



# The Owl-Tree

Books Reviewed:

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[Roy Blatchford](#) [3]

~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

Readers familiar with Nimmo's *The Stone Mouse* will need no persuading that she is an author to recommend to junior-aged children. Staying with Granny, Joe quickly comes to believe that if the wonderful tree in next door's garden is chopped down, Granny's life will be too (echoes of Thomas Hardy's *The Woodlanders*). Joe despairs of persuading the Monster as Granny's next-door neighbour is known not to axe the tree - until, that is, he discovers its secret: a barn owl with great wings that the Monster himself once ringed. From that point on, it is a race against the clock until the owl-tree is reprieved and, in storybook style, neighbourly differences buried. Nimmo's accessible narrative has a fine eye for how children see the strange and blustering adult world; she captures, the heady mix of fear, joy and expectation that Joe experiences. Lewis's line-drawings are superbly focused on the novel's turning points.

Running Order:

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