

THE REBEL READING SOCIETY

Author Spotlight



Emily-Jane Clark

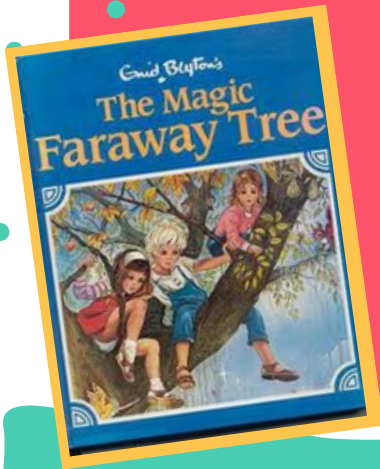
When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I wanted to be a famous actor until i moved to London to seek my fortune and ended up working in Mcdonalds! But I always loved books and telling stories so I decided to write characters instead of playing them!



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 a lot as a child- I was a total bookworm! We didn't have much money so we couldn't afford lots of books (no cheap and easy Amazon back then!) but I visited the library twice a week and read pretty much all the books on the shelves! I loved to read in my room, lying on my bed! I still do!



What was your favourite book as a child and why?

The Faraway Tree was the first book I remember totally falling in love with. I would lie awake at night making up my own stories about going up the tree and having adventures in strange lands! I also loved the Wishing Chair. I was a total Enid Blyton fangirl (until I grew up and read them to my kids and realised they are SO sexist!)

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

It is the best feeling ever! The first time I saw my books on display in the window of my local Waterstones was especially exciting because when my kids were younger I used to say, 'one day, mummy's books will be in that window!'

What is the best part about being an author?

You can work in your pyjamas, you don't have to do any long division and for me, it is like therapy as I get to purge myself of all my childhood cringes! I also love laughing at my own silly jokes, creating new characters and funny situations. However, one of my favourite things to do as an author is to meet young readers!



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

The social media sales stuff! I know I should be creating more content to help spread the word, but it takes me weeks to make a one minute Instagram post!

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

It allows them to escape to different worlds and experience new things without leaving the house! Reading also helps children feel less alone if they can relate to a character or situation and helps to build empathy. Funny books are also a great way to make kids feel good because laughter releases endorphins aka happy hormones!

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

My tween always reads my first drafts! She checks them to make sure I haven't accidentally included any 'old people' phrases and nothing brings her joy more than finding a missed typo!

What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

My books are always inspired by my life in some way! My childhood diaries and tween daughters inspired Cringe Club, and some funny songs I wrote in a notebook when I was at primary school, gave me the idea for The Beasts of Knobbly Bottom! I like to use my own experiences to make my stories authentic. Everything from my own tween cringes and my experience of divorce and raising (arguing!) with tweens- is used as material!



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

In my own bed but without constant interruptions from my children asking me burning questions that just can't wait for the morning like 'what is my chin for?'. I would also have a massive box of mint Matchmakers on my bedside table- because they are my favourite reading snack !h Tink asleep at my feet.