



WITH LEMONY SNICKET



Q. What book did you love as a child and why?

A. Dino Buzzati's *The Bears' Famous Invasion Of Sicily*, as it contains everything one wants from literature: great longing, noble integrity, a crippling loss, a tragic mistake, a haunted mansion, a riveting battle and a sea serpent. Anyone who wants more from a novel should be ashamed of themselves.

Q. Who are your current favourite children's authors/illustrators and why?

A. Adele Griffin, for her great heart. Judith Blundell, for her superb control. John Birmingham, for his slanted eye. Kelly Link, for obvious reasons .

Q. What tips would you give to encourage children to read?

A. When I went to bed each night my parents would read to me for a bit, stop at a suspenseful moment, leave a flashlight by my bed and tell me strictly not to read after they turned out the light. The next night they would ignore that the bookmark had moved fifty pages.

Q. What do you enjoy best about being an author?

A. Stopping at 3pm, when everyone else wants to stop working, and reading under the guise of "research". All my life I wanted nothing but to be as close to literature as possible.

Q. Tell us something about yourself that you think might surprise people.

A. I have enormous admiration for the work of Grace Jones.

FICTION BY
LEMONY SNICKET

The Series of Unfortunate Events stories were a publishing phenomenon second only to *Harry Potter* in terms of popularity when first published.

They tell the story of the three Baudelaire orphans pursued by the evil Count Olaf, who is hell-bent on stealing their inheritance. On the face of it these are grim and even macabre tales, but they are full of witty sarcasm and dark humour. Written in a quirky and unique style full of literary references, the books have found millions of fans across the world.

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