

<https://dailyillini.com/features/2017/11/19/author-maggie-stiefvater-discusses-latest-book-urbana-free-library/>

Sydney Guillory finds that author Maggie Stiefvater makes the paranormal relatable to the everyday person, even college students; however, she's not the only student who feels this way.

"I'm a big fan of magical realism, and the way that (Stiefvater) talks and writes about fantasy and the paranormal is somewhat relatable. It's not too far out there; it's possible," Guillory said. "It's the simple magic of the Earth and being around other people who love her really makes her work special."

Stiefvater, New York Times bestselling author of *Linger*, came to the Urbana Free Library to speak about her new novel *All the Crooked Saints*. A multitude of students attended the event, all of whom had their own opinions of Stiefvater's story telling.

"She makes everything an adventure, every new place, every aspect of the storyline is an adventure, but not in the way you'd expect," junior McKenna Novack said. "It's not like you go to one place to the next. It's almost as if the entirety is an adventure in itself, if that makes sense."

At the event, Stiefvater took the time sign books, writing a personalized message for each person. Prior to this, Stiefvater spoke about her upcoming novel, and how she found her inspiration from her fear of blindness.

"Basically, my eyeballs are really bad at being eyeballs, and I had a lot of dreams as a child where I was either partially blind or completely blind," Stiefvater said. "So initially, when I was conceptualizing this novel, I thought it was going to be a horror about blindness."

Instead, *All the Crooked Saints* went from being a horror story to a paranormal novel, which, in Stiefvater fashion, carried highly relatable themes. A version of the story that, while obscure, holds enough truth that it feels it could be real.

"It's really about wearing your flaws on your sleeve," Stiefvater said. "Your inner darkness takes on a physical form, a concrete manifestation that you have to deal with."

Like with all of her books, *All the Crooked Saints* carries on in that it contains metaphors and strong themes about life. For *All the Crooked Saints*, it could either be a metaphor for losing one's self or for dealing with mental health.

It's in these ways which Stiefvater leaves her mark on a wide array of individuals.