



# A Library of Lemons

Books Reviewed:

[A Library of Lemons](#) [1]

Issue:

[219](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Sue McGonigle](#) [3]

~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

Calypso is a bookworm. This is hardly surprising. Her father, never very sociable, has become increasingly reclusive since the death of his wife. He is completely absorbed in writing a magnum opus: *The History of Lemons*. In any case he believes in *Inner Strength*. Though Calypso finds solace in the adventures and friends she makes within the covers of the books she reads, she has never realised how lonely she is - nor how strange her life - until Mae arrives at school.

Jo Cotterill here takes a topic made familiar in the novels of Jacqueline Wilson - that of the young carer. In *Calypso* and *Mae* the author has created two very likeable and distinct characters. Her adults are believable creating a solid backdrop to the friendship of the two girls without requiring too much depth - though how *Calypso* and her father have survived is hazy. The author's style attractive and contemporary without jarring. We enter *Calypso's* world with ease. This is a warm-hearted story with a suitably happy resolution that would appeal to young readers who have discovered those favourites from the past - *What Katy Did*, *Heidi*, *Anne of Green Gable* - all of which are cited. Indeed, if they have not been discovered, I would hope the young reader might be encouraged to seek them out. Recommended for all those KS2 readers who do not want magic but do want a slice of life.

---

Source URL (retrieved on Aug '19): <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/219/childrens-books/reviews/a-library-of-lemons>

**Links:**

[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/a-library-of-lemons>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/219>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/sue-mcgonigle>