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News to Choice:

off

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Book

BfK Rating:

0

Five contributions to the 'Firefly' series providing books for readers of seven and upwards. Eye-catching covers and paperback format, which sadly could be stronger at the spine (mine fell apart while reviewing!). These are however 'real books' for newly independent readers looking for material that will grab their imaginations and stretch their reading skills. Authors producing exciting material such as this can only enrich our library shelves at an end of the market that has only of late received attention; they will be warmly welcomed.

Billy, **Alexander** and **Flight of Angels** are all school stories. **Billy** zips along at a terrific pace; it's a rip-roaring yarn full of awful disasters and appalling messes, mostly at the teacher's expense. Brimming with vitality, it appeals to the naughtiness in all of us. **Alexander** is wonderful for the run-up to Christmas and reminiscent of every teacher's early morning nightmare that comes with shuddering regularity the night before the big performance. **A Flight of Angels** is more difficult but fascinating and compulsive reading. If only every topic would take off like this one.

The Orange Pony is a traditional horsey story and will be loved by the girls. Its approach is a bit dated but it provides good reading nevertheless. Giving diversity of style to the collection, it tells a good 'what happens after that?' story at the same time.

This leaves **The Talking Car**. My qualms at Rob's cheekiness to his father in the opening chapters were totally overwhelmed later by the rib-clutching hilarity of the car's personality and feelings and the difficulties it encounters with us humans. I dropped everything to rush off and wash and wax mine at once, just in case! This was my personal favourite even if I did regret the irregular spelling in the car's conversation.

These were exciting and varied offerings which could be read either in isolation or as part of a structured scheme.

Running Order:

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