

Q&A

WITH JULIA GOLDING



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

A. In my early teens (and ever after), *The Lord of the Rings* - because of its vast scope but also very beautiful evocation of what is really an English countryside. I think I also identified the hobbits as child-heroes (despite the fact Frodo is over 50!).

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

A. I have so many favourites - in fantasy Garth Nix (for his wonderful *Abhorsen* trilogy), Tamora Pierce (great female characters), Rick Riordan (for his road movie plots with Greek gods) and Shannon Hale (sensitive retellings of fairy tales for teens); in comedy, Cressida Cowell (mad Vikings bursting off the page in both her text and drawings); historical, I loved Michelle Magorian's *Just Henry* (a twisty plot and vivid recreation of post-war England).

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

A. Read to them yourself. They'll catch the bug from you.

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

A. Making a profession of making things up! I like nothing better than sitting down and thinking 'so, what happens next?'

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

A. I was a British diplomat and then later a lobbyist for Oxfam. On a more personal note, I'm also interested in family history and was pleased to find among my forebears someone transported to Australia for defrauding the Bank of England, a Manx great-grandmother who believed in fairies and was one of the last to speak the Manx language as her native tongue; and a great-great-great grandfather who helped build the Eiffel Tower.



9781406287661

FICTION BY

JULIA GOLDING

Julia Golding has created two strong teenage girls, each with their own series of adventure-thrillers that are full of suspense and believable characters.

Cat Royal is an actress, revolutionary and spy: a true heroine of the eighteenth century. Her life is full of adventures set in the vivid hustle and bustle of London and much further afield, so as well as being a great read they make history come alive. Meanwhile, Darcie Lock's sheltered life is torn apart as she unintentionally becomes embroiled in a world of espionage and international intrigue in the *Ringmaster* series.

9+ / £5.99

www.juliagolding.co.uk

