

## DAY-1\_Event-1\_v1.mp4

**Cressida Cowell** [00:00:13] Hello there, I'm Cressida Cowell the autor and illustrator of How to Train Your Dragon, Wizards of Once and Which Way to Anywhere, my new book series. And I'm so glad you've joined me for the Reading is Magic Festival. Sometimes things that you do or say have a way of turning into something bigger than you imagined and carrying on longer than you thought they would. Like the Reading is Magic Festival, which started in 2020 when I was the Waterstones Children's Laureate. It was inspired by my belief that reading is magic, and magic is for everyone. All the events during the festival explore the themes of the charter I wrote when I was a laureate and celebrate all the things you have the right to: creativity, having a planet to read on, seeing yourselves in a book, reading for the joy of it, and getting brilliant advice about books and about reading from people whose job it is to that. I hope you enjoy this event.

**Lauren Layfield** [00:01:32] Hi. Lauren Layfield here. Children's television presenter, and I'm currently in front of some brilliant Reading is Magic Festival bunting. I have got a brown, wavy hair and I'm wearing a floral pink top and I am so excited to welcome you to day one of the Reading is Magic Festival. I hope you're really, really excited, just like I am. And we're going to kick off the week with some mischief, some mystery, and some magic from across the world, starting with the brilliant Gareth P. Jones. He was inviting us to help solve a mystery based on his Solve Your Own Mystery books. So without further ado, are you ready to kick start this festival? Let's go!

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:02:34] Hello. My name is Gareth P. Jones and I am the author of Solve Your Own Mystery The Monster Maker, and the second book, Solve Your Own Mystery The Time Thief. The third book in the series is called The Missing Magic.

**Voice Over** [00:02:46] He was a short man with blue eyes and a childish way of dressing that he hoped made him look younger than his 48 years. The wrinkles on his pale Caucasian forehead told a different story.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:02:57] Eh, what's going on?

**Voice Over** [00:02:58] Well, I'm narrating.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:03:00] Why?

**Voice Over** [00:03:00] Well, because I'm the narrator.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:03:02] Yeah, but if you don't mind, I'm trying to do an author event about my Solve Your Own Mystery books. They're all illustrated by the very talented Louise Forshaw, who really brings to life these stories with her wonderful pictures.

**Voice Over** [00:03:13] Oh, right. Detective books. Whodunnits. Very original, I'm sure.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:03:16] Yes, but they're different to other stories because you well, you get to decide what happens next. And they're all set in a fictional town of Haventry. And it's got a shady side where there are werewolves and zombies and ghosts and goblins and all sorts of unusual things. And of course, there's a Yeti detective. And you...

**Voice Over** [00:03:32] The author droned on and on about his books, unaware that someone was about to arrive who would change his world forever...

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:03:38] What? Oh, sorry that's the doorbell. I'll just go and get that, I'm sorry I'll be back in a minute.

**Delores del Winter** [00:03:59] Oh, please. You simply must help me.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:04:03] I don't know. I don't know who you are. I'm really sorry.

**Delores del Winter** [00:04:07] You don't recognise ME? Delores del Winter.

**song** [00:04:16] [singing] Delores del Winter. You may remember me but I won't remember you.

**Delores del Winter** [00:04:21] I was once distinguished. I was famous for a while. But when the flames extinguished, I just got out of style...

**Delores del Winter** [00:04:35] I was the star of the Dolores del Winter Show, the third favourite show of 1975. If it wasn't for that Russell Harty.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:04:43] And that's not really a reference to my audience is going to get. The thing is, this is supposed to be an event for Reading is Magic.

**Delores del Winter** [00:04:48] Yes. But my 1975 TV Personality of the Year award has gone missing. It's my most prized possession. You must help me find it Gareth P. Jones.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:04:58] Why? Why me?

**Delores del Winter** [00:04:59] Well, you write mystery books, don't you? I thought you could be like Jessica Fletcher.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:05:05] Again, a lot of these references, they're just a bit dated for the thing that I'm doing.

**Delores del Winter** [00:05:08] Dated? Me? I could do contemporary. Do you ever feel like a plastic bag... lobobombom?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:05:15] I look, I keep saying I've really got something else to do.

**Voice Over** [00:05:18] But what Gareth didn't know was that this was the event. And just like his Solve Your Own Mystery books, the choice is yours. If you think Gareth should investigate the missing award, shout now.

**Many voices** [00:05:29] Yes, yes, yes!

**Voice Over** [00:05:29] If you think he shouldn't shout now.

**Single Voice** [00:05:34] No, I don't think you should bother.

**Voice Over** [00:05:35] And so reluctantly, the author agreed to take on the case.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:05:39] Oh, all right. I'll tell you what. I'll help you find your award.

**Delores del Winter** [00:05:43] Oh, thank you so much.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:05:45] I don't really know why I just agreed to that.

**Voice Over** [00:05:48] I think I do. But the question now is whether you can solve the mystery. Remember to look out for suspects, motives, alibis and clues. Chapter two. The award had stood on Delores bedroom window. Delores had last seen it at 8 p.m. when she went out. She returned at 9 p.m. to find it gone.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:16] That's interesting.

**Ernie** [00:06:17] That is interesting.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:19] Uh who are you?

**Ernie** [00:06:21] Oh, I'm Ernie. Dolores's biggest fan.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:24] And what are you doing hanging around the scene of the crime?

**Ernie** [00:06:27] Well, I came to give Dolores a letter saying how sorry I was about it.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:30] Yeah. But wouldn't it be easier to say that in person?

**Voice Over** [00:06:33] Said Gareth P. Jones with a wry smile.

**Ernie** [00:06:36] Who was that?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:38] Never mind him. I just want to know about you.

**Ernie** [00:06:41] I just love Dolores. I've got all her shows recorded. She went through a difficult patch financially recently and I picked up loads of original clothes she wore on the show.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:06:50] I see. Sounds like an award would fit very nicely in with your collection.

**Ernie** [00:06:54] Oh, I would never steal from Dolores. I adore her. I love that songs she does. If you see a lonely, pink haired lady, that's me.

**Voice Over** [00:07:04] While Gareth was listening to Ernie, he spotted a mysterious figure out of the window. And she appeared to be wearing a purple feather boa.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:07:33] Excuse me. Excuse me.

**Hairy Godmother** [00:07:35] Yes?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:07:37] I was just admiring that feather boa of yours. Can I ask you where you got it?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:07:41] Well, I bought it recently. It loses feathers everywhere. It's a wonder there's anything left of it.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:07:48] Right, can I ask you your name?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:07:50] Why, I'm the Hairy Godmother, star of stage and screen.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:07:54] And is there any reason you're hanging around outside Delores del Winter's house?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:07:58] I'm on the way back from lunch with my agent. His name is Bertie Bad Deal.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:08:04] Isn't that also Delores's agent?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:08:07] Yes. He represents us both. He had me doing a tour of supermarkets last year. I asked him. Bertie, I was once supposed to become a megastar. Visiting supermarkets... You know what he replied? Lidl by Lidl. Honestly, I think he only set it up for the sake of that joke.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:08:23] Well, it wasn't worth it. So you're, you're friends with Delores are you?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:08:26] I'm not sure I'd go quite that far.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:08:28] I'm investigating a theft. Her TV award has been stolen.

**Hairy Godmother** [00:08:33] You mean the award she stole off me?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:08:37] Really?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:08:38] Yes. That should have been mine. The public always preferred me.

**song** [00:08:43] [singing] I'm the Hairy Godmother, the musical mentor, I take over the makeover then I'll re-invent you. Life is the greatest adventure of all. Cindergorilla. You shall go to the ball.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:08:55] Can I ask you where you were between 8 and 9 p.m. last night?

**Hairy Godmother** [00:09:00] I was at home recording an audition tape for a new miniseries I am hoping to get 'Last Orangutan in Paris'. Now, if you don't mind, I have to get going. If you ask me Delores probably stole the award herself. She's always been an attention seeker.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:09:18] Excuse me. Are you Mr. Bertie Bad Deal?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:09:21] That's me, Bertie Bad Deal. You know what I say? If it's a good deal for my clients, it's a good deal for the studio, it's a great deal for me. Bertie Bad Deal, what can I do for you?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:09:33] And you look after TV stars and singers, do you?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:09:36] I do. But half my clients aren't exactly creme de la creme. Don't get me wrong, I got the A-listers, but I got the rest of the alphabet, too. And then some.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:09:46] What about Delores Del Winter? Where is she on your list?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:09:49] Oh, what? I'd take 20% off to never hear that name again. She's always calling me up, asking me to be on the latest films she's read about. I keep saying Delores, if you're reading the review, the chances are they've already made the film.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:10:03] Look, I'm just trying to find her award-

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:10:04] -Her award. Yes, I know all about that. You think she called you first? She called me first, you bozo. And I said, you got to get someone high profile to investigate it. But, you know, she got you. But it is what it is.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:10:18] Why somebody who writes children's mystery books rather than, I don't know, a detective.

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:10:22] Didn't she tell you the whole Jessica Fletcher angle?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:10:24] She did, but I thought was a rather dated reference. Given the age of the audience.

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:10:29] Audience, that's the magic word. Well, that's what we want to do. Create a splash, steal a little limelight. I dunno. Maybe it's a slow news week and some journo will run the story. Faded seventies has-been victim of a theft.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:10:45] Interesting. So I should ask, where you last night between 8 and 9 o'clock?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:10:51] I was with Delores. Didn't she tell you? I was saying I was going to have to let her go, but now she's getting all this publicity. I'm thinking we could strike a deal out of this. And a good deal for her is a great deal for me.

**Voice Over** [00:11:04] So you've met the suspects, you've gathered the evidence. Who do you think stole the award? And remember, no one is above suspicion.

**song** [00:11:19] [singing] If you see a lonely pink haired lady. That's me.

**Ernie** [00:11:29] She went through a difficult patch financially recently and I picked up loads of original clothes she wore on the show.

**Delores del Winter** [00:11:35] You write mystery books, don't you? I thought you could be like Jessica Fletcher.

**Hairy Godmother** [00:11:44] Yes, that should've been mine. The public always preferred me.

**Ernie** [00:11:45] But now she's getting all this publicity. I'm thinking we could strike a deal out of it.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:11:50] What's going on?

**song** [00:11:51] [singing] What do you say? Cause I don't know, who I know I know. So, come say hi to me. Then the solitary pink haired lady won't be lonely.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:13] Thank you all for joining me in the living room so I can reveal who stole the award.

**Delores del Winter** [00:12:19] My award?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:19] I was initially contacted by Delores.

**Delores del Winter** [00:12:22] Del Winter.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:23] And when I investigated the crime scene, I discovered this purple feather. And then I found Ernie.

**Ernie** [00:12:32] Me?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:32] Delores's super fan.

**Delores del Winter** [00:12:34] Oh, I didn't see you there, Ernie.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:36] And although he had the motive. Ernie loves Delores and would never steal from her. And then I spotted Delores's professional rival: the Hairy Godmother.

**Hairy Godmother** [00:12:46] As though I'd ever do..

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:12:48] The purple feather boa made me wonder if it could be her. But the truth is, she bought the feather boa off Delores recently when she was selling stuff to make ends meet, which is why there was a feather on the crime scene, which brings us to Bertie Bad Deal, Delores's agent and indeed the Hairy Godmother's agent. Could he have concocted the plan to revive his client's career?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:13:12] I would have done if I thought of it.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:13:14] But no, it was none of you.

**Many voices** [00:13:17] None of us? Oh, my goodness. Who was it? Who could be?

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:13:22] It was the one person who has been a part of this story since the beginning. The one person who has since orchestrated this entire thing. And has watched every move. It was the narrator. Yes, the narrator did it. But why?

**Narrator** [00:13:40] Oh, Oh. I just wanted to make this online session more interesting.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:13:44] That's right. The narrator just wanted this to be a more entertaining online event. All about my books. Solve Your Own Mystery, The Monster Maker and Solve Your Own Mystery The Time Thief. So I hope you've enjoyed that. Thank you very much. We found your award, Delores are you happy?

**Bertie Bad Deal** [00:14:00] So happy.

**Gareth P. Jones** [00:14:01] Yes. Everybody else. Thank you very much.

**Many voices** [00:14:02] Okay, I'm getting out of here now. Goodbye. Goodbye.

**song** [00:14:08] [singing] Well, because it's your choice, your decision to make. Your choice so own your mistakes. If you like a mystery, then take a trip down to old Haventry. The Yeti detective don't know what to do because it's not up to him. It's not up to me. No, it's all about you. Do the job as the Yeti assistant you're perceptive a detective, and you're pretty persistent. When you follow a lead, you know to keep the distance, because this is a series where you make the difference. You. You. You. You.

**Lauren Layfield** [00:15:06] Wow, did you manage to work out who stole the award from Delores Del Winter? See, as Gareth says in a mystery book, anybody can be a suspect. And if you've enjoyed being a detective this morning, why not head into your school library and see if you can find any more of the Solve Your Own Mystery books and then you can set to work solving more mysteries in the magical town of Haventry. And if you enjoyed this event, head over to the Reading is Magic website for a full list of all the other elements we're doing as well. Enjoy!