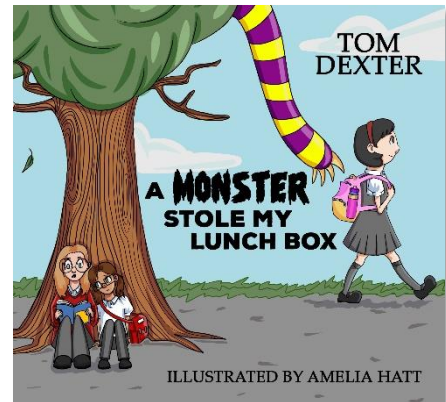




A MONSTER STOLE MY LUNCH BOX

Candy Jar is pleased to announce a spooktacular picture book by Tom Dexter, *A Monster Stole My Lunch Box*.

The book is a collaboration between *The Analysis Bureau*, *Lethbridge-Stewart* and *Lucy Wilson* author, Tom Dexter, and seventeen-year-old artist Amelia Hatt.



Amelia has a very special family history. Her great-grandfather was the popular *Doctor Who* writer, Mervyn Haisman, the man behind the Yeti and iconic Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart.

Hannah Hatt, custodian of the Haisman Estate and mother of Amelia, said: "Many of you know that my grandfather Mervyn Haisman was a bit of a writer, but like his father and grandfather, he was also an artist. The artistic genes may have skipped a few generations, but I am so unbelievably proud that Amelia has officially been passed the baton."

Shaun Russell, head of Publishing at Candy Jar, feels that Amelia really has what it takes. "I was chatting with Hannah about other Candy Jar projects and when she mentioned that her daughter Amelia was an artist I suggested for her to send us some examples. I was really blown away by the creativity and thought that Amelia put into each picture, especially given her inexperience. I contacted Tom straight away and, with his blessing, I asked Amelia to get cracking on the book. I did not regret it."

Tom Dexter says: "Amelia's style really has complemented my story perfectly. She has a marvellous future ahead of her, and it's been a thrill to work alongside her to make the idea become a reality."

A Monster Stole My Lunch Box is one of Tom's long-term passion projects. He continues: "The story comes from a childhood spent watching *The Addams Family* and *The Munsters*, and reading comics like *Shiver & Shake* and *Monster Fun*. It's an affectionate nod, and an attempt to give a hint of the unique kind of humour they represented. Not every child wants fairies and elves. Some of them love the fact there's a monster lurking under the bed in the shadows, and this is for them!"

The book tells the story of a girl who has her lunch box stolen by a sneaky monster, only to discover that her lunch box has been taken to a strange building opposite her school. When she enters this building she realises that it's another school, where the pupils and teachers are not what they seem.



Like all aspiring artists, Amelia has worked incredibly hard to develop her creative skills. Despite this, she completely understands that the industry is competitive, and was really pleased to be given the chance to illustrate her first picture book. She says: "It was a total shock. I understand that the art industry is somewhat unforgiving at times. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity. It's my dream to become an illustrator as I would like to encourage children of all ages to pursue their dreams too."

Hannah has the final word: "I would like to thank Tom Dexter and Candy Jar from the bottom of my heart in believing in Amelia's talent and helping her to achieve her goal in life."