

# No Shelf Control

Edition 28: August 2023

## Q&A with P.G. Bell



August's BOOK OF THE MONTH is an exquisite twist on an old favourite. P.G. Bell's *The Beanstalk Murder* is a mystery that you will not be able to put down! Can you guess the story from looking at the front cover?

P.G. Bell spoke to us about his book, future projects and other books that he thinks you should read!

What inspired you to blend elements of classic tales with a murder mystery?

It all started with a single image in my mind - a fallen giant blocking a country lane. Who was he? What was he doing there? How did he die? And, more importantly, what were the locals going to do about him? As I asked myself these questions, the story started to emerge.

Which other traditional tales would you like to put a spin on? I'm currently editing my next book, which is called *The Big Bad Wolf Murder*. As you might have guessed, it's inspired by the tale of *Little Red Riding Hood*. It's got more of a noir/gumshoe feel to it, and it's been a lot of fun to write.

Anwen & Cerys start off as enemies, have you ever befriended someone who you originally disliked?

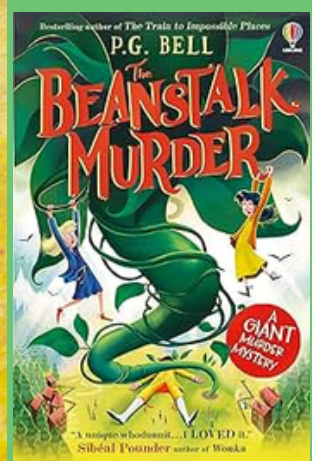
Not really. I've always been quite lucky to be surrounded by people I like and respect. Long may it continue!

What do you hope young readers will take away from Anwen and Cerys's adventure?

That it's okay to fail, because our failures can lead us to opportunities we would never have had otherwise.

What other great books have you read recently?

So many! We're really spoiled for choice at the moment, but a recent favourite is *Welsh Giants, Ghosts & Goblins* by Claire Fayers. She weaves together retellings of traditional Welsh folk



tales and brand new stories based around folk tale characters. The book's a brilliant mix of spooky, funny and poignant, but always surprising.

Another title I've enjoyed recently is *High Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson. It's a contemporary whodunnit set in a council tower block in London, with two sisters trying to solve the murder of their neighbour. Some brilliant twists and turns, and a fantastic double act of main characters.



**Books**



**Reviews**



**Chats**





## Shipwrecked

Jenny Pearson & Nick East

Usborne 9+

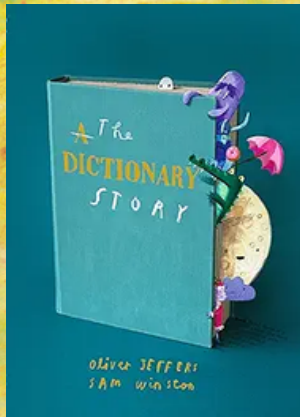
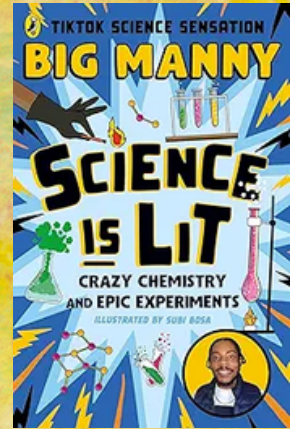
Jenny has done it again! Shipwrecked is an adventure that combines humour, heart, and unexpected twists. Sebastian, Lina, and Étienne find themselves on a desert island after a school trip goes off course, and things just keep getting crazier. From jellyfish and burnt bums to pirates threatening baby turtles, this story has it all.

## Science is Lit

Big Manny

Puffin 8+

Science just got a whole lot cooler thanks to Big Manny! Science is Lit is packed with awesome experiments that you can do right at home using everyday ingredients. This book makes chemistry super fun and accessible. Big Manny breaks down complex topics like combustion and chromatography into easy, understandable steps.



## The Dictionary Story

Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston

Walker Books 3+

This book is a creative celebration of words & stories that will capture the hearts of both kids and adults. Dictionary is tired of just being a list of words and wants a story of her own. But when the words start to mix up and characters clash, she quickly realizes that storytelling isn't as easy as it looks!

## Mama Car

Lucy Catchpole & Karen George

Red Shed 5+

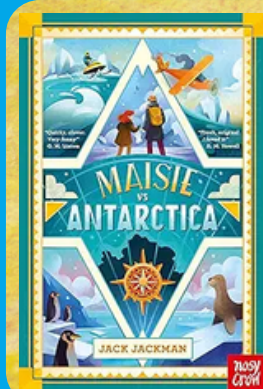
Mama Car is a delightful story that celebrates the special role a mum's wheelchair plays in her child's world. From comforting hurts to going on adventures, the Mama Car is always there, making everyday moments magical. The illustrations perfectly capture the love and joy shared between a mother and child.



## One To Wait for...

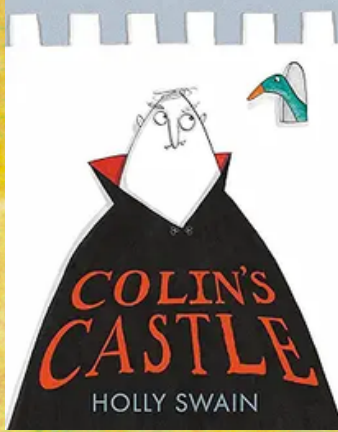
Maisie Vs Antarctica - Jack Jackman

Nosy Crow - Oct 24



Maisie's boring dad takes her on an Antarctic adventure that quickly turns thrilling with unexpected dangers and supernatural twists. This blend of humor, action, and mystery makes for a captivating read!





## Colin's Castle

Holly Swain

Farshore 3+

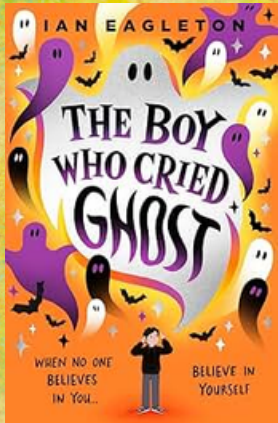
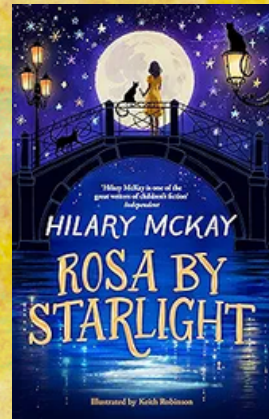
Colin's Castle is pure fun from start to finish! Colin, the vampire, thinks he's found his perfect castle, complete with everything a vampire could want—except for the constant presence of one very determined duck. This duck shows up everywhere, making Colin's dream home a nightmare! Although Colin eventually learns that sometimes unwanted guests can become the best friends.

## Rosa By Starlight

Hilary McKay & Keith Robinson

Macmillan Children's 9+

A spellbinding tale that will steal your heart! Rosa by Starlight by Hilary McKay is a beautifully written story about a brave little girl searching for magic in a world that often feels harsh and lonely. Rosa's only comfort comes from Balthazar, her magical feline companion, who brings a glimmer of hope into her difficult life. When Rosa is abandoned in Venice by her uncaring relatives, her adventure truly begins.



## The Boy Who Cried Ghost

Ian Eagleton

Scholastic 9+

A perfect mix of chills and feels! The Boy Who Cried Ghost is a must-read for anyone who loves a good ghost story with a lot of heart. Richard's daily rituals are his only way to keep the ghost in his wardrobe locked up tight, but his fears are dismissed by everyone around him. Ian Eagleton has crafted a story that is both spooky and touching, showing readers what it's like to live with OCD.

## Auntie Medusa and Me

Marie Basting

Chicken House 8+

A hilarious ride through time! Marie Basting's Auntie Medusa and Me is a laugh-out-loud, action-packed adventure that takes readers on a wild journey through ancient Roman and Greek mythology. Our heroine, Silvia, discovers she's not just your average kid—she's a demigoddess! Things get even crazier when Medusa herself shows up demanding that Silvia find her missing head.



## One You Might Have Missed

Wildspark- Vashti Hardy

Scholastic 9+ May 2019

Vashti's books have many fans and it is obvious to see why. I do feel that this, my personal favourite, is often forgotten about. A perfect blend of fantasy, machines with the serious theme of bereavement. If you haven't read it yet - sort it out!



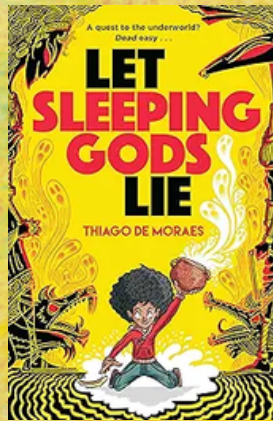


# 9 New Sequels out this month

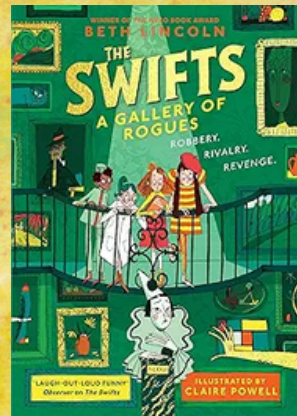


The long awaited sequel to Roald Dahl's *The Twits* is released this month. But here are 9 other awesome sequels that you may have missed coming out this month!

1. *Let Sleeping Gods Lie*  
**Thiago De Moraes**



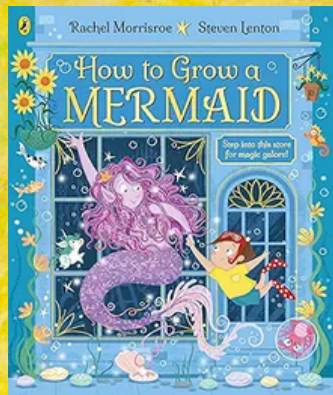
2. *The Swifts - A Gallery of Rogues*  
**Beth Lincoln & Claire Powell**



3. *Max & Chaffy - Hunt for the Pirate's Gold*  
**Jamie Smart**



4. *How to Grow a Mermaid*  
**Rachel Morrisroe & Steven Lenton**



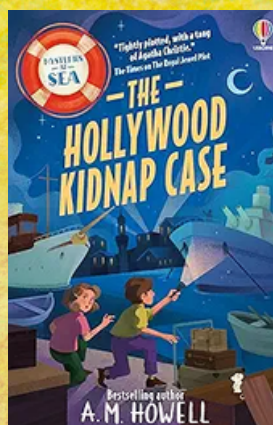
5. *Peng and Spanners - When Pigs go Bad!*  
**Steve Webb**



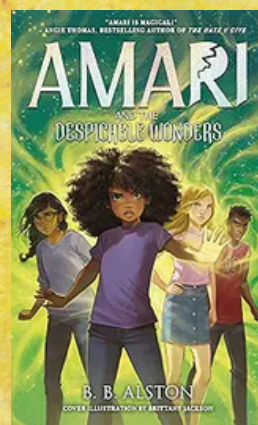
6. *Marnie Midnight and the Great Critter Contest*  
**Laura Ellen Anderson**



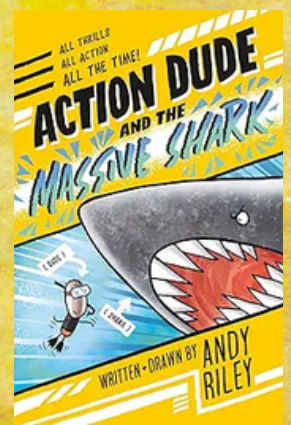
7. *The Hollywood Kidnap Case*  
**A.M Howell**



8. *Amari and the Despicable Wonders*  
**B.B Alston**



9. *Action Dude and the Massive Shark*  
**Andy Riley**



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)