



Now You See Me, Now You ...

published by Rabbit Hole Publications 2002, was shortlisted for the first CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education) Poetry Award 2003.

Belmont Poetry Prize

Chrissie won two prizes in the Belmont Poetry Prize 2002 for individual children's poems. *The Powder Monkey* won the category for poems for 9-12 year olds; *Bradshaw Plots his Revenge* was a runner up in the category for 5-8 year olds.

Chrissie's children's poems appear in these anthologies

Macmillan anthologies:

- Join In...Or Else* ed. Nick Toczek, 2000
- Welcome to the Snake Hotel* ed. Brian Moses, 2001
- The School Year* ed. Brian Moses, 2001
- The Works 2* ed. Brian Moses and Pie Corbett, 2002
- The Top Secret Lives of Teachers* ed. Brian Moses, 2002
- Dinos, Dodos and other Dead Things* ed. Brian Moses, 2003
- Don't Panic: 100 Poems to Save Your Life* ed. Fiona Waters, 2003
- Read Me and Laugh*, ed. Gaby Morgan, 2005
- Masala*, ed. Debjani Chatterjee, 2005
- The Works 4*, ed. Gaby Morgan and Pie Corbett, 2005
- The Secret Lives of Teachers – 3 Books in 1*, ed. Brian Moses, 2005
- Best Friends*, ed. Fiona Waters, 2006
- The Works Poems for Key Stage 1*, ed. Pie Corbett, 2006
- Christmas Poems*, ed. Fiona Waters, 2006

Pearson Education anthology:

- Poems are ... Private*, ed. Michael Rosen, 2001

Hodder Wayland anthologies:

- Hubble Bubble*, ed. Andrew Fusek Peters, 2003
- Love, Hate, And My Best Mate*, ed. Andrew Fusek Peters and Polly Peters, 2004
- The Poetry Store*, ed. Paul Cookson, 2005

Scholastic:

- Dinosaur Poems*, ed. Paul Cookson, 2006

Comments and reviews

'Chrissie Gittins has a McGough-like flair for idiomatic surrealism, as in *Driven to Distraction*, which opens with 'I picked up a bus in the High Street/then put it down on the park.' *Michael Thorn, TES.*



'I like the warmth and immediacy of the poems. But I think *The Shortest Days* is my favourite – limpid and deceptively simple.' *Helen Dunmore, novelist and poet.*

'Chrissie Gittins is an interesting new voice in children's poetry,' *Morag Styles, writer and lecturer on children's literature, Homerton College, Cambridge University.*

'weird, interesting and humorous poems that will bear repeated visits.' *Roger Stevens, Poetry Zone website;*

'guaranteed to charm,' *Pendle Harte, editor of Living South.*

'Chrissie Gittins takes incidents and objects from her locality (Swimming at the local baths; a heart scarab in a museum) and makes imaginative leaps, excavating the thought of a tortoise who has travelled from Turkey to Catford. Especially enjoyable are her excursions into wordplay such as 'Driven to Distraction', and 'Approaching Apostrophes' is an excellent way to get to grips with this troublesome punctuation mark.' *Ann Lazim for the CLPE Award 2003.*

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Dates

Links

Arc Publications: arcpublications.co.uk

Gunnlaug Moen Hembry: gunnlaug.co.uk

Kev Adamson: kevadamson.com

Buy the books: amazon.co.uk

Sample workshops: poetrysociety.org.uk
applesandsnakes.org

The Poetry Zone: poetryzone.co.uk

Arvon Foundation: arvonfoundation.org

Scottish Poetry Library: spl.org.uk/youngpeople

Reviews/quotes

'a true original ... she has a genuine gift,' *Jane Yeh, Poetry Review*

'a wonderful collection,' *Jon Snow*

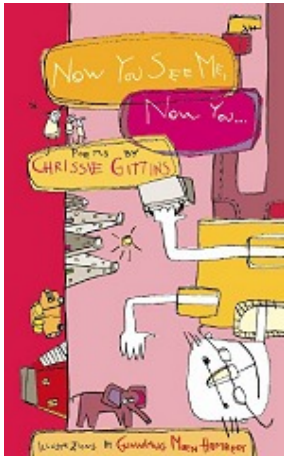
'a voice refusing to be pinned down,' *Moniza Alvi*

'a great sense of humour, an ear for what life sounds like,' *Helen Dunmore*

'weird, interesting and humorous poems that will bear repeated visits,' *Roger Stevens, Poetry Zone website*

'a McGough-like flair for idiomatic surrealism,' *Michael Thorn, TES*

'I very much enjoyed reading your collection of children's poetry,'
Estelle Morris



'clearly focused in terms of target readers (mainly pre-teens) and its bias towards humour, occasionally of a quirky and surrealistic kind as in 'The Fate of the Butternut Squash'. The line drawings are zany too. Sometimes a more serious note is introduced as in the case of the Belmont Poetry prize-winning 'The Powder Monkey', which tells of the days when children as young as six went to sea and served on warships, but usually humour prevails. It has a nice pocket-size feel to it,' *Brian D'Arcy, Writing in Education.*

'a most enjoyable collection ... she has a nice quirky viewpoint and is well worth investigating,' *Enid Stephenson, Carousel.*

'A witty and interesting collection from children's poet, Chrissie Gittins, which features, among others, poems about a six-foot man in a block of ice, a pair of flying shoes, a travelling wardrobe and a squashed poet. The author also explores the use of language itself in poems such as 'Exclamation Mark Park' and 'Approaching Apostrophes'. Chrissie Gittins writes in a refreshingly non-patronising way for children and this collection is charmingly illustrated throughout. These poems will have particular appeal for children in KS1 & 2, but parents will certainly enjoy reading this collection to younger children too.' *Victoria Buckley-Jennings www.maninthemoon.co.uk*

NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU ... by Chrissie Gittins and illustrated by Gunnlaug Moen Hembery www.gunnlaug.co.uk (isbn 09543228809) is available from all good bookshops, from www.amazon.co.uk and from Gardeners wholesalers.

Now You See Me, Now You ... information sheet in pdf format

HIGH-CHAIR

for Alice Catherine

Arms up
Bib on
Eat up
Get down

Arms up
Bib on
Throw food
Mum down

Arms out
No bib
Get down
Throw up

Dad tries
No go
Head down
Give up



GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Don't squash peas on your knees,
Don't grate carrot on a parrot,
Don't tangle pears in your nostril hairs
Never risk a quid on a squid.

Don't pour bottled beer in your ear.
Never slice apple pies on your thighs.
Never wash your pullovers with yesterday's leftovers.
Don't entice a bowl of egg fried rice.

Don't assume that tarragon's a paragon,
Or try to run faster than a bag of spinach pasta,
Don't try a lunge at Victoria sponge,
A cake with a steak is a mistake.

Bravado never works with avocado,
A flickin's not the thing to give to chicken,
Don't go and stutter on the b-b-b-butter
Never feed mice on ice.

Careful not to ravage a coy savoy cabbage,
Never have a tussle with a mussel,
Don't ever hurry with a spicy prawn curry,
Don't boast about your buttered toast.

Don't pour jelly in your welly,
Don't dribble tagliatelle on your older brother's belly.
Never do the tango with a ripe and juicy mango,
If you do then you're sure to pay the price!



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