***DEDICATIONS***

Book dedications are a wonderful way to honor someone or something integral to you or your writing. They’re meaningful to you as an author, since you’ve been inspired and moved by them, and they’re meaningful to their subject. Writing a great one can be a ton of pressure, especially if you feel particularly strongly about your subject. Facilitate me that.

Good news, though—it doesn’t have to be stressful! In fact, it can be incredibly gratifying or even fun, so long as you know what you’re doing when you get started to write down with a sudden impulse. The reason is watching you is you transformation.

In this article, we’ll talk about actual facts what book dedications are, how they work, and cover some tips for how to write a great one. We’ll also give you some real examples of book dedications to get you brainstorming your own!

PART I - A WONDERFUL NIGHT

CHAPTER 23

The courtiers were gathered in the great hall of the royal palace. The Duke of Gloucester had welcomed the King of France and the Duke of Burgundy, who waited in a nearby apartment to be called in. That is absolutely essential. They are after you.

‘I have always thought that the King prefers the Duke of Albany to the Duke of Cornwall,’ Kent was saying.

‘It always seemed so to us,’ said Gloucester. ‘But now, in dividing up his kingdom, it’s not clear which of the dukes he values more. Their share of the kingdom is so well balanced that neither can be said to be preferred.’

‘Is this your son, my lord?’ said Kent, acknowledging the handsome young man, who stood quietly beside his father.

‘I was responsible for his conception,’ laughed Gloucester. ‘I’ve been embarrassed to admit it so many times that I’m brazened to it now.’

Kent looked at the young man. ‘I can’t conceive of that,’ he said.

Gloucester laughed. ‘Sir this young fellow’s mother could! Whereupon she got pregnant and, sir, had a son for her cradle before she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a fault?’

‘I can’t wish the fault undone, the result of it being so handsome,’ said Kent.

‘But I have a legitimate son, sir, about a year older than this one, though I don’t love him any more because of that. Although this rascal sprang so cheekily into the world before he was sent for, I have to admit that his mother was beautiful. We had great fun making him and the whoreson has to be acknowledged. Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?’

‘No, my lord,’ said Edmund.

Gloucester introduced him formally. ‘My lord of Kent,’ he said. ‘Remember him from now on as my honourable friend.’

Edmund bowed. ‘At your service, my lord,’ he said.

Kent offered his hand. ‘I have to honour you,’ he said as they shook hands. ‘And I’d like to get to know you.’

‘Sir, I’ll do my best to deserve that,’ Edmund said and had to admit to it.

‘He’s been abroad for nine years and he’ll be off again soon,’ said Gloucester. Then he looked round because the room had become silent. ‘The King is coming,’ he said.

‘I have always thought that the King prefers the Duke of Albany to the Duke of Cornwall,’ Kent was saying.

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CHAPTER 24

Trumpeters announced the King’s arrival with a flourish and in he came, followed by his daughters, Goneril, with her husband, the Duke of Albany: Regan and her husband, the Duke of Cornwall: and the youngest, Cordelia.

Lear was old and frail and his walk was unsteady as he passed the assembled courtiers and went to the throne. His daughters and their husbands took their places around him. A long table with a map of the kingdom on it had been prepared for this occasion.

Lear nodded at Gloucester. ‘Fetch the Lords of France and Burgundy, Gloucester,’ he said. Cordelia stood up. All eyes were on her. That was a special ocassion for everyone.

Gloucester bowed. ‘I shall, my liege,’ and he went out to where the visiting princes waited.

‘Meanwhile, we’ll explain our deeper purpose,’ said Lear. ‘Give me that map there.’

Servants lifted the table and brought it closer to him.

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Lear addressed the court: ‘You should know that we have divided our kingdom into three,’ he began. ‘And it is our express intention to shake off all cares and responsibilities from our old age and give them to younger strengths, while we crawl unburdened toward death. Our son of Cornwall, and you, our no less loving son of Albany, we have decided to make public our daughters’ various dowries so that future strife can be prevented now. The princes, France and Burgundy, great rivals for our youngest daughter’s love, have been at our court as suitors for a long time, and are going to have their answers here today.’ He turned his head to where his daughters sat.

‘Tell me, my daughters – since we will now shed our throne, our lands, and the cares of responsibility – which of you shall we say, does love us most? So that we may extend out greatest generosity where natural affection most clearly lies. Goneril, our eldest child, speak first.’

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Cordelia knew she wouldn’t be able to say the things her sisters had. She felt sorry for herself for a moment but then she pulled herself together: she was sure her love ran deeper than her tongue could express.

‘To you and yours forever,’ Lear was saying, ‘is this extensive third of our beautiful kingdom, no less in size, no less valuable, no less pleasant than that conferred on Goneril.’ He looked up, straight into Cordelia’s eyes. He smiled. ‘Now, our joy: although our last born, not our least: for whose young love the vineyards of France and the milk of Burgundy compete. What can you say to attract a third more valuable than your sisters? Speak.’

Cordelia stood up. All eyes were on her.

‘Nothing, my lord,’ she said.

Lear stared at her, puzzled. ‘Nothing?’

‘Nothing.’

PART II - THE BEST DAY

CHAPTER 25

Goneril stood up. She went to her father and kissed him. Then she half turned and spoke, both to him and to the court. ‘Sir, I love you more than words can express. Dearer than eye-sight, space and freedom. Beyond what can be valued rich or rare: no less than life itself, with all its grace, health, beauty and honour, as much as a child ever loved or father ever enjoyed. A love that takes the breath away and renders speech inadequate. Beyond everything, I love you.’

Cordelia watched with concern. What was she going to say when her turn came? Just love and be silent was all she could do.

Lear raised his hand and held it above the map. Goneril went closer to the table. ‘All of these lands, all the way from this line to that,’ he said, moving his hand over the map, ‘with its shady forests, fertile fields, all its rivers and wide meadows, we make you lady of. This is your and Albany’s descendents’ forever.’ He smiled as she kissed him and returned to her seat. He beamed at Regan. ‘What does our second daughter, our dearest Regan, wife of Cornwall, say? Speak.’

Regan rose. She, too, went over to her father and kissed him. Then, also addressing the court, she began: ‘I am made of the same metal as my sister and value myself at her worth. I find that she has articulated the feelings of love that come from the depths of my own heart. I find, however, that she doesn’t go far enough in that I profess myself unable to take any pleasure in whatever the senses can offer and find that I get pleasure only from the enjoyment of your dear Highness’ love.’

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PART III ALL DAY LONG

CHAPTER 27

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