

DETAILS



Oscar and the Mystery of the Glowing Orbs *The Sensate Saga Book 1*

February 10, 2026 | \$16.99, 320 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1218-5

Packed with mystery and heartfelt themes of friendship and faith, *Oscar and the Mystery of the Glowing Orbs* is perfect for middle-grade readers who love detective adventures and stories that inspire curiosity about the unseen marvels in everyday life.

This is the first of three books in the Sensate Saga, a series exploring everyday mysteries and reminding us that there is always more going on than any of us can see.

A Middle-Grade Adventure Full of Courage and Connection

What if you could see things no one else could?

Meet Oscar, a new kid navigating life in a new town, at a new school, with no friends to lean on. Just as he's decided to shuffle his way through freshman year and settle for lonely lunches on the football bleachers, something extraordinary happens—Oscar begins to see glowing orbs that no one else can see. Confused and curious, he soon discovers he's not the only one with a mysterious power.

When chaos disrupts Centerville High, Oscar finds himself in the middle of an eclectic group of kids who all want answers . . . and are eager to take action! These zealous teen journalists and amateur detectives include other "Sensates"—kids who have unraveled their own mysteries. No longer alone, Oscar discovers that those orbs he's been seeing might just be put to good use.

Join Oscar as he untangles his own mysteries of friendship and faith and learns that overcoming his deepest fears will require tapping into a Power greater than his own.

Perfect for fans of *The Wingfeather Saga* and *The Sherlock Society*, in this book you'll discover a world of wonder, courage, and connection with Oscar and his friends.

About the author:



Don Everts is reluctant to call himself an evangelist, but for decades he has found himself talking about Jesus with all sorts of skeptical and curious people. He is a writer for Lutheran Hour Ministries and associate pastor at Bonhomme Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He has also been a speaker and trainer for Alpha and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. His many books include *The Spiritually Vibrant Home*, *Jesus with Dirty Feet*, *I Once Was Lost*, and *Breaking the Huddle*.

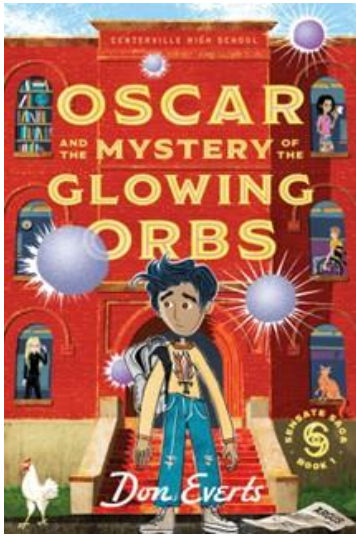


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Q & A



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Fantasy, Realistic Fiction, and Faith

What motivated you to write *Oscar and the Mystery of the Glowing Orbs*?

Don Everts: I started writing this book because of a Sunday School class and a trip to Barnes & Noble.

The class was called “Our Faith and Our Devices” and focused on how the ancient Bible and the latest research can help us understand and think about the complex, new tech-dominated landscape we are all living within. As a parent of a seventeen-, twenty-one-, and twenty-three-year old, I already knew first-hand many of the unintended consequences of a phone-based childhood. But teaching the class left me more sobered and more motivated than ever to ask the question: As a pastor and parent, how can I minister to the younger generations as they navigate all of these important (but often unexamined) issues and tensions?

The trip to Barnes & Noble was to get a novel for my youngest son who had an English assignment requiring him to read a novel written in the last five years. My parental joy at getting to pick a book for my son to read was quickly displaced by dismay as I struggled to find a single new novel that wasn’t just entertaining, wasn’t clearly targeted at girls, and wasn’t solely focused on a single identity issue. Where were the fun, literary novels that would engage my son and help form him to live thoughtfully within the real world he was navigating? I was complaining about this trip to a friend (who happens to write young novels) at a barbecue about that time. She listened attentively, but instead of commiserating with me, she challenged me: “Well, you’re a writer. Why don’t you do something about that?”

Briefly summarize the central thesis of your book. What is unique about this idea and your approach?

Don: When Oscar Owens starts high school and unexpectedly becomes a Sensate, he is suddenly given a window into the “metaphysical” realities all around him—like friendship, anxiety, guilt, regret, hope, and a wide variety of emotions, thoughts, and prayers. Oscar learns, firsthand, that there is much more going on than meets the eye, including the often unexamined ways technology is impacting him and his friends.

While there are many wonderful books that examine the tensions, joys, and dangers inherent in our new phone-based approach to childhood, Oscar’s story entertains while showing these complexities and tensions in action. For children struggling to navigate our complex, new tech-infused landscape, this story helps shape their imaginations with faithful, wise, inspiring, and even fun possibilities.

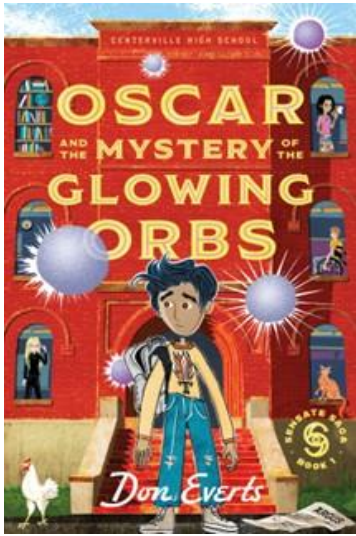


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What are five main things you want readers to take away from your book?

Don:

- There are so many wonderful, delightful, important things going on beneath the surface of life.
- The presence of technology is having unintended, unexamined effects on all those things.
- With my gifts and the gifts of others, we can make a difference in the world around us.
- Sometimes I will have to take risks and face my deepest fears.
- God is present in my everyday life, offering me the direction, power, and encouragement I desperately need.

Is there anything else you want to let us know about your book?

Don: As a book in the “magical realism” genre, this book combines the best of fantasy (exciting adventures, colorful characters, vivid portrayals of deeper realities) with the best of realistic fiction (everyday situations, relatable battles, applicable lessons).



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