



***The Fidgety Itch* - Lucy Davey**

Published by Scholastic, RRP \$19.50.

Warning: reading this book will cause irresistible itching and laughter.

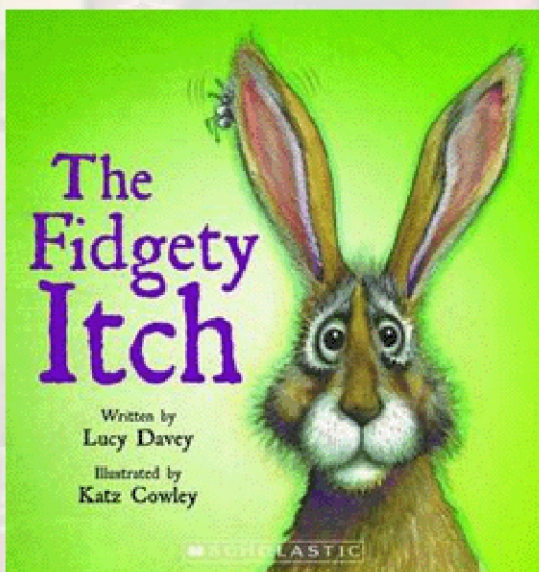
Timpkin the Mouse is gleefully gobbling a piece of cheese when something bothers him. It's a fidgety feeling that grows to an itch. It becomes unbearable and he calls out for someone to give him a scratch. Feather McDoo hears the cry for help and flies down to scratch Timpkin's scritch. But she soon feels 'a terrible twitch that jiggles and tickles like porcupine prickles.'

Then she calls for someone to give her a scratch.

This leads to a succession of helpful friends scratching each other's itch. But Fuzzy O'Hare is the last in line when he develops a 'horribly, hiffle-ish, howlish, patch.' Who will help him? Creative thinking is required.

The illustrations by Katz Cowley are charming. Soft watercolours enhance the natural setting. The wide-eyed creatures are vulnerable in their need of each other. The possible cause of the itching peeps out from several pages. Children are given the opportunity to discover the culprit without being told. Faultless rhyme and tongue-twister word play will make this a family favourite.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Author's Website:
www.lucydavey.com

Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.