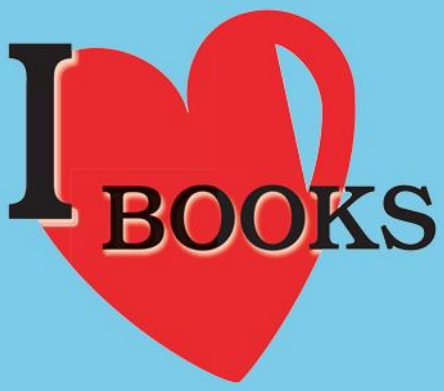


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Opening extract from

The Girl with No Nose

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Published by

Barrington Stoke Ltd

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First published in 2016 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd, 18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-569-4

Printed in China by Leo

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CHAPTER 1

Times of Change

Alice Peasbody lived in Victorian times.

Let me remind you. These were times when chimney sweeps sent small children up chimneys. And, if they didn't clean them quick enough, the sweeps would light a fire underneath them.

These were times when teachers beat left-handed children until they learned to write with their right hands.

These were times when women weren't allowed to vote.

These were times when circus audiences came to laugh at 'freaks' – at the man with the elephant face, or at the lady who was so fat she couldn't stand, or at the Siamese twins whose bodies were joined at the hip.

These were times when there were gallows in every city and for entertainment on a Saturday people liked to watch a criminal being hung by the neck until he or she were dead.

Luckily, these Victorian times were also times of change. Change for the good can happen when good

people shine a light on what is bad. Alice Peasbody was one of these good people – one of these bright lights – although for a long time she didn't know it.