

No Shelf Control

Edition 21: January 2023

Return To Neverland Abi Elphinstone

Our first BOOK OF THE MONTH for 2023 is the magnificent Abi Elphinstone's take on the legendary Peter Pan - 'Saving Neverland'. The story is etched on the hearts of many children and adults, so giving it a modern twist was always going to be a risky choice! But thankfully she has done a smashing job!

Giving the sometimes problematic story some updates has been needed for a while and who better than Abi, who is the queen of adventure stories? Her writing is engaging and packed with vivid descriptions and a fast-paced narrative that will keep young readers turning the pages.

The world of Neverland is richly imagined and full of detail, making it easy for readers to get lost in the story. The characters are well-developed and memorable, adding depth to the story and making it easy for readers to connect with them rather than yearning for the original cast.

We return to Neverland with 10 year old Martha and her brother Scruff where they meet Peter Pan and his Lost Kids. Together they must save Neverland from the dastardly Captain Hook! (Cue Pantomime boing)



This is definitely one that is perfect for bedtime stories where the whole family can snuggle up in bed and share an exciting adventure together. Hopefully it will remind us all to never forget the magic and imagination that makes our childhood amazing!

Saving Neverland is out now in Hardback from Puffin for £12.99





The Kindest Red

Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali & Hatem Aly

Andersen Press 4+

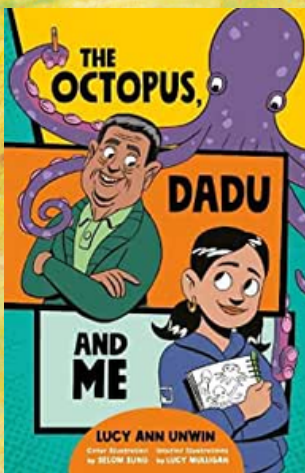
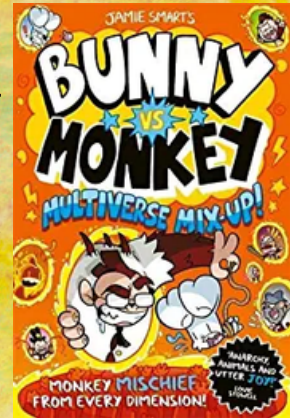
A sequel to the stunningly beautiful 'The Proudest Blue' which has become an instant classic since its release. It captures the honesty of childhood, when Faizah's teacher asks her class to imagine a world that they want to live in. Faizah's greatest wish? Kindness from all.

Bunny Vs Monkey

Jamie Smart

David Fickling 7+

Teachers and Parents seem to end up hating anything that becomes extremely popular but Bunny Vs Monkey seems to have a magical hold on them and children. It is impossible to hate and its bonkers stories pull you in and leave you desperate for your next fix!



The Octopus, Dadu & Me

Lucy Ann Unwin & Selom Sunu

UCLan Publishing 9+

Sashi's Dadu is slipping away from her, he has dementia and her parents no longer want to visit. She can feel her heart breaking. Throw an octopus from the local aquarium into the story and somehow you end up with a beautiful, heartfelt story of family and love. Selom's illustrations are equally beautiful. Tears will come...

Pick A Story

Sarah Coyle & Adam Walker-Parker

Farshore 4+

This is the second book in this picture book series which has been well loved in my classroom. There are three stories but multiple endings which gives the book countless rereads. Children and adults will be reaching for it again and again from the bookshelf!

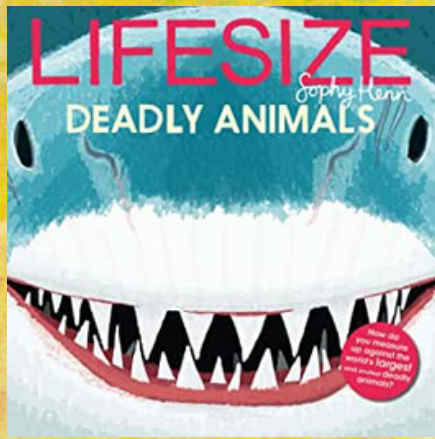


One To Wait for...

Nic Blake & The Remarkables - Angie Thomas Walker - April 23



Best selling young adult author Angie Thomas brings a magical adventure for primary aged readers. It looks spectacular and if it's anywhere as good as her other books, we're in for a treat!



Lifesize – Deadly Animals

Sophy Henn

Red Shed 5+

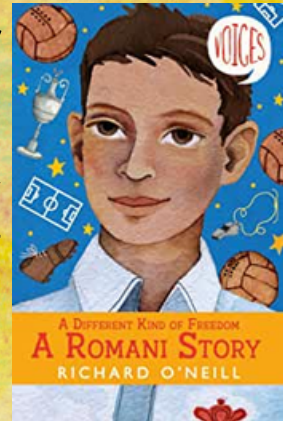
Somehow Sophy is making these books better each time. I didn't think 'Dinosaurs' could be topped, but the cute factor of 'Baby Animals' was amazing, and now 'Deadly Animals' blows them all out of the water. The flaps and lifesize animals will fill readers with awe and amazement! But it certainly hasn't helped my fear of sharks...

A Romani Story

Richard O'Neill

Scholastic 9+

Since 2018's 'Reflecting Realities' research showed the huge lack of diversity in children's books, publishers have been trying hard to get great diverse books out there. Richard O'Neill seems to be single handedly fighting for representation of the traveller communities. This book weaves history and football together to create a superb story.



The Boy Who Didn't Want To Die

Peter Lantos

Scholastic 11+

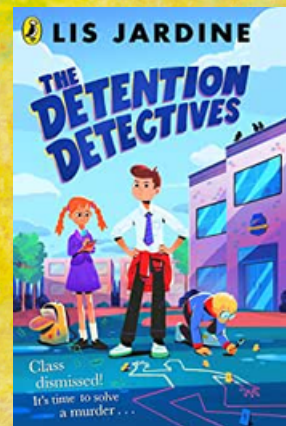
The fact that this is a true story is truly harrowing. It took me a long time to read it as I had to keep stopping to catch my breath, too long in the story upset me too much. Peter tells his story as a five year old, at first oblivious to what is going on around him, but slowly noticing the changes and then the dead bodies... This is not for every child, but it is a powerful story which needs to be heard.

The Detention Detectives

Lis Jardine

Puffin 8+

A fantastic new murder mystery for children to get their teeth stuck into! Imagine finding a dead body when starting a new school... Not exactly the best start to a new life, but Jonno is convinced that by getting involved in the case, it will convince his mum that making him move schools was a huge mistake. Joined by Lydia and Daniel, the misfits are determined to solve the case!



One You Might Have Missed

Monster Hunting - Ian Mark

Farshore - 8+

A timely reminder to read the first book as the sequel has come out this month and you really would be foolish not to read them. Imagine waking up one morning to find your house destroyed by a giant and finding out that you are infact destined to be a monster hunter!





8 Books featuring Rabbits...

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit according to the Chinese zodiac. So here are our favourite books with rabbits in them. From sensible, to crazy. Kind to evil. There is a rabbit for everyone here!



1. Royal Rabbits of London

Santa & Simon Sebag Montefiore



2. Bunnies on the Bus

Philip Ardagh & Ben Mantle



3. Rabbit & Bear

Julian Gough & Jim Field



4. The Velveteen Rabbit

Margery Williams



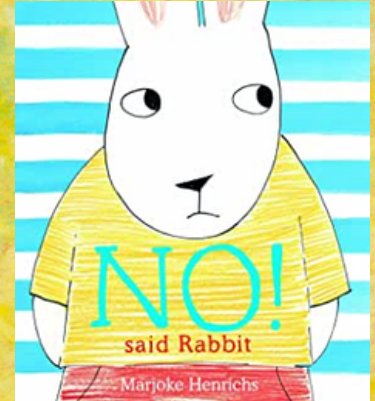
5. The Rabbits

John Marsden & Shaun Tan



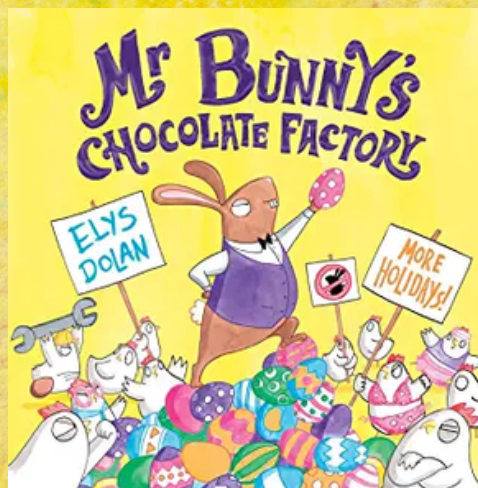
6. No Said Rabbit

Marjoke Henrichs



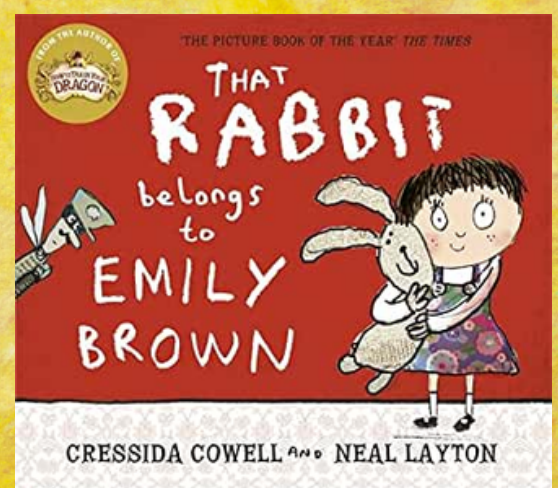
7. Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory

Elys Dolan



8. This Rabbit belongs to Emily Brown

Cressida Cowell & Neal Layton



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