



Is There Room For Me?¹

by Lauren Graham

My name is Lauren and I can't read, write or chat
But that doesn't mean I don't appreciate art²
And just like my great hero, that boy Charlie Cook³
You can always find me with a favourite book

If I were a superhero, who could I be
There can be only one super power for me
Wonder⁴ woman's too dull, I'll be Picture Book Girl
An amazing⁵ idea; let's give it a twirl

I shall be an artist⁶ with a magic paintbrush⁷
I'll crayon the Black Forest all flowery and lush
I'll chase mean queens, witches and wolves out of the woods
Then picnic with Rapunzel⁸ and Red Riding Hood⁹

I shall eat the most scumdidlyumptious¹⁰ of food
I'll scoff mango with Handa¹¹ and hunny with Pooh¹²
I'll invite caterpillars¹³ and tigers to tea¹⁴
Although Gruffalo crumble¹⁵ might not be for me
I'll save Hansel and Gretel¹⁶ and eat up their crumbs
And still have room for a giant peach¹⁷ pear and plums¹⁸

In real life it's such a shame that I can't travel far
So I love picture books in Scots vernacular
Tales of hoolets¹⁹ and mowdies²⁰ and a muckle mad moose²¹
Teegers²², dugs and clockleddies²³; tods¹⁹, doos²⁰ and stinky coos²⁰
I'll ha'e shortbreid²² for ma tea in a ricklie log hoose¹⁹
Wi', crivvens, jings, help ma boab, oor Wullie and the Broons²⁵

I'll have swashboggling adventures with Esio Trot²⁶
Discover the magic wood with Mrs Pepperpot²⁷
Zoom to the antipodes, which might be quite scary
But how cool to have ice cream at Donaldson's Dairy²⁸
I'll visit Grandma's House.²⁹ She keeps stars in her jars³⁰
And in her back garden there's a fox called Gaspard³¹

I'll be feisty and fearless. I'll take any dare
I'll help the wee mouse get that bear off his chair³²
Mr Creep the Crook³³ and chums had better beware
Then I'll scare that Grotlyn³⁴ right up into the air

I'll travel back in time to the long, long ago
To find those Cornish fields where the poppies now grow³⁵
And whisper in the ears of the Heligan boys³⁶
That their wonderful gardens still bring so much joy

On the night before Christmas³⁷ when everything's still
I'll fly off with the snowman³⁸ up to the North Pole
I can help Father Christmas³⁹ deliver the toys
Then whoosh to the moon to catch a star for the boy⁴⁰

With my super powers, I can do really good deeds
Mum says could I give Mrs Large 10 minutes peace⁴¹
I'll heal the poisonous wart on the Gruffalo's nose¹⁵
Then catch the queen's hat⁴² and babysit Annie Rose⁴³

I'll fly to great places. Today will be my day
The whole world is waiting so don't get in my way!⁴⁴
I'll search for adventures and go where wild things are⁴⁵
And on my way back home⁴⁶, see planet earth from afar⁴⁷

I'll take my sister with me. She knows just how I feel
Her power is to make dragons and birds become real⁴⁸
Fantastic creatures are cut from paper in her world
She's the fabulous, incredible Paper-Cut Girl⁴⁹

As my time as Picture Book Girl draws to a close
It seems no one with vision received my memos
So publishers and book shops and trade fairs and writers
Librarians, book festivals, and illustrators
If I ask quite politely¹ and don't make too much fuss
Could we have lots more books like Mr Blake's Five of Us⁵⁰

In all picture books, the story comes to an end
It may be a fantasy, but let's just pretend
With one swish of my cape and a loud whoop of glee
I'll make room in a book, for a girl just like me¹