



Clemency Brown

When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I cannot remember a time I did not want to be an author, so I must have decided quite early on (after deciding I did not want to be a farmer after all!!). I remember filling a notebook with poems inspired by the Flower Fairies poetry, which is ironic as I now really struggle to write poetry!

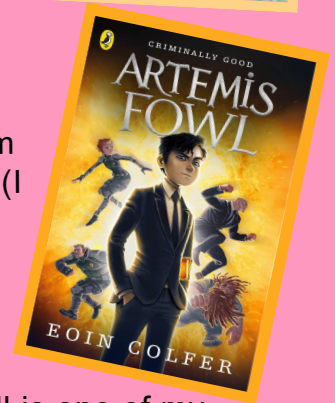
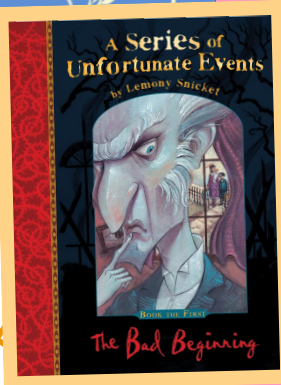


Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

I read voraciously and consumed books like I needed them to survive! I would read on the Tube on the way to school (I used to live in London), even in rush hour when it was so crowded that my book would be two inches from my face.

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

My absolute favourite book series was *Artemis Fowl*— still is one of my absolute favourites! Holly Short is such an excellent character and was my first experience of a female character who did not fit the princess/fairy mould so was very transformative for me. I also adored *A Series of Unfortunate Events* for its refusal to patronise young readers.



How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

It is very surreal to see my book in shops and I have to remind myself every time it happens that it's real and someone hasn't just snuck it in there to make me feel happy. I always expect booksellers to doubt me when I say I'm the author because it's such a pinch-me moment and I feel like a giggly kid asking to sign the books!

What is the best part about being an author?

The best part about being an author is firstly when you have those sparky moments where all the ideas in your head suddenly align into a plot and you realise you have something here and secondly when you read/hear about readers who have found something special and valuable in your book.

What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

One of the not so fun parts about being an author is definitely when you hit a plot-shaped wall and you have to work out a way to write out of it. It's particularly annoying because you're the one who made the plot so there's nobody to blame but yourself! I also find it hard explaining what my books are about to people, it always feels weirdly scary!

Why do you think it is important for children to read?

Fundamentally it's important because it's a joy. I always feel really sad for children who haven't been able to access books in a way that's helped them realise how joyous it can be. There's so much magic and wonder to be found in a book and every child has the right to that magic. That's before you get into the thousands of benefits reading has for our development, mental health, future success etc etc!!



Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

My feedback comes from my incredible agent Charlotte and then the fantastic editors I'm lucky enough to work with. Currently this is the team at Chicken House who are truly exceptional and make the editing process a joy. I'm pretty cagey with my drafts beyond professional people so my family and friends have to wait for publishing day to read my stuff!

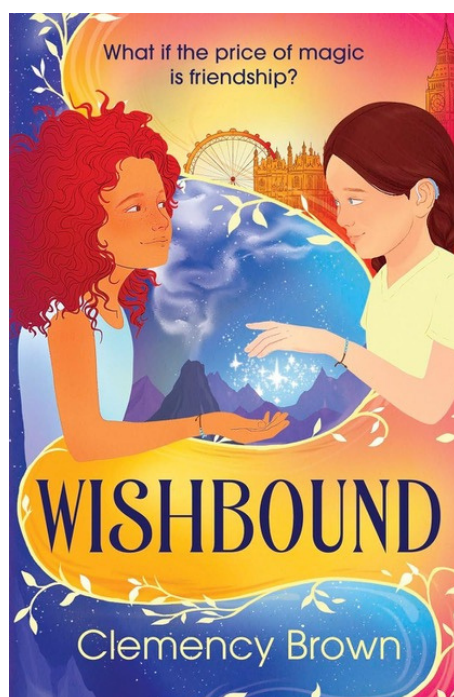
What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

My inspiration for writing boils down to a desire to make the real world more exciting. I have always been a little disappointed by the real world and its mundaneness so I quickly decided to write magic into it. My first Middle Grade book, *WISHBOUND*, was inspired partly by the genie from *Aladdin*— I thought he was far cooler than Aladdin and had a very unfair deal having all that magic and not being able to use it for himself. And so I invented a world where kids are born with magic but are not able to use it for anyone but the person who has paid for it, and then I invented the exceptionally brave and determined Leonie.

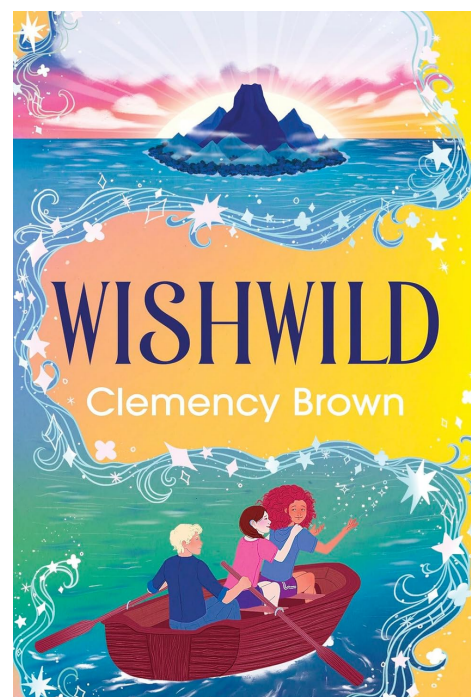
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SCAN ME!



SCAN ME!



Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

It would be on a comfortable, cosy outdoor seat with a mountain of blankets on a cliff by the sea at sunset. It would be a little chilly, hence the blankets, but not so much that I'd need to go inside. Then I would read and watch the sun go down and hear the waves.

