



# Operation: Dump the Chump | Other People's Ponies | The Bell Reef

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Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Another clutch of 'real books' in the Firefly series. Establishing their belonging with lovely splotchy covers, they add diversity to what is proving to be a very exciting collection indeed.

**Operation: Dump the Chump** is a classic! The opening line states it all. We feel so sorry for Oscar having to tolerate the exuberant humanity of his younger brother Robert. Not sorry enough though to condone his sophisticated, dishonest plan to burden two charming, elderly neighbours with Robert all summer long. I was really excited when things began to go awry and it looked as though his comeuppance was going to last. Hooray for author intervention and Oscar's demise!

**Other People's Ponies**, a charming variation on the horsey story, provides an interesting sequel to *The Orange Pony* (reviewed in **BfK** in March 90). Jess is horse mad and has the field, but no pony. Fascinating coincidences find her baby-sitting ponies for the summer. Polished, sensitive writing about feelings and friendships which develops into an unexpected and bittersweet ending.

**The Bell Reef**, set in Cartagena on the Colombian coast, is humid and tropical. Daniel and Vicky's adventure is so full of action that the weeklong time-scale surprised me. Gloriously graphic descriptions of the reef. Exciting, dangerous and foolish in the extreme, each nail-bitingly tense development left me gasping to know how the two resolved their dilemma.

Ideal material for fledgling readers, providing an eloquent springboard for discussion, personal writing and drama.

Running Order:

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