



***The Knot Impossible* by Barbara Else illustrated by Sam Broad**

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For those who have read the previous books in the award winning Fontania series, you are in for another magical ride. Even if you haven't, this is a stand-alone fantasy adventure that will have children engrossed right from the beginning.

Rufkin, a seemingly ordinary young boy, was sent to stay with friends of his parents, Mister and Mistress Maccluck, to learn to try harder by working in their salvage yard. His parents and siblings are successful actors and are off on a Family Summer Tour without him because he gets stage fright.

His adventures really begin when he meets Nissy, a neighbour, and they rescue Vosco, a royal four-year-old boy, and a puppet. Along the way they encounter many challenges, both on land and at sea – facing cave lizards, smugglers, an alligator, the knot of ships, and the threat that it will be the end of days.

Else manages to incorporate the meanings of words, for example manifest and pandemonium into the story with ease, and adds many fun words such as rumtipaze, growlable, and puckerood, tone-ironic.

The descriptive writing and the short action packed chapters, bound in Sam Broad's colourful covers with map of Fantasia to refer to, make you want to read on quickly to find out what will happen next. Will Ruskin overcome fear to save the kingdom?

This is a book all young readers of adventure and fantasy will enjoy.

Author's website:

www.TalesOfFontania.com

Reviewed by retired librarian Judy Sail

