

# No Shelf Control

Edition 34: February 2024

## Q&A with Jen Carney

This month we have been lucky enough to chat with Jen Carney, the author of 'The Day My Dog Got Famous' our Book of the Month.

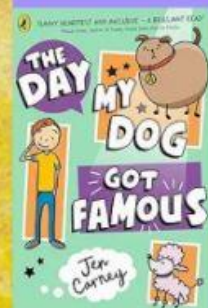
Your books are very funny but also have heart, how do you get the fine balance perfect?

Thank you! That's a lovely compliment. I'm inspired by real life so I guess I just try to keep things real - life is full of ups and downs, and family and love are always at the forefront of my mind (along with daft jokes and fun images!).

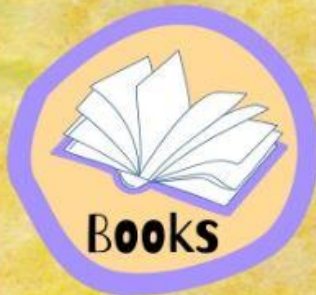
My daughter was very excited to see B.U.G pop up in the book, will we see more of her in other books?

I'm so glad she was excited to see B.U.G! I love Billie so much and just had to squeeze her and Mr Paws into The Day My Dog Got Famous!! She doesn't pop up in The Day My School Exploded (book two in the series which I've already written) but I'm going to try to sneak her into the third book. Who knows, if I'm lucky, I might get to write a fourth book in the BUG series.

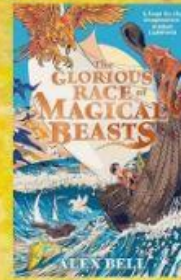
Do you have pet? If so would/could it win any competitions? Sadly, all our family pets have passed away. My last dog, who died when she was 17, was amazing at tricks. She could have won an obedience competition for sure. My childhood dog (there's a photo of him in the back of the book; he inspired a lot of Aldo's antics) could have won a competition for 'who can eat the most underwear and then poop it out at the most inopportune moment!'



What are the best books for children that you've read recently? I just read a fun picture book to my youngest this evening that I enjoyed called 'Little Green Donkey' by Anushka Allepuz which made me laugh. I've also recently read 'Hercules: the diary of a (sort of) hero' by Tom Vaughan. That was a belter. Very funny with lots of Greek myth references. Brilliant for ages 8-11, I'd say. The Day My Dog Got Famous is out now £7.99 from Puffin



# This Month's Book Reviews



## The Glorious Race of Magical Beasts

Alex Bell  
Faber & Faber 8+

Join Eli, a young apprentice librarian, in an out-of-this-world adventure to save his grandmother. Racing through perilous lands with his moon tortoise, Humphrey, Eli teams up with Raven and her ice hare. Together, they defy odds in the Glorious Race of Magical Beasts. A thrilling tale blending friendship, courage, and magic.

## Marnie Midnight

Laura Ellen Anderson

Farshore 7+

Embark on a magical journey with Marnie Midnight as she uncovers the disappearing moon magic. Determined to solve the mystery, Marnie and her minibeast friends face rebellious rats and terrifying adventures. This series promises charming characters and exciting escapades, perfect for young independent readers.



## The Bee Connection

Ben Newman

Flying Eye Books 6+



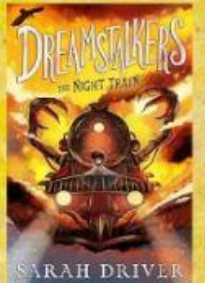
Follow the clues to find out EVERYTHING that you need to know about bees. Why they're important, what they do and most importantly, how to look after them. Perfect for any curious nature lovers. A really fun non-fiction treat.

## Dreamstalkers

Sarah Driver

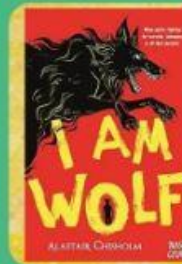
Farshore 9+

Sarah Driver delivers a captivating fantasy adventure for ages 8-12, reminiscent of Pullman and Rundell. When nightmares replace dreams, Bea's world changes. With her mother sick and secrets looming, Bea embarks on a daring journey aboard the Night Train to save her. Dive into a world of Dreamstalkers, magic, and danger



## One To Wait for...

I Am Wolf  
Alastair Chisholm - Nosy Crow - May 24



I'm a huge fan of everything that Alastair has written. I can't wait to jump into this new book - it is staring at me from my book shelf, tempting me! I'm not sure I'll be able to resist for much longer!

EM/ST/ODD



## The Secret of the Moonshard

Struan Murray

Puffin 9+

Domino lives happily(ish) in a floating laboratory until everything she thought she knew starts to unravel... Pursued by Science Barons, she becomes pivotal in a war between science and magic. With rich description and breathtaking twists, this adventure captivates from start to finish. Perfect for Year 5 and up, it will leave you gripped and wanting more.

## I Love Books

Mariajo Ilustrajo

Frances Lincoln Children's Books 4+

I love books about loving books... This one is a magical tale celebrating the joy of discovering the enchantment of books. Perfect for convincing reluctant readers, it follows a girl's transformation from hating books to embracing their wonder. With vibrant illustrations and a captivating narrative, this charming picture book will hopefully inspire a lifelong love for reading.



## Stitch Head - The Graphic Novel

Guy Bass & Pete Williamson

Little Tiger 8+

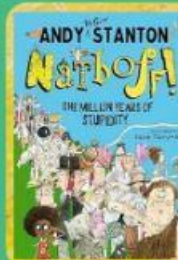
The massively popular and brilliant Stitch Head has been turned into an equally brilliant graphic novel! Created by eccentric Professor Erasmus, Stitch Head finds himself drawn into a world beyond the castle walls when a circus ringmaster offers him stardom. A heart warming message about friendship and teamwork, Stitch Head's journey is as delightful as it is eerie.

## Peng and Spanners

Steve Webb

Faber & Faber 8+

Time to meet Peng and Spanners, the dynamic duo of sarcasm and cleverness, in a hilarious graphic novel. With a disappearing pizza parlour and a giant robot on the loose, their slapstick adventures and bold artwork make for an unputdownable read. Get ready for laughter and excitement as they save the day in their own unique style.



## One You Might Have Missed

Natboff - Andy Stanton & David Tazzyman  
Farshore- 7+ May 2018

Everyone knows and loves Mr Gum (the books, not the person - he's a rotter!). But far fewer have fallen in love with Natboff. Set in the same town (Lamonic Bibber) over a million years, from Caveman days all the way into the future. Each stop is full of wacky characters and bonkers situations! What are you waiting for - read it now you crazer!

# 9 Books by World Book Day Authors

## WORLD BOOK DAY

The World Book Day £1 books are brilliant as always. We wanted to show you what other amazing books some of the authors have already written so that you know where to go next once you've read them!

1. Not Now Bernard  
David McKee
2. Otherland  
Louie Stowell
3. Onyeka  
Tola Okogwu
4. Dreadwood  
Jennifer Killick
5. Can You Get Rainbows in Space?  
Dr Sheila Kanani & Liz Kay
6. Agents of S.U.I.T.  
John Patrick Green
7. Marv  
Alex Falase-Koya & Paula Bowles
8. Kevin  
Rob Biddulph
9. The Amazing Edie Eckhart  
Rosie Jones & Natalie Smillie

