



**The Letterpress Project**

**Author and Illustrator E-Interviews**

# **An Interview with Chloe Savage**

**Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?**

My parents are both great book lovers, there were always books all over the house. My very earliest memories of books are of being read to with my big sister. My lovely Mum would read AA Milne's *When we were very young*, so beautifully and so often, that I can still (mostly) recite my favourites by heart.

**Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?**

I have been lucky in my career to have many varied experiences. The common thread is storytelling. Being an author/illustrator fulfills my love of physically painting and making things. This is so closely entwined with my love of storytelling, it really is a magical way to be an adult.

**Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?**

For me, there are many different versions of a successful book or illustration. At its most simplified, every book or illustration that I love, speaks strongly to the human condition. I particularly enjoy some self-deprecating humour. It is so powerful to recognise something of yourself, of your experiences, in words or pictures of any context. It makes me feel that I know the world a little better.

**Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?**

When I am making my work I am thinking of all the young people in my family, not so much what they would like, but rather what I would like them to know about the world and life. I like to incorporate layers of details into my books, so that they can enjoyed read aloud, but also read independently to search through all the details.

**Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?**

I think that the allure of a beautifully bound physical book will always capture people's imaginations. I do not think that physical picture books will ever be replaced digitally. Firstly because no one would put an iPad in my little nephew's hands, who doesn't want it used as percussion or a giant phone. A physical book can be gnawed on, played with and loved by him in a way that an iPad cannot. Also when sharing a book at bedtime, there is great value in not having screen time.

**Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?**

We live in a small flat, so I try very hard not to be a book collector, but it isn't going very well.

I would absolutely love to own *I Send You This Cadmium Red: A Correspondence between John Berger and John Christie*.

I was lucky enough to get to flick through it at Cambridge University Library. I live in hope that I will find it in a charity shop discarded by someone who doesn't know what it is. Dare to dream.