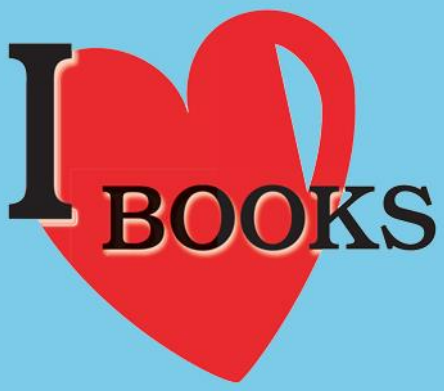


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Opening extract from

Rapunzel

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Published by

Pavilion Children's Books

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In a time not too long ago and in a land much like our own, there lived a very beautiful girl with the most extraordinarily long red hair.

Her name was Rapunzel and she lived with her Aunt Edna and Roach, Edna's hideous pet crow. Rapunzel had been brought up by Edna after her parents died when she was very young. Edna kept her locked up so she could not go out and enjoy herself.





To keep Rapunzel quiet (and to make herself seem nice, which she was not) Edna brought Rapunzel second-hand magazines and records and occasionally allowed her to watch television. “When you are older,” Edna lied, “I’ll take you out and show you the city, but it’s not safe for you on your own.”

Rapunzel believed every word, for she knew nothing of the world.



The tower block they lived in was old and deserted. The lift was always broken and there were hundreds of stairs to the ground. This was not a problem for Aunt Edna as she had a special way of entering and leaving the building.



Rapunzel would hang her plait over the balcony and Edna would climb down it. On her return she would shout, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!” Then, Rapunzel would throw her long plait over the balcony, Edna would grab hold, and Rapunzel would slowly pull her up.



