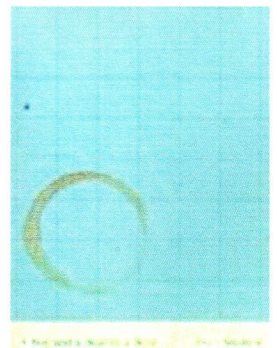
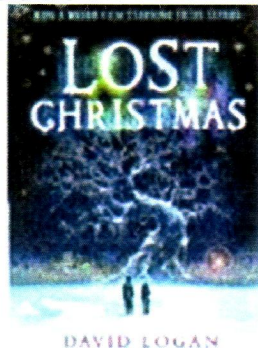


# Slightly Foxed

ON GLOUCESTER ROAD

## In the midst of chilly mid-winter . . .

. . . why not settle down with the perfect read? New children's books are being published all the time, and here are four that we think are destined to become classics.



### **Julia Jones, *A Ravelled Flag***

This is the second book in the *Strong Winds* trilogy. Danny, his mother and his great-aunt are at the mercy of the social services again, but now they are also threatened by pirates. Worse than the charming *Swallows and Amazons* variety, they are terrifying present-day criminals who think nothing of murdering those who get in their way. The story stands alone, but we think it's even better if you read *The Salt-Stained Book* first.

### **David Logan, *Lost Christmas***

Twelve-year-old Goose lost his parents exactly a year ago, on Christmas Eve. Now his Nan is losing her mind and an old lady seems to have misplaced a bangle – all around people and things are getting lost. In the midst of this appears Anthony, an enigmatic stranger who remembers little about himself but seems to know more about others than they do about themselves. When Goose loses his dog Mutt, he enlists Anthony's help and, in the course of a single day, the past is rewritten. Like the proverbial dog, this delightful book should not just be for Christmas.

### **Sam Gayton, *The Snow Merchant***

Lettie Peppercorn lives in a house on stilts in the windswept town of Barter. One night a merchant arrives, bringing with him tiny melting diamonds that float from the sky. More importantly for Lettie, he brings news of her mother, who disappeared a year ago, leaving only the strange instruction that Lettie must not walk on the ground as it would kill her. Lettie and her unusual friend Noah set out to find her mother, pursued by a comical cast of baddies who are intent on discovering the secret of snow for their own ends.

### **Dave Shelton, *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat***

This is the story of a boy and a bear and the adventures they have in a small boat called *Harriet*. The bear has a map (blemished by a coffee stain), a suitcase full of unusual sandwiches (broccoli, sherbet and gooseberry seems the most palatable, The Very Last Sandwich the least) and a ukulele. Tea-time is strictly observed, with a small gas stove and fine china. Their adventures are accompanied by wonderful illustrations – the most charming of which is possibly the boy, sitting astride the bear, paddling towards the horizon with the ukulele.

For more of our personal recommendations please visit [www.foxedbooks.com](http://www.foxedbooks.com)