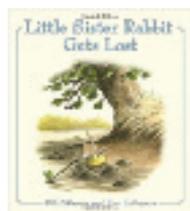


Books to love



**Little Sister Rabbit Gets Lost**

Written by Ulf Nilsson Illustrated by Eva Eriksson  
Translated by Susan Beard  
Floris £10.99 ISBN: 978-1782503774

Little Sister Rabbit goes out to play all by herself. She has great fun building boats out of twigs, skimming stones, jumping in puddles and just enjoying the fact that her big brother isn't there being better at everything and telling her what she is doing wrong. Suddenly, she realises that she is lost and she can't find her way back to her family in their warm, safe burrow. Thankfully, she is not quite alone after all. This sweet simple tale will speak volumes to every child that has an older sibling and who, just sometimes, wants to do things alone. Learning to be independent is a huge part of growing up and it can be a bit scary, so being watched over by someone who loves you is not such a bad thing after all. Eva Eriksson's illustrations in shades of brown and mossy green are delightful.

Jan Lennon

**Lazy Cat**

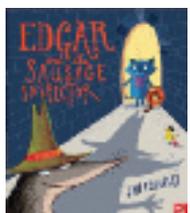
Written and illustrated by Julia Woolf  
Templar £6.99 ISBN: 978-1783706433



Lazy Cat is the amusing tale of a rather uneven friendship between the eponymous Lazy Cat and his loyal friend Doodle Dog. Doodle is a very good friend to Lazy Cat - sharing his toys, playing with him, feeding him and running errands for him. This continues until one day Doodle Dog decides he has had enough and storms out. Lazy Cat realises he has gone a step too far, but even when he tries to make it up to Doodle, his innate selfishness gets in the way. Author and illustrator Julia Woolf worked as a DreamWorks illustrator for many years, so she has a good idea of what will make children laugh and think at the same time. Her bold and colourful illustrations are hilarious, as we see poor Doodle running around in circles trying to keep his friend happy, while Lazy Cat is being lazy. Although lone readers will enjoy the friends' antics, this is also the ideal tale for parents to begin to explain the importance of being kind and thoughtful to friends. Children will be able to learn from Lazy Cat's terrible mistakes.

Jane Hall

**Edgar and the Sausage Inspector**



Written and illustrated by Jan Fearnley  
Nosy Crow £11.99 ISBN: 978-0857638229

Edgar, the cat, lives with his sister, Edith, and every day, Edgar tries to find ways to make Edith happy. One day he spots some sausages in a butcher's shop and, knowing that Edith adores sausages, he buys some for tea. Sadly, at that point Edgar's lovely plan goes seriously wrong. He is stopped by the Inspector, a bossy rat with a big hat, who confiscates all the sausages. On all the following days, after Edgar has bought something nice to eat, the Inspector stops him and confiscates it. Edgar notices that the Inspector seems to be putting on a lot of weight. Finally, realising he has been tricked and 'conned' he refuses to hand over his shopping and takes his revenge on the Inspector. The colourful illustrations are very striking and clear and the somewhat repetitive text uses different print sizes to enhance the meaning. Young readers will be on the edge of their seat, hoping that Edgar will strike back and give the bullying Inspector his comeuppance.

Pat Thompson

**A Perfect Day**

Written and illustrated by Lane Smith  
Two Hoots £11.99 ISBN: 978-1509840557



A Perfect Day by author/illustrator Lane Smith shows how one person's perfect day is not necessarily perfect for others. Lounging in the daffodils is perfect for Cat, while sitting in cool water is Dog's idea of perfection on this warm and sunny day. Young Bert has put out food for Bird and Squirrel and they too are having a perfect time. Then along comes Bear who unwittingly upsets our four friends in search of his own perfect day. Award-winning Smith draws on his own experience of a bear visiting his garden in Connecticut to create this fun book which is the perfect introduction for children to learn about perspectives and differing points of view. His use of block-printing provides striking and immersive illustrations - the reader can feel the warmth of the sun and the cool of the water. Having interloper Bear's immense size take up most of the page, effectively illustrates his domination of the garden. There is minimal use of text, Smith letting his illustrations tell the tale, but the repetition of phrases will encourage children to read, and when Bear arrives it emphasises the impact he has had on everyone else's perfect day.

Jane Hall

**Grandad's Secret Giant**

Written and illustrated by David Litchfield  
Francis Lincoln £11.99 ISBN: 978-1847808479

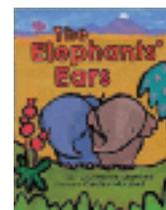


A thousand times Grandad has told Little Billy about the secret giant that lives, and hides, in their town, Gableview. But, Billy still thinks he is making it all up and does not believe him. Grandad assures him that the giant has come to the rescue countless times, such as, when their boat got caught in a storm and the giant pulled it to shore and when their kite blew away, he caught it. Billy can't understand why, if there is such a giant, he would be a secret giant and stay hidden. Grandad explains that people scream and run away when they see a giant, and that upsets him. Does this secret giant really exist? Will Billy ever meet this mysterious giant and, if he does, how will he behave? Exquisite, intricate illustrations complement a heart-warming positive story promoting acceptance, belonging and friendship. A large picture book about a very large giant who, if you look very carefully, can be found on many of the pages even though he tries to stay hidden.

Sinead Kromer

**The Elephants' Ears**

Written by Catherine Chambers  
Illustrated by Caroline Mockford  
Barefoot (R) £6.99 ISBN: 978-1782852827



The first hardback edition having been published in 2000, this is the paperback version of a very poignant fable. The first mother elephant has two very different calves and so she seeks the wisdom of the great eagle, "Queen of The Mountain", regarding their future habitat. Brother and sister elephants, Palo and Mala, have very different personalities as well as different shaped ears. The great eagle deploys the novel idea of matching the shape of their ears to a bird's eye view of the shape of the land below. The story demonstrates the importance of celebrating our unique and individual qualities. Caroline Mockford's

beautiful visual interpretations of the young Indian elephant “with its neat ears and quiet ways”, and the African elephant, “with its grand ears and excitable ways” are sympathetic, warm and beautiful, helping to make this book immediately inviting.

Gill Roberts

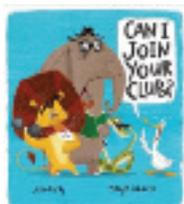
## Can I Join Your Club?

Written by John Kelly

Illustrated by Steph Laberis

Little Tiger £10.99 ISBN: 978-1848694354

Duck desperately wants to join a club. Sadly, when he tries to join the Lion Club or the Snake Club, or the Elephant Club, the qualifications for membership are far too hard for him and he is rejected. So, he decides that the only thing to do is to form his own club – with no entry qualifications at all, so anyone and everyone can join. The story is really well told – a lesson about friendship, and choosing friends for what they are and not for what they can do. There is plenty of humour both in the laugh-out-loud text and in the quirky illustrations. All in all, this is a very enjoyable book indeed - excellent for independent reading. Also, ideal for sharing with young children concerned about making friends and for discussing this very important part of childhood and growing up.



Pat Thompson

## The Naughty Naughty Baddies

Written by Mark Sperring Illustrated by David Tazzyman

Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN: 978-1408849736



Once there were three children and a cat that “liked nothing more than being wickedly wicked, awfully awful and diabolically dreadful”. One day, they decided on a terrible, fiendish plan – to pinch all the spots from the Queen’s Little Doggy Woof-Woof. But, despite all their creeping and sneaking, they were spotted.

They tried to escape but were caught and

punished by being banned from creeping for a whole week. The text, the illustrations and the layout on each page all combine wonderfully to make this a book that will have both children and adults laughing out loud., The hilarious jokes and pranks hidden in the illustrations just add to the riotous humour within the crazy, zany story. Is the king sitting on his throne? Where is Little Doggy Woof-Woof relieving itself? Are those portraits really watching all the antics? Mischievously madcap, impishly ingenious and side-splittingly silly.

Martin Kromer

## The Elephant’s Umbrella

Written by Laleh Jaffari Illustrated by Ali Khodai

Tiny Owl £12.99 ISBN: 978-1910328170

*The Elephant’s Umbrella* by Laleh Jaffari tells the story of a very wise umbrella. Elephant is kind and generous, always sharing his umbrella with others whenever needed. One day though the wind whisks the umbrella away and it is found by a delighted leopard. But when the umbrella asks, “If I become yours...where will you take me when it rains?” he is dismayed by the leopard’s answer that he will sit under him alone, while eating the results of his days hunting. The umbrella moves on, but has similar encounters with other animals - nowhere can he find anyone as



kind as the elephant. This charming book tells an important message very simply. Why would the umbrella, or why would anyone, want to be with someone who was selfish and gave no thought to others? Parents will enjoy sharing this thought-provoking book with their children, giving them the opportunity to discuss themes of selflessness and kindness, especially the joy that elephant gets from sharing the umbrella with others. The vivid, collage-effect drawings by Ali Khodai perfectly illustrate the jungle setting.

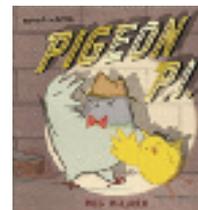
Jane Hall

## Pigeon P. I.

Written and illustrated by Meg McLaren

Andersen £12.99 ISBN: 978-1783444830

Private investigator, Murray, is hoping for a quiet life, but then a sweet little canary called Vee tells him that the caged birds in the city are disappearing. Have they been kidnapped? When Vee goes missing as well, Murray decides to stir himself and investigate. Will Murray be able to save Vee and all the other feathered victims? A brilliant book, very well written, narrated by Pigeon P. I. himself. The plot is fast-moving and exciting. On the very busy pages the text is a mixture of prose and speech bubbles and the comic-book illustrations are detailed and expressive. The adults, especially grandparents, who may be sharing the book with their children will find that there is plenty to discuss and lots of fun to be had too – it is very funny. You can almost hear Humphrey Bogart’s voice narrating the story.



Pat Thompson

## The House of Four Seasons

Written and illustrated by Roger Duvoisin

New York £11.99 ISBN: 978-1681370989



First published in 1956, this classic understated picture book still has something to offer modern readers. A family go house-hunting and settle on an old building sitting quietly among tall weeds, shutters falling off, broken stairs, rusted rain pipes and an owl living in the attic. It needs a lot of work to make it

habitable. When it comes to painting the outside a debate rages as to which colour should be used: red and green for spring, yellow and purple for summer, red and yellow for autumn or green and orange for winter. There’s an unexpected twist in the story with Father coming up with an ingenious idea, so that they can call it the House of Four Seasons. A gentle tale which teaches children about colours, while also fostering an appreciation of what it means to make a home your own.

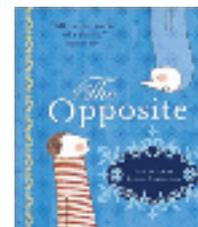
Richard Monte

## The Opposite

Written by Tom MacRae Illustrated by Elena Odriozola

Andersen £6.99 ISBN: 978-1842705735

Nate wakes up one morning to find a strange, malevolent creature hanging upside down from the ceiling above his bed. This is the Opposite, invisible to everyone except Nate. During the day, the Opposite wreaks havoc. Whatever Nate tries to do, the exact opposite keeps happening. Frustrated, Nate wonders if things will ever get back to normal. When the Opposite starts getting him into trouble Nate decides that he is going to have to be very clever and very cunning to finally get rid of him. With big, bold, surreal illustrations and engaging, offbeat humour, the book is a lovely way to explore the difficult, abstract concept of *opposite* with young children.



Yvonne Coppard