

# No Shelf Control

Edition 25: May 2023

## Q&A with James Catchpole



We try our hardest not to include sequels as our featured book but sometimes you just cannot ignore the sheer brilliance of them. So that is why 'You're So Amazing' is our **BOOK OF THE MONTH!** We managed to track down Co-author James Catchpole for a quick chat about the book.

We love the honesty of your books. Are they autobiographical? And will there be more in the series?

Thanks - yes, they certainly are. I was Joe, and believe it or not, I still am! If Lucy and I can think of new insights we can share through Joe, then I imagine we may write more stories about him. In the meantime, Lucy has written a new story about the experience of being a wheelchair-using mother - about the wonderfully innocent and simple way that small children respond to wheelchairs as just chairs...on wheels. That's called 'Mama Car' and it'll be out in 2024.

You say that you never set out to write a book. How and when did you decide to become an author?

Honestly, I didn't. I'm an agent for authors, really. I help them write books. But Karen George sent me a story about a one-legged teddy bear with an apologetic note saying, 'it's NOT ABOUT YOU!'. And I said I knew it wasn't supposed to be about me, but it kind of was, and so could I write it? And amazingly, she said yes!

In the book you note that many people call disabled people amazing for doing 'normal things'. So what is the most amazing thing that you can do (or have done)?

My two best tricks are playing one-legged football and carrying babies in a sling.

James & Lucy  
Catchpole



Karen  
George



You're  
**SO**  
Amazing!

What are the best children's books that you've read recently?

That's tricky for me, as an agent, because I'm always going to recommend my clients' books! Recent favourites? SF Said's Tyger and Ale Requena's The Boy Who Cried Poo. It's hilarious. But there are a bazillion more...

You're So Amazing is out now from Faber & Faber £7.99



**Books**



**Reviews**



**Chats**



## Spellstone

Ross Montgomery

Walker 9+

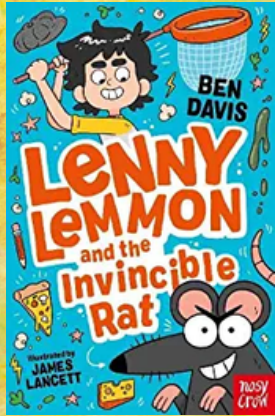
Ross has reached the point where just having his name on the front of a book is enough to convince most people to pick it up and have a read. But in case you're not one of those yet, then this story of a secret magical organisation and an epic battle of good versus evil will surely convince you of his talent!

## The Thief of Farrowfell

Ravena Guron & Alessia Trunfio

Faber & Faber 9+

Another magical adventure story this month. June is the youngest in her family, and she is never taken seriously. She's determined to show her true worth and plots a daring solo heist. Unfortunately, her haul is protected by a curse... Can she untangle the mess that she has created and uncover some truths at the same time?



## Lenny Lemmon and the Invincible Rat

Ben Davis & James Lancett

Nosy Crow 7+

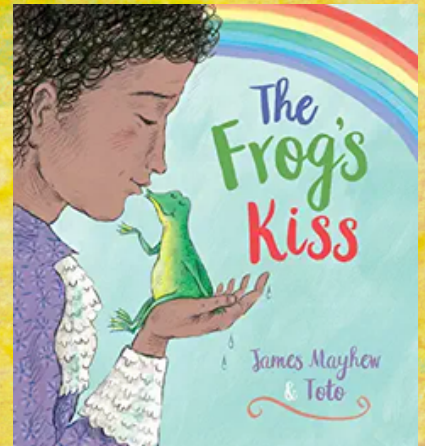
Ben's fantastic sense of humour will grip younger readers as they join Lenny Lemmon as he navigates his school's Olden Days Day. The rat that Lenny found and brought in escapes and causes all sorts of trouble. Can he and his friends catch the rat before it causes even more mischief?

## The Frog's Kiss

James Mayhew & Toto

Scholastic 3+

A gorgeous retelling of the classic story of 'The Princess and the Frog'. In this version, the frog is inspired by the original tale and goes in search of a kiss to turn him human. Unfortunately, he can't find a princess who makes his heart skip a beat, and then the prince of his dreams comes along. Will the magic from the story still work?



## One To Wait for...

Jenny Pearson -

The Boy Who Made Monsters

Usborne - July 23

Jenny Pearson isn't capable of writing anything other than amazing books, so we hope you're just as excited for this as we are! It won't disappoint.



# My Name is Sunshine Simpson

G.M. Linton

Usborne 8+

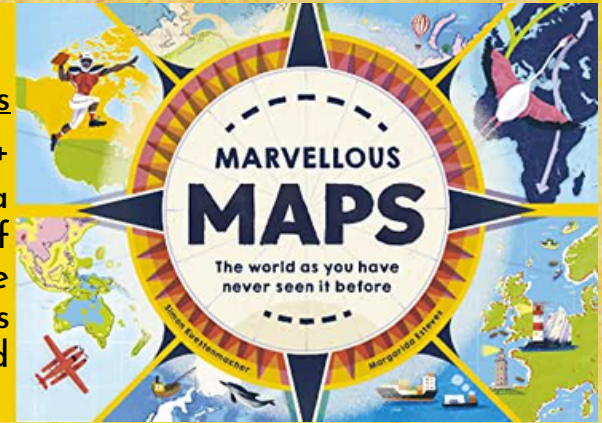
Sunshine's life takes an unfortunate turn where bad luck seems to follow her. She is tasked with looking after the new girl, Evie, who quickly becomes a frenemy. Sunshine begins to lack confidence and doubts herself. She goes on a journey of self-discovery, and the message of 'Stand Tall, Stand Proud, and Shine' is one that many readers will need to hear!

## Marvellous Maps

Simon Kuestenmacher & Margarida Esteves

Welbeck 7+

Who doesn't love a good map? This book has a selection of informative maps chock-a-block full of amazing info to share and explore. Discover the journeys that explorers have taken, where the world's water is, and who delivers the Christmas gifts around the world!



## Max & Chaffy

Jamie Smart

David Fickling 5+

Jamie's graphic novels are always hugely popular. We are confident that Max & Chaffy will prove to be a favourite with younger graphic novel fans. Chaffy is lost, so it is up to Max to help him find where he belongs. This will definitely hook its readers and show them how much fun reading can be. So, why wouldn't you get this book into their hands?

## Monster Support Group

Laura Suarez

Flying Eye Books 7+

The first in a new series of graphic novels. Many stories focus on the negatives of monsters, but what if they weren't all so bad? Lowell is already finding life pretty challenging, so when he realises that he's actually turning into a werewolf, he starts to panic and then joins the Monster Support Group as he searches for a way to go back to 'normal'.



INVISIBLE emmie



emmie & friends  
National Inclusive Author  
TERRI LIBENSON

## One You Might Have Missed

Emmie & Friends - Terri Libenson

Balzer & Bray - Sept 2020

With the seventh book in the series (Surprisingly Sarah) coming out this month, it's a good time to jump into this graphic novel series if you haven't already. Join Emmie and her friends as they all navigate school life!

SURPRISINGLY sarah



emmie & friends  
New York Times Bestselling Author  
TERRI LIBENSON

# 9 Books about ... Empathy



With Empathy Day coming on Thursday 8th June, we thought we'd share some of our favourite reads from this year's Empathy Collection. Books that build empathy in readers. View the full collection on Empathy Lab's web page - [empathylab.uk](http://empathylab.uk)

1. Sometimes I Am Furious

**Timothy Knapman & Joe Berger**



2. The Boy Who Grew A Tree

**Polly Ho-Yen & Sojung Kim-McCarthy**



3. Call Me Lion

**Camilla Chester**

4. The Comet

**Joe Todd-Stanton**



5. The Last Firefox

**Lee Newbery & Laura Catalan**



6. That's Nice Love

**Owen Gent**



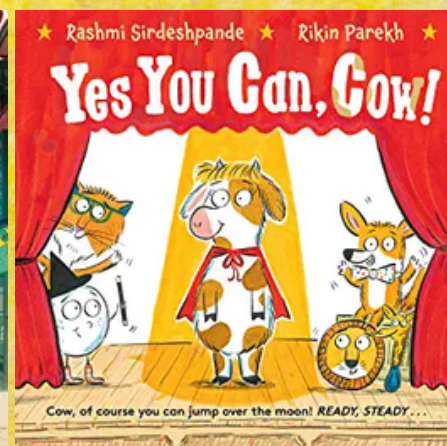
7. City of Dragons

**Jaimal Yogis & Vivian Trijong**



8. Yes You Can, Cow!

**Rashmi Sirdeshpande & Rikin Parekh**



9. The Good Turn

**Sharna Jackson**



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)