The best books to buy this Christmas as chosen by **Books for Keeps** reviewers and contributors

From our Christmas Gift Guide

My First Elmer Gift Book, 978-1783446773, Andersen Press, £7.99 board bk

Pip and Posy: The 12 Days of Christmas, Axel Scheffler, 978-1807080228, Nosy Crow, £7.99 board bk

Can You See a Little Bear, James Mayhew, illus Jackie Morris, 978-1917865005, Otter Barry Books, £9.99 board bk

The Christmas Treasure Hunt, Ag Jatkowska, 978-1037412448, Campbell Books, £12.99 hbk

Grandad's Christmas Harry Woodgate, 978-1839136405, Andersen Press, £12.99 hbk

The Captain's Christmas, Mathilde Tourbillon, illus Beatrice Cerocchi, 979-8898591625, Barefoot Books, £12.99 hbk

Father Christmas goes to the Nativity, Nicholas Allan, 978-1839136870, Andersen Press, £12.99 hbk

One Little Lamp, Rashmi Sirdeshpande, illus Navya Raju, 978-1839135750, Andersen Press, £12.99 hbk

The Bear Cubs and the Christmas Wish, Zemanel, illus Emilie Michaud, 978-1836271925, Postwave, £12.99 hbk

Christmas A Big Hedgehog and Little Hedgehog Adventure, Britta Teckentrup, 978-3791376837, Prestel, £11.99 hbk

And a Partridge in a Pear Tree, Fay Evans and Jono Ganz, Flying Eye, 978-1838749927, £12.99 hbk

If I had a Penguin, Gabby Dawnay, illus Alex Barrow, 978-0500653999, Thames & Hudson, £11.99 hbk

The Street Where Santa Lives, Harriet Howe, illus Julia Christians, 978-1838918576, Little Tiger, £12.99 hbk

King Winter's Birthday, Jonathan Freedland, illus Emily Sutton, 978-1782694670, Pushkin, £12.99 hbk

The Christmas Pine, Julia Donaldson, illus Victoria Sandøy, 978-0702349898, Alison Green Books, £7.99 pbk

There's a Ghost in this House, Oliver Jeffers, Harper Collins Children's Books,£20 hbk

Wizardology, Dugald Steer, 978-1835879092, Templar Books, £25.00 hbk

The Beginner's Guide to Being a Wizard, Keith Negley,, 978-0241829981, Puffin, £8.99 pbk

The Story Orchestra: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,, illus Jessica Courtney-Tickle, 978-1805701798, Frances Lincoln

Peter and the Wolf, Sergei Prokofiev, illus James Mayhew, 978-1917865166, Otter-Barry Books, £14.99 hbk

A Year of Fairy Tales, Sophie Anderson, illus . Elisa Paganelli, 978-1836044048, Usborne, £25.00 hbk

Don't Feed the Troll, Emily Gravett, 978-1035074440, Two Hoots, £14.99 hbk

The Paper Girl, Caryl Lewis , illus Kanako Abe, 978-1805701828, Frances Lincoln, £14.99 hbk

It's Christmas Time, Birgitta Sif , 978-1917044493, Magic Cat, £16.99 hbk

Under the Olive Moon , Nour Ferwana and Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, illus, Raahat Kaduji, 978-1911766315, Magic Cat, £16.99 hdbk

Stories from Bengal, Rumana Yasmin, illus Farah Khandaker, 978-1739261443, Bok Bok Books, £12.99 hbk

How Winston Delivered a Christmas Wish, Alex T Smith, 978-1035070541, Macmillan, £20.00 hbk

The Rambler's Curse, Mikey Please, 978-0008830205, HarperCollins Children's Books, £14.99 hbk

The Wild Ones, Steve Cole, 978-0702349157, Scholastic, £7.99 pbk

Goodnight Silver, Abi Elphinstone, 978-1398538016, Simon & Schuster, £8.99 pbk

Lumi and the Wolf, Lottie Saakho, 978-1510102071, Starboard, £14.99 hbk

The Haunting of Old Splinter, Jack Mackay, 978-1836432319, Rock the Boat, £8.99 pbk

Lykewise, Darren Simpson, 978-1782696209, Pushkin Children's Books, £8.99 pbk

The Ghosts of Grey Towers, Dan Smith, 978-0008790912, Barrington Stoke, £7.99 pbk

The House of Horrors, Dan Smith, 978-0008790905, Barrington Stoke, £7.99 pbk

The Worst Thing that Could Possibly Happen , Guy Bass, illus David Roberts, 978-1788954198, Little Tiger. £16.99

The Skull, Jon Klassen, 978-1529509571, Walker Books, £14.99 hbk

A Christmas Carol and Other Stories, Charles Dickens, 978-0192789044, OUP, £7.99 pbk

A Christmas Carol, Tanya Landman, 978-0008797188, Barrington Stoke, £7.99 pbk

A Christmas Carol, Chris Mould, 978-0571397976, Faber, £14.99 hbk

T**he Christmas Book**, Katherine Woodfine, 978-0571391516, illus Lizzy Stewart, Faber, £10.99 hbk

Hometown, Shaun Tan, 978-1529536393, Walker Studio, £25.00 hbk

Poetry Picks for Christmas 2026

A Christmas Full of Poetry, Joseph Coelho, Wide Eyed Editions, 978-1836002345, £12.99 hbk

Rapunzel is Lettuce: Poems to Grow With Joseph Coelho, illus Shirley Hottier, Otter-Barry Books, 978-1915659262, £9.99 pbk

Big Red Dragon, Play Rhymes Through the Year, Jane Newberry, illus Carolina Rabei, Otter-Barry Books, 978-1915659965, £8.99 pbk

If I Met a Tiger, A.F Harrold, illus Magda Brol, Fox & Ink Books, 978-1917894197, £7.99 pbk

Red Sky in the Morning, Alex Wharton, Firefly Press, 978-1915444806, £7.99 pbk

The Weirdest Thing of All, Michael Rosen, illus Ed Vere, Walker Books, 978-0008517182, £12.99 hbk

Ghost and Ginnels: A Poetry Treasure Hunt of York, Carole Bromley, Ings Press, 978-1738528868, £9.99 pbk

Everything In-Between, Shagufta K. Iqbal, Troika Books, 978-1912745456, £8.99 pbk

Poems on Toast, Attie Lime, Troika Books, 978-1912745524, £8.99 pbk

Aardvark Day, Victoria Gatehouse, illus Kate Lucy Foster, Emma Press, 978-1915628572, £9.99 pbk

Bison Rule, OK!, Sarah Ziman, illus Nia Havilliard, Otter-Barry Books, 978-1917865036, £8.99 pbk

The Flying Machine of Dreams, illus Viviane Schwarz, Otter-Barry Books, 978-1915659989, Kate Wakeling, £12.99 hbk

They sent a Cat to Saturn, Valerie Bloom, illus Ken Wilson-Max, Otter-Barry Books, 978-1915659590, £8.99 pbk

Graphic novels for Christmas

Supa Nova Robot Takeover, Chanté Timothy, Nosy Crow, 978-1805132592, £8.99pbk

Rex Power - Invasion of the Fear Bugs, Ramzee, illus Claude, 2000 AD, 978-1837865222, £9.99pbk.

Cabin Head and Tree Head, Scott Cambell, DK, 978-0241774090, £12.99 pbk.

The Grand Bug Hotel by Ollie Silvester, Cicada Books, 978-1800660687, £14.99 pbk

Mexikid Dreams, Pedro Martín, Guppy Books, 978-1916558755, £14.99 pbk

Marionetta, Miriam Bonastre Tur, Rock the Boat, 978-1836433224, £12.99 pbk

Lightfall: A Place Between, Tim Probert, HarperAlley, 978-0063080935, £11.99 pbk

Raise the Bar, Fernanda Frick H. Guppy Books, 978-1916558786, £14.99 pbk

The World of Bunny vs Monkey, Jamie Smart, DFB Phoenix, 978-1788453677, £16.99 hbk

How to Make Awesome Comics, Neill Cameron, DFB Phoenix, 978-1788451475, £10.99pbk

Non-Fiction for Christmas

So Many Things Maya Hanisch, Barefoot Books, 979-8898591649, £14.99

Constellations – Stories in the Stars, Anne Jankeliowitch, ill. Sarah Andreacchio, Barefoot Books, 979-8898591632, £14.99 hbk

Newton is Floating Eoin McLaughlin, ill. Matt Hunt, Magic Cat, 978-1911766391, £12.99 hbk

The Animal Queendom Catherine Blackledge, ill. Kasia Bodańska, Nosy Crow, 978-1805135456, £19.66 hbk

The World's Last Mammoth and other Missing Marvels Mike Barfield, ill. Franziska Höllbacker, Templar Books, 978-1783425259, £10.99 pbk

Black and British An illustrated History David Olusoga, ill. Jake Alexander, Melleny Taylor, Two Hoots, 978-1529052947, £12.99 pbk

The Bayeux Tapestry Martin Howard, ill. Javi de Castro, Nosy Crow, 978-1807080136, £9.99 pbk

Factology – Castles Factology, Button Books, 978-1787081901, £12.99 hbk

On Board Tom Adams, ill. Tom Jay, Wide Eyed Editions, 978-1836004691, £20.00 hbk

Beacons of Light: A Journey through the World of Lighthouses Gemma Koomen, Post Wave Publishing, 978-1836270799, £14.99 hbk

Mermaid of the Deep: The Aquatic Adventures of Dr Sylvia Earle Leisa Stewart Sharpe, ill. Khoa Le, Post Wave Publishing, 978-1836270553, £12.99 hbk

Young Adventurer's Survival Handbook Naomi and Dan Walmsley, ill. Joshua Rice, Button Books, 978-1787081864, £12.99 pbk

Your Name Here Sophy Henn, New Modern Arcade, 978-1918820027, £9.99 pbk

Horrible Christmas Terry Deary, ill. Martin Brown, Scholastic, 978-0702349256, £10.99 pbk

Books of the Year 2026

When the Birds Wake Up, Jessica Mary Ellis, David Fickling Books, 978-1788454100, £7.99 pbk

Then We'll be Happy, Alan Carrigan, Chicken House, 978-1917171212, £7.99pbk

We Wait for the Stars, Bridget Hamilton, Little Tiger, 978-1788958493, £9.99 pbk

My Name is Zayn, Fidan Meikle, Floris Books, 978-1835750117, £7.99 pbk

The Wild Ones, Steve Cole, Scholastic, 978-0702349157, £7.99 pbk

The Necklace of Seven Souls , Hooda Shawa, translated by Nour Jaljuli and Sawad Hussain, Yonder, 978-1632064073, £12.99 hbk

Korobá: The Case of the Missing Kolo Àlàbá Ònájìn, Scallywag Press, 978-1836300649, £8.99 pbk

The Polar Bear Day, Park Jihee, Floris Books, 978-1782509776, £12.99 hbk

Piper at the Gates of Dusk, Patrick Ness, Walker Books, 978-1529528992, £16.99 hbk

The Voyage that Changed the World, Thekla Priebst, Wide Eyed Editions, 978-0711293472, £16.99 hbk

Kiki and Me, LeoTImmers, Gecko Press, 979-8348041700, £16.99 hbk

Ode to Joy, Sophie Herxheimer with Sarah Gavron, Pushkin, 978-1805338123, £24.95 pbk

The Moon Shines Bright in the Sky at Night, Emma Carlisle, Big Picture Press, 978-1835873472, £12.99 hbk

Three Brides for the Devil Sally Nicholls and John Broadley, Andersen Press, 978-1839137853, £12.99 hbk

The Danger of Small Things, Caryl Lewis, Simon and Schuster, 978-1398549272, £7.99 pbk

Like a Brother, Nathanael Lessore, Hot Key Books, 978-1471418235, £8.99 pbk

The Age of Fury, John Stephens, Hot Key Books, 978-1471421907, £9.99 pbk