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## ***A Hetty Feather Adventure: Little Stars*** **by Jacqueline Wilson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt**

**Publisher: Doubleday Children's / Penguin Random House**

**RRP \$35.00**

The story of Hetty Feather's life continues with this latest absorbing novel about the feisty young heroine.

Fifteen-year-old Hetty Feather and eight-year-old Diamond have escaped from Tanglefield's Travelling Circus. Hetty, a foundling, had run away to join the circus and succeeded as a clever young ringmaster, although she discovered it was a hard life. Diamond was the star of the Silver Tumblers acrobatic act. Unfortunately, a cruel clown, Beppo, who trained the acrobats had half-starved Diamond and beat her fiercely if she made even a slight mistake.

Hetty realised the circus was a tawdry place and determined to rescue Diamond from Beppo. Together the two girls fled on the clown's penny farthing bicycle and set off in search of the Cavalcade Music Hall where they could make a better life for themselves by performing on the stage.

The people the girls meet, the friends they make, the dangers they encounter, and the glamorous music hall entertainers they accompany, all make fascinating reading. Hetty's and Diamond's adventures are a marvellous tale of theatrical life based on the stage stars of early days.

There's drama, peril, sadness, a budding romance and happy times skilfully woven into the fabric of Hetty's story. She's a plucky heroine and this fifth book about her trials and triumphs will appeal to intermediate-age readers who enjoy an entertaining historical novel.

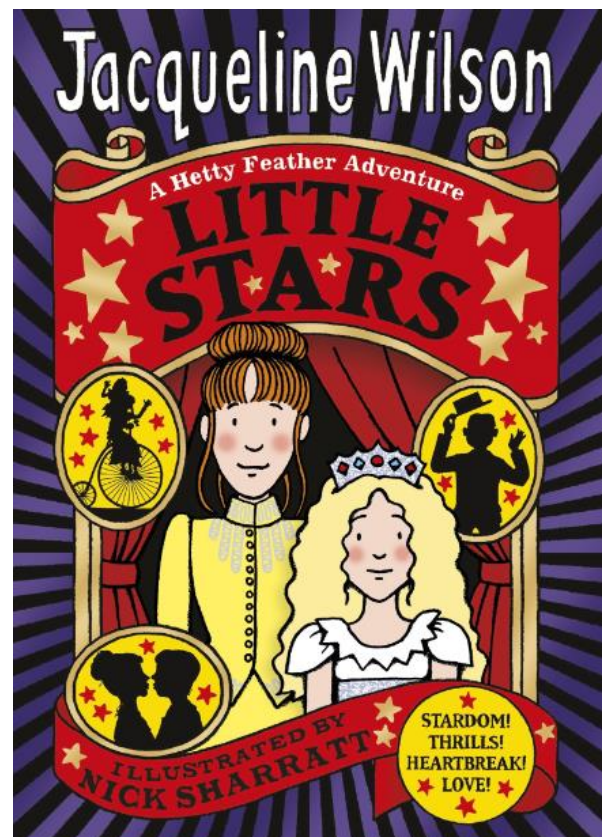
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**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**



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