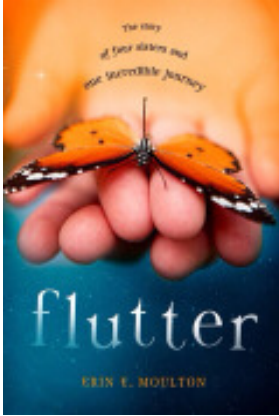


New Hampshire Author

Erin E. Moulton



Philomel/Penguin, 2011



Philomel/Penguin, 2012



Philomel/Penguin, 2014

Erin's books have been selected and nominated for national and state award lists, such as the Amelia Bloomer list, the Kentucky Bluegrass Master List and the Isinglass Teen Read Award List. *Flutter* was a 2011 Kid's Indie Next pick. Her most recent novel is *Keepers of the Labyrinth* (Philomel/Penguin, 2015). She is also editor of *Things We Haven't Said*, an anthology about sexual violence, written for teen readers and slated for publication by Zest Books in 2017. When Erin isn't writing books she can be found drinking an excessive amount of Barry's Tea, scribbling in notebooks, carving pumpkins, staring off into space wearing her noise cancelling headphones and trying to stay out of mischief without always succeeding. She also works as the teen librarian at the Derry Public Library where she maintains a collection of awesome YA books and leads teen programming. Erin loves fostering new voices, which makes her an active school visitor, mentor and workshop leader to writers of all ages. She is a proud Vermont College of Fine Arts alum, as well as a teen advocate, a humanist, a feminist, and a would-be philanthropist if she could find any extra dollars.

Learn more at
www.erinemoulton.com

Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library
<http://nhbookcenter.org>



“Shall we begin?” Athenia asked, stationing herself at the head of the table. She pulled a small wooden peg toward her. It was decorated with ten buttons showing old pictographs, and her thumb made quick work of punching in the code.

A square of the far-left wall swiveled, revealing a pedestal holding a large tome. It sat open on the wooden stand. She moved swiftly to it. It was heavy in Athenia’s arms, and as she returned to her seat, she set it carefully on the table.

She plucked a cracked leather strap from the center and flipped the book open to the selected page. It was split into four columns. She took a moment to let her eyes fall on the familiar letters in the third column. The letters of her ancestors. Greek. She had studied the ancient alphabet and knew it well.

She cleared her throat and began. “As you know, we have completed our recruitment selections. In just a few weeks, we will begin our leadership conference and assess each pupil to see who best displays the four virtues. To see who will follow in our footsteps.” Athenia gestured to the pile of manila envelopes next to her. “We have a promising group of young women from around the world.”

“And we have a promising set of challenges for them to face,” Bente added, sitting up straight and clasping her hands in front of her.

“Yes, throughout the week, I suspect all will have a fair chance to display their skills.” Athenia gestured to Colleen. “Do you have the assessment sheets for us, Col?”

Colleen nodded curtly, her short black hair swinging in a bob around her face. “Yes,” she said, taking a sheet from the top of her clipboard and passing the pile to her right.

“Very well,” Athenia said, accepting the papers as they reached her. “We must be sure to evaluate thoroughly in every workshop.” She looked at the ancient Greek, examining the parameters of the first virtue. She read the old phrases, her mind working them into English. “First, we seek the Historian, whose virtue is knowledge--mainly, the ability to cull and access information through the written word.” She looked across the table at Colleen. “Col, as current Historian, what is your plan to assess these attributes?”

Colleen clipped the extra assessment sheets onto her clipboard. “I’ll be discussing knowledge foundations worldwide, information storage and knowledge sharing. I’ll also be looking for someone particularly interested in history, its interpretation and how to access and assess archives.”

Athenia nodded, scribbling in the margins of her paper. She placed a finger back on the page. “Next, the Inventor, whose virtue is creation. We will be watching for the ability to think outside the box, innovative spirit and a scientific mind. Trudy, as current Inventor, have you settled on a plan to assess these attributes?”

Trudy set her glasses on the table in front of her. Her Irish brogue filled the room as she spoke. “I have several challenges set up for them, but we’ll be exploring genetic experiments, natural energy storage and climate-control solutions within our workshop modules.”

“Very nice,” Athenia said. She looked down at her sheet. “Next is the Artist, whose virtue is empathy. I will be looking for the ability to connect and sympathize with even the darkest and most brutish of spirits. My classes will cover cross-cultural art and universal relation to expression.”

The others around the table nodded as Athenia’s eyes fell to the Greek once more. The final virtue.

“Finally, we seek the Protector, whose virtue is boldness. Attributes are strength of body, mind and spirit.” She looked up from the book. “Bente, as current Protector, do you have a plan for assessing these attributes?”

“I’ve made some adjustments to the course on the back hill,” Bente said, “where I will be watching for their endurance, strength of will and team-leading abilities. The ropes course on the first day should help us weed out those who lack a call to adventure.”

Athenia surveyed the book and gave a satisfied smile. “I think we’re in line with the tenets.” She closed the book and returned it to the pedestal on the antechamber wall, and pushed a small button on the stand. It swiveled away from her and out of sight.

Are YOU the Inventor, Historian, Artist or Protector?
Find out at <http://www.erinemoulton.com/keeper/>