

No Shelf Control

Edition 5: September 2021

Q&A with David Farr



'The Book of Stolen Dreams' is our BOOK OF THE MONTH! It is simply brilliant. It tells the story of a brother and sister who are entrusted with the task of saving 'The Book of Stolen Dreams' from Charles Malstain who intends to use it to make himself immortal.

Hi David, you have been Writing prolifically for a long time, what made you venture into children's books?

I worked in the theatre for a long time. I've adapted many stories for theatre for a younger audience. I've always wanted to write a story about a very particular brother and sister whose adventure starts with a flight away from their homeland. I just never got to begin it... until lockdown when suddenly I found the time and energy. I always knew it would be a story written for children.

Charles Malstain is a brilliant baddie, who are your favourite literary villains?

A brilliant baddie is central to all thrilling adventure stories. Some of my favourites in literature are Bill Sykes in Oliver Twist because even though he's horrific, you kind of understand why he's so angry? And at the opposite scale I just adore the farmers in Fantastic Mr Fox, especially Bean who is quite simply irredeemable. And Count Olaf who just adores being evil so much that he almost becomes lovable. But not quite!

Slight spoiler alert... If you had the chance to be immortal, would you take it?

Absolutely not. But I would love to be immortal just for one day...

What are your favourite books for children?

I would have to choose the collected works of *Eva Ibbotson*. She is a children's author I admire greatly who writes with intimacy and rigour, with darkness and light, with fear and redemption. *The Star of Kazan* is one favourite. And *The Secret of Platform 13*. I read them to my



daughters when they were young.

I also want to mention a writer for children who is almost hard to find now. The American Elizabeth Enright wrote the most wonderful set of books for children, all about one New York family in the 1940s. They're fantastic! Start with *The Saturdays* and go from there. Someone should republish in a spanking new version.

The Book of Stolen Dreams is out now from Usbourne in luxury hardback! It is perfect for readers 9+

To read the full interview, head over to Misterbodd.wordpress.com



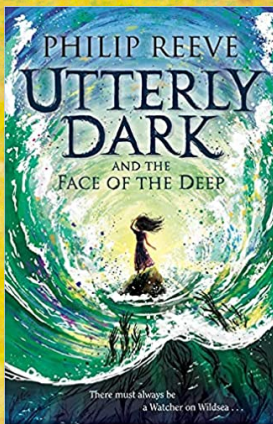
Books



Reviews



chats



Utterly Dark

Philip Reeve

David Fickling Books 10+

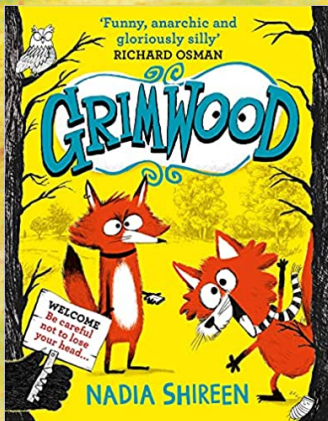
Philip Reeve is the king of world building. He must have sold his soul at some point because the second you start reading his words, you are transported to his new world. You don't read his books, you live them! Utterly Dark spends her days watching for the mysterious islands to appear and starts to unravel her connection to them.

Peanut Jones

Rob Biddulph

Macmillan Children 8+

Not content with being a national treasure and saviour of teachers and parents during the Covid lockdowns, Rob has decided to try his hand at writing a novel. You probably could have guessed that he's pretty good at it too! Peanut Jones finds a pencil that literally brings drawings to life. Can she use it to find her dad?



Grimwood

Nadia Shireen

Simon & Schuster 7+

Another picturebook creator releasing her first novel. Nadia Shireen has made a hilariously funny book for younger readers. After offending the local cat, two foxes have to go on the run for their own safety. They hide in Grimwood, but everyone there is a little... erm... odd. Will they get used to their new settings?

We're Going to Find the Monster

Malorie Blackman & Dapo Adeola

Puffin 3+

Imagination is king in this brilliant picture book written by the legendary Malorie Blackman and illustrated by Dapo Adeola. Two siblings set off on an adventure to find a monster. We realise that all of their adventures actually take place in their house and their monster isn't exactly a real one! An ode to imaginative play and family!



One To Wait for...

How Winston Came Home for Christmas
Alex T. Smith - Macmillan Children - Oct 21

Winston is the perfect Christmas read. An advent calendar book where you read a chapter a night. The first one was simply perfect so I can't wait for this!



The Ash House

Angharad Walker

Chicken House 10+

A brilliantly ominous and spooky story. Sol wakes up in the Ash House Transferred from hospital, it is his last hope of curing his chronic pain. Things are far from normal. There are no adults to be seen, but the children of the Ash House receive daily instructions via the telephone. They live by a strict code and abide by the 'nicenesses'. A gripping story that will leave you unable to stop reading!

Earth is Big

Steve Tomecek & Marcos Farina

What on Earth 7+

This superb non-fiction book is constantly contradicting itself... But in a great way. A double page spread on why the Earth is big, comparing it to tiny creatures. But then the next pages cover why the Earth is small... Comparing it to other huge objects in the universe. It will amaze you but also offer that little perspective on life on Earth!



Little Horror

Daniel Peak

Firefly 8+

This is my surprise read of the year so far. I picked it up not knowing what to expect... I LOVED it! From start to finish, I was chuckling along. I'm highly recommending this as a bedtime story as it will entertain adults just as much as their children. An incredibly intelligent 2 year old is being hunted by someone who knows her secret... Can she outrun the danger and stay safe? You must read this!

Locked Out Lily

Nick Lake & Emily Gravett

Simon & Schuster 10+

Another deliciously dark book. Lily's parents have gone to hospital for the birth of her new baby sister. Lily is sent to stay with her Nan but is determined to get back to her parents. She returns to her house to find people who look like her parents, but definitely aren't. With the help of a snake, a crow and a mouse, she must defeat 'the replacements' and get back into her home.



One You Might Have Missed

Harriet Versus the Galaxy - Samantha Baines

Knights Of - 7+ Oct 2019

This is a brilliantly inclusive book. Harriet finds a sock eating alien under her bed. Thanks to her hearing aids, she can understand him as apparently they have a universal translator in them. She finds out that her family secretly work for an intergalactic agency and Harriet becomes the Earth's first line of defence against the invaders.

September Bonus Page.... Too many books!



Monster Hunting For Beginners

Ian Mark

Farshore 8+

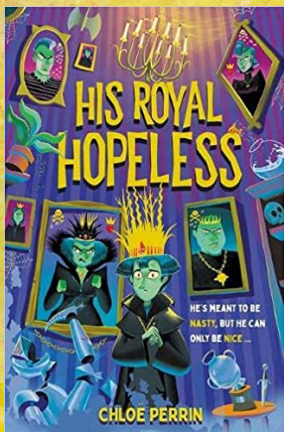
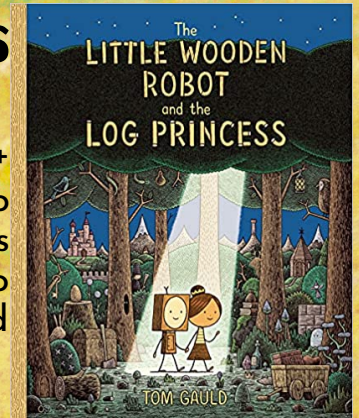
A brilliantly funny adventure story about Jack. Jack accidentally defeats an ogre that tries to eat his aunt and therefore becomes an apprentice monster hunter... It is time to forget everything that you thought you knew about fairy tales and monsters - This book will fill you in on the real stories and goings on. You'll laugh your way through this!

The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess

Tom Gauld

Templar 3+

I absolutely adore this gorgeous story. The King and Queen have no children so have some made. Disaster strikes and The Log Princess goes missing. Feeling guilty, The Little Wooden Robot sets off to save her but eventually it is him who needs her help. How far would you go to save your sibling? The illustrations are stunning too!



His Royal Hopeless

Chloe Perrin

Chicken House 8+

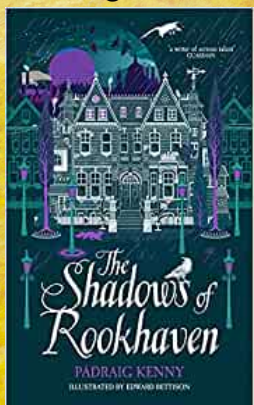
I love a reverse fairy tale and this is a great one. Robbie is due to take over the evildest empire that the world has ever seen, surely he must be truly despicable to be up to the task? Well actually, he's nice! He's a hopeless optimist who always sees the good in others... So as you can imagine, things get a little complicated for him and the rest of the royal family!

Julia and the Shark

Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Tom De Freston

Simon & Schuster 10+

Never judge a book by its cover... but actually, sometimes that's fine. When you get your hands on this book, you'll marvel at the beauty of the cover and the pages. The story inside is just as stunning! A story about a mother, a daughter and a shark. Julia and her family head to a remote island for the summer. Her mother's obsession with finding the Greenland shark threatens to change everything.



The Shadows of Rookhaven

Padraig Kenny

Macmillan Children 10+

The prequel 'Monsters of Rookhaven' was one of my favourite books from 2020. It was an ominously spooky delight full of tension and thrills! Rookhaven is host to a once a century event, where monsters from all over the country congregate. Mirabelle (who is part human, part monster) must find the invader who is trying to cause chaos and destruction!

9 Books about... Pirates!



Who doesn't love a good pirate tale? They may have been baddies but they make a brilliant book! Here are some of our favourite stories that feature fearless pirates! Dive in and put on your best pirate voice. ARGHHHHHHHHH!

1. Sky Pirates

Alex English

2. The Pirate Cruncher

Jonny Duddle

3. The Ship of Shadows

Maria Kuzniar

4. Pirate Pete and his Smelly Feet

Lucy Rowland & Mark Chambers

5. Antigua de Fortune

Anna Rainbow & Oli Hyatt

6. Pirates Magnified

David Long & Harry Bloom

7. Pirate Stew

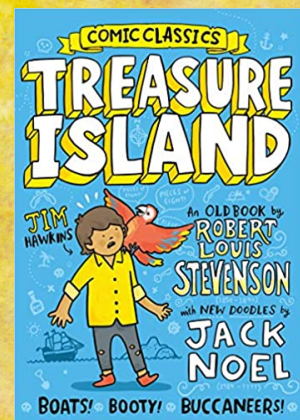
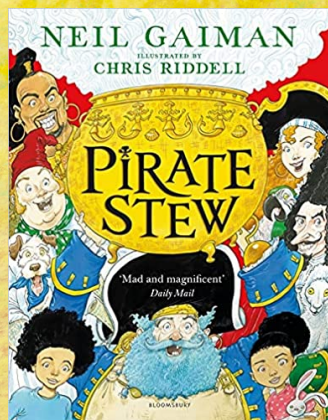
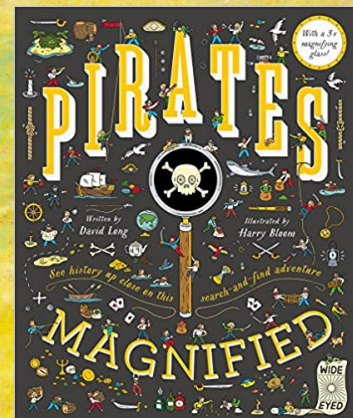
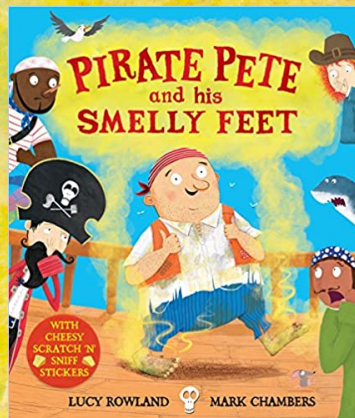
Neil Gaiman & Chris Riddell

8. Captain Sparklebeard

Timothy Knapman & Sam Lloyd

9. Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson & Jack Noel



If you have any questions or have a book released in October that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - MisterBodd@outlook.com