

THE SUMMER I ROBBED A BANK

David O'Doherty

Illustrated by Chris Judge

Puffin Children's Books

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Themes

- Resilience
- Friendship
- Family break-up
- Cancer
- Coming of age
- Island living

Summary

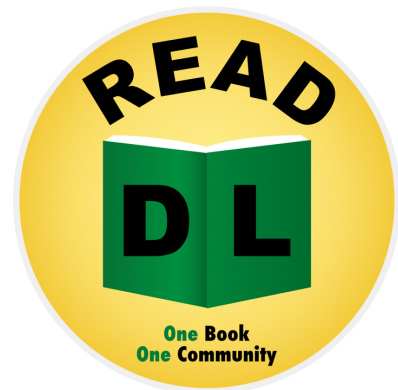
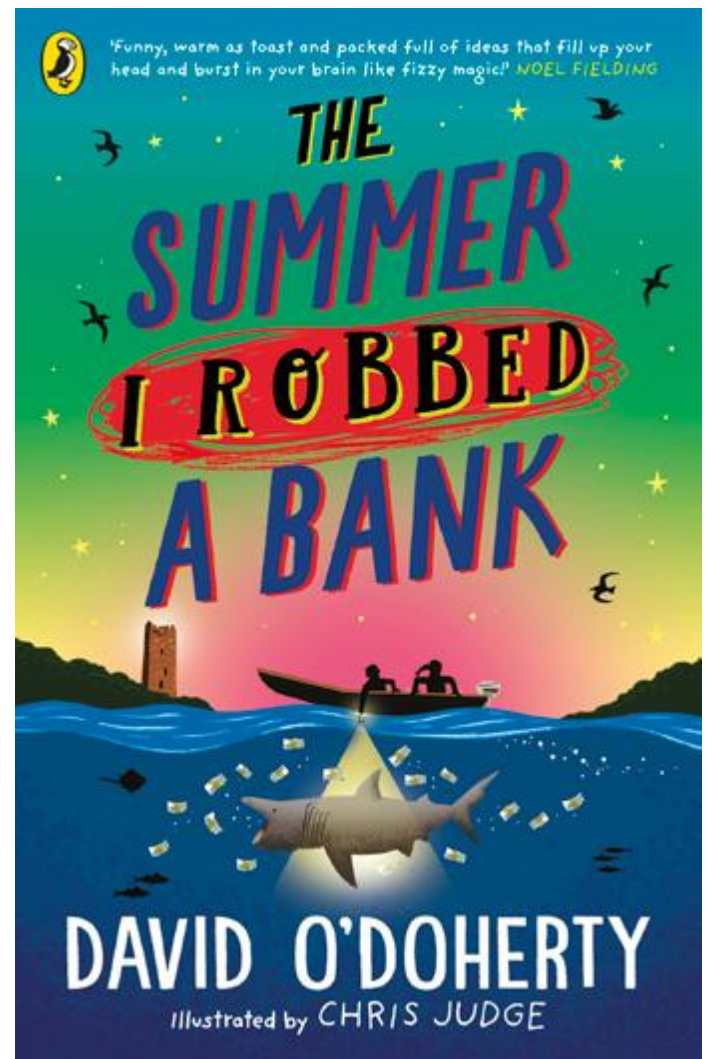
Twelve-year-old Rex, the anti-hero of this funny adventure story, finds himself on Achill Island for a few weeks in the summer. His parents have separated and his mother is in hospital with a broken leg so he is in the care of his eccentric (and terminally ill) Uncle Derm. Here he meets a thoroughly good-natured girl, Kitty, and her hapless father, Ronan. Money is needed to save the local assisted-living centre, and chaotic and hare-brained schemes lead to lots of hilarity and self-discovery as the plot unfolds. A fast-paced, engaging book with a heart of gold.

Judges' Comments

Following his parents' separation, Rex isn't impressed when he is sent to a remote Irish island for his summer holidays. That is until he is roped into helping his strange and brilliant Uncle Derm in a crazy plan (inspired by tales of pirate queen Grace O'Malley) to rob the island's mobile bank and redistribute the money. This fresh and original narrative from Doherty – supported with illustrations by Judge – is a funny and subversive tale filled with poignancy and beauty that captures the magic of one momentous summer.

About the Author

David O'Doherty is an award-winning stand-up comedian, writer and regular guest on television shows such as *8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown* and *Would I Lie to You?* He has written two theatre shows for children, including one where he fixes their bicycles on stage. His *Danger Is Everywhere* series has been hugely successful. David's granny lived on Achill Island, the setting for this book.



About the Illustrator

Chris Judge is an award-winning illustrator, writer and artist based in Dublin. He is the author of three picturebooks based on his Lonely Beast character. He has worked with David O'Doherty on the bestselling *Danger Is Everywhere* series. He has also illustrated books by Roddy Doyle, Eoin Colfer and Ryan Tubridy. He has designed many large outdoor mosaics for schools and colleges around Ireland. He has also designed the Dublin Story Bird, a marvellous two- and-a-half-metre-high 3D bird.