



Teddy – Bishopstone Station’s Bear by Sandra Gordon

‘Based on the true story of a missing bear and his boy’

Details

Format: Paperback and e-book

Extent: c. 78pp

Format: 198x128mm

Publisher: Author’s Pen

Paperback ISBN:

978-1-8383436-4-4

E-book ISBN:

978-1-8383436-5-1

Price:

Paperback: £6.99

E-book: £6.99

Genres: Juvenile fiction: friendship, Chapter books, Railroads and trains

Illustrations: full colour front and rear covers and chapter illustrations from Simon Cottrell.

Advance Copies:

Please contact Author’s Pen

Publication Dates:

Paperback: 12th September 2022

Available for pre-order from retailers: 7th September 2022

E-book: 12th September 2022

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A special teddy dreams of being reunited with his owner. Buried beneath layers of dust, cobwebs, clutter and lost property at the parcel office of disused Bishopstone Station, Teddy’s hopes blossom as the old metal door finally rattles open.

One snowy Christmas Eve, more than forty years earlier, Ian and Robert are sending their final notes up the chimney for Father Christmas. Ian is two years older than his brother, Robert, and wishes for a bear to frighten away his bad dreams.

Ian’s bear is not just an ordinary teddy – protecting Ian at night is just one of his superpowers.

That summer, Ian is determined to bring Teddy to the Houses of Parliament staff party, but what happens when the pair get lost on the way back from the kitchens with a napkin full of delicious vol-au-vents?

Is anyone else aware of Teddy’s superpowers?

Will Ian and his bear ever be reunited?

You’ll have to read Ian and Teddy’s adventures, *Teddy – the bear of Bishopstone Station* to find out!

About the Author

Having taken a course in creative writing at The College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, I’ve enjoyed writing numerous short stories, and I’m also a member of the Horsham Writers Circle.

So why did I write this particular story? I have a friend who lives in Bishopstone near Seaford on the south coast. She has been involved for a number of years in the renovation of the railway station. It’s a real labour of love but it’s a wonderful Grade II listed building in the art deco style. She was the founding member of FOBs – Friends of Bishopstone Station and last year they were finally able to gain access to the old parcel office which had been locked and abandoned for many years, with a view to restoring this room into a community hub.

When they pulled up the wooden shutters it revealed ‘a hoard of vintage junk’ including 1970s car parts, a fishing rod, rowing oars, British Rail advertising posters, wooden water skies, a 1980s skateboard and last but not least, a slightly scruffy looking teddy bear.

It was the photo of the bear that inspired me to write *Teddy* and the adventures he had with Ian, the little boy who owned him, all those years ago, and ultimately to have the book published to raise much-needed funds for the continued restoration of the station.

All monies raised from the sale of the book are to be shared between FOBs and Cancer research.

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