

# No Shelf Control

Edition 16 : August 2022

## Q&A with Simon Fox

This month's BOOK OF THE MONTH is Running Out Of Time, the debut novel from Simon Fox. It follows Alex as he and his father desperately try to flee persecution from their country. Alex has a secret weapon - he can see up to 15 seconds into the future and uses this to determine which paths to take in order to be successful! We were lucky enough to chat to Simon about the book.

**Simon, if you could see 15 seconds into the future, what would you do?**

I have been asked this a lot but still don't have a good answer. I think what I might try to avoid are those horrible moments when you say the wrong thing and you spend the whole night going back and forth in your head. Maybe this would be a way to avoid it because I think we all have those times and they're pretty stressful!

**What made you decide to give such a seemingly limited 'power' to Alex?**

I couldn't make life too easy for him! I put a series of almost impossible challenges in front of him then gave him a small ray of hope. The harder the challenges, the higher the character has to rise to meet them and that's when we see the best of them. And while Alex's ability helps him throughout the story, it is actually his bravery and integrity and strength that gets him through.

**I love that the postal service are integral to bringing down the government in the story. Who are your favourite everyday heroes?**

I think the only real answer is that there are heroes all around us. I am constantly reminded and surprised at how people can be kind and caring. And how much a little kindness is appreciated

**What are the best children's books you've read recently?**

One classic, one modern. I just read Ella on the Outside by Cath Howe which I thought was remarkable. Gripping and thoughtful. The classic that I return to every few years is The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas.



**Books**



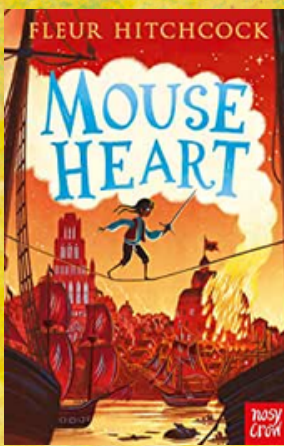
**Reviews**



**Chats**







## Mouse Heart

Fleur Hitchcock

Nosy Crow 9+

A historical murder mystery set in the heart of a theatre community. What's not to love? Fantastic characters and a mystery that will keep you guessing until the exhilarating climax! Mouse shows us that the right thing to do isn't always the easiest to do, especially when others are making it harder!

## Alex Neptune - Dragon Thief

David Owen

Usborne 8+

I was sold by the strapline 'For as long as Alex Neptune can remember, the ocean has been trying to kill him'. I wasn't disappointed! Excitement at every turn as Alex Neptune sets out on a mission to free a sea dragon and as you'd expect, it's not a simple adventure. At only 256 pages it is perfect to hook those reluctant readers.



## The Worlds We Leave Behind

A.F. Harrold & Levi Pinfold

Bloomsbury 10+

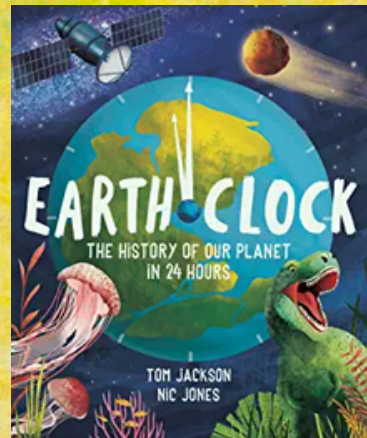
A.F. Harrold and Levi Pinfold team up again for this dark novel about friendship and betrayal. Two boys venture into the woods but are being followed and an unfortunate accident follows... Both boys are offered a chance to fix the mistakes and right the world again, but can it ever return to how it was?

## Earth Clock

Tom Jackson & Nic Jones

Welbeck 7+

There are many graphics which try to explain the concept of the history of the Earth in 24 hours, but they never quite do it justice. This book is phenomenal and mind blowing. So many facts that you will be unaware of (but you'll be able to share feeling even cleverer!). A must read for all!



## One To Wait for...

The Spectaculars - Jodie Garnish

Usborne - Sept 22

I'm hearing so many great things about this and I can't wait to jump into my copy. Billed as a mix between The Greatest Showman and The Night Circus. A magical story about friendship!





# Alice Eclair Spy Extraordinaire

Sarah Todd Taylor

Nosy Crow 8+

Firstly a warning... This book is best enjoyed with cake! In her search for a spy, Alice finds herself aboard France's most prestigious train, The Sapphire Express. Disguised as a pastry chef (this is why you need cake) can she find the enemy before the last stop? A great, exciting read for those that love a mystery.

# Space Blasters

Katie & Kevin Tsang & Amy Nguyen

Farshore 6+

Good novels for younger readers are sometimes hard to find. This is perfect for those early readers (and older readers too). Suzie's inventions aren't always the successes that she planned... When she invents the Super 3DTV Gizmo, she ends up being transported into her favourite TV show 'Space Blasters'. Will her inventions finally find a use? Can she save the day? Will she be able to return home?



# Pick A Story

Sarah Coyle & Adam Walker-Parker

Farshore 3+

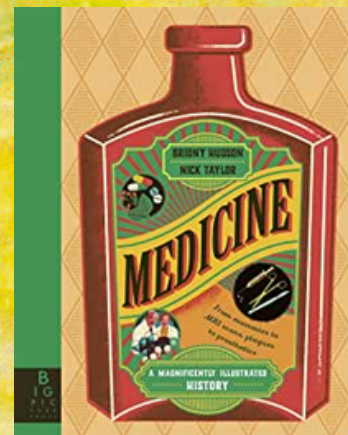
The best picture books can be read time and time again - with this you can read a different story each time. Vincent's dog has disappeared, what has happened to him? Well that's up for you to decide - Pirates? Aliens? Lost in the jungle? Can you make the right choices to reunite them? Will you find your favourite story?

# Medicine

Briony Hudson & Nick Taylor

Big Picture Press 9+

An illustrated history of medicine from the bizarre and horrifying to the more modern life savers. Find out how illnesses have been cured over the years and find out about the scientists that have saved many lives. The fascinating history is presented in a variety of ways - posters, comics, timelines and newspaper articles. Which medicine do you think has had the biggest impact?



# One You Might Have Missed

The Orphans of St Halibut's

Macmillan Children - 9+ Oct 2020

An absolutely bonkers story about an orphanage which makes the children's lives miserable. But when the matron is accidentally killed, the Orphans lives massively improve. They just need to ensure no-one finds out that they're on their own.





# 9 Books set in... School



As we get closer to the new school year, we've rounded up our favourite books that are set in schools. Which of these schools would you prefer to attend?

1. Hello, Friend!

**Rebecca Cobb**

2. Max and the Millions

**Ross Montgomery**

3. Can You See Me?

**Libby Scott &  
Rebecca Westcott**

4. Alex Sparrow

**Jennifer Killick**

5. The Pigeon HAS to go to School

**Mo Willems**

6. Wildspark

**Vashti Hardy**

7. Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith

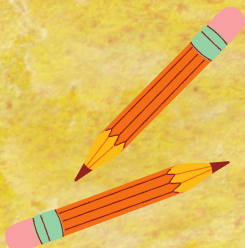
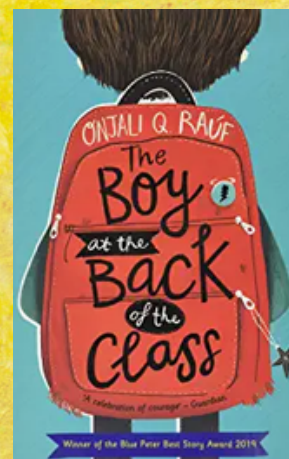
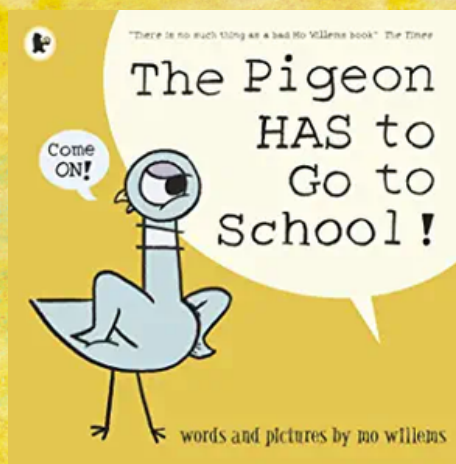
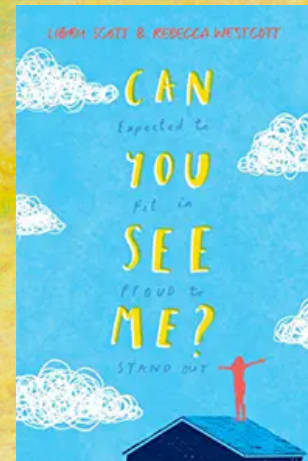
**Loris Owen**

8. The Boy at the Back of the Class

**Onjali Q Rauf**

9. The Proudest Blue

**Ibtihaj Muhammad,  
S.K. Ali & Hatem Aly**



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)