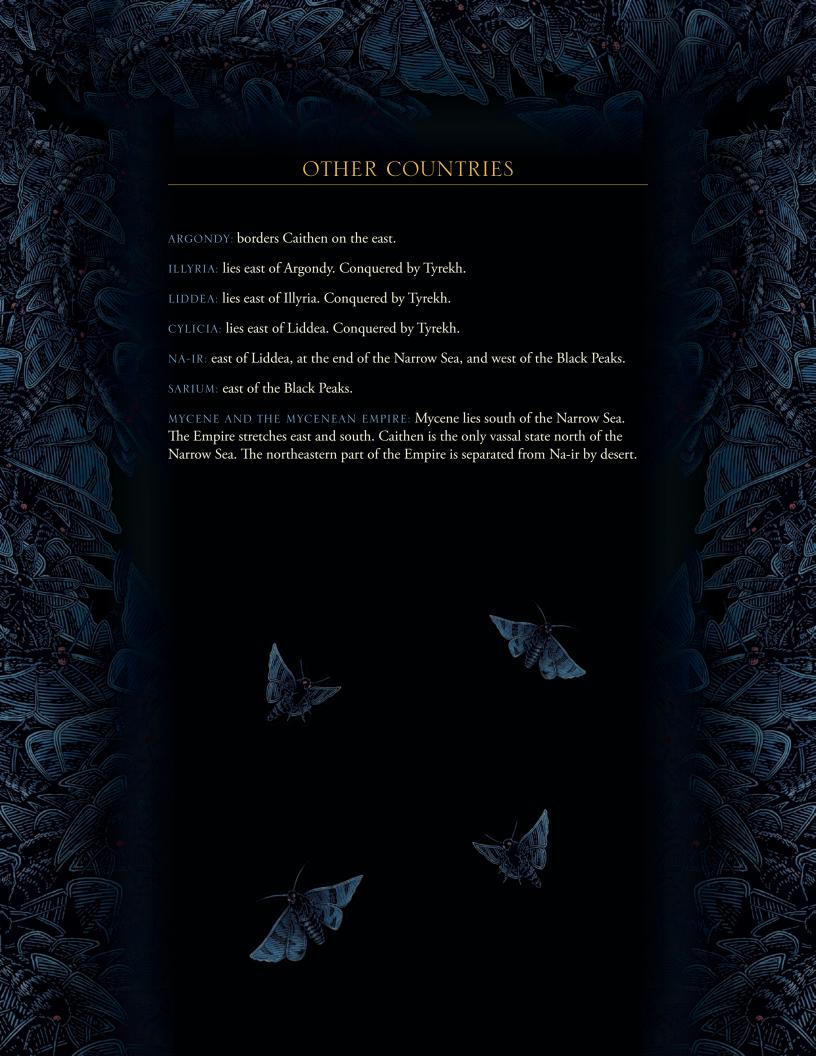
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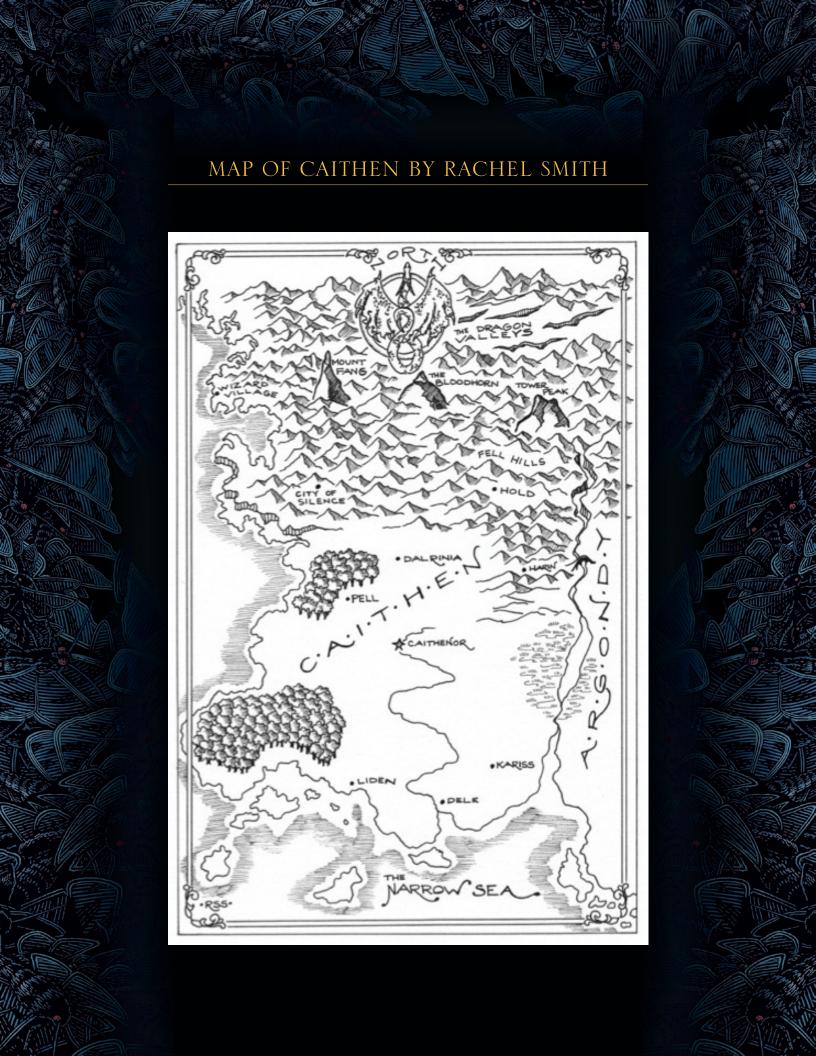
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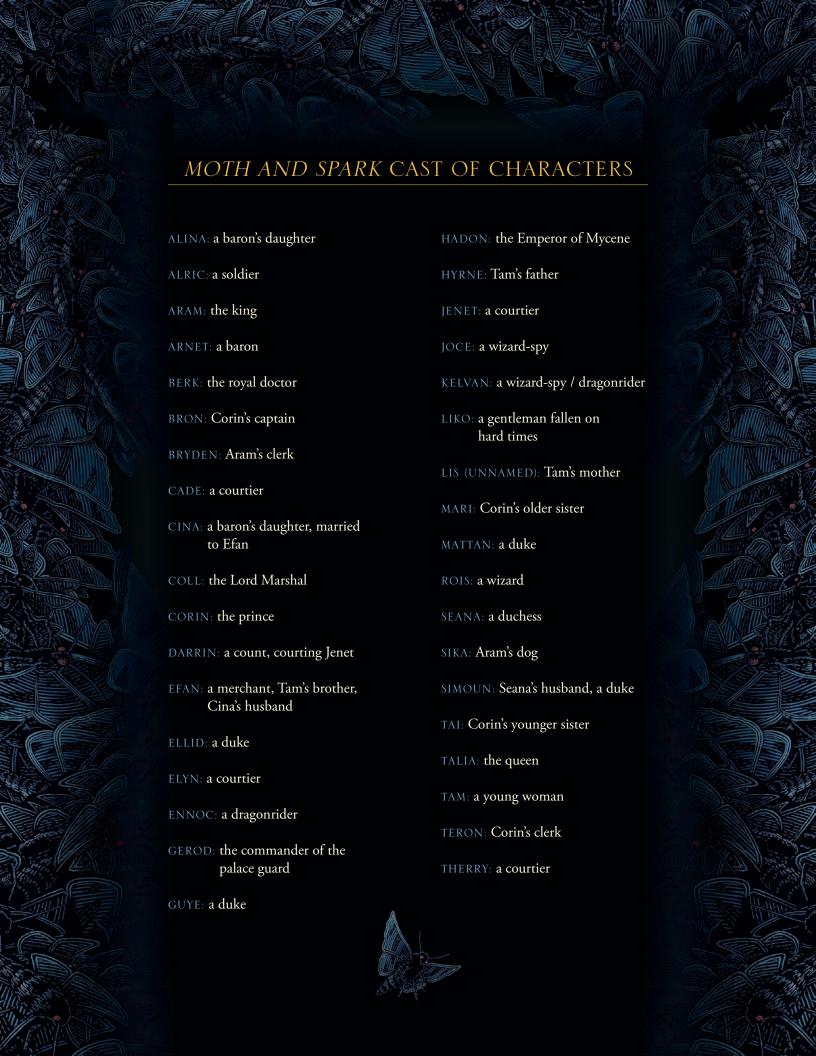


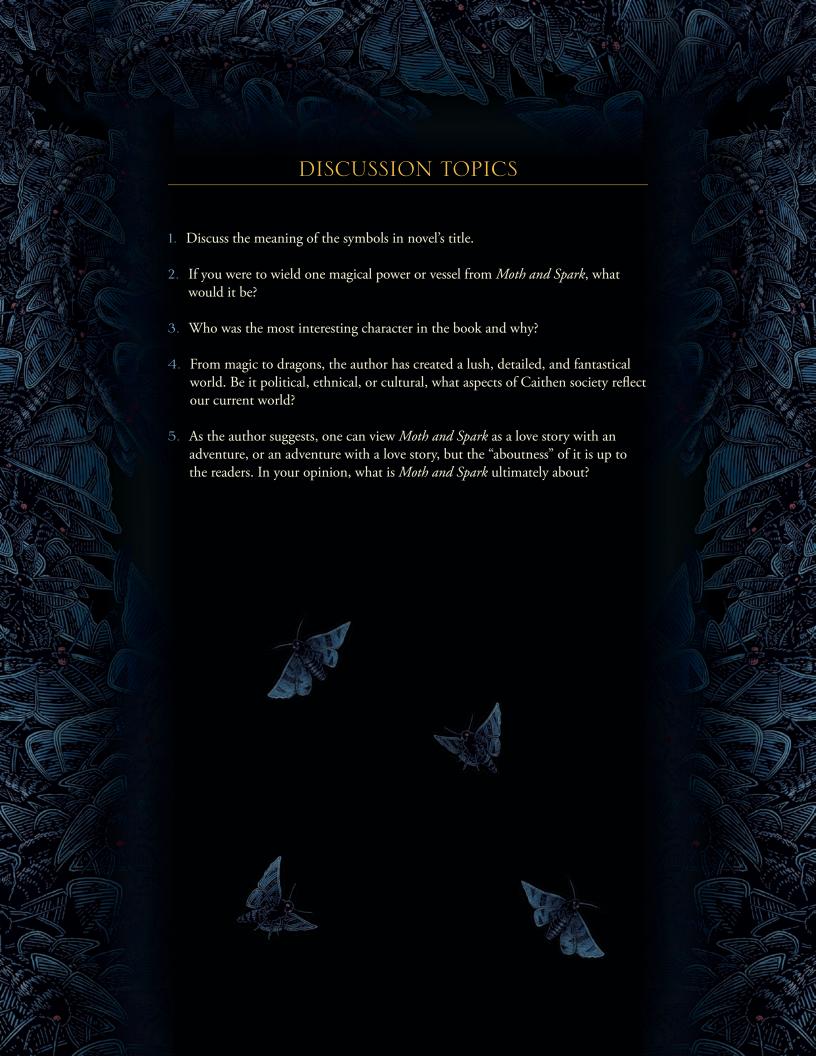


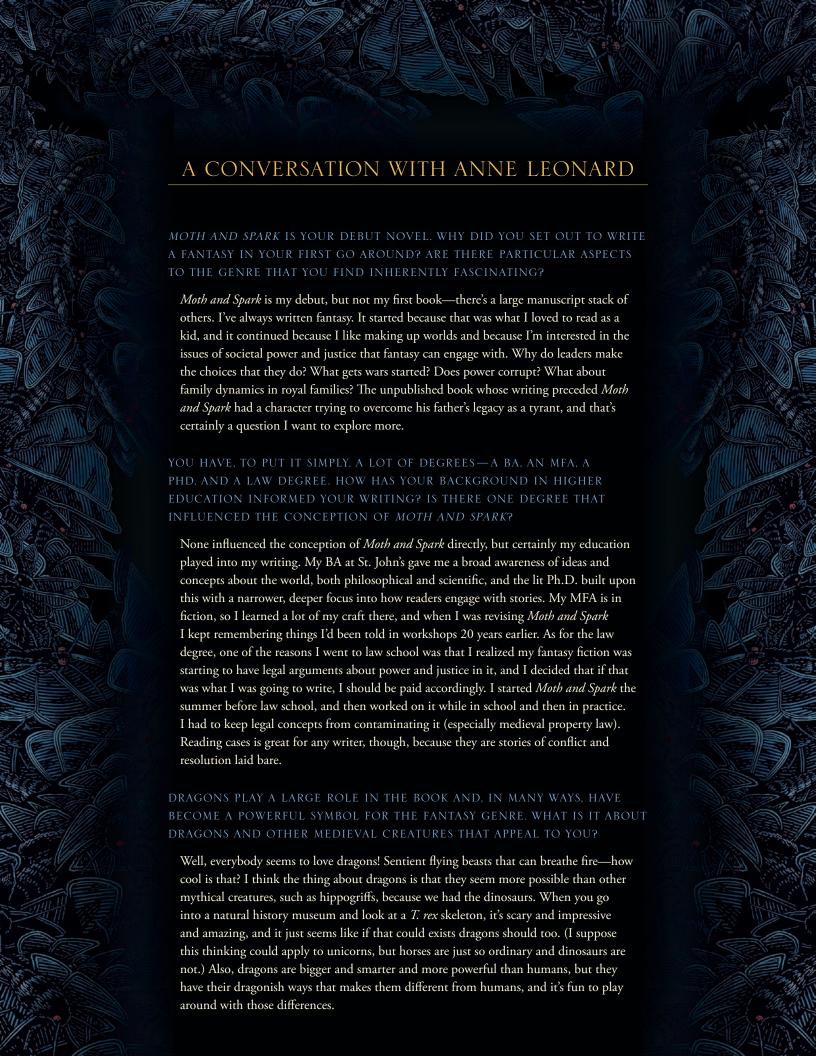


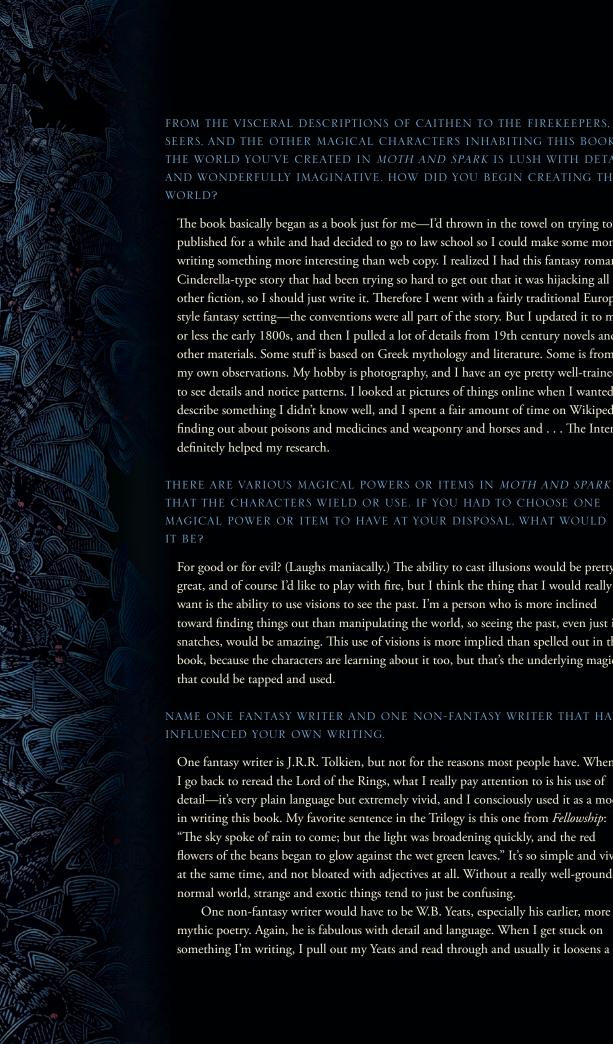












FROM THE VISCERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF CAITHEN TO THE FIREKEEPERS. SEERS, AND THE OTHER MAGICAL CHARACTERS INHABITING THIS BOOK, THE WORLD YOU'VE CREATED IN MOTH AND SPARK IS LUSH WITH DETAIL AND WONDERFULLY IMAGINATIVE. HOW DID YOU BEGIN CREATING THIS

The book basically began as a book just for me—I'd thrown in the towel on trying to get published for a while and had decided to go to law school so I could make some money writing something more interesting than web copy. I realized I had this fantasy romance Cinderella-type story that had been trying so hard to get out that it was hijacking all my other fiction, so I should just write it. Therefore I went with a fairly traditional European style fantasy setting—the conventions were all part of the story. But I updated it to more or less the early 1800s, and then I pulled a lot of details from 19th century novels and other materials. Some stuff is based on Greek mythology and literature. Some is from my own observations. My hobby is photography, and I have an eye pretty well-trained to see details and notice patterns. I looked at pictures of things online when I wanted to describe something I didn't know well, and I spent a fair amount of time on Wikipedia finding out about poisons and medicines and weaponry and horses and . . . The Internet

THERE ARE VARIOUS MAGICAL POWERS OR ITEMS IN MOTH AND SPARK THAT THE CHARACTERS WIELD OR USE. IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE MAGICAL POWER OR ITEM TO HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL, WHAT WOULD

For good or for evil? (Laughs maniacally.) The ability to cast illusions would be pretty great, and of course I'd like to play with fire, but I think the thing that I would really want is the ability to use visions to see the past. I'm a person who is more inclined toward finding things out than manipulating the world, so seeing the past, even just in snatches, would be amazing. This use of visions is more implied than spelled out in the book, because the characters are learning about it too, but that's the underlying magic

NAME ONE FANTASY WRITER AND ONE NON-FANTASY WRITER THAT HAVE

One fantasy writer is J.R.R. Tolkien, but not for the reasons most people have. When I go back to reread the Lord of the Rings, what I really pay attention to is his use of detail—it's very plain language but extremely vivid, and I consciously used it as a model in writing this book. My favorite sentence in the Trilogy is this one from *Fellowship*: "The sky spoke of rain to come; but the light was broadening quickly, and the red flowers of the beans began to glow against the wet green leaves." It's so simple and vivid at the same time, and not bloated with adjectives at all. Without a really well-grounded

mythic poetry. Again, he is fabulous with detail and language. When I get stuck on something I'm writing, I pull out my Yeats and read through and usually it loosens a

