

No Shelf Control

Edition 36 - April 2024

Keedie Elle McNicoll

A flash back to the pandemic, a book on my reading pile that didn't really jump out at me. I'm not sure why, I hadn't even read the blurb. One day I decided to give it a whirl, and I was so glad that I did. I joined the blog tour and started shouting about the book from the rooftops.

Since then, I've been a complete fanboy of Elle's books, and I've made sure that there are copies in every school I've worked in.

The sequel dropped this month and unfortunately for any other book released this month, there could only be one Book of the Month...

We start by seeing Keedie confronting some bullies who are upsetting her best friend, Bonnie. She quickly realised that is what she does well. She is the only person brave enough to stand up when others won't. Yet somehow she's the one always getting in trouble for it.

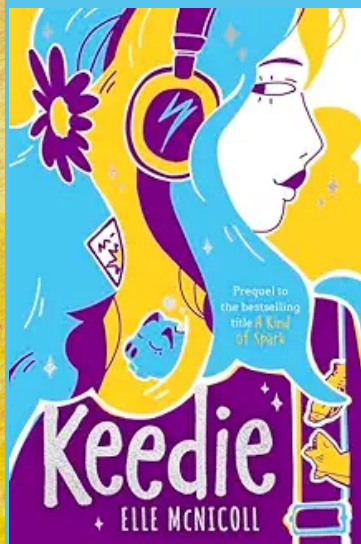
Demand grows, and she sets up her own anti-bullying agency, learning more about the bullies with every one that she confronts.

Unfortunately, the biggest bullies of them all are her twin sister's friends. Nina is slowly turning into one of them, and Keedie is losing her twin. Also, their headteacher is unimpressed by Keedie's efforts and appoints his own anti-bullying ambassadors - Nina and her aforementioned friends... which obviously doesn't sit well.

At the same time as losing one sister, Keedie is learning more about our old friend, her little sister, Addie. As the whole family begins to consider whether she too is neurodiverse, the kindness, tenderness, and protection that Keedie shows her little sister brought a tear to my eye.

Rather than a book about autism, Keedie is an inclusive book about kindness and standing up for what is right.

Keedie is out from Knights of
Also check out A Kind of Spark on
CBC.



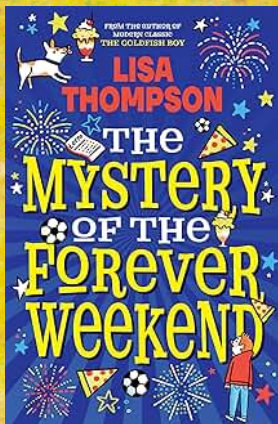
Books



Reviews



Chats



The Mystery of the Forever Weekend

Lisa Thompson

Scholastic 9+

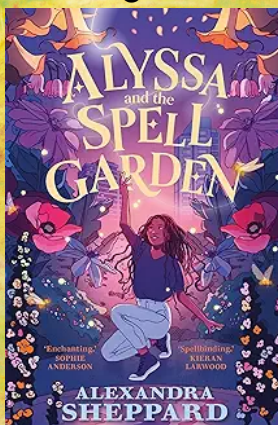
Cory dreads Sundays, until a mysterious time loop grants him endless weekends. But as the novelty wears off, he yearns for normalcy. As with all of her books, this is a captivating blend of humour, mystery, and heart. Tackling real-life issues with sensitivity. Cory's journey is both delightful and thought-provoking—a must-read!

Looshkin- Honk If You See It

Jamie Smart

David Fickling 7+

Some books don't actually need reviews... If you know Looshkin, you'll be buying this straight away. If you don't know Looshkin, turn to the nearest child to you and say "Oi, you - tell me about Looshkin". They'll tell you everything that you need to know. Unless they're a baby or a dog dressed up as a human.



Alyssa and the Spell Garden

Alexandra Sheppard and Bex Glendining

Faber & Faber 8+

Alyssa discovers her latent magical abilities during a summer stay with unfamiliar relatives. Sheppard seamlessly weaves themes of community and activism into a charming narrative. With diverse characters and stunning illustrations, this hopeful tale celebrates the power of collective action and inclusion.

Peregrine Quinn

Ash Bond

Piccadilly 8+

Embark on an exhilarating journey with Peregrine Quinn in this enthralling middle-grade adventure! When portals between realms collapse and her godfather is kidnapped, Peregrine teams up with a quirky cast including a dryad, a faun, and a sentient plant to rescue him. With humour, magic, and friendship. You won't be able to resist this!



One To Wait for...

Dungeon Runners - Kieran Larwood & Joe Todd Stanton

Nosy Crow - June 24

When two of the children's book G.O.A.Ts combine, you know it is going to be good. Fans of Podkin and the Brownstone books will be extremely excited for this!



Twice Upon a Time

Michelle Harrison & Natalie Smillie

Simon & Schuster Children 9+

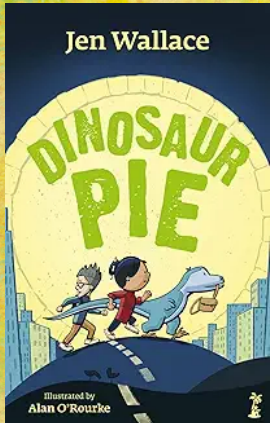
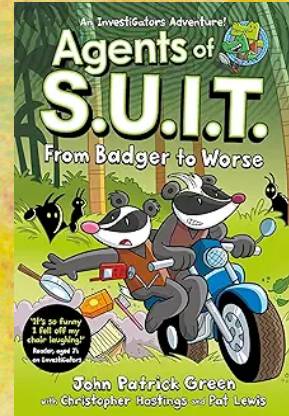
An enchanting blend of mystery and magic that transports readers into the intriguing world of the Morrow twins, Merry and Spike. With their unique ability to stop time, they unravel the secrets of Fox House, embarking on a thrilling adventure that kept me captivated until the very end. Harrison's rich storytelling and clever plot twists make this a must-read for fans of mysteries with a magical twist.

Agents of S.U.I.T

John Patrick Green, Christopher Hastings and Pat Lewis

Macmillan Children 6+

The second book focusing on different agents from the world of 'The Investigators'. Another brilliant graphic novel that will be well loved by children of all ages. This book follows Bongo and Marsha, the super badger spies. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts... they've got to complete this mission without all of the fancy tech and gizmos that they've become used to.



Dinosaur Pie

Jen Wallace & Alan O'Rourke

Little Island 6+

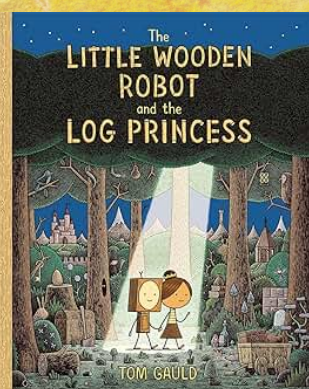
This is a delightful chapter book that combines laughter and heart in a charming story about a boy with ADHD who unexpectedly turns into a dinosaur after eating a pie his mum bought him... Readers aged 6 and up will be captivated by Rory's misadventures as he navigates life as a dinosaur, from his struggles with communication to his newfound obsession with sausages.

A Sprinkle of Happiness

Lucy Rowland & David Litchfield

Scholastic 5+

A heart-warming tale that beautifully illustrates the power of kindness. We follow a boy and his grandmother as they nurture a tiny sunflower seed into a towering plant that spreads joy throughout their community. Despite a setback when the sunflower is blown down by a storm, the story focusses on resilience and new beginnings. This book is delightful for all ages.



One You Might Have Missed

The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess - Tom Gauld

Templar - 5+ Sept 2021

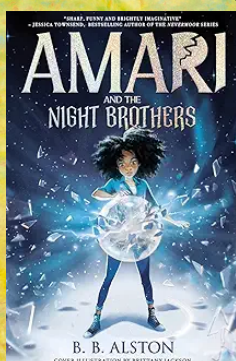
I absolutely loved this at the time (it was one of our books of the year) and every now and then a child will ask me to read it and I fall in love with it all over again. A beautifully illustrated fairy tale that should be enjoyed for generations

9 Books about... Cabbages



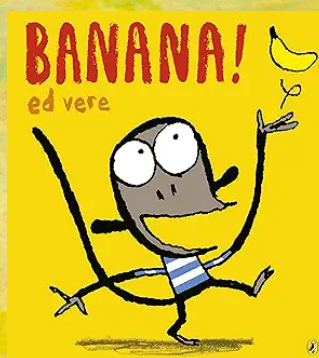
Cabbages are underrated. When cooked properly they can be delicious. Unfortunately, Nans and Grandmas all over the country over boil them so your parents hate cabbages. That's why no-one writes books about cabbages. Here are 9 books that should be about cabbages but are not...

1. Amari
B.B Alston



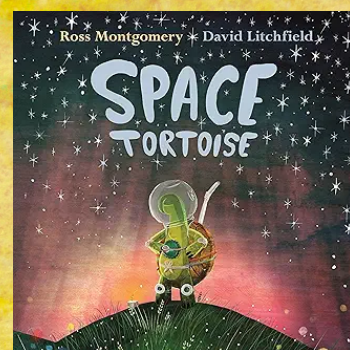
This front cover could be improved if that ball was a cabbage!

2. Banana
Ed Vere



Monkeys would love cabbages if they just gave them a try.

3. Space Tortoise
Ross Montgomery & David Litchfield



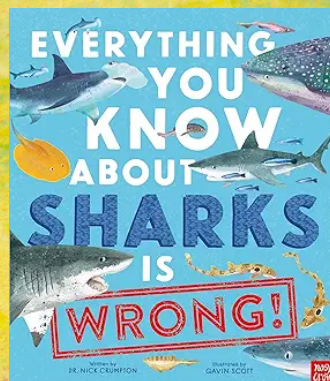
I suppose tortoises quite like cabbages, maybe they taste even better in space.

4. Amulet
Kazu Kibuichi



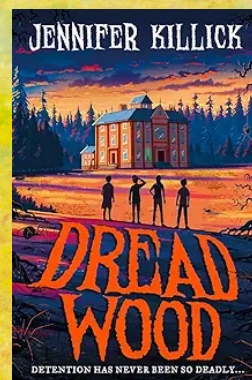
Imagine a magical cabbage that gives you powers...

5. Everything You Know About Sharks is Wrong
Dr Nick Crumpton & Gavin Scott



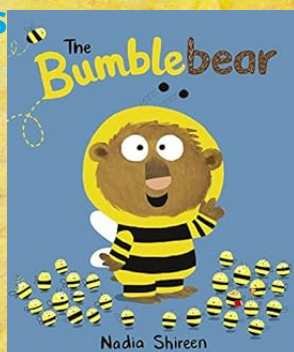
Everything you know about cabbages is wrong!

6. Dread Wood
Jennifer Killick



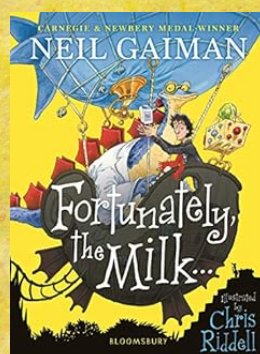
Instead of giant killer spiders, we could have had killer cabbages!

7. The Bumblebear
Nadia Shireen



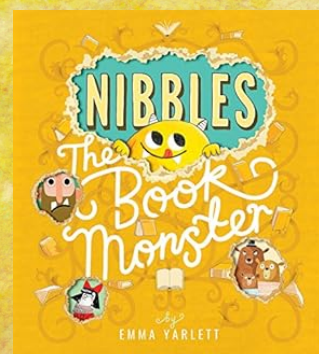
If the bees introduced bears to cabbages instead of honey...

8. Fortunately the Milk
Neil Gaiman & Chris Riddell



Crazy adventures when dad pops out to get more cabbages.

9. Nibbles The Book Monster
Emma Yarlett



Let Nibbles eat a cabbage instead of the book.

