



The Letterpress Project

Author and Illustrator E-Interviews

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this series of Letterpress Project e-interviews that we are undertaking over the coming months. The Letterpress Project is a not-for-profit initiative that exists to promote the value and pleasures of the physical book and we are keen to get the thoughts of authors and book illustrators about their own influences, experiences and love of books. We are happy for you to make your answers as long or as brief as you are comfortable with and we will undertake not to edit or paraphrase any of your comments without your explicit permission.

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

We only had 6 books at home (3 adult books, a recipe book, a gardening book and a dictionary, which I read, but character development wasn't very gripping), so I was very lucky to be invited for "morning coffee" by an elderly lady I soon knew as my lovely Aunt Vick. It turned out to be cake and orange juice – and she had a piano and a full bookcase! I was allowed to read Five On A Treasure Island – and was hooked on books for life. My lovely parents took me to our lovely library so often that I'd finished the children's section aged 9 so was allowed into the adults' to read Agatha Christie, Sherlock Holmes and PG Wodehouse.

Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?

I wanted to inspire children to become hooked on books and derive the pleasure from them that so many authors have given to me.

Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?

Book: gripping, thrilling or humorous, with characters to love and hate, mysteries and puzzles to solve. Illustration: tells me more about the characters or plot.

Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?

Myself as a child; and my daughters.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

I think they will happily co-exist.

Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?

No I'm not. But a signed first edition of Cold Comfort Farm or Right Ho, Jeeves would be wonderful.

Thank you very much for taking time to do this for us. We will advise you when we publish it on the website - www.letterpressproject.co.uk. Please return the completed interview to:

Karen Argent

Project Director Karen.argent@btinternet.com