

Author: Nicole Kilpatrick
Category: Young Adult Fantasy
Print ISBN: 978-1-68046-983-7
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-68046-984-4
Publisher: Fire and Ice Young Adult Books
(Imprint of Melange)

Media Kit

[Author Bio](#)

[Book Bio](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Book Excerpt](#)

[Interview Resources](#)

[Author & Book Photos](#)

[Social Media Links](#)

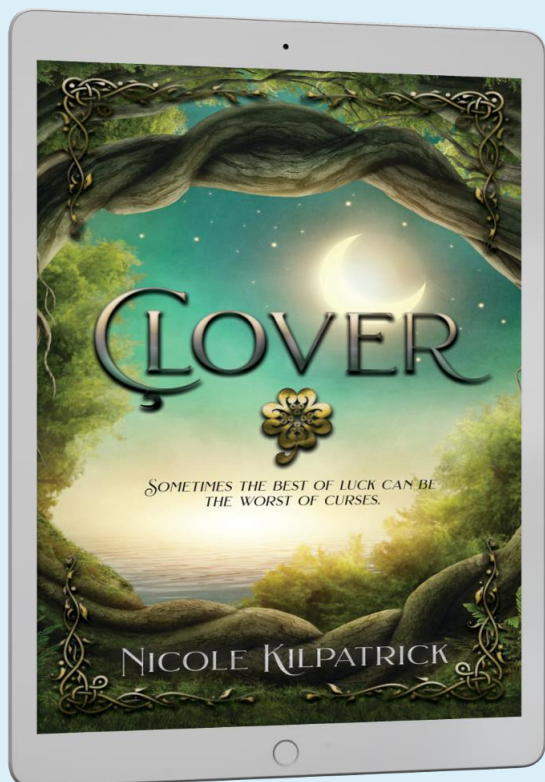
Author Bio

Nicole Kilpatrick was born and raised in the sun-kissed Philippines islands, but now works and lives in the asphalt jungle that is New York City. A lifelong lover of books, she read the Godfather when she was twelve and instantly fell in love. While she still enjoys the occasional gangster novel, she has since discovered her true passion in young adult fantasy. Mario Puzzo was quickly replaced by J.K. Rowling in this author's heart. When not writing, she can be found lounging in a cabin by a river, curled up at home reading a book, or concocting recipes in her cozy kitchen in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband. Clover is her debut novel.



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Clover is a Young Adult Fantasy novel that reimagines the leprechaun trope, depicting them as handsome, powerful fairies—and not the little mischievous sprites of lore. It’s an adventure and a love story which touches on the themes of luck, coming of age, and crossing worlds.

When a handsome leprechaun reveals himself to Clover O’Leary on her eighteenth birthday, she is faced with three hard facts. One: he is the reason for her remarkably charmed life; Two: her luck has now taken a turn for the worse. Three: her name is a curse; a malicious gift from the powerful leprechaun who named her while she was still in the womb. In order to get her life back and undo the evil spell, she must travel to Ireland to seek the only creature who may be able to help: the Seelie Queen. With her intriguing leprechaun in tow, Clover crosses into the Faerie Realm, where fairies and mythical creatures abound and where finding her luck may ultimately lead to finding her love.

Praise for *Clover*

“A high-enjoyable read! Clover hooks you from page one with its wonderful characters and an intriguing world that grabs ahold of you and won’t let go.”— Stephanie Keyes, award-winning author of *The Star Child*

"Clover is an exciting action-packed urban fantasy full of both dashing and dastardly Irish Fae. Lucky are the teen readers who get this book!" – D.G. Driver, author of *Cry of the Sea: A Mermaid Novel*



Book Excerpt



Chapter One

The room smelled of sweat, cigarette smoke, and a tad bit of spilled beer drying on hot concrete. The stench of inebriated desperation was palpable. Theirs hadn't been the only poker game when Nick O'Leary first came into the gambling den, but now everyone had gathered around their table to watch. Everyone looked so strange to him all of a sudden, as if his frayed nerves had somehow made everything sharper and more focused. The lad in the pale blue suit, too handsome. The lady who smelled of lilacs, what was up with those ears? The whole lot of them seemed caricatures of their former selves, and in the center, staring at him with the greenest eyes he'd ever seen was Alistair.

"I don't enjoy waiting, my friend." He smirked as he theatrically drummed his fingers on the table.

Alistair wasn't Nick's friend at all. He had just met the guy that day at a Las Vegas casino. He had cajoled him into a private poker game, and Nick had been too much of a gambler to resist. There was something about him that was hard to say no to. He was expertly groomed, immaculately dressed, and extremely good-looking, and yet for all these attributes, he somehow looked out of place. He was like a Picasso in a sea of wallpaper. Nick found himself wanting to be in the man's presence.

Next thing he knew, Nick was in a gambling den ten blocks off the strip, in what would appear to be an oddly high stakes game of poker, face to face with the mysterious Alistair.

"See, I'm not sure I understand," Nick stammered.

"It's quite simple really. We've, shall we say, upped the ante? Money is so passé nowadays, don't you think? My preferred currency is luck."

The last word drew a collective gasp from the now captivated crowd.

"Look, I really don't know where you're going with this..."

"Pretend that I may give you luck and pretend that I too may take it away. Upon this premise, my friend, we shall place our final bets. If you win, I am prepared to offer a lifetime of providence. If I win, you will surrender said providence to me, commencing immediately until the day of your death."

Interview Resources

Where did you get the idea to write *Clover*?

Long before I started writing *Clover*, I'd already been toying with the idea of leprechauns—and how they're not really what we thought they were, i.e. not mischievous, little bearded men. What if they were actually handsome and powerful beings with the ability to bestow and relinquish luck? And what perhaps would it be like to fall in love with one?

In 2017, I finally took the plunge and started writing *Clover*'s story. I enjoyed every minute of the journey.

What did you learn when writing the book?

That when I say, "I enjoyed every minute," of writing *Clover*, I'm actually lying. Although the experience was incredible, it wasn't easy. I learned that balancing a full-time job and writing a book takes a lot of perseverance and dedication. I learned to develop a thick skin—the road to publication is filled with rejections! Most importantly, I learned to believe in myself and to keep trudging on despite self-doubt, lack of sleep, and myriad other obstacles. I discovered that as long as I don't give up, anything is possible.

What was the most challenging aspect of writing this book?

I think that on top of time constraints, mental blocks, and other obstacles, the biggest enemy in one's writing journey is self-doubt and the overwhelming temptation to throw in the towel, microwave a bag of popcorn, and watch TV. I feel that every time you're able to resist that urge, you're one step closer to finishing that book.

Who is your favorite author and why?

Hands down, Neil Gaiman. His writing, too me, is magical in that he can take a perfectly commonplace scenario, turn it on its head, and transform it into something out of this world. In fact, one of his characters in *American Gods* (Mad Sweeney) inspired me to reimagine the leprechaun trope.

What was your favorite scene to write?

Without revealing too much (spoiler alert!), I enjoyed writing the scene where *Clover* encounters the Unseelie soldier at Lough Derg. I feel like this is where we see the main character blossom and come into her own. Not to mention, she was pretty badass while doing it.

Who is your favorite character in this book?

That's a tough one, but by virtue of having her name on the cover, I'm going to have to say *Clover*, but I do love each and every one of my characters.

Downloadable photos



High-resolution author headshots and book cover available for download at <https://nicolekilpatrick.com/media-kit/>

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