How to Live Forever

Books Reviewed:
How to Live Forever

Issue: 111
Reviewer: George Hunt

Another intriguing visual labyrinth from Colin Thompson, whose picture book Looking for Atlantis involved an odyssey through the intricately detailed contents of an old sailor's sea chest. In this fascinating book, the starting point is a library containing every book ever published. At night, when the library closes, the books open, growing spectacularly into strange cities and landscapes embedded within them. But the book entitled 'How to Live Forever' has been hidden, and when Peter and his cat Brian discover the loss, they leave their home inside a book about quinces and travel for two years into the very heart of the library, where the Ancient Child guards a tragic secret. The text of this book is brief and economical, but the haunting paintings are absorbing in their complexity, and might encourage children to invent a whole library of parallel narratives.

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