

PRESS KIT: *THE BOY, THE WOLF, AND THE STARS*

SHORT BIO

Shivaun Plozza is the award-winning author of *Frankie*, *Tin Heart*, *The Boy, the Wolf, and the Stars* and *A Reluctant Witch's Guide to Magic*. Her writing has been short-listed for the CBCA Book of the Year, YALSA's Top Ten Best Young Adult Books of the Year, and the Gold Inky. She won the Davitt Award for Best Young Adult Crime Novel in 2017.

STANDARD BIO

Shivaun Plozza is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. Her debut novel, *Frankie*, was a CBCA Notable Book and won a number of awards, including the Davitt Awards and a commendation from the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Her second novel, *Tin Heart*, sold in four foreign territories, received two starred reviews, and was nominated to ALA'S Best Fiction for Young Adults list. She has written two middle grade fantasy novels, *The Boy, the Wolf, and the Stars* and *A Reluctant Witch's Guide to Magic*, both sold in multiple territories. She is a frequent contributor to anthologies, and when she is not writing she works as an editor and manuscript assessor. She lives in Victoria, Australia, with her cat, Fenchurch.

50-WORD BIO

Shivaun Plozza is the award-winning author of *Frankie*, *Tin Heart*, *The Boy, the Wolf, and the Stars* and *A Reluctant Witch's Guide to Magic*. She won the Davitt Award for Best YA Crime Novel in 2017 and has been short-listed for numerous prizes, including the CBCA Book of the Year.

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

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Author: Shivaun Plozza

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Ages: 8–12

Page extent: 384pp

Genre: Fantasy, adventure, action, folktale

SHORT BLURB

Some say that long ago in the land of Ulv, the sky was filled with Stars. Twelve-year-old Bo knows the stories, but he believes the Stars and the wolf who ate them are just myths. And no myth can stop the ravenous Shadow Creatures from running rampant every night when it turns Dark.

But then one day Bo's guardian, Mads, is attacked by a giant wolf straight from the legends. With his dying breath, Mads tells Bo that a great evil has been awakened, giving the Shadow Creatures unprecedented power, and the only way to stop it from spreading is to return the Stars to the sky.

And so Bo, accompanied by his best friend, a fox called Nix, sets out on a quest to find the three magic keys that will release the Stars. But they're not the only ones after the Stars ...

STANDARD BLURB

A boy and his pet fox go on a quest to find a wolf who has eaten all the stars in the sky before the Shadow Witch destroys the stars and removes good magic from the world forever, perfect for fans of *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* and *Nevermoor*.

Long ago, the land of Ulv was filled with magic. But that was before a wolf ate all the Stars in the night sky, ridding the world of magic and allowing Shadow Creatures, beasts made of shadow and evil, to flourish. Twelve-year-old Bo knows the stories

but thinks the Stars and the wolf who ate them are nothing more than myths—until the day Bo’s guardian, Mads, is attacked by a giant wolf straight from the legends. With his dying breath, Mads tells Bo that Ulv is in danger and the only way to prevent the Shadow Creatures from taking over is to return the Stars to the sky.

And so Bo—accompanied by his best friend, a fox called Nix, a girl named Selene who’s magic is tied to the return of the Stars, and Tam, a bird-woman who has vowed to protect Bo at all costs—sets off on a quest to find the three magical keys that will release the Stars.

But Bo isn’t the only one who wants the Stars, and the friends soon find themselves fleeing angry villagers, greedy merchants, and a vengeful wolf. And all the while, an evil witch lurks in the shadows and time is running out.

PHOTO

Download a high resolution author photo [here](#).

Preview:

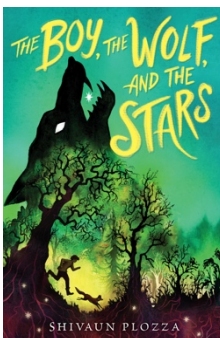


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BOOK COVER

Download a high resolution copy of the book cover [here](#).

Preview:



Book cover illustration by: Julia Iredale (Instagram: [@julia_iredale](#))

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

When I was young I was afraid of the dark. I was afraid of a lot of things—I still am—but nighttime chilled me to the bone. I slept with the light on but I was still terrified of the shadows—What was hiding there? What dangers couldn't I see?

I'm no longer afraid of the dark but I still feel afraid sometimes. I have an anxiety disorder that makes navigating the world tricky but I've learnt positive ways to challenge my fears. When I sat down to write this book I wanted to look back at my younger self and ask: Where did your fear come from? What do I know now about facing anxiety that I wish my younger self had known?

In writing this story, I came up with a world where night time was something truly to fear—complete darkness filled with evil creatures that are shadows come to life! I put a boy, Bo, in the middle of this world and challenged him to find a way to end the night-time curse.

To make things harder for Bo, I set off a magical plague, a deadly sickness swarming the land, destroying everything in its wake and chasing people from their homes (I honestly didn't mean to be so topical!).

Not everyone behaves well when their life is disrupted by this plague—it brings out the worst in a lot of the characters. They spread misinformation and refuse to engage critically with what they're being told. They lash out at each other and turn their backs on empathy, instead falling back on fear's best friend—hatred. That's why this is a book about the heartache of being let down by the people we're supposed to be able to trust the most.

But there are also characters who rise up to be their best self, like Bo, who discovers that the best defense against fear is love, and that the best way to face your fears is with good people by your side. That's why this is also a book about the families we build around us when we open our hearts to the unexpected.

And there's lots of fun too. *The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars* is filled with weird and wonderful creatures (like dragon-worms and Colossal Spit-Mouth Slugs and carnivorous forests), and weird and wonderful characters (like Un-Kings and Shadow Witches and sassy foxes).

So although this book is about fear and anxiety, something we've all experienced lately, it's mostly about overcoming fear and the unexpected ways we can find our own light in the darkness.

Most importantly, this is a book about the warming and enduring power of friendship.

The idea came to me twenty years ago. I've been writing it off and on since then, most seriously for the past ten years. Can you guess why it took me so long? Fear (of course!). I was afraid I didn't have the skills to write a fantasy novel. But Bo and his pet fox, Nix, burrowed into my mind and wouldn't leave—they kept demanding I write their story. So I wrote it, slowly, and with lots of revisions. I drew maps and character portraits and anything to help me flesh out the world I was creating. And my own animal companion, Fenchurch, was by my side (well, in my lap) helping me stay focused (this is a lie—she's a terrible distraction).

REVIEW QUOTES

Please note: quotes will be updated as reviews come in.

"Young readers with an insatiable hunger for adventure will love *The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars* ..."

–**Books + Publishing**

"*The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars* is a bittersweet tale filled with hope, longing and allegory, an irresistible combination that crescendos to a stunning conclusion."

–**Books + Publishing**