

Radio Interviews ~ What the People Had To Say ?

Good Morning Devon with Michael Chequer from 7-9am on Saturday mornings on Saturday 4th February 2012. Interview recorded with Lincoln Shaw at Totnes Market on the Friday before.

Lincoln : Well, here we are at your market stall. Here's the mouse ... and the jam ... and the book ... and we are surrounded by people.

Lucy : Its busy. Its chilly, but brilliant sunshine, and its just a fabulous day here in Totnes Market.

Lincoln : So what's this all about ?

Lucy : Well I'm a childrens writer ... and I wanted to write a book that I could self-publish ... and I wanted to come up with a new character ... because I've written a lot of other stories ... but I couldn't decide which new character to come up with. And one day, I was sitting in a friend's garden and I got hit on the head by a falling damson ! I thought that's a very odd thing to happen ! But because my hair was piled up on top of my head, the damson got lost in it, and I didn't realise for many hours that it was still there, until later that day the damson fell into my sock drawer as I was putting the laundry away ! At first I thought it had fallen out of my bedroom ceiling. It was the strangest thing to happen, but at least gave me the inspiration for my next story line.

Lincoln : But, what about this mouse ?

Lucy : It was the falling damson that first inspired me, and I thought ... you know, that's the story for my next book. I'm going to write about a jam making adventure. From there, I created a mouse character called Marmalade, and so The Story of Marmalade the Mouse and His Jammy Adventure came to life ! And that's how it all came about.

Lincoln : Marmalade certainly looks very sweet !

Lucy : He's very cute. He's completely organic with a little pink fluffy velvet nose, and a cashmere scarf ... he's quite elegant in many ways, but very eco, and rustic.

Lincoln : Is that jam you've got here, or Marmalade ?

Lucy : Its jam. Marmalade the Mouse makes jam. In the story, he decides he doesn't want to be normal. He wants to be special. He doesn't want to lounge about sunbathing anymore on the banks of the River Dart. He's fed up with picking the same old berries and hazelnuts. Instead, Marmalade the Mouse decides to go fruit scrumping, gathering mainly plums and damson from Dittisham, to Ashprington to Cornworthy and beyond. He picks blackberries from the hedge rows. He takes red crab apples from people's gardens. He's quite naughty. He gathers every piece of fruit he can get his little hands on, and then turns it into jam.

Lincoln : The Mouse was following in your footsteps ...

Lucy : Yes. In the story, Marmalade the Mouse makes 2000 jars of jam. And in real life, in order to understand how awful that would be, I made 1000 jars of jam in my kitchen in Cornworthy. It helped me understand how difficult it would be for a mouse to undertake this task. I am never going to do it again !

Lincoln : Now some of this is going to Charity, isn't it ?

Yes : We've had a book signing, and now we're selling the jam ... part proceeds of which will to be given to a South Hams children's charity. Also I've given over 70 books to organisations in the South Hams, including more than 30

primary schools. The book is being gifted to 7 South Hams Libraries, and also to the mobile library vans which run from Berry Pomeroy in the East, to Wembury in the West, and to East Prawle in the South, and everywhere else in between. So a great many people will be able to access the story for free.

Lincoln : And you are living in the most remote area. I had a heck of a job trying to track you down.

Lucy : Yes, I know ... it's taken two weeks for you to find me, and I'm very sorry about that ! In Cornworthy, where the mouse and I live, it's very remote and very muddy. One of the chapters in the book talks about the mouse walking up Cow Pat Lane, where he has to look at his feet the whole time to avoid stepping in cow pats. It's really very muddy where we are ... very cow patty and remote, but beautiful.

Lincoln : Any more books coming out ?

Lucy : The Story of Marmalade the Mouse and His Jammy Adventure is the first in the series, and at the end of this story, I think I can say, that Marmalade the Mouse thanks everyone for his jam making adventure, and then waves goodbye to the South Hams before getting on a train that's heading for London. My plans are for the next book to come out in July to coincide with the Olympics. It is possible that Marmalade the Mouse will set up his own cheesy mouse Olympics in the City of London, but that's just a possibility at the moment ...

End of Interview.