

A Letter to Your Class from **GORDON KORMAN** Author of the Month

Dear Class,

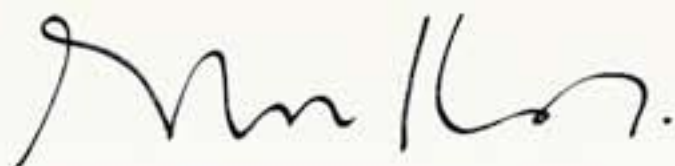
I have always had a love affair with the middle grade novel. This has been going on for a very long time—ever since I was old enough to “graduate” from picture books. I inhaled *The Mad Scientists Club* series, *The Great Brain* series, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, and *Beverly Cleary*. I was hooked.

There’s no way to overstate how important this was for me. When I was in 7th grade, my teacher gave us four months to write whatever we wanted. My project turned out to be my first book, *This Can’t Be Happening at Macdonald Hall*. I didn’t set out to create a middle grade novel; I just wrote what I loved, and that’s what it came out to be.

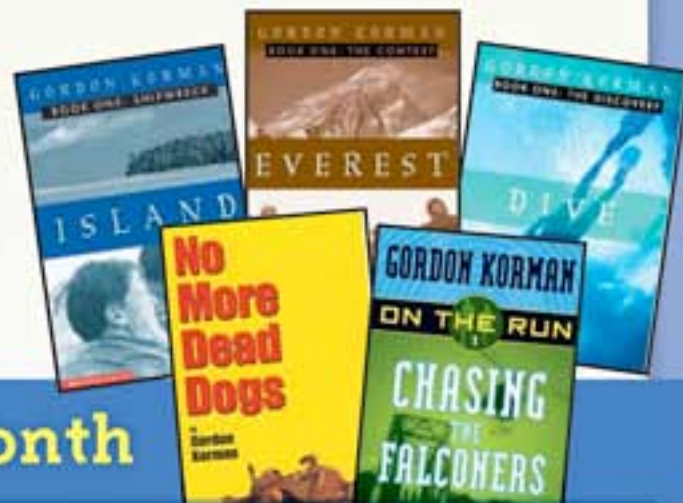


This Can’t Be Happening at Macdonald Hall was published in 1978, when I was in ninth grade. So I’ve been writing middle grade fiction for more than two-thirds of my life! I honestly don’t think I would have become a writer if it hadn’t been for that seventh-grade assignment. I’d always gotten better grades in math and science before that. Which means I have those great middle grade novels I devoured as a kid to thank for my sixty-five published books—and all the ones I haven’t written yet.

Keep on Reading,



PS: I still read middle grade novels. I think I enjoy them even more as a forty-four-year-old!



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