THE DAY MY BROTHER GOT FAMOUS



Jen Carney





PUFFIN

PUFFIN BOOKS
UK | USA | Canada | Ireland | Australia
India | New Zealand | South Africa

Puffin Books is part of the Penguin Random House group of companies
whose addresses can be found at global.penguinrandomhouse.com.

www.penguin.co.uk
www.puffin.co.uk
www.ladybird.co.uk



Penguin
Random House
UK

First published 2026
001

Text and illustrations copyright © Jen Carney, 2026

The moral right of the author/illustrator has been asserted

The brands mentioned in this book are trademarks belonging to third parties

Penguin Random House values and supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diverse voices, promotes freedom of expression and supports a vibrant culture. Thank you for purchasing an authorized edition of this book and for respecting intellectual property laws by not reproducing, scanning or distributing any part of it by any means without permission. You are supporting authors and enabling Penguin Random House to continue to publish books for everyone. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purpose of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems. In accordance with Article 4(3) of the DSM Directive 2019/790, Penguin Random House expressly reserves this work from the text and data mining exception

Text design by Janene Spencer
Printed in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

The authorized representative in the EEA is Penguin Random House Ireland,
Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin D02 YH68

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

ISBN: 978–0–241–63137–9

All correspondence to:
Puffin Books
Penguin Random House Children's
One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London SW11 7BW



Penguin Random House is committed to a sustainable future for our business, our readers and our planet. This book is made from Forest Stewardship Council® certified paper.

In loving memory
of Delia and Neville



Half-term plans sorted!

ARE YOU A BUDDING COMIC-STRIP ARTIST?

Send us your best comic strip and you could see it in a future edition of KidToon. All entries received before midnight on Thursday 6th May will be considered. A payment of £1,000 will be made to the winning entrant.

GOOD LUCK!

As soon as I spot the competition in KidToon (my favourite weekly comic), I know exactly how I'm going to spend half term. Winning the cash prize could change the entire course of my family's life.

I grab my sketchpad and start to brainstorm new ideas immediately.

I'm just getting into my creative swing when my door inches open.

'Did you know that the Sun is a million times bigger than Earth, Ferris?'

It's Arthur, my foster brother. As usual, his nose is buried inside his favourite book: *Space Facts for Future Astronauts.*

I shake my head in reply and continue drawing.

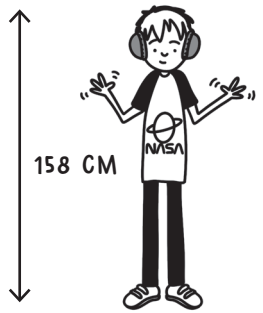
Arthur steps further into my room. 'And did you know that the Sun is actually an *average*-sized star?'

I point at my sketchpad. 'I'm actually a bit busy at the moment, Arthur.'

Arthur comes to perch on my bed. Eyes wide, he starts flapping his hands like he's trying to rid them of non-existent water – a thing he does when he's excited. 'I wonder what the *largest* star in the universe is?'

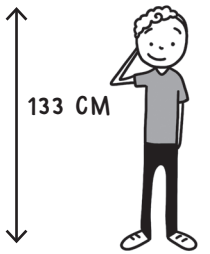
Arthur's ten, the same age as me, but that's where our similarities end.

ARTHUR



TEN, OBSESSED WITH SPACE, LOVES CHOCOLATE BUTTONS

ME, FERRIS



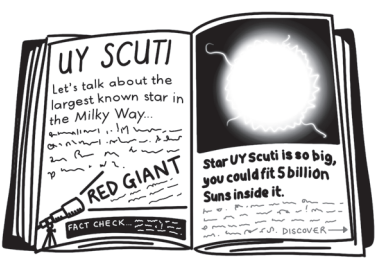
TEN, LOVES DRAWING, BIG FAN OF CRISPS

I like him a lot. It's just that I've heard so many facts about space in the past three weeks that I'm starting to forget what planet I actually live on.

'Ferris! Arthur! Keely!' shouts Mum from downstairs. 'Time to go!'

'Aha! You Why Scooty!' says Arthur.

I assume he's responding to Mum in Klatsram (the fictional language he's learned from *Avatars on Mars*, his favourite online game), until his book appears under my nose, open at a page showing a massive ball of fire.



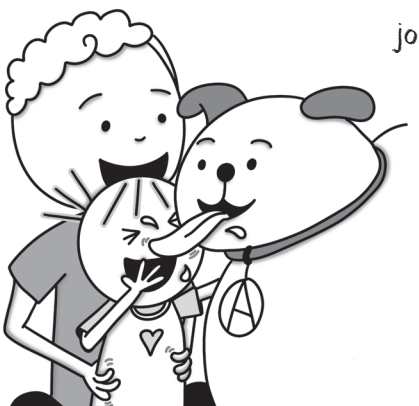
'Look, Ferris!' he says. 'UY Scuti! *That's* the largest known star in the cosmos. Will you draw it for me while I'm away?'

I'm saved from making a promise I probably won't have time to keep by my four-year-old foster sister, Keely. She runs into my room, dives on to my bed and bounces on my mattress like she's at a trampoline park.

Keely has lived with us since she was one day old, and she's my favourite person in the whole wide world.

She's also the reason I *need* to win the KidToon competition.

I put my sketchpad to one side, wrestle her on to my lap and tickle her ribs. Her shrieks and squeals wake Aldo, my dog. He tunnels his way out from underneath my duvet to join in the fun, his tail spinning in happy circles as he licks both our faces.



Through a fit of giggles, Keely points at Arthur. 'Fur doin?'

I stop the tickle-fest and make the Makaton sign for 'reading'. Even though Keely's speech has come on loads in the past few months, we still sometimes sign to help her communicate. 'Arthur's reading his book.'



'About astronomy,' adds Arthur. 'I'm going to go into space one day, you know, Ferris.'

I try not to let my eyes roll. 'Yeah, you mentioned.'

Arthur has said he's 'going to go into space one day' at least a billion times in the past three weeks. It's a great dream to have, but there's one tiny obstacle that might prevent him from achieving it: he's afraid of flying. In fact, the only reason he's fostering with us at the moment is because Linda and Nigel, his Special Guardians (aka the people

who usually look after him), have gone to Mexico to watch their daughter get married, and Arthur point-blank refused to get on the plane.



'Ferris! Arthur! Keely! Now, please!' yells Miz, my other mum.

I lift Keely on to my hip and head for the stairs. Arthur follows us, making nervous humming noises.

I turn to smile at him. 'Don't be worried, Arthur. You've been looking forward to going to camp since the day you arrived.'

When Arthur decided he didn't want to go to Mexico, as well as sorting out his foster care,

Linda and Nigel organized for him to attend a space-themed holiday camp this week. We're driving him there today.

To be honest, timing-wise, it's like all the stars have aligned for me, giving me the best chance possible of creating a standout entry for the KidToon competition:

For one, it's half term, so there's no school to get in the way of my drawing time.

For two, with Arthur away at his camp, constantly being interrupted to listen to space facts won't be an issue.

And for three, if I win the money and make us RICH, then Jasminda Jolly (our adoption social worker) will have NO reason to doubt that we are the PERFECT family to adopt Keely.


The Story Of KEELY
FOUR YEARS AGO . . .
Please could you foster this baby? It'll just be for a little while.
A social worker
Mum
Of course!
Keely, one day old
THREE YEARS AGO . . .
We've not been able to find Keely a suitable forever family. Please could you foster her for longer?
We'd love to!
MIZ
ONE YEAR AGO . . .
We're still looking for a forever family for Keely.
Keely is funny and beautiful. She deserves a forever family . . .
A FEW MONTHS AGO . . .
I wish we could adopt Keely.
We'd actually love that too!
MIZ
We'd like to adopt Keely!
HOORAY!
We'll send round a social worker!
A FEW WEEKS AGO . . .
Hello. I'm Jasminda Jolly. I'm here to ASSESS whether you are the perfect forever family for Keely.
Assess us? She's lived with us all her life?!