

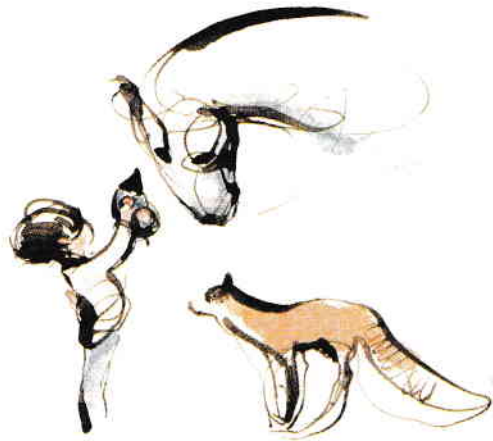
LBRIS

We know  
books

# Always Remember

THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX,  
THE HORSE AND THE STORM

Charlie Mackesy





"How could someone  
so small fill such a  
huge space in our hearts?"



# Hello

When I was little I thought books were like dried spaghetti lying on a shelf, silently  waiting for someone to open and bring them to life. And here you are doing just that.

Thank you.  I'm glad you're here.

 I'm writing this  in a grubby room, surrounded by spilt ink, half-finished cups of tea, scrunpled drawings, pens with broken ribs, and a good dose of fear and self-doubt that I will ever make this book at all. If you are reading this then somehow I did.

This will always remind me that all kinds of things can come from mess, so no matter how chaotic life is - try to be gentle with yourself and don't give up. Your voice is important, and as the mole says,



"You have a song in you no one else can sing."

I've always loved sharing drawings, but never thought I'd make a book of them. Now I've made another, which is daunting, but I just try to imagine one person who feels lighter for it.

Maybe this is you.

It's about four unlikely friends who have no idea where they are going, or what they are looking for, which is how I often feel. What they do know is that life can be difficult, but that they love each other.



The horse is a constant presence and is solid ground for them.

They love the quiet fox, but he doesn't understand quite why.



Cake is never far from the Mole's thoughts. The only thing he loves more is his group of friends.



The boy is often anxious and deeply loves them all. He is terrified of losing them.



There seems to be a lot to achieve in this life, but I think just to be here and to sing your song is a victory.



You have probably survived all kinds of storms to get here, and may well be in one now, which makes it impressive that you are reading this scribbled introduction at all.

This book is for everyone, whatever age you are, and I hope it helps you remember that you are loved, and you matter.

You are brave and magnificent.

Love Charlie

x

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*“One day you’ll look back  
and realise how hard it was,  
and just how well you did.”*