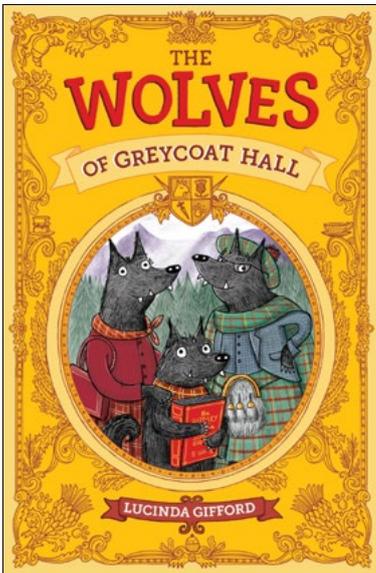


AUTHOR Q&A



Lucinda Gifford



FOR READERS AGED 6+
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A deliciously funny tale, with equally amusing illustrations, about being judged for what, rather than who, you are.

When Boris and his parents learn that Scotland is re-introducing wolves, they leave their mansion in Morovia for their Scottish homeland. But these wolves aren't planning to settle in the wild, oh no! Instead, they book into the exclusive Highland Hotel, from where they plan to enjoy Scotland's best tourist spots and cuisine. But is Scotland ready for holidaying wolves? Especially such hungry ones? And why are certain people so unhappy to see them? From spooky dungeons to scheming developers, the Greycoats' new adventure is full of surprising discoveries.

"The descriptive writing gives a sense of character and place and although some of the vocabulary is challenging, the support of the illustrations makes it suitable for children developing their reading skills. Full of historic castles and mystery, this book is perfect for a 7+ readership"

- Books and Publishing

"*The Wolves of Greycoat Hall* is a delightful novel that works exquisitely as a stand-alone novel and brings wolves and Scotland to life in an imaginative and beautiful way"

-The Book Muse

"*The Wolves of Greycoat Hall* swings with a breezy, impish humour that will have readers aged 7-10 turning the pages with a smile."

- Readings

Q&A with Lucinda Gifford

What can readers expect from *The Wolves of Greycoat Hall*?

They can expect a fun, wolfie journey round Scotland, with mystery, history and loads of delicious food! The story follows the Greycoat family of Morovia, who are wolves, as they travel in style and meet the locals – friendly and not-so-friendly. Boris is the hero of the book. He's a thoughtful, friendly young wolf, who cares about animals, the environment and being fair.

Why did you choose to feature a family of wolves? Is there anything that particularly drew you to them as an animal?

I've always been intrigued by the wolf – as fearsome creature of the deep dark forest, as the villain who falls into a pot of boiling water, or as a charismatic protagonist. My wolves are the warm, funny type, more like clever dogs who can talk and walk on their hind legs. But, as they are still wolves, they have big appetites and it is very important that they are well fed before venturing out in public.

A lot of people make judgements about Boris and his family based on how they look, before they get to know them. What message would you like young readers to take away from the Greycoat family's experience?

I would like young readers to think about what happens when we judge by appearance, and to understand it's important to make others welcome when they are coming from a place beyond where you live. That's one type of generosity. The Greycoat family are wealthy wolves. They've done well for themselves but they're still learning how to exist in the human world. Their manners are quite old-fashioned and they make some gaffes – but they are caring, polite and generous. So I'd like readers to notice that the wolves are open to learning; they're happy to share their good fortune, to improve the environment for others.

The Greycoats see all the sights of Scotland. How did you go about researching Scotland for the story? Do you have any Scottish adventures of your own to share?

Well, I was brought up in North East Scotland and we still go back there every few years to visit. My home town is very like the area the wolves visit. In my childhood, we visited castles and ruins regularly, and we would go on family holidays where my parents would buy pottery, and look at birds on windy beaches and make us walk up mountains and go to see whiskey being made (several times). They might reward us for putting up with all this by buying fudge or ice-cream or setting out a picnic – and I remember those foodie episodes very favourably. So really the experiences of the wolves are directly my experiences. And although Scotland has modernised since then, the tourist experience really hasn't changed that much!

This is the first book you've written and illustrated! What was your experience like creating *The Wolves of Greycoat Hall* compared to other books you've worked on?

As this is first novel I've written and illustrated, I did go about it a different way to when I'm illustrating someone else text, where I get stuck into the layout and illustration early on. For 'Wolves', I sketched the main characters first to establish them in my head. Next, I worked on the plot and outline – doing lots of schematic sketches and plot graphs before fleshing out the novel chapter by chapter (I am definitely a 'plotter'). The text needed to be as complete as possible before embarking on illustrations, as otherwise I might just go back and forth tweaking things forever. Once the text was approved, I then tackled the illustration as a separate task. Illustrating can be physically tiring, so it helps me to break down the work so I don't get overwhelmed - doing little vignettes first and working up to the big scenes once I've 'got to know' how the characters look. It took many months to illustrate Wolves, but I found the whole experience very enjoyable. I was especially lucky to work with Sarah Davis at Walker Books, whose witty art direction, and clever cover ideas, brought everything together beautifully.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucinda Gifford is the author and illustrator of many well-loved books for kids. Her picture book “*Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas*” has been chosen for National Simultaneous Storytime 2020, while other recent work includes a new junior fiction series with Emily Rodda, *Monty’s Island*, and *Saved!!!* a picture book collaboration with Lydia Williams, goalkeeper for the Matildas. Her books include the *Chook Doolan* series by James Roy and *The Adventures of Princess Peony* series by Nette Hilton (Shortlisted in the 2019 Speech Pathology Awards) and *The Cat Wants Custard* series written by P Crumble (Notable, CBCA awards 2017 and 2018). Her picture book *Dogasaurus* was also a Notable in the 2019 CBCA awards. Lucinda lives in Melbourne with her family and a very greedy dog.