

No Shelf Control

Edition 7 : November 2021

Q&A with Ross Montgomery



The Chime Seekers is our BOOK OF THE MONTH. Yanni's sister is stolen and replaced with a changeling by an evil Faerie. Yanni faces a race against time to get her back!

Congratulations on the Costa Book of the Year nomination (For The Midnight Guardians) it must feel amazing! What is the best review you've ever received?

My one and only Kirkus review (which is a very important American book review magazine) described my picturebook, THE BUILDING BOY, as "refreshingly untethered by logic". This is so brilliant that it's in my Twitter bio and will probably be on my headstone. I also once wrote a book that received one review on Amazon, which simply said "above-average stocking filler", which I think I might also get on my headstone.

There have been strong sibling bonds in your last two books.

Would you go through the same amount of trouble for your siblings?

I noticed this only recently!! You're absolutely right - I have a sister who's two years older than me and we're very close. We even wrote a book together when we were younger! I'm not sure I'd travel into a faerie realm to help her though, I'm sure she'd be fine.

Your books have a wide range of awesome fantasy characters. Is fantasy your favourite genre to read as well as write? And who are your inspirations?

This is an interesting one... I realised recently that my first few books had more of a sci-fi bent to them - ALEX THE DOG AND THE UNOPENABLE DOOR, THE TORNADO CHASERS, PERIJEE AND ME. When I started exploring fantasy and "classic" kids writing in MAX AND THE MILLIONS, it felt a bit more like I'd found my comfort zone. Obviously I love Terry Pratchett

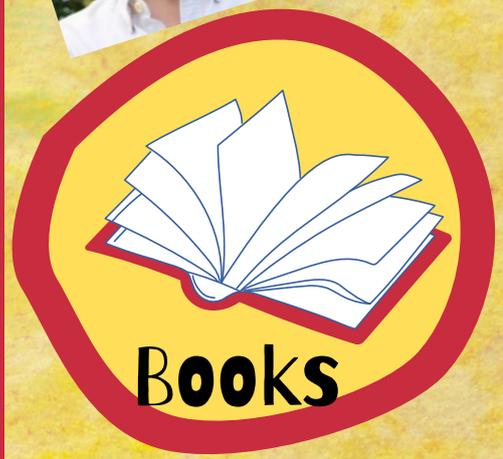


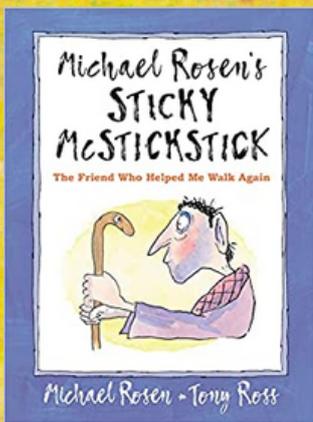
What is the best book for children that you have read recently?

Oof!! This is mean. I recently started reading WISHED by Lissa Evans, which isn't out until next year, but I had to stop because I was in the middle of a first draft and it was so natural and weightless and funny and brilliant that I had to stop reading it.

I loved Wed Wabbit so I'm sure this will be just as great! Thank you for the recommendation.

The Chime Seekers is out now for £7.99 from Walker Books





Sticky McStickstick

Michael Rosen & Tony Ross

Walker Books 4+

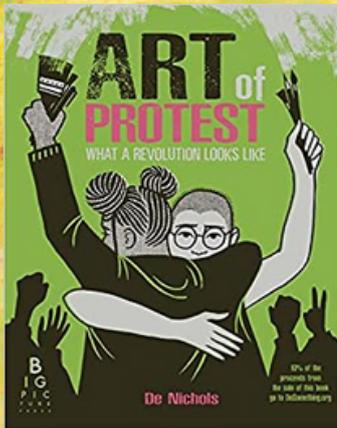
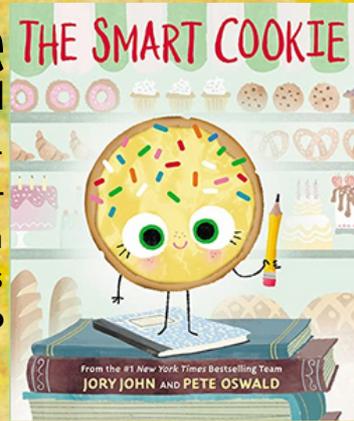
Michael Rosen is one of the country's favourite poets and his battle with Covid-19 was well documented. Here he writes an ode to the walking stick that helped him to walk again as he fought to recover! A beautiful tale of resilience and the importance of accepting help!

The Smart Cookie

Jory John & Pete Oswald

Harper Collins 5+

I am in love with all of the books in this series. Smart Cookie tells the tale of a cookie that is overcome with self doubt and feels useless. Finally she finds something that she can succeed at and starts to believe that maybe she is a smart cookie! PERFECT!



Art of Protest

De Nichols

Big Picture Press 10+

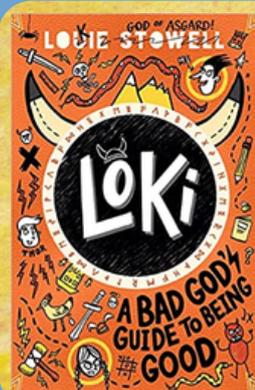
This is a truly striking book! Documenting how art has been used in protests and revolutions over the years. It is an eye opening look at the importance of art and I know for a fact that it will deeply intrigue and inspire many readers to use their art to influence their world!

Sisters of the Lost Marsh

Lucy Strange

Chicken House 9+

I love Lucy Strange's writing. She enchants her pages with a spell that keeps you reading and you end up losing track of time. In this story, six sisters go to the full moon fayre but one sister, Grace, goes missing... It is up to 12 year old Willa to try to get her sister back. The journey is dangerous and she must confront her deepest fears.

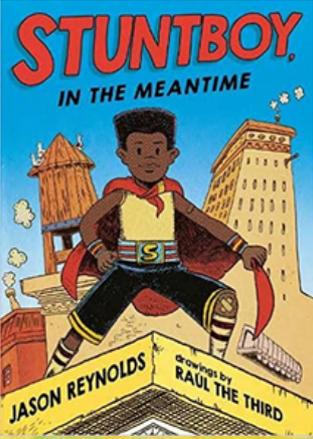


One To Wait for...

Loki - A Bad God's Guide To Being Good

Louie Stowell - Walker - Feb 22

If you mix the God of Mischief with an author who is well known for her own love of mischief... well, I'm sure you can guess what the outcome will be! Pure hilarity! This is unmissable!



Stuntboy - In The Meantime

Jason Reynolds & Raul The Third

Knights Of 7+

For too long, younger readers have missed out on Jason Reynold's phenomenal writing. Now it is time for them to see why he is so many childrens' favourite author! Stuntboy tells a story of a boy who is navigating life and his parents' constant arguing! A fun story with brilliant illustrations that will be enjoyed by anyone that picks it up!

Fledgling

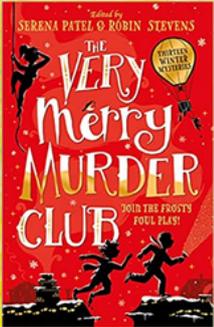
Lucy Hope

Nosy Crow 9+

A thrilling adventure set in 1900s Bavaria. Cassie Engel's life is changed when a cherub flies through her window during a storm. A story of friendship and mystery with some brilliantly fascinating characters. An excellent debut from Lucy Hope that will instantly earn her plenty of new fans!



Our Favourite New Christmas Reads!



The Very Merry Murder Club
Various Authors
Edited by Serena Patel & Robin Stevens
Farshore 9+

A brilliantly diverse collection of Christmas/Winter themed short stories for older readers. Perfect for fans of Robin Steven's Murder Most Unladylike Series or Sharna Jackson's High Rise Mystery. Each story is a brilliant murder mystery that will enthrall you. Remember, nothing says Christmas like murder...

The Christmas Carrolls
Mel Taylor-Bessent & Selom Sunu
Farshore 8+

Mel Taylor-Bessent has created the perfect family Christmas novel. What happens when the most Christmassy family realise that not everyone shares their enthusiasm for the Holidays? Will they let it beat them? Or become more determined than ever to spread happiness and cheer? Definitely one to snuggle down with and enjoy.

How Winston Came Home For Christmas
Alex T. Smith
Macmillan Children 4+

Winston is fast becoming a Christmas tradition, many teachers are reading it yearly to their classes but what's there for those that have already had their hearts stolen by the lovable little mouse? Thankfully, the sequel is out now. A chapter a day from 1st December until Christmas. It is certainly better than a chocolate calendar in my eyes!

8 Perfect Christmas Reads



Reading a good Christmassy story is the tradition that we all need in our lives. If you're not sure which one to go for this year, then feast your eyes on these brilliant festive delights!

1. How Winston Delivered Christmas

Alex T. Smith

2. Tinsel

Sibéal Pounder

3. Santa Post

Emma Yarlett

4. Dasher

Matt Tavares

5. The Night Before The Night Before Christmas

Kes Gray &

Claire Powell

6. Last Stop on the Reindeer Express

Maudie Powell-Tuck &

Karl James Mountford

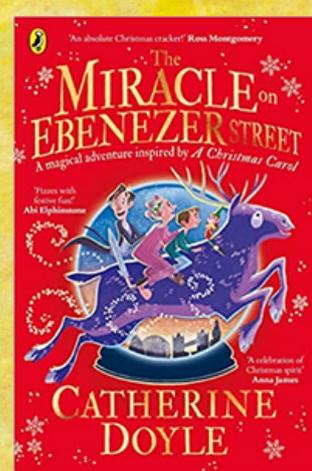
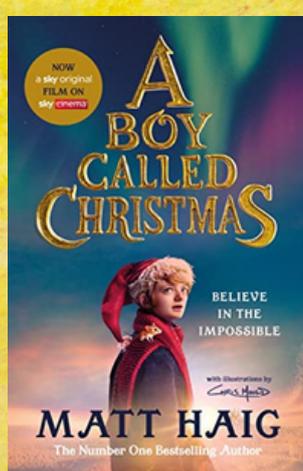
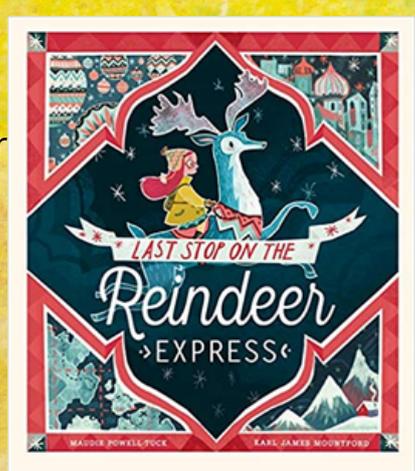
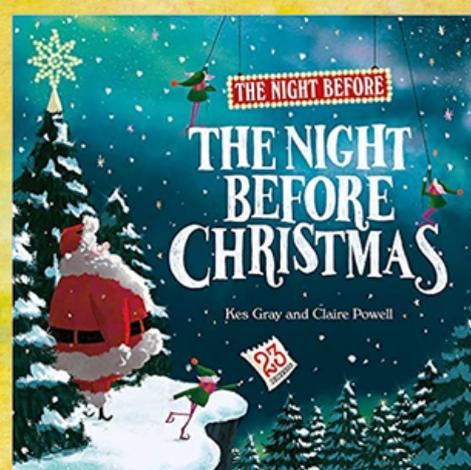
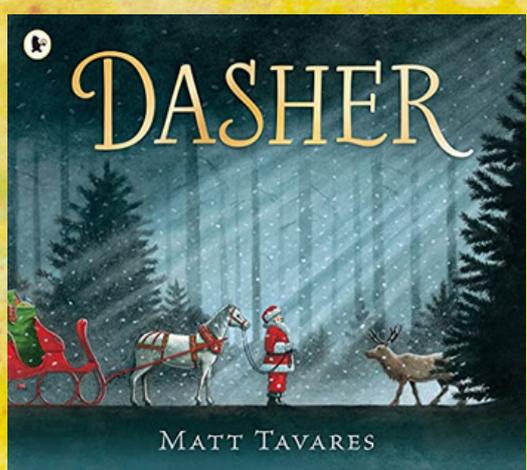
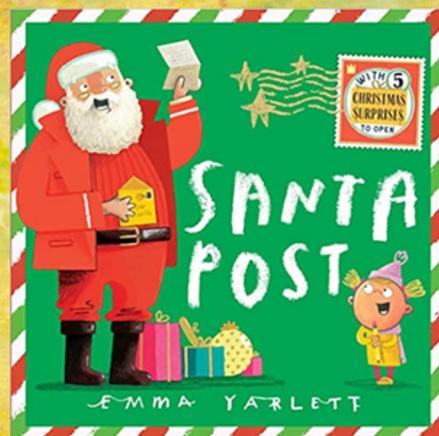
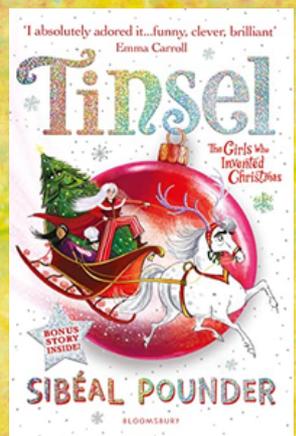
7. A Boy Called Christmas

Matt Haig &

Chris Mould

8. The Miracle on Ebenezer Street

Catherine Doyle



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