Congratulations, Tirzah, on graduating magna cum laude! You did it! Somehow you completed a full-length, meta-fictional, fantasy novel that not only turns genre conventions on their heads but does so with your signature wit and flourish. I teased you once by saying only you have an imagination “demented” enough to pull off such a feat, and I wasn’t wrong. The final product is a work of genius, I’ll never forget those characters (who, as they become aware that they are characters, seem all the more human), and I’m thrilled to have had a role in its creation. As long as we both keep writing fiction, our paths will cross again and again. For now, celebrate, and when the pandemic is behind us, if you and Kamille are still up for it, we’ll go out for some fried chicken and waffles.