BookTrust
Getting children reading



Hello,

My name is JP Rose and I'm an author, which means I get to spend my days making up stories and journeying into worlds of my imagination. Stories have always been such an important part of my life from when I was young, and I hope that they might become an important part of yours too. That's why I'm so pleased to be able to say hello and write this letter to you.

I know that Christmas and the holidays can feel like such a big time of year, with everywhere you look so sparkling, and shining so brightly that sometimes, in the middle of it all, you might find yourself feeling very small, and maybe a little bit lost or even a little scared. Perhaps this year, you're in a place which is still new and unfamiliar, or living somewhere where Christmas looks a little quieter than it maybe does in shops and other people's houses. But whatever this time of year holds for you, please know that you matter very much.

I grew up not always feeling like I belonged, and I grew up without my birth family, and so from a very young age I learnt that books and stories could be a place where I could go whenever the world around me felt too huge or too lonely. You see, stories felt like magic to me. In the pages of books, I could travel the world and go anywhere I wanted to go.



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I became an explorer, a pirate, an eagle that soared through the snowiest of skies. I was carried across wild and windswept moors by horses with hooves that sounded like thunder, I listened to the chatter of undersea creatures, and I befriended brave and fantastical characters who showed me their worlds.

Stories were my golden ticket to the moon, to the stars, and to all the mystical lands waiting in between.

So I hope, when you unwrap your special parcel and hold your book in your hands, that you know I will be thinking of you, and that when you open the pages you feel sprinkled with the warmest of magic. A safe place where, like me all those years ago, you can step inside worlds whenever you need to and return to them again and again. A world that feels like it was waiting just for you, with characters who walk beside you long after the holidays are over.

But for now my friend, it's time for me to say goodbye and let you turn the very first page of your new book, and may it be the start of many, many happy reading adventures ahead.

JP Rose



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