



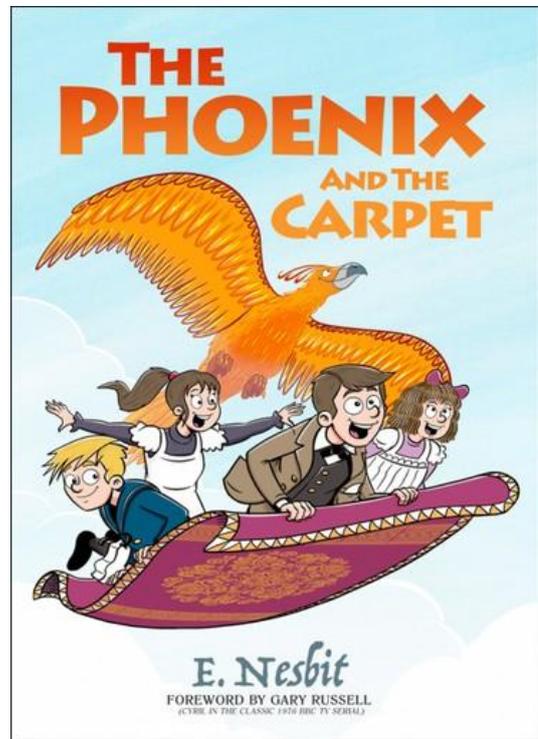
E. Nesbit: Out of the Ashes

"I identify with E. Nesbit more than any other writer."

J.K. Rowling

First published in 1885, E. Nesbit is one of the highest-selling children's authors of all time. And with such timeless classics to her name as *The Railway Children*, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*, and *Five Children and It*, she is sure to enthrall readers young and old for decades to come.

Like any author lucky enough to stand the test of time, her writing has entered the public domain; now it is available in a variety of editions. But according to Shaun Russell, head of publishing for award-winning independent publisher Candy Jar Books, some of these versions are not aimed squarely at the target audience – children!



He says: "Anything that gets kids reading is a good thing. But as we know from experience, when it comes to children's books, quality writing is only part of the package. In a lot of ways, young readers are more demanding than grown-ups! The idea that, in today's tech-saturated world, kids have no interest in reading is completely untrue. But what certainly is true is that they have a lot of things competing for their attention – so you have to stand out from the crowd."



As such, Candy Jar's new edition of the second instalment in E. Nesbit's *Psammead Trilogy*, *The Phoenix and the Carpet* features brand new illustrations by renowned *Beano* artist Steve Beckett, lending a bright contemporary feel to Nesbit's classic text. And there's something for older readers, too, with an exclusive foreword written by one of the stars of the BBC's beloved 1976 adaptation of the *Psammead* trilogy, Gary Russell. As Gary Russell writes:

"Edith Nesbit was an amazing author and although most often remembered for *the Railway Children*, I think the trilogy of

It/Phoenix/Amulet, featuring Cyril, Anthea, Robert and Jane... are her best works and deserve to be brought back out into the spotlight."

But why *The Phoenix and the Carpet*, a title that might be less familiar to casual readers than the first instalment in the trilogy? Simply put, a conviction that this status is undeserved.

Shaun Russell elaborates:

"*The Phoenix and the Carpet* is one of my favourite books. It just goes to show what a great writer E. Nesbit was; her lesser-known works have just as much, if not more to offer than the classics. The whole idea behind this book was to honour her legacy, to present her writing with the love and care that it deserves. We thought starting with the Phoenix and the Carpet, a book that really deserves to be better known, was in-keeping with this ethos."

"Readers know and love Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and Lamb from their adventures in *Five Children and It*; now they can discover how their adventures continue. Hopefully it inspires readers to delve deeper into Nesbit's back catalogue – and who knows we might have some more shiny new editions waiting for them when they do!"

The Phoenix and the Carpet is released by Candy Jar Books. For more information, or to arrange an interview with the editor or illustrator,

please contact shaun@candyjarbooks.co.uk. To order a copy, visit:
<http://www.candy-jar.co.uk/books/thephoenixandthecarpet.html>

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