

# BOOKRAPT™

THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INC  
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## ***Fish Tales Far-Fetched and Foul - Sherryl Jordan***

**Publisher: Scholastic NZ**

**RRP \$14.99**

Yet another great tale (or set of four short tales) from this award-winning and internationally acclaimed writer. Readers will laugh, squirm with embarrassment or fear but most of all enjoy reading these stories. The variety of 'far-fetched and foul' range from the eel that outgrew a boy's bedroom to a bully who gets pulled in by a monster fish to a monster squid who steals.

Three of the stories are present-day while one is set in medieval times. Parents feature in each story but tend to be minor or background characters, with the boys of each story being the central figure. Each of the boys is a fully credible youngster to whom strange things happen.

Danny is a typical youngster who likes to keep pets and puts in the necessary time to research then collect the appropriate food for his pet. It is just his bad luck that his eel is an abnormal freak of nature.

Milo has big responsibilities, being fatherless. He catches fish for his mother and sisters and stands up for himself when asked to hand these to a stranger. This strength of character is acknowledged by the king and even his mother is silenced for once!

Tyson is a bully, unliked by others. A little rough justice of a fishy kind is meted out to him, which leads to a major change in his character.

Felix is on a fishing weekend with his father. When fishing gear starts to go missing, he is blamed. After a scary night all is revealed.

This variety will mean each reader may have his or her favourite, but each story is so different and so well told that for some it is the whole book that will remain a firm favourite. Writing styles vary too, with one told in the first person (which works to heighten the fear) while the others are in the third-person, which allows differing viewpoints to be shown. The spoken word is another device used in each story to emphasise feelings and opinions.

Written for 8 - 10 year olds, this book will hold the interest of the older reader too.

**Reviewed by Bookrapt Committee Member  
Chris Wright**

