



## The Letterpress Project

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

We had a lot of books in the house when I was young, so books are something I've always been interested in. There is just something about a book that connects with me. One of my favourite ones was a collection of old fables from Iceland – something I've played a lot with in my stories as a writer.

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

I wanted to become an author because the books I read when I was younger really affected me – so I wanted to become a writer and hopefully do the same thing. Let's cross our fingers!

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

When the artist is honest. That sounds very pretentious, I know, but you can feel it in the story when the author is just going through the motions versus when what is happening on the page really matters to them.

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

Most of the books I've written are for younger readers. But I'm a selfish author, which means I mostly write for myself. Sometimes I write for the 12 year old version of me, sometimes for the 39 year old version – but I'm always writing for myself. If I don't enjoy what I've written, it goes straight to the bin – or at least back to square one.

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

After a nuclear war only two things will survive: Cockroaches and physical books. People have been talking about the death of the physical book for centuries. Every new thing that pops up is supposedly the thing that will eventually end the book. But what do you know; this brand new thing and the physical book usually end up co-existing. I think that is what will also happen with the electronic book.

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

Oh yes. My office is filled with books that I know in my heart I will never read. But every week I find myself at the checkout with a brand new book under my arm. I don't know who put it there but it would simply be rude not to buy it.

I'm slowly collecting the Foyle's collection of Stephen King-books, which are quite beautiful. I also own an illustrated version of one of his earlier works, *The Long Walk*, which made me wonder why we seem to mostly only illustrate children's books. It's a beautiful version of a very adult and brutal book and it only elevates the reading experience. More illustrated books, please – in every genre!