



Stewie Scraps and the Star Rocket

Written by Sheila M Blackburn
and illustrated by Leighton Noyes


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For Janet, who loved fireworks and would have loved Stewie, and with thanks and love to Tom.

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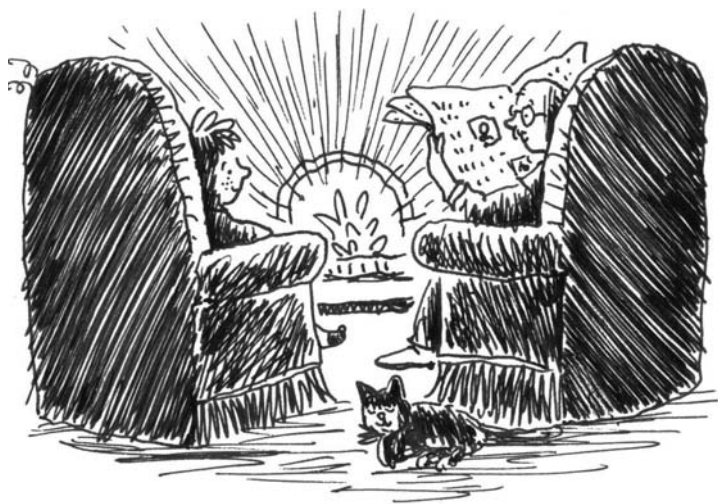
Remember the 5th of November

November.

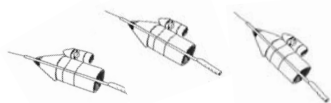
Dull, dark and dreary, the days seemed to go on forever. The October half-term holiday was over and Stewie Scraps found himself back at school, living for Fridays and Mr Melling's craft lessons. He'd even found a use for all that number work in his maths lessons – to work out how many days till the next school holidays.



“Cheer up!” Grandpa said to Stewie one evening. “It’s only seven weeks till Christmas. Do you want me to tell you how many shopping days left?”



Stewie looked hard at Grandpa. Sometimes he had the strangest ideas. Shopping days till Christmas? Why on Earth would Stewie Scraps be interested in shopping? Why shop when you could simply make what you wanted instead?

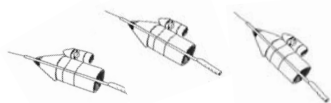


“Well, anyway,” Grandpa went on, “there’s always Bonfire Night – all those fireworks. You still like fireworks, don’t you, Stewie?”

Stewie shrugged.



What was the point of getting interested in Bonfire Night? He knew that Flo and JJ would be too busy to take him to see any fireworks. His big sister, Poppy, would be organizing her latest boyfriend to take her to a flash fireworks display. And Clint would just jump on his bike at the last minute and head off into the night in his old black-leather jacket.





For some years, JJ and Grandpa had tried. They had let off a few little fireworks in the yard behind the shop, but they were never up to much.

“Damp squibs, dearie,” Flo said. “Total waste of time and money.”



“Well, the thing is,” Grandpa said to Stewie, “there’s to be a bit of a fireworks do at the pub on Friday in the garden at the back. They want to try something different for charity. You could come with me, Stewie, for some pop and crisps and some big bangers.”



Stewie shrugged again and said he’d think about it. He went back to drawing in his secret design book.

