

# No Shelf Control

Edition 13: May 2022

## Q&A with Cath Howe

Here at No Shelf Control, we are huge fans of Cath Howe and we think her books are so important at building empathy in readers. This is why *The Insiders* is our **BOOK OF THE MONTH!**

All of your books are praised for addressing important issues. How do you decide what to tackle in each book?

I choose characters and try to follow where they lead. In *The Insiders*, I had the idea of Billy and the school at night and that made me ask why he might choose to sleep in school. There are issues all around us but I don't want to write "book about issues" so much as find a way to reflect how the world is and how complicated it is to navigate.

In the *insiders* I couldn't ever decide which character I was backing and who was in the wrong. Who are your favourite lovable/misunderstood villains?

Yes, that's how I hoped you would feel. In *The Insiders*, I felt a real affection for Billy- he is in a tangle. There have been lots of Billys in my teaching career. He's got a lot of charm. I was interested in the idea of you rooting for someone while watching them mess up. My favourite "villain" in another book would be Stanley in *Holes* by Louis Sachar. He is incredibly relatable. I do think there's a bit of a villain in all of us.

If you were locked in a school overnight, what would you do?

I would definitely visit the staffroom and root around for cake. It's that feeling of being somewhere forbidden. I'd wander around, just the way Billy does.

CATH HOWE



Secrets, Lies, Rumours  
Sometimes Keeping Things Inside  
is Dangerous.

nosy  
crow

What are the best books for children that you've read lately?

I have enjoyed *The Shark Caller* by Zillah Bethell and *When The Sky Falls* by Phil Earle. *The Shark Caller* creates a great sense of place. I really enjoyed the relationship between the two central characters- it's not sentimental, it's complicated and they take a long time to thaw with each other.

*The Insiders* is out now from Nosy Crow



Birthday Edition  
We are one!



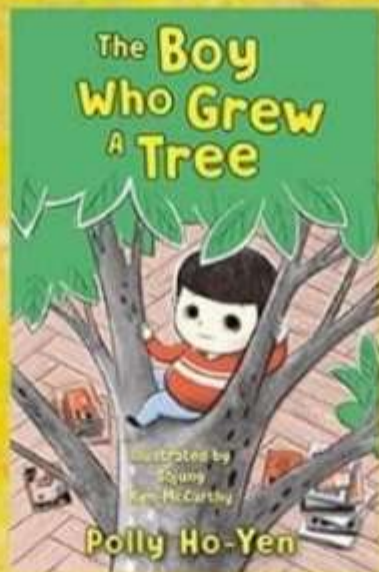
Books



Reviews



Chats



## The Boy Who Grew A Tree

Polly Ho-Yen & Sojung Kim-McCarthy

Knights Of 5+

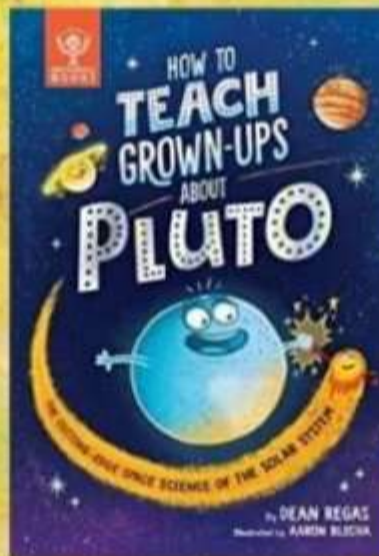
When Timmi's mum starts growing a baby in her tummy, he begins to feel unsettled. He turns to the library where he finds a tree growing and decides to take care for the tree. Can the tree help him save the library which is due to be closed down? Perfect for younger readers who may be expecting a sibling.

## Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush

Patrice Lawrence & Camilla Sucre

Nosy Crow 4+

I love this story. Ava is asked at school to research an inspirational figure. She thinks of all the obvious choices, but after finding a old suitcase she begins learning about her own family history and how her Granny left her home and built a new life in England. Now it's obvious who her inspiration is!



## How to Teach Grown-ups About Pluto

Dean Regas & Aaron Blecha

Britannica Books 7+

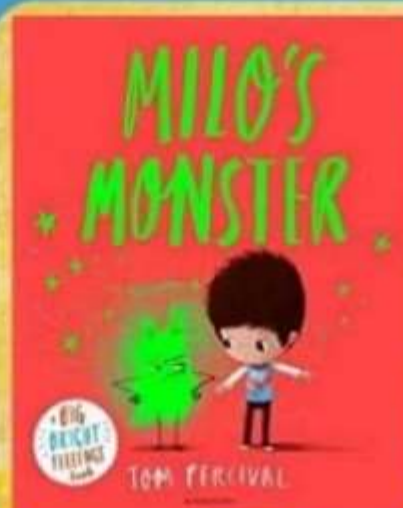
Adults are often adverse to change and many struggle with Pluto's downgrade from planet to dwarf planet. This superb non-fiction book will fill you in with everything you need to set the adults in your life straight! It's not only children that need to be taught things...

## Princess Minna

Kirsty Applebaum & Sahar Haghoo

Nosy Crow 6+

I'm delighted that one of my favourite authors has ventured into the younger market. Princess Minna is the princess who is going to sort everything out herself. She is the resilient role model righting the wrongs in her kingdom! The colourful illustrations are gorgeous and will hook younger readers in. Luckily two books have been released so you can join her on two adventures!



## One To Wait for...

Milo's Monster- Tom Percival

Bloomsbury - July 22

The newest book in Tom Percival's Big Bright Feelings series. This one covers jealousy, an emotion that so many children need to learn about. I can't wait to read it



## Lightfall - Shadow of the Bird

Tim Probert

HCAlely 8+

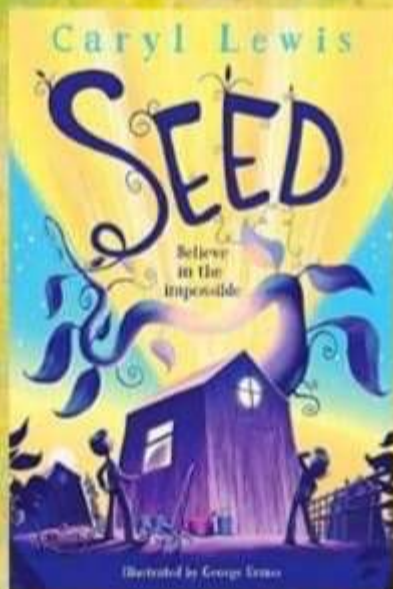
This is one of my most anticipated books of the year. The prequel is a fantastic graphic novel which you'll need to devour first. Join Bea and Cad as the unlikely friends continue on their quest to find Kest, the bird who stole the sun! As with all adventures, things don't go quite to plan. They must decide what is more important, their quest, or the truth!

## The Good Turn

Sharna Jackson

Puffin 9+

Inspired by her discovery about Josephine Holloway - the woman who started the first Girl Scout troop for Black girls in America - Josephine realises that she must follow her namesake and start her own. 'The Copseys' (named after the cul-de-sac where they live) are born. Sharna is simply brilliant and this is another of her books that simply cannot be missed.



## Seed

Caryl Lewis & George Ermos

Macmillan Children 7+

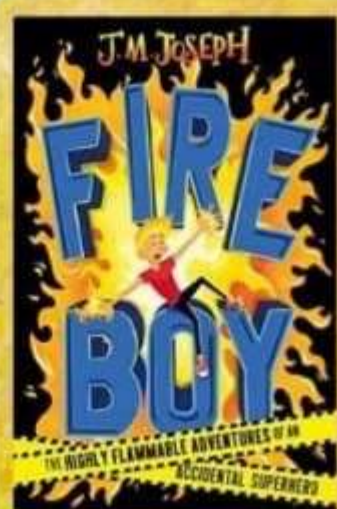
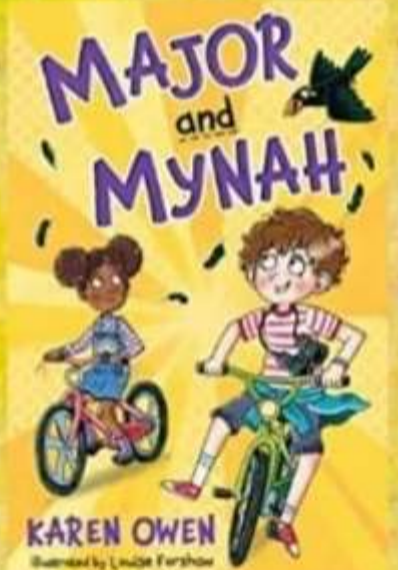
This modern day fairy tale full of hope follows Marty who receives a seed from his Granddad for his birthday. The small seed grows into an impossible adventure for Marty, Granddad and his best friend Gracie. As always, George Ermos' illustrations are impeccable! A perfect blend of adventure, friendship and craziness!

## Major and Mynah

Karen Owen & Louise Forshaw

Firefly 7+

Wearing hearing aids for the first time can be daunting, but what if they had mysterious powers! Callie's hearing aids allow her to communicate with Bo, a mynah bird. Teaming up with Bo and her best friend Grace they create SPUD (Super Perceptive Undercover Detectives) to catch a local thief! A fantastic mystery story for younger children.



## One You Might Have Missed

Fire Boy - J.M. Joseph

Hodder - 9+ March 2020

A brilliantly exciting and funny superhero adventure. Aidan receives a mysterious parcel filled with sweets... Upon eating the sweets, Aidan and his friends develop super powers. Can they use these powers to stop the criminal who wanted the sweets in the first place?

# 9 Books about fantasy lands...



Sometimes when our own worlds get too busy, complicated or just boring, it is brilliant to whisk ourselves off to a new and wonderful fantasy land. Here are some of our favourites!

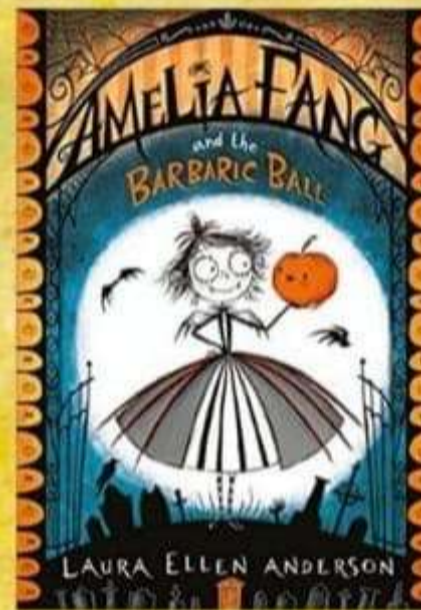
1. Firesong

**Vashti Hardy**



2. Amelia Fang

**Laura Ellen Anderson**



3. Hilda and the Troll

**Luke Pearson**



4. The Land of Roar

**Jenny McLachlan & Ben Mantle**



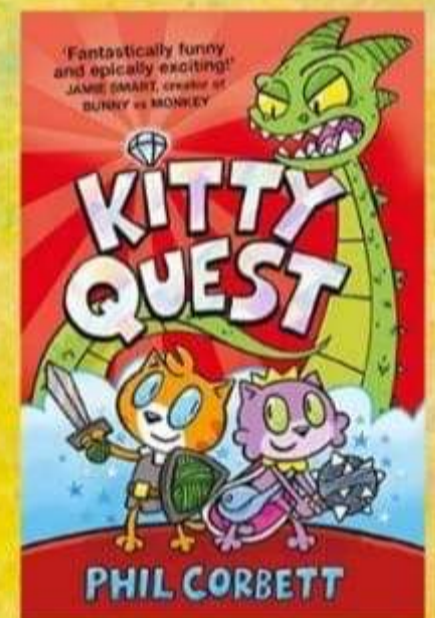
5. Skandar and the Unicorn Thief

**A.F. Steadman**



6. Kitty Quest

**Phil Corbett**



7. Monster Hunting for Beginners

**Ian Mark & Louis Ghibaut**



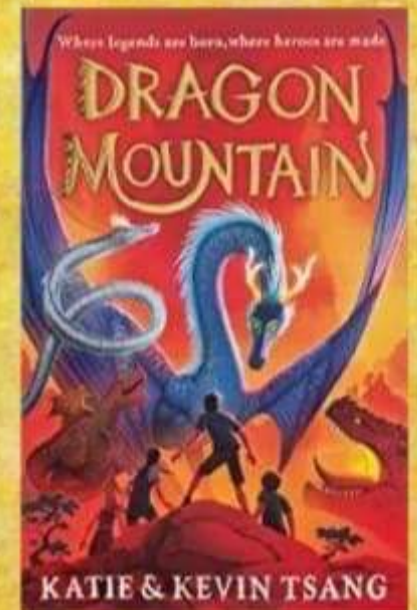
8. Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City

**Rob Biddulph**



9. Dragon Mountain

**Katie & Kevin Tsang**



If you have any questions or have a book released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - [MisterBodd@outlook.com](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)