

# No Shelf Control

Edition 1: May 2021

## Q&A with Louie Stowell



**Otherland is our BOOK OF THE MONTH! It is a brilliant fantasy adventure that will be loved by all readers 8+!**

Hi Louie you've said that Otherland has been brewing in your mind for 20 years. How did you first get the idea for the story?

Just after I left uni. I read a book about fairies by one of my old lecturers, Diane Purkiss. It's called Troublesome Things and it's about the darker side of fairies - including their habit of stealing babies. That's where the germ came from.

Creepy! Who is your favourite creation? Dogon is mine!

A VERY difficult question. I think possibly Queen Gloriana in Otherland. She sees herself as outside petty human morality so she can do whatever she wants. There's a certain freedom and joy to that. Even though what she does is pretty terrible.

In Otherland Myra and Rohan are very contrasting characters. Are you more calculated and anxious like Rohan or 'Act first, think later' like Myra?

I'm probably halfway between - they're both reflections of parts of myself. Rohan is the part who google maps all my bike routes before I go somewhere. Myra is the part that ignores that google map route and gets lost slightly on purpose because she's spotted a cool alleyway. I don't tend to write characters who are very like me, but I definitely take parts of myself and bury them in various characters.

**Otherland is our BOOK OF THE MONTH**  
But what is the best book you have read this year?

Genuinely impossible to choose. Whatever I'm reading at the moment is usually my favourite (unless it's bad in which case I stop reading). So I'm currently on *Show us Who You Are* which is a brilliant sci fi about bringing back dead people as holograms. Sci fi and fantasy are my favourite genres.

I agree, it's brilliant. Thanks Louie!



**Books**

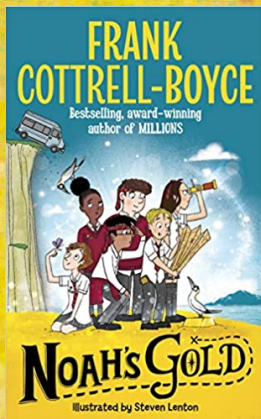


**Reviews**



**chats**





## Noah's Gold

Frank Cottrell-Boyce & Steven Lenton

Macmillan Children's Books 8+

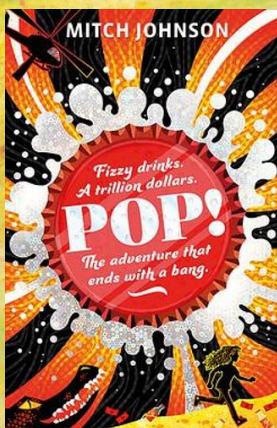
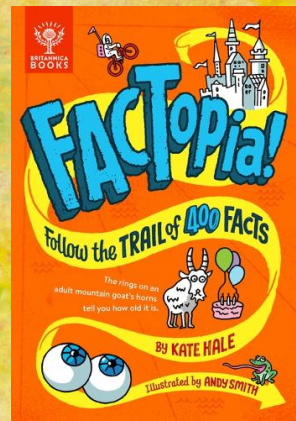
Imagine accidentally getting stuck on the coach of your sister's geography trip. Now imagine that the coach gets wrecked and you all get stranded on an island and your teacher does a runner... Now imagine that you break the internet... What would you do? A brilliant book written as letters to his family!

## Factopia

Kate Hale & Andy Smith

What On Earth 7+

Who doesn't love a good fact? This non-fiction gem offers you a trail of 400 facts, it is like a choose your own adventure book except full of brilliant facts. The facts will also be useful for parents who like to pretend that they know everything! My favourite page is the accidental inventions!



## Pop!

Mitch Johnson

Orion 8+

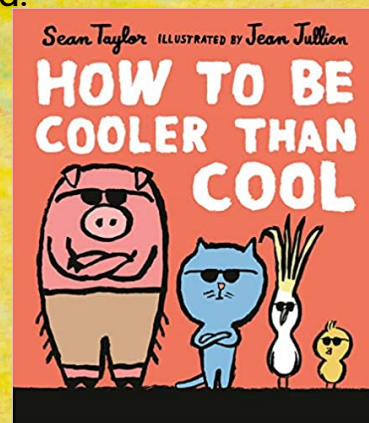
A multi-billion dollar fizzy drink company loses the recipe for its drink. The Great Thirst begins! Can the world cope without bottles of Mac-Tonic? Then the recipe washes up on the beach outside Queenie's house and a brilliantly ridiculous chain of events follow as people try to get their hands on the recipe and the reward!

## How to be Cooler than Cool

Sean Taylor & Jean Jullien

Walker 3+

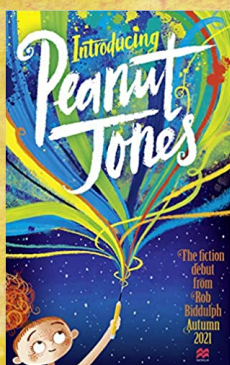
A group of animals find a pair of sunglasses that when worn make them cool. But their new coolness makes them try dangerous things in the name of cool which unfortunately don't go to plan... Eventually they learn that being cool is more about being yourself. A great message that will make you giggle!



## One To Wait for...

Peanut Jones - Rob Biddulph

Macmillan Children - Sept 21



My daughter (8) has just finished this and said "It is finished on a MASSIVE cliffhanger - how long do I need to wait?"





# Crater Lake – Evolution

Jennifer Killick

Firefly 9+

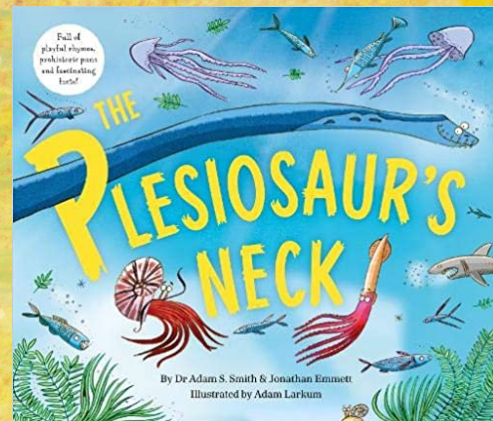
Jennifer does 3 things brilliantly (well, I'm sure she does more things but I want to point out 3 of them). She can scare you, she can make you laugh and she can also write really brilliant books! Crater Lake was released last year and gained her many new fans. This sequel continues the story and things get even more tense! Unmissable!

## The Plesiosaur's Neck

Dr Adam S. Smith, Jonathan Emmett & Adam Larkum

UCLan 4+

An interesting picture book for any dinosaur fans. The book tries to solve the mystery of why plesiosaurs had such long necks. All of the scientific theories are presented and then the reader is invited to choose which they believe! Great illustrations and corny jokes included!



## The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke

Kirsty Applebaum

Nosy Crow 9+

If you could save someone's life or heal them you'd do it wouldn't you? What if the life that they've gained would be taken from yours? Lifelings, are celebrated in Farstoke in a yearly celebration, what will happen when one family desperately in need of a miracle find out that they're real? Lonny has some very tricky decisions to make! Twists and turns come at you from all over the place! This is unputdownable!

## Rainbow Grey

Laura Ellen Andersen

Farshore 7+

Amelia Fang has taken over the market for younger readers, you won't find a classroom without a copy... But now Laura Ellen Andersen has created a brand new series that is equally as exciting that will be loved just as much. As always with her books, the characters are fantastic and the illustrations are sublime! This has already passed the bedtime story test in our house! We can't wait for the next adventure!



## One You Might Have Missed

Elsetime - Eve McDonnell

Everything With Words - 9+ Sept 2020

If you accidentally time traveled to just before a massive disaster, would you try to save lives? What if everyone thought you were lying? This exciting tale follows Needle as he tries to work out a way to save people from the Great Flood! There are plenty of twists along the way.



# 9 Books about... The Environment



Our world needs looking after and it's up to us to look after it! Here are 9 books about caring for our world. A mix of Non-fiction, fiction and picture books.

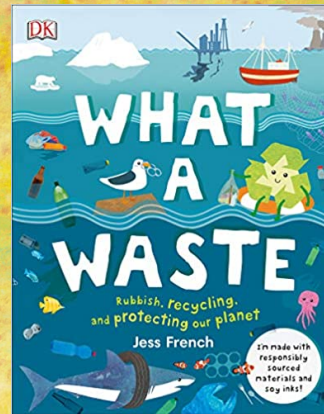
1. Greta and the Giants

**Zoe Tucker &  
Zoe Persico**



2. What A Waste

**Jess French**



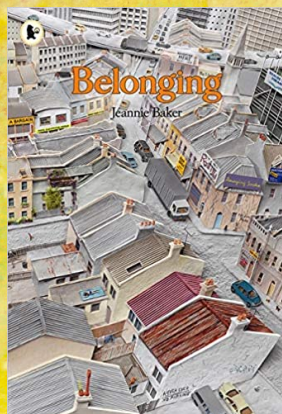
3. King of the Swamp

**Catherine Emmett &  
Ben Mantle**



4. Belonging

**Jeannie Baker**



5. Kids Fight Plastic

**Martin Dorey &  
Tim Wesson**



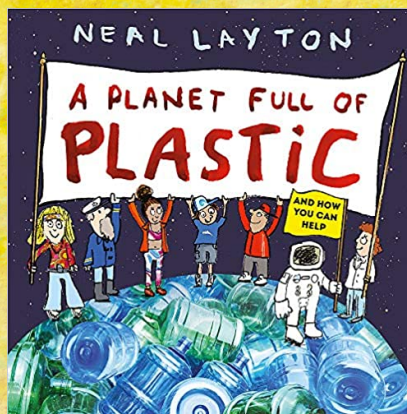
6. Somebody Swallowed Stanley

**Sarah Roberts &  
Hannah Peck**



7. A Planet Full of Plastic

**Neal Layton**



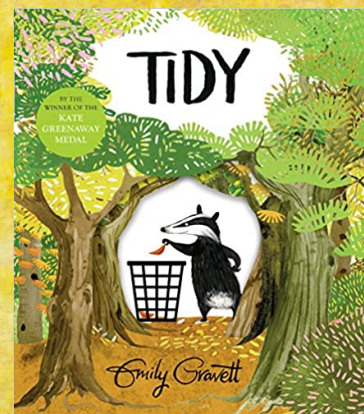
8. How to Save the World  
with a Chicken and an Egg

**Emma Shevah**



9. Tidy

**Emily Gravett**



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Harts Books is a brilliant resource for Saffron Walden we need to make sure that we use it. They are also available to offer advise on suitable books.



HART'S BOOKS

If you have any questions or have a book released in June that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - [MisterBodd@outlook.com](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)