



ONE CITY
ONE BOOK.
A THOUSAND
CONVERSATIONS...



WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE
**CIRCUS
OF THIEVES**
AND THE RAFFLE OF DOOM

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!
GET READY FOR
**SHANK'S
IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUS**

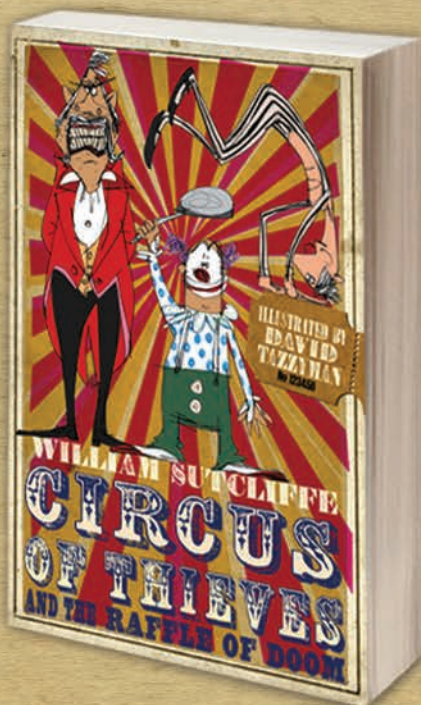
'A FUNNY AND FAST-PACED ADVENTURE WITH A BRILLIANT
CAST OF ECCENTRIC CHARACTERS AND A GREAT SETTING...'
THE GUARDIAN



WHAT IS YOUNG CITY READS?

IMAGINE SHARING A BOOK WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND, YOUR TEACHER, YOUR FAMILY OR YOUR BUS DRIVER. READING A BOOK TOGETHER IS A FUN EXPERIENCE. EVERYONE SHOULD TRY IT!

Author William Sutcliffe, Brighton Festival and Young City Reads invite you to join us in a citywide read of his book *Circus of Thieves and the Raffle of Doom* from 5 March to 20 May 2015.



WHO IS IT FOR?

Young City Reads is for everyone: whether you're an avid adventurer, budding bookworm or a simply terrific teacher . . . even Mums and Dads can join in. It doesn't matter who you are, Young City Reads is about opening up the world of words and ideas to everyone.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It couldn't be simpler. The idea is to get young readers (and grown-ups) everywhere reading *Circus of Thieves* between now and the end of May 2015. All you need to do to get involved is pick up a copy from your local library or bookshop and start reading! If you're a teacher you can sign up your whole class to receive class emails and free resources, then read the book together in school.

SPECIAL OFFER: THE BOOK NOOK IN HOVE IS OFFERING PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 20% OFF THE SELECTED TITLE AND FREE DELIVERY STRAIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL. TO ORDER PLEASE CONTACT THEM ON 01273 911988 / VANESSATHEBOOKNOOK@GMAIL.COM

THE GUIDE

This guide provides you with everything you need to know about Young City Reads. Taking you on a whistle-stop tour of *Circus of Thieves*, providing background information, reading hints, biographical facts and ideas for further reading.

Young City Reads is a Collected Works CIC project.

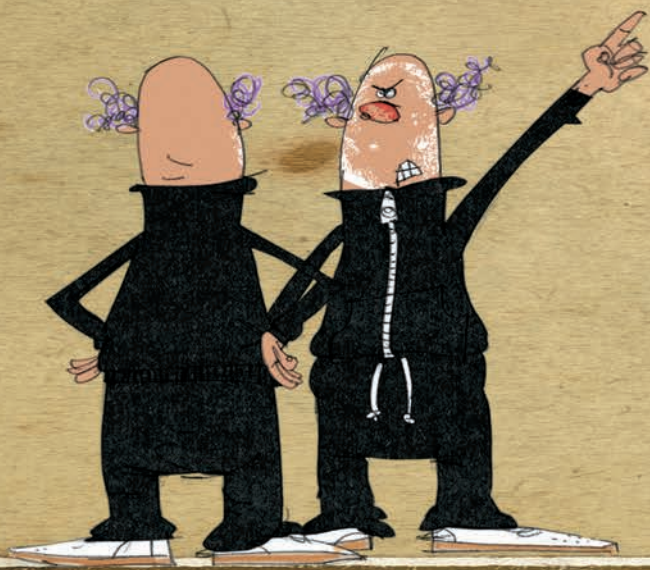
COLLECTED WORKS CIC

Collected Works is a Brighton & Hove based social enterprise, devoted to reader development through the shared act of reading fiction in the community. The organisation is led by Artistic Director Sarah Hutchings.

For more up-to-the-minute information visit www.cityreads.co.uk

ABOUT THE BOOK

HANNAH'S LIFE IS BORING BORING BORING! THEN SHE MEETS BILLY SHANK, HEIR TO A VERY BIZARRE CIRCUS. BUT ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS; THE EVIL RINGMASTER HAS A DASTARDLY PLAN INVOLVING LIGHT-FINGERED THIEVERY ... CAN HANNAH AND BILLY STOP HIS STINKING SCHEME?



SPOTLIGHT ON WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE

William Sutcliffe was born in London in 1971. He is the author of five novels for grown-ups: the international bestseller *Are You Experienced?*, *The Love Hexagon*; *New Boy*; *Bad Influence* and, most recently, *Whatever Makes You Happy*. Maybe your parents or your teacher have read one of these books. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages and he lives in Edinburgh (Scotland's capital city).

Circus of Thieves and the Raffle of Doom is William's first book for children, and mighty brilliant it is too!

'I'm thrilled to be chosen for Young City Reads, and not just because I like any excuse to visit Brighton. An initiative like this, that encourages children and adults to enjoy books together, and that gathers a community to enjoy the written word in a spirit of inter-generational fun, is exactly what every children's book writer dreams of participating in.'

**WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE, YOUNG CITY READS
AUTHOR 2015**

SPOTLIGHT ON DAVID TAZZYSMAN (ILLUSTRATOR)

Drum roll please... introducing the man behind the brilliantly funny drawings of all your favourite *Circus of Thieves* characters ... David Tazzyman! David lives in south London and likes drawing a lot. He began illustrating children's books in 2006 when he was asked to draw for the series of *Mr Gum* books which he went on to win lots of awards for! Since then he has worked with many authors and we think you'll agree that his teaming up with William on *Circus of Thieves* is the perfect match!

**'AN AMUSING ADVENTURE
BOOK ... IT IS A STORY
ABOUT MAKING FRIENDS,
EVEN IF YOU ARE A
DOG OR A CAMEL.'
THE GUARDIAN**

EVENTS

WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE LIVE IN CONVERSATION WITH LIVE DRAWING FROM DAVID TAZZYMEN


Weds 20 May, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Theatre Royal, Brighton
Tickets £3

THE CIRCUS IS COMING - YCR FAMILY FILM SCREENINGS SUNDAYS IN APRIL

(see library website)
11.15am
FREE drop in
www.citylibraries.info

FURTHER READING


MORE CIRCUS BOOKS TO ENJOY!


 = audiobook available from Brighton
& Hove Libraries

Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson

Wild Boy by Rob Lloyd-Jones

The Girl Who Walked on Air by Emma Carroll

Circus Maximumus by Damian Dibben 

Fizzlebert Stump (series) by A F Harrold 

Claude at the Circus by Alex T Smith

STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS WITH ARMITAGE SHANK

Selected schools celebrate World Book Day
Jubilee Library, Brighton
Weds 05 March

LIBRARY VISITS FOR YOUR CLASS

Participating schools can book a
FREE class visit with Brighton & Hove
City Libraries

To book please contact the Children and
Young People's team on 01273 296983 /
libraryclassvisits@brighton-hove.gov.uk

If I Ran the Circus by Dr Seuss

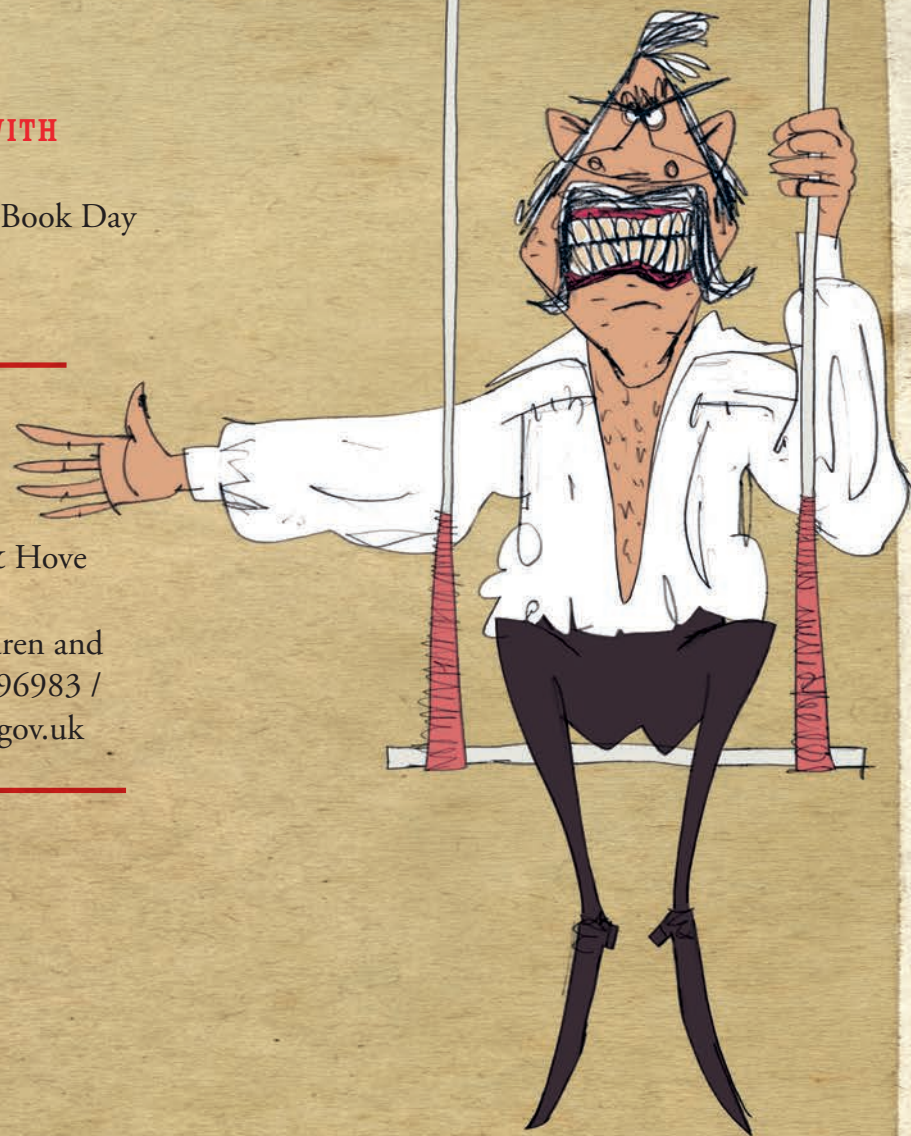
Zom-B Circus by Darren Shan

Circus of the Unseen by Joanne Owen *Circus Galacticus* by Deva Fagan

Magic and Mayhem by Marcus Sedgwick

Circus Skills by Cathy West

A Circus Adventure by Emily Bearn *Circuses* by Liz Gogerly 



CHAPTER SUMMARIES *

ONE

The circus is thundering into town but it seems as though only Fluffypants McBain, Magnificat and Fizzer the dog have noticed until Hannah darts out of her front door to see what all the fuss is about. Hannah and Fizzer race down the high street to catch up with the procession to find it being led by a boy called Billy and his camel Narcissus, who offer to give Hannah a lift.

TWO

After some struggle Hannah manages to climb up onto the camel. In conversation Billy makes a joke about being on the run that leaves Hannah suspicious but they soon begin laughing and joking again, until they're interrupted by the headlights of an enormous lorry. A booming voice from the vehicle suggests it's time for Hannah to skedaddle.

THREE

By the afternoon the circus has set up camp and its flamboyant troupe introduce themselves to the town in order to sell tickets for that evening's show. We meet Maurice, Irena, Hank, Frank, Jesse, Fingers O'Boyle and Billy's dad, the ringmaster Armitage Shank. An audience gathers and Hannah watches dumbstruck as Billy pick-pockets the crowd while they are distracted. However, everything is given back to them at the end of the 'trick' and they are so impressed that they rush to buy a ticket for tonight's circus performance – a ticket that comes with free entry into Shank's charity raffle, which Billy warns Hannah not to enter . . .

FOUR

Hannah tries to keep busy but the arrival of Billy and the excitement of the circus means she just can't settle so she decides to go and visit him, Fizzer in tow. As she sits and watches the circus erect the Big Top from afar, she dreams of having the life that Billy has, it seems so perfect. She finds him and

Narcissus and helps them with their jobs.

FIVE

Billy reveals to Hannah that Armitage is his real adopted dad, that his mum had a terrible circus accident, and his real dad, who was guilt-ridden, left the circus and instructed Billy to stay so he'd have a better life. They're interrupted however by Armitage who tells Billy he is forbidden to have any friends but Hannah stands up to him and they make a run for it. Once they'd found somewhere to hide Billy tells Hannah all the dastardly details of Armitage's devious plan (yes that certainly was a lovely bit of alliteration, thank you very much).

SIX

Having decided they must stop the circus' thievery, Hannah hatches a plan that involves taking her granny to the circus that evening. Armitage spends the afternoon scoping out the houses of the most wealthy circus goers for the troupe to rob while they're out for the evening!

SEVEN

Hannah and granny take their seats in the circus arena and the show begins.

EIGHT

As Maurice and Irena begin their performance, Jesse is busy robbing the home of an unsuspecting audience member. By the time he returns with the loot, Hank and Frank have taken to the stage and Irena and Maurice are off on the rob too, then it's Billy's turn to go on. He has his moment in the spot light then catches Hannah's eye and they exchange a knowing nod.

NINE

While Hank and Frank are engaged in a spot of burglary on the other side of town, Granny sleeps soundly in her seat, so Hannah slips away to meet

Billy and they head for Armitage's caravan.

TEN

After a nail-biting series of paragraphs Billy manages to pinch Armitage's keys through the caravan window using a wire coat hanger as a hook. All at once, Jesse is preparing to be shot out of a canon on stage and Armitage is busy robbing the town's post office.

ELEVEN

It's a race against the clock as Billy and Hannah climb into Armitage's lorry. They time starting the car with the boom of Jesse's canon to disguise the noise (just as Armitage is timing the blowing up of the post office safe) and they hurtle towards the big top, stopping right in front of the entrance.

TWELVE

Armitage, his bag stuffed with the loot, heads back for the big top but notices something is up... his beloved lorry has been moved. He quickly hides the bag in a nearby bush and makes it to the stage for his closing speech. As the audience file out of the auditorium Hannah pulls the lever on the side of the truck, which opens to reveal the treasured possessions of the audience members! But Armitage, the swine, is cunning and he tells the angry crowd that this is merely a magic trick and is all part of the show. The audience believe him, but Granny doesn't, and she gives him a good telling off. Billy has to pretend he didn't know who Hannah was, that perhaps she was working for the police.

THIRTEEN

It's not until the next day that people notice the post office had been burgled, and by this time Shank's Impossible Circus is long gone. Hannah begins to hatch a plan to find Billy, Fizzer finds the loot in the bush, but what will happen next?

Good job William has written a sequel! *Circus of Thieves on the Rampage* is out in paperback from 26 February 2015.

*SPOILER ALERT

THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

RIGHT AND WRONG

We know that not all of the circus troupe want to steal. Why do you think they still do it? What do you think could they have done differently?

ANIMALS AT THE CIRCUS?

Globally, thousands of wild animals are still forced to perform unnatural tricks as part of travelling circuses and experience cruelty at the hands of their trainers (although not in Shank's Impossible Circus thankfully!) How do you feel about animals being used in circuses? Why do you think it is considered cruel to keep animals in captivity for the purpose of entertainment?

STANDING UP TO BULLIES

Both Hannah and her granny have to stand up to Armitage Shank in the story. Can you think of a time when you had to stand up for yourself? How did it feel? Why do you think Billy was unable to stand up to Armitage at the end of the book?

THE CHALLENGE OF THE WORD 'IMPOSSIBLE'

Has anyone ever tried to tell you that you can't do something, but you've proved them wrong? How does that feel? What qualities do you think you need as a person to take on a challenge?

AN EXCITING LIFE

The circus life seems very glamorous and exciting to Hannah. At one point she wishes she had Billy's life. What sort of life would seem exciting and appealing to you if you could do anything you wanted?

**LOOK OUT FOR THE
NEXT AVAILABLE
ADVENTURE NOW!**



the book now



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