

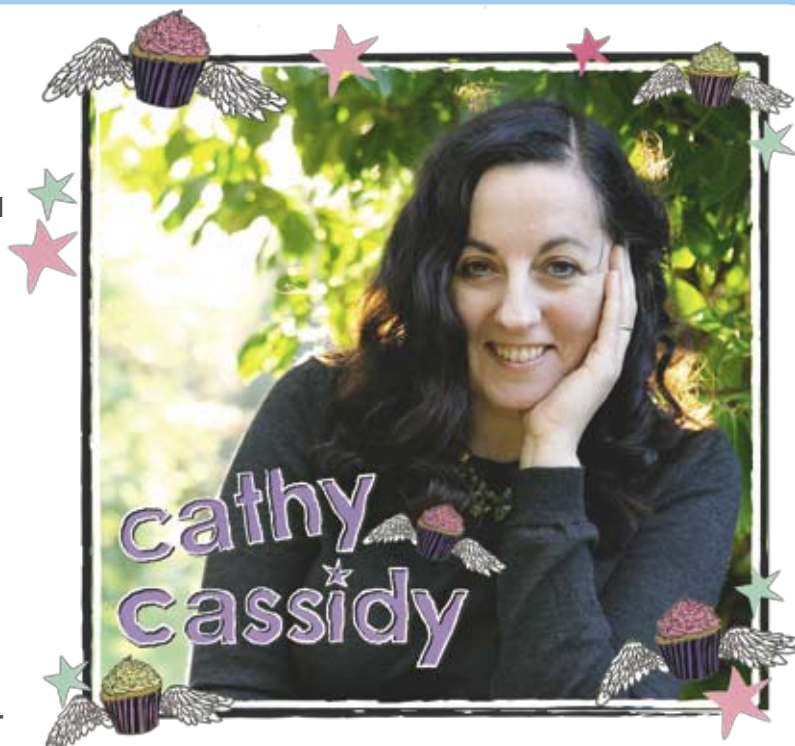
Cathy writes...

'I was born in 1962 in Coventry, England (scarily ancient, I know). I wrote my first picture book for my little brother when I was eight or nine. I loved making comics too—pages and pages of picture stories, features and competitions. I'd sell my homemade comic to a friend for 5p (about 10 cents), then claim it back and sell it again to someone else . . . they didn't have photocopiers back then!

'I went to art college in Liverpool, then got a job as fiction editor on the fab and legendary *Jackie* magazine. Later I went back to college and trained to be an art teacher. I taught in a Coventry secondary school for a few years, which I loved, then moved to Scotland with Liam to start a family.

'My kids are 14 and 15 years old now, and the four of us live in a cottage in the Galloway hills, in south-west Scotland, with sheep and cows for neighbours. As well as writing books, I am the agony aunt on *Shout* magazine and sometimes teach art in local primary schools, which is great fun and keeps me sane. (Well, maybe!)

'I love my family, I love living in the middle of nowhere and I love my work. Of all my jobs, writing has to be the best—it's the perfect excuse to daydream, after all!'



Published Titles to Date

Angel Cake, Cupcakes and Kisses, Dizzy, Dreams and Doodles Daybook, Driftwood, GingerSnaps, Indigo Blue, Lucky Star, Scarlett, Scarlett: If you don't believe in wishes . . . will they still come?, Shine on Daizy Star, Sundae Girl.

Cathy's Favourite Reads for Younger Teens

Think Pink by Lisa Clark, *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, *The Misfits* by James Howe, *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech, Michelle Magorian (author), Michael Morpurgo (author), Gennifer Choldenko (author).

Cathy's Favourite Childhood Reads

The Narnia books by CS Lewis, the Swallows and Amazons books by Arthur Ransome, the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Watership Down* by Richard Adams.