

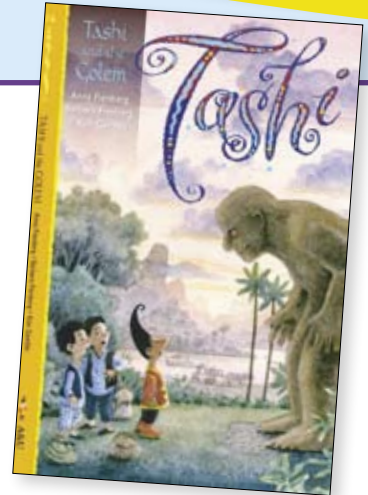


Anna Fienberg

Anna is a talented storyteller who loves to write stories about fantastic and magical things. She grew up in a house filled with books. Barbara (Anna's mother) was a teacher-librarian who relished stories as much as chocolates. 'On Sunday mornings we'd all lie in bed with our books, lost in magical wardrobes, witches' spells, genies' magic ... What we were going to read next was just as important in our family as what was for lunch!' says Anna. 'Tashi began as a conversation with my mother.

She was telling me how, when she was a child, she used to tell whoppers. Creative fibs. Tall stories. And the kids

would crowd around, dying to hear the latest tale. We began talking about a character like her—a character who told fantastic stories—and over many cups of tea we cooked up *Tashi*.'



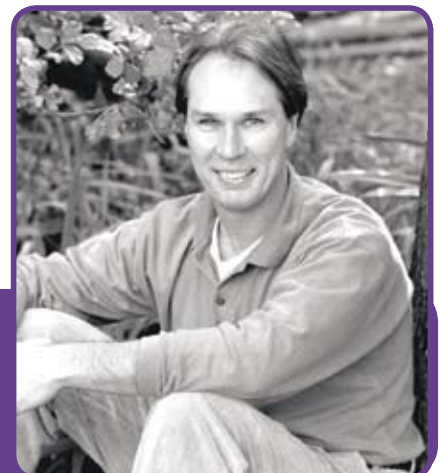
What was your favourite book as a child?

'My favourite books as a child were the Narnia books by C.S. Lewis. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* contained the best idea, I thought, anyone could ever come up with. Imagine, opening up a wardrobe door and instead of finding shoes and shelves of jumpers, stepping out into a snowy land.'

Kim Gamble - Illustrator

How did you become an illustrator?

'I've always loved drawing, both for its own sake and to get things out of my system. As the youngest of four, whenever I was angry because I wasn't getting my own way, I'd go into my room, take a sheet of paper and a pencil, fill the sky with jet planes and draw soldiers all over the ground. Then I'd attack them—zzzooom BLAT! BOOM! BLAT!—with long fast lines and lots of squiggles. After ten minutes, the ground was a mess of destruction and I'd feel much better. I also drew flowers, when I couldn't contain my happiness.'



What was your favourite book as a child?

'Tove Jansson's *Moominsummer Madness*.'

